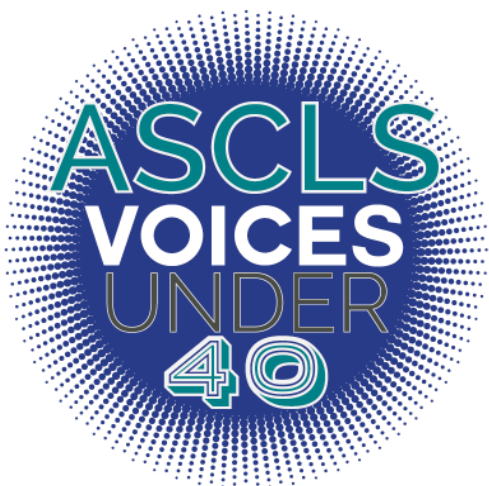




ASCLS Voices Under 40 is a monthly recognition of one of our many, talented and committed young professionals under 40 years old. The ASCLS Voices Spotlight has been developed to honor ASCLS members who have shown exceptional commitment to ASCLS, the laboratory profession, and their community at large 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 Samantha Peterson, PhD, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}.

Samantha (Sam) was at the University of North Dakota Medical Laboratory Science program for 12 years, most recently as an associate professor and a graduate program director of their MLS master's program. Sam recently took a position as the program director of a MLT program at Portland Community College in Portland, Oregon.

Since joining ASCLS in 2014, Sam has contributed in several ways. In 2017 and 2018, she served as the new professional delegate and nominations chair on the ASCLS-North Dakota Board of Directors, respectively.

After taking a step back to complete her PhD, Sam returned to service in full force in 2024. That year, she served as ASCLS-ND president-elect and newsletter editor. She attended the Labvocate Symposium in Alexandria, Virginia, as a representative of ASCLS-ND, meeting with North Dakota legislators to advocate important issues such as PAMA reform and tuition reimbursement. She also contributed to multiple professional meetings at the state, regional, and national levels as an attendee and session moderator.

As president of ASCLS-ND in 2025, Sam further strengthened the organization by creating a strategic plan, leading quarterly board meetings, and co-chairing the state meeting planning committee. Sam's continued involvement at all levels of ASCLS demonstrated both dedication and a desire to elevate the profession.

As a faculty member at the University of North Dakota (UND), Sam continually invested in her growth as an educator and leader, most notably earning a PhD in Teaching and Learning in 2023 to better educate MLS students. As an associate professor and graduate program



director, Sam played a vital role in shaping the future of the profession through teaching, mentoring, and program development. She advised the MLS Club, led recruitment student efforts, and mentored graduate students in disseminating their MLS-related work. Her involvement in assessment and accreditation committees ensured the continued quality and integrity of lab education, while her mentorship of fellow faculty fostered a culture of professional growth and collaboration.

Beyond her formal roles, Sam has served as an ambassador for MLS. She actively promoted the profession through interdisciplinary education, including guest lecturing for other healthcare professions. Sam has even explored global opportunities by traveling to the Dominican Republic to support the integration of lab professionals into medical mission work. Her passion, energy, and commitment inspire students, colleagues, and fellow ASCLS members alike.

Congratulations on this award, Samantha! We cannot wait to see what is next for you.