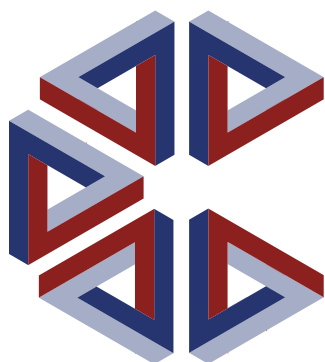




CLEC

2027

43rd Annual
Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference
February 4–6, 2027 ★ Arlington, Texas

ATTEND IN-PERSON OR VIRTUALLY
Register for #CLEC2027 by **December 2** and **SAVE!**
ascls.org/clec



CLEC 2027

The Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC) is the most impactful annual gathering for faculty, administrators, directors, advisers, and all others dedicated to advancing medical laboratory education. More than a conference, CLEC is a collaborative community where educators come together to share ideas, solve challenges, and inspire one another.

Whether you're new to laboratory education or an experienced leader, CLEC offers opportunities to learn from peers who understand the realities of today's educational environment. Explore emerging trends, innovative teaching strategies, research initiatives, and proven approaches that can help strengthen your program and support student success.

Every session is designed with practical application in mind. You'll leave with actionable ideas, resources, and strategies you can immediately implement in your classroom, laboratory, or program. Educational content spans instructional methods, educational theory, program management, student engagement, accreditation-related topics, and the evolving needs of healthcare education.

Beyond the educational program, CLEC provides unparalleled opportunities to connect with colleagues from across the profession. Exchange experiences, discuss solutions to common challenges, and build a network of peers who share your commitment to preparing the next generation of laboratory professionals.



Check the CLEC website for additional details as they become available. Read the eCLEctic blog for regular updates on new program developments and interesting opportunities for CLEC 2027. ascls.org/clec

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

CLEC provides a wide range of educational opportunities to meet your continuing education needs. The 2027 program offers nearly 40 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 Technologists Board of Certification and all states for recertification and licensure. ASCLS is an approved provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program. 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 be able to produce a P.A.C.E.® certificate of attendance using the ASCLS CE Organizer online at <http://ceorganizer.ascls.org>.

GENERAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conference's conclusion, participants will be able to:

- Discuss teaching strategies to engage students and improve learning outcomes.
 - Integrate new topics, science, and skills into the current curriculum.
 - Identify innovative and novel approaches to the education of future laboratory professionals.
-

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE OPTIONS

Choose the CLEC experience that fits your program, budget, and schedule.

All educational sessions will be streamed live and recorded. Both in-person and virtual registrants will have access to all session recordings for at least 45 days after the event—nearly 40 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 CLEC schedule that fits your work and personal life.

- **In-Person Attendance:** CLEC 2027 will be held at the Loews Arlington Hotel in Arlington, Texas. In addition to the nearly 40 educational sessions detailed in this brochure, the event also includes peer-submitted posters, industry partner exhibits, networking activities, and select meals.
- **Virtual Attendance:** You will have access to nearly 40 educational sessions detailed in this brochure, either streamed live or recorded; industry partner virtual activities; virtual peer-submitted posters; and virtual networking events.

CLEC 2027 Online Community: All registered attendees will be included in the CLEC 2027 online community where you can ask questions, start discussions, and get advice from other CLEC attendees before, during, and after the event. Learn from the CLEC Host Committee about things to do and places to eat in Arlington. Get tips from long-time CLEC attendees about how to maximize your experience. And continue collaborating with the educators you meet after CLEC 2027 wraps up.

*If your circumstances change and you want to change your registration from virtual to in-person, or vice versa, you can modify your registration at any time. Modifications from in-person to virtual attendance made before **January 20, 2027**, will include the registration payment balance refunded. After January 20, no refunds will be issued*

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

All times in Central Time. Schedule subject to change.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 8:30 am – 11:00 am New Educator Workshop
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Networking, Industry Engagement
- 12:00 pm – 5:45 pm Opening Keynote, Educational Sessions, Industry Engagement, Networking
- 5:45 pm – 7:30 pm Reception with Industry Partners and Poster Sessions

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

- 7:00 am – 3:45 pm Breakfast, Educational Sessions, Industry Engagement, Networking
- 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Educator Updates

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 7:00 am – 11:30 am Breakfast, Educational Sessions, and Closing Keynote



FRIDAY EVENING—FREE NIGHT IN ARLINGTON

After a day filled with education, you have the evening free to explore Arlington. Walk across the climate-controlled indoor skybridge to a massive dining and entertainment complex, Texas Live! It's the best spot in the region to grab drinks and watch winter sports. Venues inside include Troy's (a gourmet burger hall by Cowboys legend Troy Aikman), Lockhart Smokehouse for authentic Central Texas barbecue, and PBR Texas for a high-energy country bar experience.

The skybridge also connects you directly to Live! by Loews, featuring an upscale steakhouse and an outdoor lounge. Hearsay Arlington sits just a short walk away at the top of Choctaw Stadium. This chic, prohibition-themed speakeasy features live piano music, craft cocktails, and a rooftop patio. Attendees looking to explore outside Arlington will find shopping, local dining, and attractions throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

Check the CLEC website for complete details as they become available (ascls.org/clec).

NEW EDUCATOR WORKSHOP: THE STRATEGIC MENTEE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8:30 am–11:00 am Central Time

The New Educator Workshop (NEW) will address the needs of those new to educator positions in clinical laboratory science-related programs. NEW is designed to assist early-career educators transition into teaching roles and support their professional development. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with presenters and fellow educators via interactive presentations, discussions, and peer-to-peer learning activities.

Transitioning from the clinical laboratory into academia can be challenging. Pedagog-a-what? This workshop provides the new faculty member with the tools that they need to succeed in academia by utilizing mentoring. How do you find a mentor? Do you look inside your institution or outside? What do you talk about once you do find one? This session will help new educators identify their questions, concerns, and what they need to know to establish effective mentoring relationships.

SPEAKER: Malissa Norfolk, MBA, PMP, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SH^{CM}

University of Maine at Augusta

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Basic

*Additional registration required and **available to in-person attendees only.***

Cost: \$110 for ASCLS members/\$160 for non-members. Participants can earn 2.0 hours of P.A.C.E.[®] credit



NAACLS WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 7:00 am – 11:00 am Central Time

The National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) will present the following workshop, “Measurable Outcomes: Program Assessment Strategies to Close the Loop.”

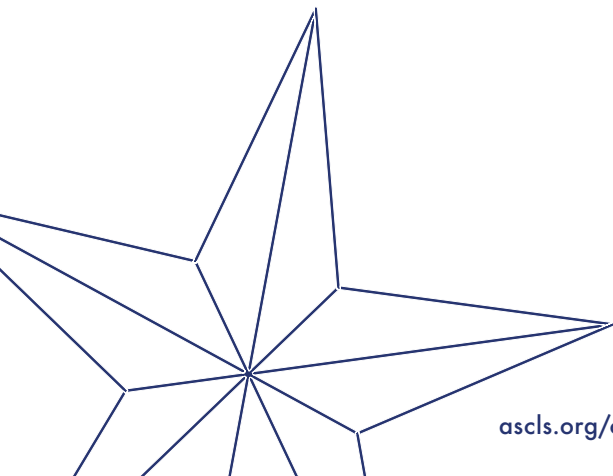
Two current NAACLS Review Committee members will lead participants through strategies to achieve compliance with Standard II, the most frequently cited NAACLS standard.

The workshop will:

- Introduce Standard II and explain why it is the most frequently cited standard.
- Discuss how to analyze program changes to determine effectiveness.
- Explore strategies to develop program-specific outcomes or objectives.
- Apply strategies to demonstrate you are “closing the loop” effectively.
- Discuss how to gather feedback and maximize program feedback.
- Share practical tactics and tips so participants leave with concrete takeaways

Registrants may submit questions in advance, which presenters will review to identify common themes and help shape the session. Registrants are also welcome to submit a success story related to gathering and using feedback, which may be shared with peers during the workshop. This workshop will feature interactive discussions with fellow attendees, expert insights, and practical tools to help participants ensure compliance, streamline documentation, and close the loop as they improve their program. Both new and seasoned program directors will leave this workshop with strategies to strengthen program quality and effectiveness.

This workshop will immediately precede the Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference on February 4 and is not part of the CLEC registration. The NAACLS workshop registration and payments are processed directly through NAACLS. For complete information on the workshop and to register, please visit the NAACLS website at www.naacls.org after **December 1**.



INDUSTRY PARTNER ENGAGEMENT AND EXHIBITS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 11:00 am – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1:30 pm Central Time

Opportunities to engage with industry partners are integrated throughout CLEC, both in-person and virtually. Industry partners are full registrants and encouraged to participate in all aspects of the conference, including educational sessions and social events. In addition to table-top displays, partners may present Commercial Symposia to highlight products and services provided by companies and organizations. These sessions are streamed live and recorded for attendees who wish to view them later. And through the CLEC app, you can connect with exhibitors and schedule personal appointments for one-on-one conversations and demonstrations.



EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS PREVIEW

We invite you to explore the nearly 40 educational opportunities you will experience at CLEC 2027. All educational sessions will be recorded, and registered attendees will have access to recordings for at least 45 days after the event. Each educational session is one contact hour of P.A.C.E.® credit, unless noted otherwise.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

AI-ASSISTED TOOLS TO ACCELERATE CURRICULUM REVISION IN A DEPARTMENT OF ONE

SPEAKER: Patricia Boyer, MSHS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}
Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratories

This session shares one educator’s real experience using AI to transform inherited course materials for alignment with certification and accreditation recommendations. You’ll learn practical strategies, including how prompting speeds up the process of adapting legacy materials into new formats. We’ll talk honestly about where AI helps, where it falls short, and why educator judgment remains the most important part of the process.

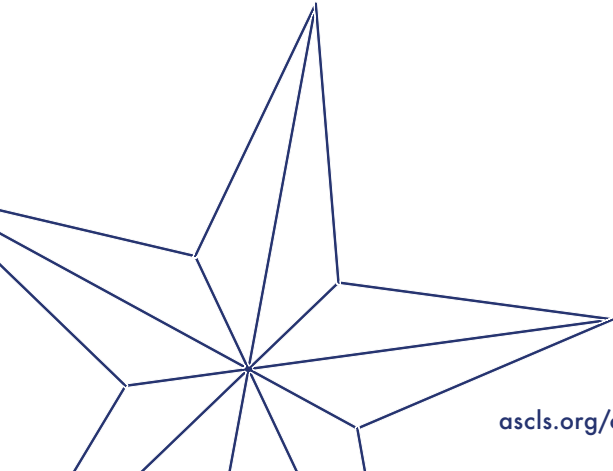
LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

THE ATTENTION-DISTRACTION SEESAW: PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR CAPTURING STUDENT FOCUS

SPEAKER: Kaitlin Faughnan, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}
SUNY Upstate Medical University

In the era of digital devices and ever present distractions, maintaining student focus is a persistent challenge for educators. Drawing on pedagogical research, this session will explore evidence based micro-changes and strategies instructors can use to cultivate engagement and focus in and outside the classroom.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate



BEYOND GAMES: STRUCTURED ACTIVE LEARNING AND LOW-COST SIMULATION IN MLS EDUCATION

SPEAKERS: Virginia Mata-Miller, MSHS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

This session presents practical, low-cost approaches to structured active learning and simulation in medical laboratory science education. Participants will explore adaptable strategies, including visual diagnostic reasoning stations, clinical scenarios, and team-based problem solving, that support engagement, clinical reasoning, and application of course content.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

BEYOND THE MICROSCOPE: TRANSFORMING A HEMATOLOGY SLIDE COLLECTION INTO AN INTERACTIVE DIGITAL LEARNING ECOSYSTEM

SPEAKER: Sarah Romer, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Casper College

Turn a traditional hematology slide collection into an accessible, searchable learning resource for hybrid students. Explore how slide digitization, QR-linked resources, progressive case activities, and targeted remediation can extend learning beyond the laboratory and support competency development.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

BEYOND POWERPOINT: INCREASING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ACTIVE LEARNING IN MLS EDUCATION

SPEAKERS: Beverly Garcia, MSHS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Laiju Prabhakarankutty, PhD, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Cristal Villarreal, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)^{SH}, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

Discover engaging, practical strategies that bring MLS classrooms to life! Faculty from hematology, clinical chemistry, and microbiology will share active-learning approaches and demonstrate how AI-assisted resource development can enhance teaching, boost student engagement, and support learning.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

BEYOND THE SPECTROPHOTOMETER: IT'S NOT JUST FOR BASIC CHEMISTRY

SPEAKER: Laurie Sprauer, MBA, MLS(ASCP), Oregon Institute of Technology

Clinical chemistry lab activities can be challenging due to lack of large instrumentation. This session encourages the learner to think of applications using a spectrophotometer in complex ways. Topics discussed include compliance, training, psychomotor objectives, and mathematical skills. Sequence activities to build student skills and confidence in the laboratory setting with basic equipment.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

BEYOND THE STUDENT LAB: IMPLEMENTING A “REAL WORLD” LABORATORY SIMULATION

SPEAKERS: Michelle Herdman, PhD, MLS(ASCP), West Virginia University

Jessica Rubenstein, MPH, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, West Virginia University

This presentation will discuss our process of creating, implementing, and improving a multi-semester simulation experience for MLS students that encompasses most major areas of the lab. In this session, learn about goal setting, logistical planning, scenario development, student coordination, challenge card creation, phone call implementation, and survey execution.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

BEYOND TECHNICAL SKILLS: TEACHING PROFESSIONALISM IN LABORATORY EDUCATION

SPEAKER: Sarah Alvarez-Tennant, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

Northwest Florida State College

Clinical laboratory programs build strong technical skills, but employers also expect professionalism and soft skills. This session shares strategies for embedding and assessing these skills throughout the curriculum, with successful examples from our program that enhance graduate employability and clinical-site relationships.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Basic

BRINGING THE LAB TO LIFE: EFFECTIVE OUTREACH STRATEGIES TO INSPIRE FUTURE MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS

SPEAKER: Leah Narans, MBA, MLS(ASCP), SSM Health

This session explores practical, engaging strategies for promoting medical laboratory science careers through community outreach and high school engagement. Participants will learn how to design an effective outreach table, select hands on activities that spark curiosity, and identify the best events and venues for connecting with students, educators, and families.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

CRACK THE CODE: DESIGNING GAMIFIED INTERPROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR MED LAB IN ACADEMIC AND CLINICAL PROGRAMS

SPEAKERS: Tracy Cleveland, EdD, PA-C, University of South Dakota

Kari Potter, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, University of South Dakota

Participants will explore how simulated laboratory testing can be incorporated into an interprofessional, team-based escape room activity. Presenters will outline a stepwise approach to designing, implementing, and assessing gamified interprofessional learning, with emphasis on adaptation for university and hospital-based medical laboratory programs.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

CULTIVATING NEUROINCLUSIVE TALENT: SUPPORTING NEURODIVERGENT STUDENTS AND UNLOCKING THEIR STRENGTHS

SPEAKERS: Jeannie Davis, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Cuyahoga Community College

Beth Torres, MEd, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Cuyahoga Community College

Transform how you support neurodivergent students in the laboratory. This session delivers evidence-based frameworks to eliminate executive functioning hurdles, harness cognitive strengths, and build confident, workforce-ready technologists.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

EFFECTIVE APPROACHES FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE EDUCATION

SPEAKERS: Rajkumar Rajendran, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)

University of Texas Medical Branch

Ulises Rojo, PhD, MLS(ASCP), University of Texas Medical Branch

Julie Soder, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, University of Texas Medical Branch

Graduate-level MLS programs face challenges in student engagement, strengthening clinical judgement, and developing research competency. Learners often struggle with transitioning to graduate-level education, encountering cognitive overload, engagement fatigue, and conducting independent research projects. To provide resources, we have compiled effective educational strategies.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AS A CATALYST FOR EXCELLENCE: LEVERAGING PROMOTION IN MLS EDUCATION

SPEAKERS: Stephanie Jacobson, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, AHI(AMT)

University of Cincinnati

Niti Vyas, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, University of Texas Medical Branch

Seeking promotion is a powerful catalyst for professional growth, confidence, and long-term leadership in MLS education. In this session, two recently promoted faculty members share practical strategies for building a purposeful academic trajectory through intentional faculty development, reflective career planning, and sustained scholarly engagement.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

**FROM CONCEPT TO IMPLEMENTATION: A FACULTY-DESIGNED
ESCAPE ROOM TO ADDRESS AFFECTIVE COMPETENCY GAPS IN
IMMUNOHEMATOLOGY**

SPEAKERS: **Bob Jackson, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}**, Mayo Clinic

Kasey Kuker, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Mayo Clinic

Discover how a faculty-designed escape room was used to foster and assess affective competencies in an undergraduate MLS immunohematology course. Learn how to reverse design, co-create clues with AI, and use iterative refinement to create a scalable, team-based learning experience and leave with practical ideas to implement similar activities in your own program.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

**FROM LAB NOTES TO PUBLICATIONS: PRACTICAL MEDICAL WRITING
FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PROGRAMS**

SPEAKERS: **Michael L. Bishop, MS, MLS(ASCP)**

Educational Consultant and Editor

Jimi March, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, University of Cincinnati

Medical writing is a core professional skill that strengthens knowledge retention, critical thinking, and interprofessional communication, yet it is often under taught or not covered in clinical and medical laboratory science programs. This session presents a practical and scalable approach to integrating medical writing across the curricula.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate



FROM VARIANT TO DIAGNOSIS: TEACHING MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS THROUGH REAL CLINICAL CASES

SPEAKER: Elinette M. Albino, PhD, MLS(ASCP), University of Puerto Rico

Bring molecular diagnostics to life through authentic clinical cases. This session offers practical strategies for teaching test selection, variant interpretation, genotype-phenotype relationships, and clinical decision-making while preparing students to navigate the evolving landscape of genomic medicine.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

GAMIFIED APPROACHES TO ADMISSIONS IN MEDICAL LABORATORY EDUCATION

SPEAKERS: Leah Ade, MPH, MLS(ASCP)

University of Kansas School of Health Professions

Alexis Carpenter, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, University of Kansas Medical Center

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

S. Renee Hodgkins, PhD, MLS(ASCP), University of Kansas Medical Center

Structured interviews are resource intensive, often requiring substantial faculty time while contributing minimally to final admissions decisions. This session will provide an overview of gamified admissions processes we implemented to preserve the ability to assess key competencies while reducing faculty burden. Discover how other programs can implement similar approaches.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

HIGH SCHOOLS BUILD HUMAN CAPITAL FOR LABORATORY SCIENCE

SPEAKERS: Christie Palladino, MD

Aiken County Career and Technology Center

James Payne, MS, Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES

This session highlights how high school programs are providing real world instruction and skills development in clinical laboratory science. Presenters will share how early exposure, aptitude-targeted recruitment, authentic clinical experiences, and service-learning models prepare students for medical laboratory assistant and phlebotomy certifications and connect them with transitions to post-secondary training programs.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

HOW TO “GAMEIFY” THE LABORATORY

SPEAKER: Cassidy Wood, MEd, MLS(ASCP), Wayne State University

Student attention declines after 20 minutes of lecture, making active learning essential. This session explores how game-based strategies reinforce content, boost participation, and let instructors track comprehension in real time. Attendees will learn practical strategies for integration of games into the classroom and see outcomes from direct implementation in medical laboratory science courses.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN ACTION: COLLABORATIVE MODELS FOR MLS PROGRAMS

SPEAKERS: Kate Ailstock, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Ohio State University

Morgan Cummings, MEd, MLS(ASCP), Ohio State University

Amanda Loch, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Ohio State University

Jessica Mantini, MS, MLS(ASCP), Ohio State University

Interprofessional education (IPE) can be challenging for MLS programs due to scheduling, resources, and partnership barriers. This session presents four adaptable IPE models with allied health partners in respiratory therapy, sonography, radiation therapy, and health information management. Presenters will share implementation strategies, lessons learned, and student outcomes.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

LEADING THROUGH DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS: BUILDING POSITIVE CULTURES IN MEDICAL LABORATORY EDUCATION

SPEAKER: Jose Eddie Salazar, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

University of Texas Medical Branch

Medical laboratory educators often navigate conflict, difficult conversations, and organizational change with limited formal leadership training. This session offers practical strategies for managing challenging student and faculty situations, strengthening accountability, and building positive cultures that support student success, faculty engagement, and organizational effectiveness.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

LET'S GET LIT! METHODS FOR TEACHING GRADUATE SCIENTIFIC LITERACY

SPEAKER: Sarah Bergbower, DCLS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

IECC Olney Central College

This session is for educators in CLS graduate programs who want to enhance their students' scientific literacy. Attendees will discover innovative strategies and engaging activities to foster critical thinking and guide students in evaluating primary research publications. The session will also offer tools to transition learners from reading scientific literature to confidently authoring their own.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

MAKING IT STICK: A GUIDE TO PHLEBOTOMY EDUCATION

SPEAKER: Jessica Rubenstein, MPH, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, West Virginia University

This presentation will include a first-hand account of techniques used, challenges faced, and areas for future improvement in teaching phlebotomy. Various teaching methods, including simulated patient interactions and use of pool noodles, and associated challenges, such as anxiety about performing the skill, needle phobia, and lack of confidence, will be discussed.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Basic

MAKING PROGRAM ASSESSMENT MEANINGFUL: USING SIMPLE STATISTICAL PROCEDURES TO DRIVE CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

SPEAKERS: Corie Hollingsworth, MLS(ASCP)

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Nathan Johnson, PhD, MLS(ASCP)

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Jenni McArthur, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Accreditation standards for laboratory educational programs require assessment data to support continuous quality improvement (CQI). This session will demonstrate how statistical tools and real-world examples can be used to evaluate student performance, assess program outcomes, and guide meaningful program improvement.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

NO ONE TAUGHT US THIS IN SCHOOL: COACHING SKILLS FOR LABORATORY EDUCATORS

SPEAKER: Maria Brown, MBA, MS, MLS(ASCP), Montana State University

Laboratory educators play a key role in shaping student success but often receive little training in coaching skills. This session provides practical strategies for fostering trust, encouraging accountability, and understanding student motivation. Participants will learn coaching techniques that help students build resilience, confidence, and professional growth.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Basic

PLANTING THE SEED: RECRUITMENT TOOLS TO GROW THE NEXT GENERATION OF LABORATORY SCIENTISTS

SPEAKER: Beth Warning, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, University of Cincinnati

This presentation will provide educators with practical strategies for engaging elementary, middle, and high school students through classroom visits, career fairs, and hands-on activities. Attendees will gain ideas, resources, and tools to promote the laboratory profession, and inspire students to explore careers in laboratory science.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Basic

REIMAGINING EVIDENCE-BASED TEACHING: HOW ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS REDEFINING THE MODERN CLASSROOM

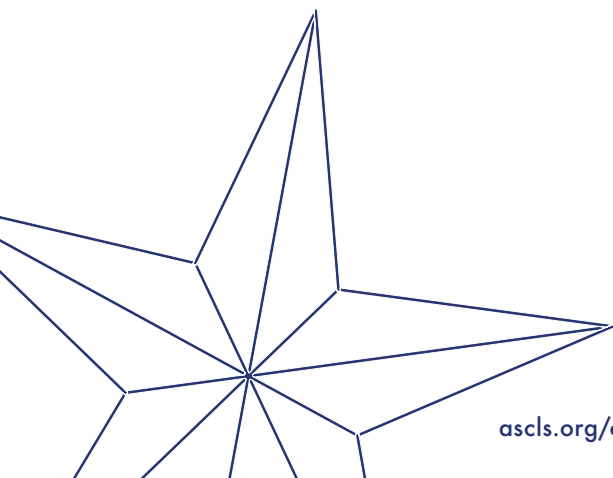
SPEAKERS: Farhana Mueez, MD, MHA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

Youngstown State University

Joan O'Connell, EdD, MLS(ASCP), Youngstown State University

The presentation will provide practical examples and strategies for integrating artificial intelligence (AI) to provide a more visual, accessible, and effective learning experience. This session will also address some of the ethical and security considerations associated with the use of AI.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Basic



REIMAGINING THE IMMUNOLOGY LABORATORY: INTEGRATING BASIC SCIENCE, CLINICAL DIAGNOSTICS, AND ACTIVE LEARNING

SPEAKERS: Aaron Glass, PhD, MB(ASCP)^{CM}, SUNY Upstate Medical University

Rachael Hagerman, MA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}MB^{CM}

SUNY Upstate Medical University

This session describes the redesign of an upper-level undergraduate immunology laboratory course that bridges foundational immunology with clinical laboratory diagnostics, while serving students from both medical laboratory and diagnostic medical scientist programs. Participants will explore how innovative laboratory experiences, cross-course integration, and competency-based assessments created a more engaging and authentic learning environment that better prepares students for research and clinical careers.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Basic



RETHINKING THE PIPELINE: USING CATEGORICAL CERTIFICATES TO INCREASE STUDENT ENROLLMENT

SPEAKER: Kristen Pesavento, EdD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Loyola University Chicago

Recruitment of students for laboratory education programs is impacted by several barriers in full degree programs, particularly for adult learners. Categorical certification programs aligning with existing MLS courses may offer flexibility for learners and increase course enrollment. This presentation provides an overview of how one program successfully launched categorical offerings.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

SLOW DOWN! EMBRACING AMBIGUITY IN INSTRUCTION & LEARNING

SPEAKERS: Robert Hatfield, MS, MLS(ASCP)

University of Tennessee Health Sciences

Jacen Moore, PhD, MLS(ASCP), University of Tennessee Health Sciences

Wes Williamson, EdD, MLS(ASCP), University of Tennessee Health Sciences

This presentation explores a counterintuitive approach to medical laboratory educational practices: strategic reduction of explicit guidance that allows students to slow down and embrace independent problem-solving and deeper cognitive engagement. We provide a review of laboratory and classroom scenarios that utilize intentional instructional ambiguity to help and engage students' learning.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

TEACHING ADVANCED QUALITY CONTROL TROUBLESHOOTING TO STUDENTS

SPEAKERS: Audrey Folsom, DHSc, MLS(ASCP), Arkansas State University

Chris Gilbreth, MBA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

Students learn QC statistics, Levey-Jennings charts, and Westgard rules, yet often freeze at the bench when a real control fails. Drawing on a backward-designed instructional module, faculty from two laboratory science programs will share strategies for teaching the situational awareness, pattern recognition, and structured troubleshooting that turn a flagged result into a sound operational call.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Advanced

THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS: TEACHING AND SUPPORTING COLOR VISION DEFICIENT LEARNERS

SPEAKERS: Linsey Donner, PhD, MLS(ASCP)

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Marnie Imhoff, MA, MBA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

University of Nebraska Medical Center

This session reviews national survey findings on current practices for screening color vision deficiency in U.S. medical laboratory students. It highlights survey-based insights on existing accommodations, along with common challenges to effective implementation. Practical classroom and laboratory strategies will be shared to better support color vision deficient learners.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

WARM UP TO AI: TIPS FOR CREATING ENGAGING RECALL ACTIVITIES USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SPEAKER: Magenta Love, MS, MLS(ASCP), SCYM

SUNY Upstate Medical University

This session will focus on implementing classroom recall activities at the start of every hematology class that were created using artificial intelligence (AI). The session reinforces why a recall activity is important for student learning but also how using AI to create these activities makes them easy to implement.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

WE VALIDATE EVERYTHING EXCEPT OURSELVES: TEACHING RESILIENCE, PURPOSE, AND PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY IN LABORATORY EDUCATION

SPEAKER: Laura Gary, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Mad Scientist Running, LLC

Medical laboratory educators teach students to validate results, troubleshoot problems, and recognize when something isn't working, but do we teach them to do the same for themselves? Explore how familiar laboratory concepts can help build resilience, strengthen professional identity, and reconnect students and professionals with purpose in the laboratory.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate



CLOSING KEYNOTE

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITHOUT LOSING YOURSELF: BOUNDARIES, HUMAN FACTORS, AND SUSTAINABLE EDUCATOR PRACTICE

SPEAKER: Julie Freidhoff, MS, MLS(ASCP),
CPHFH SafeSpace Coaching and Consulting

Health science educators routinely support students through complex life circumstances. This session reframes boundaries as shared structures embedded in syllabi, policies, and institutional expectations. Using human factors and collaborative problem-solving, participants will gain practical strategies to respond with compassion while sustaining their own professional well-being.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Intermediate

Additional sessions will be added related to interprofessional education, accreditation, and certification.



2027 REGISTRATION RATES

	EARLY BIRD by 12/2/26	REGULAR by 1/20/27	ONSITE/LATE starts 1/21/27
ASCLS Professional and Emeritus Member	in-person \$765 virtual \$690	in-person \$825 virtual \$750	in-person \$915 virtual \$840
ASCLS Developing Professional and Ascending Professional Member	in-person \$715 virtual \$640	in-person \$775 virtual \$700	in-person \$865 virtual \$790
Non-Member	in-person \$990 virtual \$915	in-person \$1050 virtual \$975	in-person \$1140 virtual \$1065
Guest	N/A	N/A	in-person \$200

Pre-Conference Workshop: \$110/ASCLS Member;
\$160/Non-Member.

Should your circumstances change, and you want to change your registration from virtual to in-person, or vice versa, you can modify your registration at any time. Modifications from in-person to virtual attendance made before **January 20, 2027, will include the registration payment balance refunded. After January 20, no refunds will be issued.*

The member fees listed above are for persons holding current membership in the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). If you are not currently a member, join online at ascls.org/join.

REGISTRATION

In-person CLEC 2027 registration includes access to all educational sessions, industry partner activities, all educational session recordings for at least 45 days following the event, reception on Thursday, lunch on Friday, and continental breakfast on Friday and Saturday. **Discounted early bird registration fees are only available through December 2, 2026.**

Virtual CLEC 2027 registration includes access to all educational sessions, industry partner virtual activities, virtual networking events, and all educational session recordings for at least 45 days following the event. **Discounted early bird registration fees are only available through December 2, 2026.**

HOW TO REGISTER

Register at www.ascls.org/CLEC. Click the Registration tab for online registration. *Credit card payments are preferred.*

If Paying by Check, Create an Invoice: Register at www.ascls.org/CLEC. At check-out, indicate you are paying by invoice. Include the invoice number with your check. **Make checks payable to: ASCLS CLEC.**

NOTE: If payment is not received by January 20, your registration will be canceled. Invoices generated prior to December 2 will qualify for the early bird registration fee discount. Invoices generated after this date will be processed at the regular registration rate.

For registration, membership, or other inquiries, contact the ASCLS office at ascls@ascls.org.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

If it becomes necessary for you to cancel your CLEC registration, please **notify ASCLS at ascls@ascls.org before December 2, 2026**. Your registration fee will be refunded, less a \$75 processing fee. If needed, modifications from in-person to virtual attendance can be made up until January 20 with the balance refunded. If you must cancel after January 20, please find a substitute to send in your place, as no refunds will be issued after this date.

ACCESSABILITY

If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this event, please **contact ASCLS before December 2, 2026**, by email at ascls@ascls.org to discuss your accessibility needs. Closed captioning will be available on the broadcast of educational sessions.

CODE OF CONDUCT

When registering for CLEC, attendees agree to adhere to the ASCLS Code of Conduct (ascls.org/conduct). This includes making health and safety a priority. COVID and other infectious diseases have the potential to evolve and cause disruptions to normal activities due to personal and public health concerns. ASCLS, first and foremost, has a responsibility to provide safe learning environments for its meeting attendees. As an association of and for healthcare professionals, attendees at our live, in-person meetings are expected to exercise sound and ethical professional judgment to protect the health of those around them, which includes proper vaccinations and other measures that limit the spread of infectious diseases like masking and social distancing. Those who are experiencing symptoms should not attend live sessions and should self-quarantine from other attendees.

HOTEL AND DESTINATION

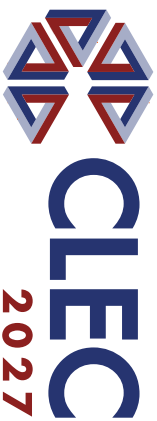
Located between two major airports in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the Loews Arlington Hotel is the headquarters hotel for CLEC 2027. Reserve your room by visiting www.ascls.org/CLEC and click on the CLEC Accommodations tab for more information.

Room Rate: \$259 single/double + taxes. Reserve your room by January 15, 2027, to receive the discounted rate. Reservations can be made online at <https://www.loewshotels.com/arlington-hotel/group-ascls-2027-clinical-laboratory-educators-conference-clec>.

The Loews Arlington Hotel is a premier resort and convention destination in the heart of Arlington's vibrant entertainment district. Opened in 2024, this modern, full-service property offers luxurious accommodations, exceptional dining, and resort-style amenities designed to make your CLEC experience both productive and enjoyable. Located steps from AT&T Stadium, Globe Life Field, and Texas Live!, it's an ideal backdrop for three days of professional development, networking, and experiencing Texas-sized hospitality.



P.O. Box 92
Dundee, MI 48131



**43rd Annual
Clinical Laboratory
Educators Conference**

February 4-6, 2027

ascls.org/clec

***In-Person and Virtual
Registration Options
Available***

