



ASCLS, AGT & SAFMLS

Joint Annual Meeting

PITTSBURGH 2024



American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science,
Association of Genetic Technologists, and
Society of American Federal Medical Laboratory Scientists
Joint Annual Meeting

July 8 - 12, 2024



In-Person at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Virtual Experience Online

We proudly invite you to join your fellow medical laboratory professionals at the fourth Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT), and Society of American Federal Medical Laboratory Scientists (SAFMLS), July 8-12, 2024.



JAM will continue to offer you a single, integrated educational program, abstracts and poster showcase, and opportunities to connect with industry partners. The combined expertise of our three organizations brings together broad scientific knowledge and deep expertise in leadership.

- **Continuing Education.** All attendees will have access to all recorded sessions for 30 days after the event, providing you with about 50 hours of P.A.C.E.[®]-approved credit.
- **Social Events.** One of the most important experiences at the Joint Annual Meeting is your time to network with colleagues, socialize with longtime friends, and establish new connections.
- **Industry Engagement.** Exhibitors will be integrated throughout the conference venue, with exhibit tables among the session rooms and virtual exhibits in the conference app.
- **Leadership.** Always a major component of the Joint Annual Meeting, governance sessions give members the chance to actively participate in setting the direction for our organizations and profession.

The Joint Annual Meeting is an experience unlike any other meeting of laboratory professionals. It brings together people from all facets of the laboratory—from higher education to the bench, and even the administrative suite. Our scientific sessions span Chemistry/Urinalysis to Microbiology/Public Health, Hematology/Hemostasis to Molecular Diagnostics and Cytogenetics, Laboratory Administration to Generalist/Interdisciplinary, and much more. We look forward to seeing you this July 8-12, either in Pittsburgh or online.

Colleen Cordrick, MSC USN, MA, MS, MLS(ASCP)SBB, CQA(ASQ), SAFMLS President 2023-24
Peter C. Hu, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, CG^{CM}, MB^{CM}, FACSc, FASAHP, AGT President 2023-25
Claude Rector, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, ASCLS President 2023-24

2023-24 Joint Annual Meeting Steering Committee

Melonie Falcon, Chair
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Melanie Giusti
Denise Juroske Short

Schedule at a Glance

All times Eastern. The schedule is subject to change. Additional details will be available at www.labjam.org.

MONDAY, JULY 8

7:30 am - 5:30 pm	Molecular Biology Board Certification Preparation Course
8:00 am - 12:00 pm	ASCLS Board of Directors Meeting
12:00 pm	Group Outing to Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Game
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	ASCLS Constituent Society Leader Symposium
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Race to JAM Trivia Finals
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	ASCLS Ascending and Developing Professionals Forums Meetings

TUESDAY, JULY 9

7:00 am - 11:30 am	SAFMLS Awards Breakfast, General Meeting
8:00 am - 9:00 am	ASCLS Coffee with the Candidates
8:00 am - 11:00 am	Pre-conference Workshops
9:00 am - 10:30 am	ASCLS Society Update and Candidate Presentations
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Presentation of Colors, Welcome, and Opening Keynote
1:45 pm - 6:15 pm	Concurrent Sessions, Industry Partner Engagement, Posters, Networking
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Presidents' Reception

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

6:00 am - 7:00 am	JAM 5K Fun Run
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Concurrent Sessions, Industry Partner Engagement, Posters, Networking
5:15 pm - 6:30 pm	AGT Member Meeting and Awards Ceremony; ASCLS Awards Ceremony
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	SAFMLS President's Reception

THURSDAY, JULY 11

8:00 am - 3:45 pm	Concurrent Sessions, Industry Partner Engagement, Posters, Networking
4:00 pm - 5:15 pm	Closing Remarks and Keynote

FRIDAY, JULY 12

8:00 am - 4:00 pm	SAFMLS Joint Meeting and Branch Meetings
10:00 am - 2:00 pm	ASCLS House of Delegates Meeting

Attendance Options

To provide you flexibility to participate in the Joint Annual Meeting in the format that best fits your preferences, you have the option to attend either in-person in Pittsburgh or virtually, wherever you are.

All educational sessions will be streamed live and recorded. Both in-person and virtual registrants will have access to all session recordings for 30 days after the event—about 50 hours of P.A.C.E.®-approved credit—as well as additional virtual content provided in the conference app. You get to choose which sessions and events you want to attend live and which recordings you will view later when the time is right. Design a JAM schedule that fits your work and personal life.

- **In-Person Attendance:** JAM will be held at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Pittsburgh. In addition to the nearly 50 educational sessions detailed in this brochure, the event also includes peer-submitted posters, industry partner exhibits, networking activities, and select meals.
- **Virtual Attendance:** All virtual JAM educational sessions and events will be held through Zoom webinars and Zoom meetings and will be accessible through the event app. Attend the meeting through your computer, smart phone, or tablet to access the nearly 50 educational sessions detailed in this brochure, industry partner virtual exhibits, and virtual peer-submitted posters.

Laboratory Discipline Key

Use the laboratory discipline key below to identify the sessions of most interest to you. These abbreviations are used in the educational program descriptions to indicate which program areas each session addresses.

ADM	Laboratory Administration Management
C/U	Chemistry/Urinalysis
CMB	Cytogenetics/Molecular/Biochemical Genetics
ETH	Ethics
GEN	General/Interdisciplinary
HEM	Hematology/Hemostasis
IH	Immunohematology
I	Immunology
MIC	Microbiology
PHL	Phlebotomy
SAF	Safety



Pre-Conference

Molecular Biology Board Certification Preparation Course

The following full-day course is available for in-person and virtual attendees.

MONDAY, JULY 8 | 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM ET

This full-day course is designed for individuals interested in sitting for the Molecular Biology Exam offered by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists Board of Certification (BOC), MB(ASCP). The comprehensive review course covers topics specified in the current ASCP BOC exam content outline. During the program you will attend eight (8) hours of lectures and receive study content including, an outline of each subject area, illustrations, two (2) mock practice exams, and other materials that promote effective and efficient study.

Upon completion of this course you will be able to discuss basic concepts of molecular genetics, describe integral concepts of molecular testing, and identify the applications of molecular testing for detecting genetic related diseases.

Fee:

- Members of AGT, ASCLS, or SAFMLS or those registered for the 2024 Joint Annual Meeting: \$250/professionals; \$200/students
- Non-members or non-JAM attendees: \$300/professionals; \$225/students

This AGT-sponsored review course is SEPARATE from the JAM Program. P.A.C.E.® credits will not be awarded by ASCLS. AGT will provide a certificate of attendance upon completion. For more details, or to register as a non-JAM attendee, visit agt-info.org/mb_prepcourse-2024-2.

Workshops

The following workshops are available to in-person attendees only and must be purchased separately. You can add it to your registration at any time.

TUESDAY, JULY 9 | 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM ET

Revolutionizing Hematological Disease: Unraveling Genomic Mysteries with Optical Genome Mapping

» Su Yang, CG(ASCP), MD Anderson Cancer Center

This workshop will discuss how optical genome mapping (OGM) can be used as a companion tool to detect chromosomal abnormalities at a much higher resolution, especially for structural variants in hematological malignancies. OGM has shown to be a powerful new technology that can lead to higher detection rates of abnormalities in cancer cytogenetics when correlated with traditional cytogenetic tests, including FISH and G-banded chromosome studies. Participants will learn from cancer case studies presented at the workshop as well as advantages and limitations using this platform.

Program Area: CMB Level: Advanced

Cost: ASCLS/AGT/SAFMLS Member \$75; Nonmember (Customer) \$95

TUESDAY, JULY 9 | 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM ET

Introduction to Real-Time PCR

- » Katie Bennett, PhD, MB(ASCP)^{CM}, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
- » Ericka Hendrix, PhD, MB(ASCP)^{CM}, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center

This workshop is an introduction to real-time PCR chemistry, how to set-up reactions, and how to interpret results. There will be activities for real-time PCR to help illustrate the concepts involved with this technique.

Program Area: CMB Level: Basic

Cost: ASCLS/AGT/SAFMLS Member \$60; Nonmember (Customer) \$80

Educational Session Preview

We invite you to explore the nearly 50 educational opportunities you will experience at the 2024 Joint Annual Meeting. Sessions have been grouped by themes—**Scientific Disciplines; General; Leadership/Management/Professional Development; and Paired Presentations.**

All educational sessions will be recorded, and registered attendees will have access to recordings for 30 days after the event. Each educational session is one contact hour of P.A.C.E.® credit. Program dates and times will be published at www.labjam.org.

SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES

Challenges and Advancements in Sickle Cell Disease

- » Farhana Mueez, MD, MHA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM},
Youngstown State University
- » Joan O'Connell, EdD, MLS(ASCP),
Youngstown State University

This presentation includes discussion of the challenges related to the testing and diagnosis of sickle cell disease, as well as the latest advancements in treatment options.

Program Area: HEM Level: Intermediate

Clinical Applications of ctDNA Testing: Present and Future

- » Liam Lee, PhD, MB(ASCP), MD Anderson Cancer Center

This session will provide an overview of the rapidly evolving clinical landscape of ctDNA testing in oncology. The biology and history of ctDNA, featuring its clinical applications including screening, minimal residual disease (MRD), and biomarker treatment selection will be discussed.

Program Area: CMB Level: Basic

Clinical Utilities of Optical Genomic Mapping at Clinical Cytogenetic Labs

- » Ying Zou, MD, PhD, FACMG,
The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Optical genome mapping (OGM) is an emerging technology. It reveals genome-wide structural and copy number variants, some of which are important to classify cancer risk. Given a simple workflow and analysis pipeline, it is adopting into clinical labs.

Program Area: CMB Level: Basic

Complicated Proficiency Surveys in Microbiology: LPX, WID, TMO, OMG!

- » Emilia Marrero-Greene, MEd, M(ASCP)^{CM},
Lakeland Regional Health

Real-world case studies will be presented to justify the importance of participation in College of American Pathologists (CAP) proficiency surveys often used to assess the laboratorian's abilities at identifying less-common, but still medically important, pathogens.

Program Area: MIC Level: Intermediate

Emerging Antimicrobial Resistance, a One Health Model

- » Grace Leu Burke, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM},
University of Alaska Anchorage

Extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) and carbapenem resistance (CRAB) bacteria are opportunistic pathogens affecting global public health. This session will focus on One Health Model research indicating the presence of environmental risk for drug-resistant bacterial colonization, especially in the homeless population.

Program Area: MIC Level: Intermediate

ESKAPE Pathogens: A Daily Struggle in Complex Susceptibility Testing

- » Joel Mortensen, PhD, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
- » Pat (Patricia) Tille, PhD, MLS(ASCP),
University of Cincinnati

ESKAPE Pathogens are a group of highly virulent and antibiotic resistant organisms that are the leading cause of healthcare acquired infections globally. Knowing the physiology and mechanisms by which the organisms spontaneously develop resistance, or through the transfer of resistance determinants, provides insight into the future to control and manage these deadly infections.

Program Area: MIC Level: Advanced

“I Took a Pill in Ibiza”: Case Studies of Celebrity Toxicology

» Christal Lane, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, LeConte Medical Center

This session will use case studies to unveil the impact of drug abuse in celebrities and legal processes. Participants will review testing advancements at the intersection of science and public safety through an exploration of toxicology testing techniques, challenges, and ethical dimensions.

Program Area: MIC Level: Basic

An Integrated Cytogenomic Approach to Evaluate Hemato-Oncology Cases in the New Era

» Carlos Tirado, PhD, FACMGG,
Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook

This session will provide an opportunity to learn how to evaluate hematological malignancies cases in a new era of testing approaches.

Program Area: CMB, HEM Level: Intermediate

An Introduction to Epilepsy-associated Variant Interpretation

» Rachel Lewis, MS, MB(ASCP), Invitae

This session includes a review of some of the medical terms commonly encountered when reviewing epilepsy cases. We will also discuss genes that have high positive rates on next-generation sequencing diagnostic panels and describe important considerations when evaluating variants.

Program Area: CMB Level: Advanced

Lead Poisoning: A Major Childhood Health Problem and How the Lab Aids in Prevention

» Amy Pyle-Eilola, PhD, DABCC, FADLM,
Nationwide Children’s Hospital

Blood lead level (BLL) measurements are relied upon to recognize lead exposures, which may prompt interventions to prevent further exposure. Therefore, clinical labs play a critical role in identifying individuals with elevated BLLs, and as such, are tightly regulated. This session will review the clinical implications of lead poisoning, the regulatory requirements for testing and reporting BLLs in children, and the analytical details of measuring blood lead.

Program Area: C/U Level: Intermediate

Lymphocyte Morphological Challenges

» Steven Marionneau, PhD, MLS(ASCP), Cellavision

Changes in lymphocyte morphology can complicate peripheral blood film reviews. In this session, patient cases will be used to link morphologic abnormalities with underlying conditions.

Program Area: HEM Level: Intermediate

Pediatric Vaccine-Induced Antibody Thresholds: Rethinking Pre-Immunosuppression Serologic Testing and Revaccination Implications

» Sarah Wheeler, PhD, NRCC,
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Age-appropriate thresholds are needed for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) serology tests, and the indications for use of hepatitis B and varicella serology tests should be reevaluated.

Program Area: I Level: Intermediate

Setting up Optical Genome Mapping in your Cytogenetic Laboratory: Points for Consideration in Analysis and Test Validation

» Wahab Khan, PhD, FACMG,
Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center

Chromosomal rearrangements are well-known hallmarks of cancer and constitutional cytogenetics. Learn how to set up an optical genome mapping (OGM) workflow and validate it for cancer cytogenetic applications.

Program Area: CMB Level: Intermediate

If Sperm Could Talk: Semen Analysis Case Studies and Sperm Morphology

» Anna-Marie Bort, MLT(ASCP)^{CM}, Fertility Solutions, Inc

This session reviews cases encountered during complete semen analyses, including core components of semen analysis, result interpretation, and analysis troubleshooting. An algorithm method to classify sperm morphology will also be reviewed.

Program Area: C/U Level: Basic



Educational Session Preview

*Educational sessions are subject to change.

Surprise! Unusual Hematology Case Studies

- » Kathryn Golab, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SH^{CM}, Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories

This session will cover unique or surprise diagnoses in the hematology laboratory. Discussion about diagnosis, testing critical to making a diagnosis, and how laboratory professionals can identify this in their laboratory will be discussed.

Program Area: HEM Level: Intermediate

What's in the Pill? Contaminations Versus Impurities in Medications and Food Products that Can Lead to Positive Drug Tests

- » Marisol Castaneto, F-ABFT, Army Forensic Toxicology Program, U.S. Army Medical Command/Office of the Surgeon General

Examine the impurities associated with prescription medications, similarities among generic pills, and illicitly manufactured pills that could lead to unexpected positive drug results.

Program Area: C/U Level: Intermediate

When Complement Isn't a Compliment

- » LaShanta Brice, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)SH, Diagnostica Stago

Postpartum kidney injury diagnosis is complex. This case study illustrates a doctor of clinical laboratory science's involvement in managing a 24-year-old woman with hemorrhage and thrombocytopenia using diagnostic management teams in an interprofessional healthcare setting.

Program Area: HEM Level: Advanced

Why Do Pathogens Continue to Emerge and Reemerge? An Update

- » Rodney E. Rohde, PhD, SM(ASCP)^{CM}, Texas State University

The 21st century has seen a concerning number of old foes and novel microbial agents emerge (or reemerge) globally including SARS-CoV-2, Ebola, Nipah, Marburg, Candida auris, ringworm, antimicrobial resistant pathogens, arboviruses, and many others. This presentation will discuss several pathogens, including pathology, epidemiology, treatment, prevention, and other microbiological and infectious disease aspects to consider going forward.

Program Area: MIC Level: Advanced



Educational Session Preview

*Educational sessions are subject to change.

GENERAL

Assessing Laboratory Communications: Lessons Learned from CKD-EPI 2021 Implementation

- » Shawn Luby, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM},
University of North Carolina

Highlighting limitations in patient engagement, this session examines laboratory communications delivered during CKD-EPI 2021 implementation and discusses the need for a re-evaluation of laboratory-to-patient communication strategies.

Program Area: GEN Level: Intermediate

Bench Buddies: A Novel Development for Training Students and New Professionals in the Lab

- » Sarah Steinberg, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM},
Casper College

Discover "Bench Buddies," a pioneering mentorship program cultivating effective trainers in campus lab and clinical settings. From student cohorts to workforce integration, learn how this initiative empowers individuals to own their training journey.

Program Area: GEN Level: Basic

Clinical Relevance while off the Bench: Innovative Solutions for the Military Laboratory Technician to Ensure Competency through a Career with Diverse Roles

- » Kazmere Hill, U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research
- » Wanda Lewis, U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research
- » Matthew McCloskey, MLT(ASCP),
U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research

This session offers an exploration of the enlisted laboratory technician's career, with a focus on solutions that empower service members to maintain or advance their clinical skills, even in roles beyond the traditional scope of an MLT or MLS.

Program Area: GEN Level: Basic

Dual Perspectives: Alzheimer's Disease from the Laboratory to Clinical Trial Subject

- » Michael L. Bishop, MS, MLS(ASCP),
Education and Quality Consulting
- » Michelle R. Campbell, MS, MLS(ASCP), MB, SC,
Mayo Clinic

An estimated 6.7 million Americans over the age of 65 are living with Alzheimer's dementia. The dual perspective from lab professionals involved in the development of assays as well as drug trial subjects are explored.

Program Area: GEN Level: Advanced

Health Disparities and Laboratory Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities

- » Mahmoud Aarabi, MD, PhD, FACMG,
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
- » Octavia M. Peck Palmer, PhD, University of Pittsburgh
School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh Medical
Center

This session focuses on the practice of laboratory professionals being uniquely poised to identify health disparities in the communities they serve, and to develop environmental and clinical interventions to eliminate health disparities.

Program Area: ETH Level: Basic

Introduction to Health/Healthcare Equity: How Laboratorians Can Play a Vital Role in Eliminating Disparities

- » Juli-Anne Gardner, MD, CG(ASCP)^{CM},
University of Vermont Medical Center
- » Pamela Gibson, MD, University of Vermont Health
Network/Larner College of Medicine at the University of
Vermont
- » Alicia Hill, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Charge Medical Lab Scientist

Laboratory medicine is more than a test result; our discipline can play a vital role in reducing health/healthcare disparities and improving the quality of life for patients. We will discuss ways laboratorians can help reduce disparities.

Program Area: ETH Level: Basic

Educational Session Preview

*Educational sessions are subject to change.

Laboratory Identification of Biological Warfare Agents

- » Elizabeth Babcock, MS, MLS(AMT), U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases
- » William (Bill) Dorman, U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases

Many clinical laboratories are unfamiliar with handling specimens from a possible bioterrorism incident. This session will instruct laboratories in identification, responsibilities, and limitations in the handling of these specimens.

Program Area: SAF Level: Intermediate

The Laboratory's Role in National Biosecurity: 2023 Biodefense Posture Review

- » Patrick Cutter, MMOAS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, U.S. Special Forces Command Headquarters
- » Maira Malhabour, MD, MLS(AMT), Headquarters, Air Force

Explore the impact of the U.S. Department of Defense's Biodefense Posture Review in this session. Learn how it strengthens U.S. readiness against bio-threats, aligns with national and global security objectives, and enhances professional roles in biodefense.

Program Area: GEN Level: Basic

Normalized Deviance—Tackling Unsafe Trends

- » Jason Nagy, PhD, MLS(ASCP), Sentara Health
- » Dan Scungio, MLS(ASCP), SLS, CQA(ASQ), Dan the Lab Safety Man, Inc.

Look around your lab—are people wearing PPE? Are they using cell phones and ear buds in the department? Learn how unsafe practices become the norm in a laboratory, and discover tips for making changes that will erode those bad habits away for good.

Program Area: SAF Level: Intermediate

Pursuit of Scientific Achievement: Journey of a Farm Boy—A Story of Perseverance

- » Sen Pathak, PhD, FNASc, MD Anderson Cancer Center

It is crucial to embrace change and challenges in the field of biological science, as they pave the way for new discoveries and advancements. By sharing personal experiences of perseverance, persistence, and humility, this presentation will inspire the audience to approach obstacles with an evidence-based mindset and be willing to challenge existing beliefs when necessary. The journey through overcoming hurdles in scientific research will undoubtedly provide valuable insights and lessons for those in attendance. *The AGT Gordon Dewald Lecture was established to honor Dr. Gordon Dewald for his contributions to AGT and to cytogenetics. This lecture is presented by the 2024 award recipient.*

Program Area: GEN Level: Basic

The Unique Role of Medical Laboratory Scientists in the U.S. Public Health Service

- » Amalia Francisco, MHAP, MLS(ASCP), Federal Medical Center, Devens
- » Jacqueline Kouadio, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Indian Health Service-Phoenix Indian Medical Center
- » Travelle Mason, MPH, MLS(ASCP), U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, Medical Laboratory Scientist Professional Advisory Group
- » Osamede Onaghise, MPA, BB(ASCP), U.S. Public Health Service

This presentation includes a review of the varied assignment of MLS officers in the U.S. Public Health Service. It will include a discussion of their role as first responders in disaster and public health emergencies, while delving into the challenges, lessons learned, and preparedness efforts they are faced with.

Program Area: GEN Level: Basic

Waste Disposal and Laboratory Medicine—Ensuring Safety for People and the Planet

- » Shannon Kern, DCLS, SM(ASCP)^{CM}, Hershel "Woody" Williams VA Medical Center

This session is designed to help laboratory professionals understand how the waste that is generated should be disposed of to ensure compliance with federal regulations in an environment of ever-changing methodologies.

Program Area: SAF Level: Basic

Educational Session Preview

*Educational sessions are subject to change.

LEADERSHIP/MANAGEMENT/ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Appropriate Utilization and Lab Stewardship

- » Elissa Passiment, EdM, MLS(ASCP), Rutgers University School of Health Profession

Utilizing laboratory services is a constant concern due to the cost to our health care system; drain on resources; and waste of valuable time diagnosing, treating, and managing patients. We will examine many different approaches to controlling utilization.

Program Area: ADM Level: Advanced

Bigger Is not Always Better (a Decentralized Lab Story)

- » Maria Langeslay, MSMHA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center
- » Sofia Shank, MSHA, MLS(ASCP), Ramstein Air Base, Germany
- » Jose Miguel Velazquez, MS, MLS(ASCP), Landstuhl Regional Medical Center

This session includes an overview of decentralized labs based on the 12 Quality System Essentials (QSEs). Our organizational structure, management, and processes of standardization with minimalistic test menus will be highlighted to help provide a roadmap on how to collaborate and integrate services for a unified medical command.

Program Area: ADM Level: Basic

The Clinical Laboratory's Role in Addressing the Fentanyl Crisis

- » Stephanie Noblit, Esq, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association

Fentanyl overdoses are on the rise, but not every hospital laboratory tests for fentanyl as part of its routine drug screens. This session will discuss why fentanyl should be added to routine drug screens and the consequences of failing to do so.

Program Area: ADM Level: Intermediate

Effective Leadership and Management

- » Eva Kristina Calero, MS, MLS(ASCP), Brooke Army Medical Center
- » Marybeth (Beth) Luna, MPA, MLS(ASCP), G2MQ Consulting Corporation
- » Mikal Stoner, MS, MLS(ASCP), Beckman Coulter, Diagnostics

Join three former military medicine leaders/lab managers in this interactive presentation with actual case scenarios regarding leading and managing in a lab. Walk away with relevant examples and decision tools to lessen your reaction time.

Program Area: ADM Level: Basic

Harmony in Healthcare: Navigating Clinical Misunderstandings through Interprofessional Education

- » Doryan Redding, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, University of Virginia Medical Center

In the lab, we often face misunderstandings with other departments that impact our work. This session will address these issues by analyzing scenarios, understanding their origins, their impact, and teaching strategies to learn from these mistakes.

Program Area: ADM Level: Basic

Oh No—The Apocalypse! Planning for an Extended/Network Downtime

- » Elizabeth Dahlgren, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Advocate Health/ACL Laboratories

Extended/network downtimes within healthcare can impact patient outcomes. This session includes case studies, as well as the process of developing a plan, including tips, tricks, and lessons learned for preparing a laboratory/laboratory system for these situations.

Program Area: ADM Level: Basic

Stepping into Laboratory Leadership—Dos and Don'ts from the Bench to the Boardroom

- » Ally Storla, MSQA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, CSSBB(ASQ), Wellstar Kennestone Hospital

Changing roles from frontline employee to leadership can be an overwhelming experience. This presentation will dive into some anecdotal experiences, as well as provide some real life examples of lessons learned and resources that have been beneficial.

Program Area: ADM Level: Intermediate

Educational Session Preview

*Educational sessions are subject to change.

PAIRED PRESENTATIONS

The following are 30-minute presentations, which will be paired in a one-hour session focused on a specific topic or discipline. The presentation pairings will be posted on www.labjam.org once finalized.

Application of Westgard Rules on Assays Newly Regulated by CLIA 2024

» Sten Westgard, MS, Westgard QC, Inc.

CLIA updates Proficiency Testing (PT) criteria in July, shrinking goals by up to 40 percent. The pain of these rules will not be felt equally across methods, instruments, and laboratories. More PT failures will occur, and more challenges to QC will result. Learn how to cope.

Program Area: ADM Level: Intermediate

Educational Programs to Recruit and Retain Talent within the Laboratory

» Jessie Frank, MLS(ASCP), Mayo Clinic

This session highlights establishing new agreements with educational programs for MLS clinical rotations, the significance of effective onboarding, the provision of study materials, and scholarships for enhanced employee retention and professional development.

Program Area: GEN Level: Basic

Effective Methods for Monitoring Diabetes in Patients with Hemoglobinopathies

» Carolyn Hosenfeld, DHSC, MLS(ASCP), Bowling Green State University

This session will highlight the issue of potential hemoglobin variant interference in HbA1c testing methods. Alternative testing options for evaluation of glucose metabolism will be explored.

Program Area: GEN Level: Intermediate

Fungal Meningitis Outbreak following Cosmetic Surgery Tourism: A Case Study

» Sarah Bergbower, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges, Olney Central College

In 2023, the CDC responded to a fungal meningitis outbreak linked to cosmetic surgeries. This case highlights the role of laboratory testing and appropriate interpretation, including the importance of understanding testing limitations and probability.

Program Area: MIC Level: Intermediate

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Enhancing Blood Donation Inclusivity and Safety: Has the New Individual Risk-based Assessment Made a Difference?

» Yan Zheng, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM},

The University of Kansas Medical Center

This session will discuss the significant changes of FDA-approved Donor History Questionnaire Version 4.0 (DHQ v4.0) and analyze their implications on transfusion practices and the overall integrity of the nation's blood supply.

Program Area: IH Level: Intermediate

How to Address Biotin Interference on Laboratory Test Results

» Vishnu Samara, PhD, University of Chicago Medicine

Biotin is a vitamin employed in immunoassays to measure hormones, tumor markers, infectious disease antigens, or antibodies. Presence of biotin in serum may affect test results. This session will discuss biotin interference in immunoassays and steps to address it.

Program Area: GEN Level: Intermediate

To MLS and Beyond: Career Laddering from MLT Certification

» Kasey Edwardson, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, University of Kansas Medical Center

This session will explore results of a mixed-methods study on MLT-to-MLS advancement. Findings will cover experiences of study participants and the relationship between route and BOC performance. Study participant recommendations will also be shared.

Program Area: GEN Level: Basic



Risk Assessment—How Do I Do it in the Transfusion Service?

- » Suzanne Butch, MA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SBB^{CM}DLM^{CM}, Michigan Medicine

The AABB will be requiring a risk assessment as a part of its requirements for change control. This session will include a discussion of the requirements, risk control methods, and documentation.

Program Area: IH Level: Intermediate

Searching for a Horcrux: A Microbiologist's Role in Solving Foodborne Outbreaks

- » Kelcey Harper, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Vermont Department of Health Laboratory

Have you ever wondered how foodborne outbreaks are solved? Take a journey through outbreak investigations from start to finish while highlighting the critical role of the microbiologist.

Program Area: MIC Level: Basic

ADDITIONAL SESSIONS TO BE ANNOUNCED

Stay tuned for late-breaking sessions added to the schedule and announcements about the Opening and Closing Keynote speakers. For the most up-to-date schedule, visit www.labjam.org.



Industry Partner Engagement and Exhibits

Tuesday, July 9 - Thursday, July 11

Opportunities to engage with industry partners will be integrated throughout the Joint Annual Meeting, both in-person and virtually. Industry partners are full registrants and encouraged to participate in all aspects of the meeting, including scientific sessions and social events. In addition to table-top displays throughout the meeting space, JAM will include mobile lab units where partners will demonstrate their platforms and analyzers. Through the Joint Annual Meeting app, you can connect with exhibitors and schedule personal appointments for one-on-one conversations and demonstrations. The Joint Annual Meeting format will provide abundant opportunities for meaningful conversations with our industry partners about your specific clinical laboratory needs.

Poster Showcase

Research and case studies submitted by AGT, ASCLS, and SAFMLS members have been peer reviewed and will be showcased as posters. The Joint Annual Meeting posters will be displayed digitally Tuesday – Thursday and will be accessible through the event app. Authors participating in the Best of JAM Poster Competition will be available to discuss their posters at designated times on Tuesday, July 9, and Wednesday, July 10.

Additional Onsite Activities

The Joint Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh will include an optional group outing to the Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Game on Monday, July 8; the Race to JAM Trivia event for ASCLS Developing Professionals on Monday, July 8; the Presidents' Reception on Tuesday, July 9; a 5K fun run on Wednesday, July 10; and opportunities for small roundtable discussions and movement breaks throughout the conference.

P.A.C.E.® Certificates

The Joint Annual Meeting provides a wide range of educational opportunities to meet your continuing education needs. The 2024 program offers about 50 hours of P.A.C.E.®-approved, quality educational programming.

ASCLS P.A.C.E.® is accepted by ASCLS, the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), and the Association of Genetic Technologies Board of Certification and all states, including Florida and California for recertification and licensure. ASCLS is an approved provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences. ASCLS is an approved provider with CE Broker for Florida licensees and will submit attendance to CE Broker.

To document the P.A.C.E.® credits you earn, you will produce a P.A.C.E.® certificate of attendance using the ASCLS CE Organizer. The CE Organizer is online at www.ascls.org/CEorganizer.

Member Events and Governance Activities

In addition to the educational programming, the 2024 JAM will include the meetings and events you traditionally enjoy at your professional society annual meetings. Many of the following are open to all attendees, whether you're a member of AGT, ASCLS, or SAFMLS. Details about when and where the following events will take place will be posted on www.labjam.org.



AGT Events

- **AGT Business Meeting** – Join AGT on Wednesday, July 10, at 5:15 pm, to learn more about the Association, meet the incoming Board of Directors, get the latest updates on AGT activities, and hear updates from other organizations. All attendees are invited.
- **AGT Awards Ceremony** – Immediately following the AGT Business Meeting on Wednesday, July 10, celebrate your distinguished colleagues and their accomplishments this past year.
- **AGT Genetic Educators and Mentors (GEMS) Meet-Up** – Join AGT members on Thursday, July 11, to discuss the current status of Cytogenetic and Molecular Genetic education and training programs. All attendees involved in education and training of genetic technologists are welcome.



ASCLS Events

- **Board of Directors Meeting** – Join ASCLS on Monday, July 8, at 8 am, to learn more about what ASCLS is doing to address issues of importance to medical laboratory professionals.
- **ASCLS Society Update/Open Forum/Candidate Presentations** – Moderated by Claude Rector, ASCLS president, this session held on Tuesday, July 9, at 9 am, will report on practice issues that affect medical laboratory professionals. ASCLS committee activities and accomplishments will be presented. Attendees should bring views from local and state colleagues to discuss with their peers.
- **ASCLS Elections** - Elections for ASCLS offices, including the Developing Professionals Forum and Ascending Professionals Forum, will be conducted electronically on Wednesday, July 10. ASCLS delegates will be able to use their smart phones, tablets, or laptops to cast their vote online. Exact times and locations will be provided in advance of the Joint Annual Meeting.
- **Awards Ceremony** – Celebrate your distinguished colleagues and their accomplishments this past year on Wednesday, July 10, at 5:15 pm.
- **House of Delegates Meeting** - The ASCLS House of Delegates will convene on Friday, July 12, at 10 am, and will install new officers and members of the Board of Directors and of elective committees and will discuss professional practice standards, position papers, and the scope and direction for the Society and the profession.



SAFMLS Events

- **SAFMLS Awards Breakfast** – SAFMLS members, come together on Tuesday, July 9, at 7 am, for breakfast, as well as awards presentations.
- **SAFMLS General Meeting** – Tuesday, July 9, following the awards breakfast. Meet the Board of Directors and congratulate the members newly elected to the board.
- **SAFMLS President's Reception** – Held Wednesday, July 10, this reception is for SAFMLS and military members.
- **SAFMLS Joint Meeting and Branch Meetings** – Held Friday, July 12, 8 am–4 pm.



Joint Annual Meeting Registration

Register Early and Save!

Registrations received after June 20 will be processed at the late/onsite rate. Ensure you have access to pre-conference workshops with limited space. You may also receive special promotions and invitations from exhibitors and meeting sponsors.

Full Registration

Full registration includes admission to the opening and closing sessions; all educational sessions; all education recordings streaming online for 30 days after the meeting; industry engagement, poster showcase, and networking events; the Awards Ceremonies; the event app; and all governance meetings. In-person attendees receive the following meals with registration: Presidents' Reception (hors d'oeuvres and beverages) on Tuesday, July 9, continental breakfast on Wednesday, July 10, and refreshment breaks throughout the meeting. Full registration is required for attendees serving as delegates to the ASCLS House of Delegates.

Guest Registration

Guest registration is available only to individuals attending in-person who do not work in the clinical laboratory science field and includes admission to the Opening Session; Presidents' Reception; and the Awards Ceremonies. Guests must be registered as add-ons to full registrations.

Pre-Conference Workshops

- » Revolutionizing Hematological Disease: Unraveling Genomic Mysteries with Optical Genome Mapping (OGM) Pre-Conference Workshop – ASCLS/AGT/SAFMLS Member \$75/workshop; Nonmember (Customer) \$95/workshop
- » Introduction to Real-Time PCR Pre-Conference Workshop- ASCLS/AGT/SAFMLS Member \$60/workshop; Nonmember (Customer) \$80/workshop

NOTE: Available for in-person attendees only.

Which Fee Applies to Me?

The discounted member registration rates are available only to people holding current ASCLS, AGT, or SAFMLS membership. If you are not a member and would like to join, complete the membership application at www.ascls.org/join for ASCLS membership, <https://agt-info.org/membership> for AGT membership, or safmcls.wildapricot.org for SAFMLS membership.

Registration Fees

Register online today at www.labjam.org.

Full Registration	Regular Registration (by June 20)	Late/Onsite Registration (Beginning June 21)
Professional Member / Full Member	In-Person: \$645 Virtual: \$545	In-Person: \$695 Virtual: \$595
Ascending Professional/Emeritus Member	In-Person: \$545 Virtual: \$445	In-Person: \$595 Virtual: \$495
Developing Professional/Student Member	In-Person: \$320 Virtual: \$245	In-Person: \$350 Virtual: \$270
Community/Collaborative Member or Nonmember (Customer)	In-Person: \$805 Virtual: \$625	In-Person: \$855 Virtual: \$675
Guest* (In-person only)	\$200	\$200

*Any ASCLS professional member, who qualifies for Emeritus Membership but has chosen to remain a professional member, is eligible to register at the Emeritus/Honorary Member rate. Members who wish to take advantage of this special pricing must register via phone (301-478-6379). This special pricing is not available with online registration. Emeritus Members whose Membership Category is "Emeritus" may register online.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, June 20, 2024

Deadline for receipt of registration refund requests

Thursday, June 20, 2024

Deadline for regular rate registration

Monday, June 24, 2024

Deadline for hotel reservations

Remittance of Fees

Joint Annual Meeting registration fees may be paid by check, credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover Card, or American Express), or an approved purchase order* from your institution (minimum value: \$250). If you choose to use a purchase order, we require that a copy of the purchase order is enclosed with your registration form.

- » We do not accept cash.
- » Purchase orders will only be accepted for \$250 or more from U.S. institutions. We require that a copy of the purchase order is enclosed with your registration form.
- » Checks should be made payable to ASCLS.
- » All fees must be paid in U.S. Dollars.
- » Payment must accompany your registration form in order to be processed.

Refunds

Requests for registration refunds must be received on or before Thursday, June 20. There will be a \$75 service charge for processing refunds. A signed letter requesting the refund should state the registrant's name, the address where the refund should be sent, and the name of the person or institution to which the refund check should be made payable. If you must cancel after June 20, please consider sending a substitute in your place as no refunds will be issued after this date. Refund requests should be sent to ascls@ascls.org.

Confirmation

Registration confirmation letters will be sent by email for all registrations. If you do not receive a confirmation email, first check your junk/spam folder, then contact Joint Annual Meeting Planners at info@labjam.org. ASCLS-AGT-SAFMLS cannot assume any responsibility for misunderstandings regarding your registration if you do not receive a confirmation. Any refunds or balances due will be indicated in your confirmation letter. This letter will also serve as your receipt for the amounts paid. Your registration packet and badge will be waiting for you when you arrive at the Registration Desk at the meeting. The Registration Desk will be open Monday, July 8, - Thursday, July 11, from 7:00 am - 5:00 pm ET.

LabJAM Event App

Registrants should download the event app, which will be available the week before the meeting, for these valuable resources:

- » Access the up-to-date program schedule with session descriptions, speaker bios, handouts, and direct links to both live and recorded sessions.
- » See a list of all registered attendees and connect with others directly through the app.
- » View the poster showcase.
- » Visit industry partner profiles and connect directly with representatives for one-on-one conversations and demonstrations.
- » Share photos, resources, and insights with fellow attendees to feel connected, whether you're attending virtually or in Pittsburgh.

How to Register

Choose one of these two options:

Online Registration (Credit Card)

Register online at www.labjam.org.

Register by Check or Purchase Order

Register online at www.labjam.org and indicate you are paying by check. Make checks payable to ASCLS.

When mailing your checks, please include a copy of your confirmation email or invoice.

Checks should be mailed to:

ASCLS/JAM
11107 Sunset Hills Rd, Suite 100
Reston, VA 20190-5376

Payment is due net 30 days. If payment is not received seven (7) days prior to the start of the meeting, registration will not be honored.

For registration, membership, or other inquiries, contact 301-478-6379 or email info@labjam.org.

To avoid being charged twice, submit your registration using only one method. If you have any questions about the registration process, please contact info@labjam.org.



In-Person Joint Annual Meeting

Venue

The Joint Annual Meeting events will be held at the Wyndham Grand Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Registration

All Joint Annual Meeting attendees must check in at the Registration Desk upon arrival to pick up your name badge. Name badges are required for admission to all Joint Annual Meeting events. The Registration Desk will be open Monday, July 8 - Thursday, July 11, from 7:00 am - 5:00 pm ET.

Weather and Dress

Casual business attire is recommended for most Joint Annual Meeting activities. The average high temperature for Pittsburgh in July is approximately 83° F and the average low is about 64° F. While lightweight clothing is preferable during the day, meeting rooms and other venues are usually air conditioned. Since personal comfort zones vary widely, you may want to carry a sweater or jacket.

Accommodations

Where Pittsburgh's famed three rivers meet soaring skyscrapers, the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh offers you an experience in the heart of downtown. With spectacular views of Point State Park, the hotel is located within walking distance of Acrisure Stadium, PPG Paints Arena, PNC Park, the Cultural District, and 80+ restaurants, bars, entertainment venues, and shopping.

Hotel Reservations

The discounted room rates for attendees are \$179 per night (single/double) plus taxes and fees.

These rooms will be available until the block is filled or Monday, June 24. Reservations made after the Joint Annual Meeting block is full, or after the June 24 deadline, are subject to space and rate availability.

To reserve your room at the discounted JAM rate, visit www.labjam.org and navigate to Hotel & Travel. Please do not call the hotel to reserve your room, because you may not receive the discounted rate.

Wyndham Grand Hotel

600 Commonwealth Pl
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Deposits and Cancellations

A deposit of one night's room and tax will be due from the individual reserving the room. The hotel will refund deposits and credit card guarantees made by Joint Annual Meeting attendees if attendees cancel their room reservation(s) 72 hours or more prior to their date of arrival. Any reservation cancelled within 72 hours of the date of arrival, as well as no shows, will forfeit the first night's deposit.

Travel

- Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT)
- Distance from Wyndham Grand Hotel: 20 miles
- Drive time: about 20-30 minutes (depending on traffic)
- Average taxi or ride-share fare: \$40-\$50 plus tip (one way)

Things to Do in Pittsburgh

While Pittsburgh has a history of being known as the Steel City, it has evolved quite a bit over the last four decades and has many attractions for a wide range of interests. Located just 0.6 miles from the Wyndham, PNC Park is home to the Pittsburgh Pirates and boasts amazing views of the river. JAM attendees can take advantage of a discounted rate to attend the game on Monday, July 8, as the Pirates host the New York Mets. The game starts at 12:35 pm ET, and tickets are \$39, which includes a \$10 credit to use on food, beverages, or merchandise. Visit www.labjam.org for more information.

Other top Pittsburgh attractions include the Fort Pitt Museum, Heinz History Center, Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History, The Andy Warhol Museum, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, the Mattress Factory, the Carrie Blast Furnaces, and many more. Stay tuned for more suggestions from the JAM Host Committee.





ASCLS

11107 Sunset Hills Rd., Suite 100
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American Society for Clinical
Laboratory Science,
Association of Genetic
Technologists, and
Society of American Federal
Medical Laboratory Scientists
Joint Annual Meeting

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

July 8-12, 2024

www.labjam.org