



**Join us at our annual spring meeting for a fun-filled day  
of learning, networking & collaborating**

**Benefits include eight (8) PACE-approved continuing  
education seminars in laboratory medicine**



**Don't miss out on this great opportunity!**

**EVENT: 2022 ASCLS DC, DELAWARE, MARYLAND, & VIRGINIA  
JOINT SPRING MEETING**

**LOCATION: VIRTUAL (VIA ZOOM)**

**DATE: APRIL 23, 2022**

**TIME: 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM EST**

**REGISTRATION LINK:**

**[HTTPS://WWW.ASCLS-VA.ORO/REGISTRATION.HTML](https://www.ascls-va.oro/registration.html)**



Join us for our Joint Virtual Annual Spring Meeting on April 23, 2022, 9:00 am-3:30 pm.

When: Saturday, April 23, 2022, 9 - 3:30 pm (Eastern Time) Where:  
Virtual Zoom meeting - Zoom links will be provided to registered participants before the meeting date.

Registration Fees

ASCLS Members: \$25

Non-Members: \$35

Students – ASCLS members: \$8

Students – non-ASCLS members: \$10

Click on the following link, which will bring you to the registration site:

[ascls-va.org/registration](https://ascls-va.org/registration)

You may also use the QR code to go directly to the registration page.



Joint Virtual Annual Spring Meeting Agenda	
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome from ASCLS-DE, ASCLS-MD, ASCLS-VA, and ASCLS-CAS(DC)
9:15 - 10:15	Opening Keynote Presentation (PACE 1 credit): <b>Medical Laboratory Concerns in the Transgender &amp; Non-Binary Populations</b>
10:15 – 11:15	Concurrent Sessions A (PACE 1 credit) Choose one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• C. acutis: A powerful threat to public health right in our own backyard</li><li>• Implementing MLS/MLT programs in rural areas</li></ul>
11:15 – 12:15	Concurrent Sessions B (PACE 1 credit) Choose one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Burkholderia: Outbreaks and Detection</li><li>• Heparin-PF4 (HIT) Antibody &amp; Argatroban: A Tale of Interdisciplinary Teamwork</li></ul>
12:15 - 1:00	Lunch break / Student forums / Board meetings
1:00 - 2:00	Concurrent Sessions C (PACE 1 credit) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Antifungal drug-resistant mechanisms, in vitro susceptibility testing, &amp; emerging drug-resistant fungi</li><li>• Code of Ethics in Everyday Practice of a Laboratory Professional</li></ul>
2:00 - 3:00	Closing Keynote Presentation (PACE 1 credit): <b>Clumsy Clinical Communication: Let's Blame the Lab!</b>
3:00 - 3:30	House of Delegate Meetings

All sessions have been approved by the ASCLS P.A.C.E. ® Program and participants can earn up to about 8 hours of P.A.C.E.®-approved credit.

## Educational Sessions Details (in alphabetical order)

**Title: Antifungal drug resistant mechanisms, in vitro susceptibility testing, and emerging drug resistant fungi**

**Speaker: Sean Zhang, MD, PhD, D(ABMM)**

Dr. Zhang is an Associate Professor of Pathology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the Medical Director of the Medical Mycology Laboratory at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. His research focuses on developing rapid and nonculture-based tools for fungal diagnostics. These include identifying fungal pathogens from FFPE tissue blocks, fungal antigen assays, host-driven response assays, multiplex PCR and next-generation sequencing to rapidly identify fungal pathogens directly from clinical samples. He is also interested in studying identification and characterization of new emerging fungal pathogens, the role of fungal pathogens in cystic fibrosis patients, and antifungal drug resistance.

Dr. Zhang is an Executive Editor of Medical Mycology and an Editorial Board Member of the Clinical Microbiology Reviews. He is also a Mycology Section Editor for the 13th edition of the Manual of Clinical Microbiology. He serves as an advisor to the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) Antifungal Susceptibility Testing subcommittee and a member of the College of American Pathologist (CAP) Microbiology Committee. He is also a co-chair of the recently created Fungal Diagnostics Laboratory Consortium (FDLC) in the USA/Canada.

**Description:** To understand the category and mechanism of action of common antifungal drugs used clinically to treat patients with fungal diseases, to describe the methods used in the clinical laboratories to test antifungal drug susceptibility in vitro and their clinical interpretive breakpoints and epidemiology cutoff values, and to recognize fungal pathogens with either intrinsic or acquired antifungal drug resistance.

**Level:** Intermediate

**PACE Contact Hours:** 1.0

**Objectives:**

1. Recall the common antifungal drug categories, actions and resistance mechanisms.
2. Describe antifungal drug susceptibility testing methods and interpretative breakpoints.
3. Recognize emerging antifungal drug resistant organisms.

**Title: Burkholderia: Outbreaks and Detection**

**Speaker: Rodney Rohde, PhD, SM (ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, SV<sup>CM</sup>, MB<sup>CM</sup>, FACSc**

Dr. Rohde is a Regents' Professor, Texas State University System, University Distinguished Professor and Chair for the Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) Program in the College of Health Professions at Texas State University and serves as Associate Director for the Translational Health Research Center. Dr. Rohde is a Global Fellow, Fellow of the Association of Clinical Scientists, and Honorary Professor of International studies. He spent a decade as a public health microbiologist and molecular epidemiologist with the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Bureau of Laboratories and Zoonosis Control Division prior to his academic career, including two terms as a CDC Visiting Scientist.

His research interests include Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs), antimicrobial resistance, and clinical/public health microbiology especially zoonotic diseases (Rabies, Hantavirus, and others). Dr. Rohde has presented at more than 100 international, national, and state conferences and published over 80 research articles and abstracts, two books which focus on Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) adaptation and Clinical Considerations in Rabies, respectively.

Description: Burkholderia is a genus of Proteobacteria whose pathogenic members include a diverse group of species responsible for several dangerous and often deadly infections. Unfortunately, this group of bacteria can be difficult to isolate and differentiate in the typical clinical microbiology lab and is known for antibiotic resistance and a high mortality rate from their associated diseases, B. mallei and B. pseudomallei are potential biological warfare agents targeting livestock and humans. B. cepacia complex (Bcc) has been linked to a dangerous contaminant in water-based pharmaceutical products.

Level: Intermediate

PACE Contact Hours: 1.0

Objectives:

1. Discuss the general microbiological information of the genus, Burkholderia.
2. Recognize that this group of bacteria can be difficult to isolate and differentiate in the typical clinical microbiology laboratory, especially with the use of automation for identification.
3. Describe the epidemiology and clinical information surrounding the recent outbreaks of B. pseudomallei (melioidosis) and B. cepacia complex (Bcc).

Title: **C. acutis: A powerful threat to public health right in our own backyard**

Speaker: **Kerianne Fuoco MHA, MLS(ASCP)**

Ms. Fuoco is a Medical Laboratory Scientist with 6+ years of experience in the laboratory profession. She is currently the Laboratory Supervisor for Quest Diagnostics Inc. at Jersey Shore University Medical Center and has a Masters Degree in Healthcare Administration from Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA.

Description: Candida auris is an emerging fungus that poses a serious threat to global health. In this session, we'll review the characteristics of C. auris, discuss its prevalence and review strategies for diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

Level: Intermediate

PACE Contact Hours: 1.0

Objectives:

1. Describe the characteristics of C. auris that make this organism a serious global health concern.
2. Discuss the number of reported clinical cases in both the United States and worldwide.
3. Explain the current strategies for diagnosis and treatment and the limitations to these strategies.
4. Assess current research and the future needs in the fight against C. auris.

**Title: Clumsy Clinical Communication: Let's Blame the Lab!**

**Speaker:** George Fritsma MS, MLS (ASCP)

Professor Fritsma is the proprietor of The Fritsma Factor, consultant for the Laboratory Medicine Division of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine and Associate Professor on the faculties of Rutgers and Michigan State University. He is also a contributor to Rodak's Hematology, 7th Edition, 2024.

**Description:** The laboratory is medicine's most abundant and economical diagnostic information source, provided lab scientists can communicate. Is it protein C, activated protein C resistance, or C-reactive protein? Is it vitamin D, vitamin D2, D3, or 1,25 dihydroxycholecalciferol? What do you do with all those serology results and what is our responsibility for effective lab orders, mishandled specimens, and misplaced results? This session is a case-based review of the ways medical laboratory science communication enhances patient care.

**Level:** Intermediate  
**PACE Contact Hours:** 1.0

**Objectives:**

1. Enhance laboratory communication by reviewing diagnostic laboratory test utilization.
2. Enhance laboratory communication by preventing specimen management errors.
3. Enhance laboratory communication by interpreting laboratory assay results.

**Title: Code of Ethics in Everyday Practice of a Laboratory Professional**

**Speaker:** **Barbara Kraj PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> MB<sup>CM</sup>**

Dr. Kraj has been an Associate Professor and Medical Laboratory Science Program Director at Old Dominion University since 2016. Former Polish exchange visitor at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, PA, earned her post graduate certificate in Medical Technology at the Medical College of Georgia (currently Augusta University) and doctorate in health-related sciences at Virginia Commonwealth University. She started her faculty career at the Medical College of Georgia in 2005 and served as the CLS Program Director there for three years prior joining ODU. 2022 marks 20 years of her membership with ASCLS.

**Description:** The goal of the session is to de-construct ASCLS Code of Ethics to help interpret actions conducted by laboratory professionals and students. The audience will be introduced to basic terminology used in ethics applicable to biomedical practice. Major principles guiding ethical behaviors and ASHG guidelines will be discussed.

**Level:** Basic  
**PACE Contact Hours:** 1.0

**Objectives:**

1. Define seven major principles of biomedical ethics.
2. Recognize current value and limitations of Points to Consider (1988) issued by the American Society for Human Genetics.
3. Discuss the duties listed in the ASCLS Code of Ethics with respect to patients, profession, and the organization as applicable to the principles of biomedical ethics and ASHG points to consider.

**Title: Heparin-PF4 (HIT) Antibody & Argatroban: A Tale of Interdisciplinary Teamwork**

**Speaker: Brandy Gunsolus DCLS, MLS(ASCP)CM**

Dr. Gunsolus is a DCLS from Rutgers University. She oversees Pathology Utilization, is Physician/Laboratory Liaison, Director of Specimen Referral and oversees the Immunology & Toxicology Laboratories at Augusta University Medical Center.

**Description:** A discussion of heparin induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) diagnosis and treatment as well as an interdisciplinary quality improvement project between the laboratory and pharmacy to improve HIT diagnosis and patient care.

**Level:** Intermediate  
**PACE Contact Hours:** 1.0

**Objectives:**

1. Define heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT)
2. Describe the laboratory diagnostics and diagnostic pit-falls of HIT.
3. Explain how interdisciplinary teamwork can be utilized to improve patient care.

**Title: Implementing MLS/MLT programs in rural areas**

**Speakers: Teresa Nadder PhD, MLS(ASCP)CM and Joshua Williams PhD, MLS(ASCP)CM**

Dr. Teresa Nadder earned her PhD in Human Genetics from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and undergraduate and MS degrees in Medical Technology from VCU. Dr. Nadder currently serves as Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences at VCU. With over 30 years of experience as teaching and research faculty, she has taught a range of undergraduate and graduate courses including immunology, immunohematology, and molecular diagnostics. She chaired 11 doctoral dissertations and numerous research projects completed by Master of Science Students. A certified Medical Laboratory Scientist, she is a member of ASCLS, ASCLS-VA, and ASCP. She was inducted in the Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity of Clinical Laboratory Science in 2011 and currently serves on the ASCP Foundation Research and Development Committee.

Dr. Joshua Williams is a native of southwest Virginia and received my BS and PhD from Virginia Tech. Following graduation, my postdoctoral research focused on the human pathogens *Clostridium difficile* and *Helicobacter pylori*. He decided to change careers and enter the medical laboratory when he moved home to Southwest Virginia and worked as a generalist in a small community hospital prior to joining the faculty at VCU to teach at the SWVA Higher Education Center location in Abingdon, VA. His research interests are focused primarily on bacterial gene regulation and control of virulence factors/pathogenesis.

**Description:** In an effort to fight the clinical laboratory "brain drain" in rural Virginia, VCU extended training opportunities in MLS to the southwest Virginia region with support from the VA Tobacco Commission and the SWVA Higher Education Center. This effort was undertaken to address staffing shortages and lack of education opportunities in this area. Challenges of implementing a synchronous delivery of the MLS educational program as well as the factors that contribute to the exodus of laboratory staff from underserved rural areas will be discussed.

**Level:** Intermediate  
**PACE Contact Hours:** 1.0

**Objectives:**

1. Discuss factors that contribute to the exodus of laboratory staff from underserved rural areas.
2. Discuss opportunities for extending an MLS/MLT educational program to rural areas.
3. Describe resources needed to ensure comparable educational opportunities between urban and rural campuses.

**Title: Medical Laboratory Concerns in the Transgender and Non-Binary Populations**

**Speaker: Diane Davis PhD, MLS (ASCP) SLS, SC and Karen Beck EdD, MLS(ASCP)**

Dr. Davis graduated from Salisbury University in 1980 with a Medical Technology degree, summa cum laude, and in 1989 with a Master's of Education degree. Graduated in 2000 from Catholic University of America with Ph.D. in Clinical Laboratory Science, with distinction. Full-time clinical chemistry experience from 1979-1987 and then per diem experience from 1987 – 2016 after joining the Salisbury University Medical Laboratory Science Program in 1987. Served 25 years as the Clinical Coordinator for the SU MLS Program and began serving as Program Director in 2011. Teaching duties have included biochemistry, immunology, instrumentation, laboratory management, laboratory safety, medical physiology and medical terminology.

Dr. Beck is an Associate professor and clinical coordinator for the Medical Laboratory Technology and Histotechnology Programs at the Community College of Baltimore County. Aside from organizing student rotations, she also teaches several classes and work at a local hospital in the hematology and coagulation department. She recently completed her Ed.D. degree in Higher Educational and Adult Learning at Walden University.

**Description:** Interacting with transgender patients and special laboratory concerns related to this population are not typically in medical laboratory curricula, and this talk aims to provide practical information and advice on this timely topic.

**Level:** Intermediate

**PACE Contact Hours:** 1.0

**Objectives:**

1. Summarize the general process of gender-affirming hormone therapy for transgender and non-binary patients, including hormone replacement and hormone-blocking options.
2. Describe how laboratory reference intervals ("normal values") are determined and how this influences potential misinterpretation of laboratory results in low prevalence populations.
3. List common laboratory analytes which may be interpreted inaccurately in the transgender and non-binary population.