

ASCLS Today Editorial Calendar 2026-27

2026-27 Issues	Theme
October 2026 Deadline: Aug. 1, 2026	Mental Health and Resilience 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?
December 2026 <i>Digital only</i> Deadline: Oct. 1, 2026	Professional Impact This issue is focused on celebrating the impact and role of medical laboratory professionals in patient care. 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. Why are we proud to be medical laboratory professionals?
February 2027 Deadline: Dec. 1, 2026	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB): "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, including but not limited to race, color, ethnicity, language, nationality, sexual orientation, physical disability, religion, gender, socio-economic status, and 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, equity, inclusivity, belonging, and justice. 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?

April 2027 Deadline: Feb. 1, 2027	Patient Safety, Quality, and Ethics 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? How are we teaching or training laboratory staff regarding their role related to ethics?
June 2027 <i>Digital only</i> Deadline: April 1, 2027	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, technological, educational, or management arenas. How have new innovations influenced front-line work, quality assessment/improvement, management of data, or preparing/presenting instructional content?
August 2027 Deadline: June 1, 2027	Professional Advocacy This issue will showcase the ways our Labvocates work to improve the environment for laboratory professionals and maximize their efforts on positive patient outcomes in an increasingly dynamic regulatory environment. 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 (Legislative) Symposium, advocacy work in specific constituent societies, and engagement with regulatory agencies.

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

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