



The Connection

ASCLS-ND

May 2007

I'll Take A Bouquet of Dandelions... Any Day!

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS Region V Director



Today's riddle.... What is green and yellow all over?

Of course, it's my front yard with its dazzling crop of dandelions!

Most of us think of dandelions as those terrible, awful weeds. Hundreds of thousands of dollars and labor hours are spent each

year trying to rid our landscape of this mistake of nature! Yet, some individuals see dandelions as a delicious addition to a salad, herbal tea, strong medicine to cure what ails you, or even a fine wine. So now you may be thinking, "she's got dandelions on the brain" or "where in the world is she going with this subject?"

When I think of dandelions, I think of ASCLS! Like a dandelion with its flower head consisting of hundreds of tiny ray flowers, ASCLS through its constituent societies also has hundreds of dedicated members who are ray flowers for our profession through their vision and value. A dandelion's flower head can change into the familiar, white seed head overnight, ASCLS and its professional members are faced with regulatory and reimbursement challenges every day that requires quick change in how we practice our profession, sometimes even overnight! Each dandelion seed on its seed head has a tiny parachute so that it can spread far and wide in the wind, ASCLS members have the parachute of 'professional voice' which allows them to spread the word of ASCLS mission and core values into clinics, hospitals, educational institutions, industry, and research facilities around the world. A dandelion also has a branched, long taproot that grows deep, brings it the resources to thrive and even when one tries to remove it, it may break and the pieces left regenerate to form multiple new plants. Clinical laboratory professionals are faced with adversity every day, membership in ASCLS gives us "a professional taproot" that grows deep, provides us essential resources that can lead to success, gives us professional strength and professional identity.

Tomorrow when you go to work, take time to listen and observe your co-workers. Are they complaining? Do they make statements that they are "stressed out"? Do they talk negatively about their profession? Do they have a permanent frown on their face? Do they see challenges as obstacles and not opportunities? If the answers to any of these are 'yes', put on your 'mask, gown, and gloves', the professional negativity and apathy bug are very contagious! Live each day practicing professional infection control, surround yourself with positive professionals, surround yourself with other ASCLS members, continue to involve yourself in professional activities, and remain connected with ASCLS. When you feel the moment is right, step up to one of those less than positive, non-ASCLS members and offer to take them outside on a walk to enjoy and learn about dandelions!

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President's Message

By: Stacy Askvig, ASCLS-ND President



Everything
to revital-

I am looking forward to planting my gardens and working outside as spring approaches. feels refreshing and gives a renewed outlook to the future. Just like spring time, we need to revitalize and grow within our profession. Seize opportunities to work with others, plant new seeds of information and reap the benefits of new partnerships and knowledge.

Gardening is hard work, as is promoting our profession; especially when we feel as if nobody else cares. As we continue to work hard; hoeing out the negative attitudes, informing the public, and recruiting new laboratory professionals: the results will be beautiful and fulfilling. Our patients deserve the best care possible! As professional gardeners of laboratory information, we are needed to provide that care.

Thanks to all that attended the spring ASCLS-ND meeting. It was very informative and a great way to gain new seeds of knowledge. A special thanks to Kathy Jones for being a great gardener for our profession.

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Treasurer's Report



April 25, 2007

ASCLS-ND Checking Account

INCOME

Interest Earned	\$26.40
Meeting Income	\$14,546.79
State Dues	\$425.00
Total Income	\$14,998.19

EXPENSES

Annual Dues	\$10.00
Awards	\$38.34
Legislative Days	\$2387.98
Meeting Expense	\$30.06
Newsletter	\$121.93
PACE	\$250.00
Region Dues	\$136.50
Science Fair	\$50.00
Website	\$175.00
Total Expenses	\$3,199.81

Money Market Savings

Beginning Balance	\$7,246.30		
Interest Earned	\$166.75		
Ending Balance	\$7,412.05		
12 Month CD	\$4,724.07	5/16/07	4.75%
12 Month CD	\$7,969.47	12/7/07	4.00%

Checking Account

Beginning Balance	\$1,332.34
Income	\$14,998.19
Expenses	\$3,199.81
Ending Balance	\$13,130.72

ASCLS/CLMA/ASCP Legislative Symposium

Kari Kempel, Emily Tron and I had the privilege of attending the 2007 Legislative Symposium in Washington, D.C. on March 19th and 20th. Beforehand, we were all sent briefings as to the issues that were going to be stressed with our Legislators and we made our appointments with each of their offices. On the 19th all of the attendees sat down and listened to various speakers talk in more detail about Competitive bidding, Personnel shortage and the Laboratory Fee Schedule. Other sessions covered how the congressional offices work and how to communicate your message effectively. Being that they all had very busy schedules, we met with their Legislative Aides, who were very receptive to what we had to say. We explained that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services have requested that those laboratories receiving more than \$100,000 in Medicare part B reimbursements would be required to bid on what they would charge for certain predetermined tests and only those winning bidders would get reimbursed by Medicare for these tests. This Competitive bidding would be detrimental to rural areas in North Dakota because the resulting delays in sample transport and specimen deterioration would compromise patient care. We explained that our schools are not graduating enough personnel to fill the vacancies, especially when all the baby boomers start to retire. We stressed how laboratorians are the first line of defense in a biological or chemical terrorist attack because the government needs to know what agent they are dealing with before anything can be done. We asked them to support the Allied Health Reinvestment Act. We emphasized how the Laboratory Fee Schedule, which is the scale that Medicare follows when reimbursing for laboratory tests, is broken and based on data from 1983. We took a Washington, D.C. at night tour and saw some of the monuments and had a nice dinner at the Sea Catch House where we could relax and meet other ASCLS members from all over the country. We all found it to be a very interesting experience and were glad for the chance to see how things worked behind the scenes in our government.

Submitted by:

Kari Kempel and Dawn Michelson



Emily Tron, Kari Kempel, Earl Pomeroy, and Dawn Michelson



Kari Kempel and Emily Tron



Our Nations Capitol

Spring Business Meeting Minutes

ASCLS-ND Business Meeting

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

Jamestown, ND.



1. The meeting was called to order by President Stacy Askvig.
2. The candidates were introduced by Robin Kuhne and elections were held.
3. Secretaries report was read and approved
4. Treasurers report was read and approved
5. Dawn presented the budget for 2007-2008.
6. Region V update. Lezlee commended all ASCLS-ND members for their commitment to voice, value and vision. Region V has stepped up their activity in the national organization. Some other issues she presented are as follows:
 - National ASCLS membership is 400 ahead of last year.
 - Leadership academy: a new program with curriculum devoted to developing future leaders was discussed
 - Professional doctorate task force: a white paper discussing this topic is being written
 - Government affairs: competitive bidding, licensure, patient safety task force, ASCLS/ASCP collaborative work force were discussed.
 - ASCLS web redesign: will focus on professional and who we are. There will be new and improved tabs for references, etc.
 - Region V council: there will be a new elected Secretary/Treasurer position for the region. Website for Region V is up and running.
 - Lezlee asked for ideas on how we can make Region V the strongest in the country. Some things to think about include communication, member benefits, strategic planning and mentoring.
7. Legislative update: Dawn and Kari discussed how legislative days work. Dawn, Emily and Kari attending. Some issues they brought to the hill included, competitive bidding, personnel shortages and fee schedules.
8. Membership: there are currently 96 members. Dawn discussed literature regarding value of membership. If members join now, their membership is good to July 2008.
9. Newsletter: Shannon has received a positive response and appreciates feedback.
10. Blackboard: the ASCLS-ND webmaster set up blackboard on the website which includes a forum with several categories which include: meeting minutes, technology discussion, and open forum. Members need to register to post items. Lezlee will look at posting job opening on the Region V website.
11. Spring meeting update: 51 people signed up.
12. Region V meeting: committee is in the process of finalizing the program and exhibits. 3-4 concurrent sessions with 2 evening session will be held. Posters were sent to Minnesota and South Dakota to promote the meeting. Business cards are also available. The meeting will be held October 1-3 at the Ramada Inn in Fargo.
13. Scholarships. 3-\$500 scholarships were awarded. The winners were: Danielle Tofte, Lesley Bernard and Victoria Welton. The student representative for ND will be Victoria Welton.

Business Meeting Minutes continued from page 4

14. Election results:

President-elect: Mary Belanus

Delegate: Shannon Jongeward

Board Member at Large: Jessica Irion

15. Dawn handed out years of service awards for 5, 10, etc memberships.

State Omicron Sigma Awards: Dawn Michelson, Kathy Jones, Sue Hollister, Shannon Jongeward, Terri Hintz, Robin Kuhne, Kim Larson, Marie Dickey, Kari Kempel

Region Omicron Sigma Awards: Stacy Askvig, Dawn Michelson and Emily Tron

16. Alice Hawley, Kari Kempel and Kim Larson will be contacting all of the state science teachers in ND in the fall and sending information about CLS to them.

17. The spring meeting will be held in Bismarck April 2008. Dates will be announced.

18. Member of the year award was presented to Dawn Michelson.

19. Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Hollister

ASCLS-ND New Members

Name	Member Type
Rochelle Cariveau	Student
Zachary Lunak	Student
Amber Lundell	Student
Emily Schroeder	PF2
Crystal Stang	Student
Victoria Welton	Student

The publication submission deadline for articles for the next issue of The Connection is Monday, August 21st, 2007. Submit any articles to The Connection

Editor:

Shannon Jongeward
shannon@gra.midco.net



"Brain Bats"

1. TOOL

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LOOT

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3. DEEF

4. G G E

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Student's Corner

Greetings!

It is hard to believe one year has past since I was installed as Student Representative for North Dakota. ASCLS-ND provided me with an exceptional opportunity and experience to attend the 2006 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

At the ASCLS-ND Business Meeting in Jamestown on April 25, 2007, it was announced that there were three scholarships in the amount of \$500 awarded. The winners were Danielle Tofte, Lesley Bernard and Victoria Welton. Congratulations to these three scholarship winners!

The 2007-2008 Student Representative for North Dakota will be Victoria Welton. She will be a great ambassador for the Clinical Laboratory Science students of North Dakota.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Meyer, MT (ASCP)
Student Representative

Brain Bat answers:

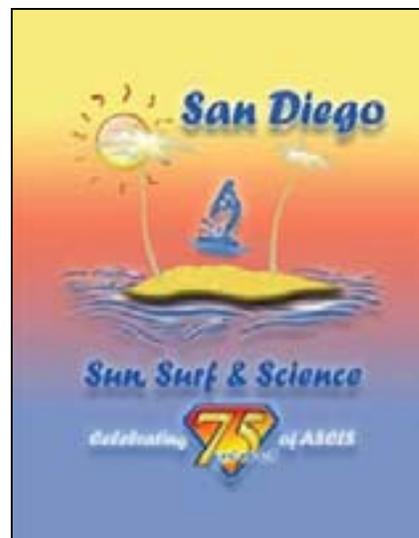
1. Toolbox
2. Up to no good
3. Feedback
4. Scrambled eggs

2007 Annual Meeting

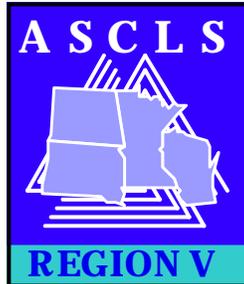
2007 ASCLS Annual Meeting
July 17-21
San Diego, California
Westin San Diego Hotel

Clinical Laboratory Expo
July 17-19, 2007
San Diego Convention Center

Go to www.ascls.org for more details



2007 ASCLS Region V Meeting



“HARVESTING THE KNOWLEDGE”



October 1-3rd, 2007

Ramada Inn

Fargo, ND

Hosted by ASCLS-ND

For more information, please contact:

Robin Kuhne at robin.kuhne@meritcare.com

Marie Dickey at marie.dickey@meritcare.com

NEW INNOVATIONS

Successful New Ova and Parasite Ordering Algorithm at Meritcare

Linda Gylland, CLS (NCA), MT (ASCP)

There is good news in the "Parasitology world" at MeritCare! A new Ova and Parasite ordering algorithm was implemented in February of 2006. The MeritCare laboratory previously performed approximately 1900-2000 full Ova and Parasite exams each year with a positivity rate ranging from 5-8%. The majority of the positives were Giardia or Cryptosporidium. With the new ordering algorithm in 2006, the total number of Ova and Parasite exams dropped to 730 with an increase in the positivity rate of 18%. The most commonly encountered parasites included: Blastocystis hominis, Entamoeba coli, Endolimax nana, Entamoeba histolytica, Entamoeba hartmanni, Trichuris eggs, Taenia eggs, Dientamoeba fragilis, Hymenolepis nana, Iodamoeba butschilli, Giardia lamblia and Cryptosporidium. The actual Giardia totals from O & P exams dropped because of the increase in the stool antigen testing. The Giardia antigen testing for 2005 was 1058 tests and 3.9% positive. 2006 showed 1357 tests and 2.3 % positive. The decrease in number of Giardia antigen positives is probably due to the increased numbers of screening specimens. Cryptosporidium antigen testing in 2006 showed 24 positives (2.5%) from 946 specimens. The increase in the number of Cryptosporidium antigen positives (24) was exciting, since we only had 2 positives in 2006 from O&P concentrates and 2 positives in 2005.

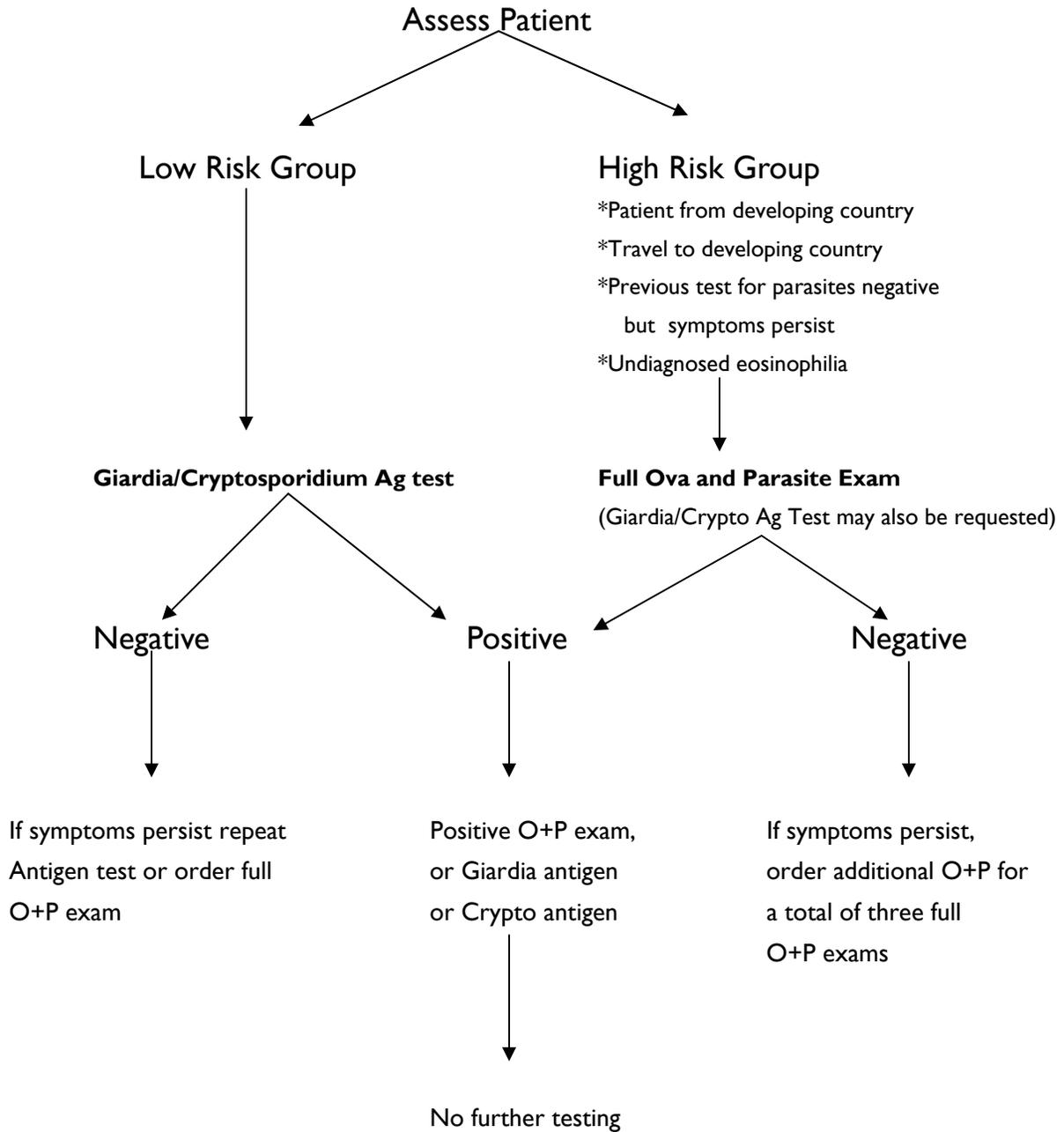
The new ordering algorithm consists of guidelines for inpatients and for outpatients. Certain criteria must be met before a full ova and parasite exam is performed. For patients who have been hospitalized for more than 3 days, the Clostridium difficile toxin testing is recommended. If the Doctor insists on an O&P exam, he must consult with the Microbiology supervisor or pathologist. For patients who have been hospitalized for 3 days or less, the following criteria must be met before an O&P exam will be done: recent travel to a developing country, a resident of a developing country, eosinophilia, or having previous negative tests for parasites with persisting symptoms. If one of these criteria are met, tests for ova and parasites are ordered in addition to the Crypto/Giardia antigen testing. If the patient does not meet one of the criteria mentioned, the rapid antigen testing for Cryptosporidium and Giardia is performed.

For outpatients, the rapid antigen testing for Cryptosporidium and Giardia is performed. Providers must contact the Microbiology lab if they want a full Ova and Parasite exam. As is with inpatients, if the following criteria is met with outpatients, the O&P exam will be performed: recent travel to a developing country, a resident of a developing country, eosinophilia or having previous negative tests for parasites with persisting symptoms. If the patient does not meet one of the above criteria, the rapid antigen testing is performed.

This new ordering algorithm makes everyone content, with the increase in number of positives and the decrease in technologists eye strain! Time previously spent on reading 20-30 O&P exams daily is spent on other Microbiology duties!

A summary algorithm is easier to follow. Algorithm continued to next page.

MERITCARE Ordering Algorithm for Ova & Parasites



Leadership Roster 2007

President: Dawn Michelson

701-237-9705

medtecdawn2@aol.com

President-Elect: Mary Belanus

218-773-4786

mary.belanus@northlandcollege.edu

Past-President: Stacy Askvig

701-858-6789

saskvig@medicine.nodak.edu

Secretary/Treasurer: Sue Hollister

701-793-2402

hollister@polarcomm.com

Board Member: Jessica Irion

218-791-8440

jjirion@altru.org

Board Member: Shannon Jongeward

701-775-9330

shannon@gra.midco.net

Student Representative: Victoria Welton

406-581-5740

victoria.welton@meritcare.com

First Year Professional: Kim Meyer

701-636-3216

kimandtommeyer@hotmail.com

Region V Director: Lezlee Koch

lezleek@sio.midco.net

Nominations Chair: Robin Kuhne

701-234-2401

robin.kuhne@meritcare.com

Delegate: Shannon Jongeward

701-775-9330

shannon@gra.midco.net

PACE Coordinator: Mary Coleman

701-775-3664

mcoleman@medicine.nodak.edu

Publications Editor: Shannon Jongeward

701-775-9330

shannon@gra.midco.net