

ASCLS Today Editorial Calendar 2025-26

2025-26 Issues	Theme
Sept/Oct 2025 Deadline: Aug. 1, 2025	<p>Mental Health and Resilience</p> <p>The impact of COVID-19, workforce shortages, abrupt changes to federal policies, and the overall stress that occurs in the work environment, has given rise to a perpetual cycle of professional burnout, leading to people leaving the profession, resulting in increased workforce shortages and then starting the burnout cycle over again. This issue will focus on how we can utilize self-care, mental health support, workplace support, and other resources to strengthen our resilience and better support our mental health and wellbeing. Authors should consider real-life case studies, work practices, or staff/institution initiatives to identify and impact mental health and wellbeing in the workplace. How can we ensure that we take care of and protect ourselves and thereby protect our patients.</p>
Nov/Dec 2025 Deadline: Oct. 1, 2025	<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging</p> <p>“A diverse, credentialed clinical laboratory workforce is critical to the delivery of equitable and quality healthcare” 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 a just culture in ASCLS? How can we set and achieve goals of promoting diversity? What is the definition of belonging and why is it important in the workplace? How do we promote belonging in ASCLS or within our places of work?</p>
Jan/Feb 2026 Deadline: Dec. 1, 2025	<p>Professional Impact</p> <p>Medical laboratory professionals have struggled with an identity crisis of feeling too far behind the scenes and lacking visibility. This theme moves us forward into how the work we do impacts patients’ lives, public health, and the healthcare system. Articles for this issue might showcase real stories of how our day-to-day efforts impact those around us.</p>

<p>March/April 2026</p> <p>Deadline: Feb. 1, 2026</p>	<p>Patient Safety, Quality, and 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 has been added to the Board of Certification (BOC) as part of MLS recertification. How are we teaching or training laboratory staff regarding their role related to ethics?</p>
<p>May/June 2026</p> <p>Deadline: April 1, 2026</p>	<p>A Look to the Future</p> <p>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 been translated into interprofessional practice in a hospital work environment, or perhaps how a Doctor of Clinical Laboratory Science (DCLS) practitioner has been integrated into your institution. There are many other examples of innovation in practice!</p>
<p>July/August 2026</p> <p>Deadline: June 1, 2026</p>	<p>Professional Advocacy</p> <p>The importance of advocating for our profession is perhaps taking on a new meaning with the changes and downsizing that is occurring in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), as well as state health departments. Keeping the public informed on critical public health issues and ensuring that accurate information is available for medical professionals and the public will require medical laboratory professionals to step forward again, as was done during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>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 Labvocate 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.

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