

ASCLS Today Editorial Calendar 2023-24

2023-24 Issues	Deadline	Theme
Sept/Oct 2023	Aug. 1, 2023	<p>Mental Health and Burnout</p> <p>The impact of COVID, workforce shortages, and the overall stress that occurs in the work environment have given rise to a perpetual cycle of professional burnout, leading to people leaving the profession, resulting in increased workforce shortages, and starting the burnout cycle all over again. This issue will focus on how we can utilize self-care, mental health support, workplace support, and other resources to better support our mental health and wellbeing.</p>
Nov/Dec 2023	Oct. 1, 2023	<p>Patient Safety/Ethics</p> <p>This issue of <i>ASCLS Today</i> will reflect on the importance of patient safety and ethics for medical laboratory practitioners. Medical laboratory science professionals are responsible for developing a culture of safety as defined by the National Academy of Science. How do laboratory professionals prevent errors to improve patient safety? What technological advances have been implemented to ensure safety in all phases of laboratory testing, including pre-analytical, analytical, and post-analytical? What has been done to develop a laboratory culture that focuses on patient safety? Ethics was added to the BOC as part of MLS recertification. How are we teaching or training laboratory staff on their role related to ethics?</p>
Jan/Feb 2024	Dec. 1, 2023	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)</p> <p>“Promoting diversity supports the delivery of quality laboratory service” is one of the core values of ASCLS. Diversity can encompass all those differences that make us unique, such as race, color, ethnicity, language, nationality, sexual orientation, physical disability, religion, gender, socio-economic status, or age. Ensuring diversity and representation exists in ASCLS is critical to promoting a more equitable profession that can deliver patient-centered care. While ASCLS must strive to reflect the diversity in the profession, we must also work towards an inclusive profession that aims to fully represent the society it serves. This issue of <i>ASCLS Today</i> will reflect on the importance—and sometimes confusing nature—of diversity, inclusivity, equity, and belonging. What does it mean to be diverse, inclusive, and equitable? How do these concepts ensure everyone feels that they belong in ASCLS? How can we set and achieve goals of promoting diversity?</p>

March/April 2024	Feb. 1, 2024	<p>Professional Visibility SARS-CoV-2 brought unprecedented visibility to medical laboratories. However, confusion and misunderstanding (even conspiracy theories!) about testing and medical laboratories still plague our profession. Articles for this issue might showcase efforts to represent medical laboratory science to the public; successful interprofessional initiatives in your workplace; tips for promoting the profession through social media; participation at science or career fairs; or personal stories of how you discovered this amazing career.</p>
May/June 2024	April 1, 2024	<p>A Look to the Future The laboratory profession is constantly evolving and growing. Articles for this issue should highlight innovation and new trends in the scientific, technology, educational, or management arenas. For example, the introduction of Interprofessional Education in our educational programs or how that has translated into interprofessional practice in a hospital work environment.</p>
July/August 2024	June 1, 2024	<p>Professional Advocacy The importance of advocating for our profession has never been clearer than during this global pandemic, with its particular impact on medical laboratory professionals. This issue will showcase the ways our Labvocates work to improve the environment for laboratory professionals and maximize their efforts on positive patient outcomes. Advocacy topics may include efforts to influence public policy that impact laboratory professionals, including pressing for high standards, state licensure, and stronger rules on certification. Articles may also focus on personal advocacy—how to shape public perceptions of laboratory professionals and their contributions to the healthcare system—and ASCLS programs, such as the annual Laboratory Legislative Symposium, advocacy work in specific constituent societies, and engagement with regulatory agencies.</p>

Please contact *ASCLS Today* Editor Debra Rodahl at today@ascls.org with specific questions, feedback, and article submissions.