



ASCLS is excited to introduce the ASCLS Voices Under 40, a monthly recognition of one of our many, talented and committed young professionals under 40 years old. The ASCLS Voices Spotlight has been developed to honor ASCLS members who have shown exceptional commitment to ASCLS, the laboratory profession, and their community at large at a younger age in their professional career. Each month we spotlight one of the Shining Voices who were selected from many nominations across the country.

Meet Nicholas Brehl, M.Ed, MLS(ASCP)CM from Indianapolis, Indiana. He has been nominated by Cynthia Kaufman for tirelessly promoting the profession through recruiting events, providing enthusiastic and informative lab tours, coordinating engaging student events, and the educational structure and compassion he shares with his students, lending to their success in the profession.

Nicholas Brehl is currently the Assistant Professor of Clinical Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine, where he teaches Hematology, Urinalysis, and several other topics. He also holds the title of Director of Health Professions Programs, Director of Medical Laboratory Science Program, and is a Diane S. Leland Scholar.



Nick has cultivated a strong history of leadership within ASCLS, serving as the President of Indiana's state society for several years, as well as their Annual Meeting Committee Chair, and Treasurer, as well as the Membership Chair for Region IV, and the Region IV Representative for the National Membership Committee.

In addition to his work within ASCLS, he has also engaged with professional organizations in his home state, serving as Treasurer of the Consortium of Indiana Medical Laboratory Educators, as well as on the Driver Award Scholarship Committee. Furthering his service to Indiana, he has been active with several boards at IUPUI.

Serving the profession through education and advocacy, Nick's participation is evident through presentations at meetings for ASCLS state societies, ASCP, Purdue University, and several other societies, with highlights including "Mixed Phenotype Acute Leukemias" and "The Clinical Laboratory's Role in Serving the Transgender Community". He's also published in journal articles and posters, as well publishing image atlases and other reference materials. He blends advocacy into his professional role, raising awareness of the laboratory and recruiting at high schools and higher education institutions.

When asked about his best personal accomplishment within ASCLS, Nick acknowledged the difficulties he experienced upon first joining his state society in ASCLS; the retiring of existing leadership and subsequent fears that, while he held the presidency, the state society would be dissolved. Despite the bleak outlook, Nick guided the organization through the rough waters, paving the way for successful presidents to lead in his wake, many of whom were introduced to ASCLS or mentored by Nick himself. Having made his impact as president, he then assumed the role of treasurer, a perpetual appointment, thus cementing this as an avenue to continue to serve and provide stability to the organization. Since assuming that role, his greatest accomplishment has been the development of the ASCLS-IN Annual Networking Event, an informal social event he has led every year since 2015, aimed at recruitment for graduating MLS and MLT students. This event enjoyed record attendance last year, with 78 people coming from all corners of the state.

Ever future-focused, his motivation for being actively involved in ASCLS is ensuring that his students have a "profession that is staffed with credentialed and highly qualified professionals". He further says that ASCLS advances the profession in directions that reflect the needs of the membership. Addressing our Legislative Symposium, he also mentions the importance of ensuring our voice is heard in the halls of Congress. He concludes, "I strongly believe that this profession was created by the relentless efforts of many strong men and women. I was hired into my faculty role when Bunny Rodak retired. She made a huge impact on me and her love of ASCLS rooted in my own heart."

Quipping that his proudest achievements "aren't captured by a line on my CV", he cites his proudest achievements outside ASCLS are in his roles of educator and leader in the Indiana University School of Medicine. He takes great pride in seeing his students complete their program and begin their new profession, though he acknowledges that this work is ongoing, never fully realized. In addition, Nick is excited and proud to report that he is leading the expansion of the MLS program to a second location in Indiana, working with academic and clinical partners, designing learning spaces, building partnerships, sourcing funding through donors and grants, and recruiting students. What he anticipates will be his proudest professional achievement will be in June 2025 when the first cohort of students graduates from this new program.

Nick also takes time to acknowledge his family, stating "A happy marriage and family requires continuous inputs of time and energy." In his personal life, his proudest achievements are his wife and two daughters. He continues, "I swung for the fences and hit a grand slam when I married my wife. I somehow found someone who is incredibly kind-hearted and truly selfless. She has blessed me with two beautiful and intelligent girls (ages 2 & 5). They expanded the boundaries of my heart and taught me how to truly love others. My daughters also taught me patience, lots and lots of patience."

Nick has exemplified what it means to be a leader in the profession, in his many roles in ASCLS leadership and in his roles as mentor and educator. Congratulations to Nick on this well-deserved award!