



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 careers. Each month, we spotlight one of the shining voices, selected from many nominations across the country.

Meet Darby Naheedy, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, from Aurora, Illinois.

Darby is a medical laboratory scientist at Rush Copley Medical Center and a medical student at Midwestern University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. At Rush Copley Medical Center, Darby works the third shift as a generalist. In this role, Darby has performed various duties to ensure smooth operations involving specimen receiving, analysis, and providing quality results for patient care since 2018. Darby participates in ensuring effective quality assurance practices and regulatory readiness of the laboratory for inspection.



Darby's ASCLS involvement started in 2017-2018 as ASCLS-Michigan student representative. She served as Region IV ascending professional representative in 2018-2019. Due to dedication to professional service, Darby served in 2023-2024 as ASCLS-MI delegate, Patient Safety Committee member, ASCLS-Illinois chair of communications, and ASCLS-IL website administrator. Furthermore, Darby served as the 2024-2025 ASCLS-MI delegate.

Darby's leadership qualities of ownership, innovation, and problem-solving are evident in several actions. For example, Darby undertook to learn a coding language to rebuild the ASCLS-IL website, which was dormant and inactive during the pandemic. Despite the challenges of medical studies and clinical rotation, this achievement is a testament to Darby's problem-solving skills and deep interest in improving the system and professional Society.

Darby's motivation to join and serve in ASCLS is driven by a fervent desire to advocate for the medical laboratory science profession, elucidate its importance in patient-centered care, and champion patient safety advocacy. This commitment is a source of pride for Darby and an inspiration for continued support.

Outside ASCLS, Darby has served and continues to serve in the American Medical Association student's section A-23 in various capacities, such as in the Chicago Cultural Guide Committee, Social Media Convention Committee, and Hospitality Committee. In the Midwestern University College of Osteopathic Medicine–American Medical Association, Darby served as 2022-2023 secretary, 2021-2022 first class representative, 2022 mini medical student mentor, and 2023-2024 pathology tutor. At Rush Copley Medical Center, Yorkville, Darby serves as midnight's flow leader between 2019 and 2024.

Darby's commitment to the laboratory's profession resulted in the presentation of several works, including MLS in ASCLS Ask Me Anything in March 2024, ASCLS-Your Professional Society & You in 2018, Antibacterial Effectiveness of Essential Oils Against Common Pathogens in 2017, and Evaluating Stability of CBC Results at Room Temperature 2017. Furthermore, Darby participated in representing ASCLS & Promotion of the Laboratory at the High School Fair at Plano, IL, in April 2024. To further promote the profession, Darby provided a PDF template for I AM MLS targeting employers and human resource departments on the ASCLS-IL website and to Rush Copley Medical Center and submitted a Call to Action to Google to Recognize Lab Week with a Google Doodle and continuously promote laboratory medical laboratory profession to pre-medical students using the community social platforms.

Despite the incredible dedication to ASCLS and numerous service levels, Darby considers her most significant achievement to be her relationship with her fiancé. Darby shares, "While this may be an unconventional claim of achievement, I am immensely grateful for Colin's unwavering support through life's challenges. Our mutual support has been the key to our success, and I am deeply grateful and proud." This personal aspect of Darby's life is an inspiration and a reminder of the human side of our professional journeys.

Congratulations, Darby!