



VIRGINIA NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Holidays have come and gone, and here we are 2 months before our most anticipated event of the year: the annual ASCLS-VA constituent society meeting. In person. On April 5 and 6, 2024 at Radford University, Radford, VA.

Preparations are happening at full steam!

Please take a moment to read a piece about the University hosting the meeting this year, written by our passionate, enthusiastic, and ever hard-working President-Elect, Laura Link and her crew, Krystina Angelini and Jen McBride have been tirelessly going over every detail to make sure we all have unforgettable memories of gathering together to promote our vision of the profession going forward.

Please save the date and help us spread the word so that we have more participants than ever. The details and registration are on our website. Please visit us at www.ascls-va.org and sign up now. I look forward to seeing you all in April!

Yours in Service,

Barbara Kraj, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}_{MB}^{CM}
ASCLS-VA President



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE
ASCLS-VA'S 2024

A MEMBER'S EXPERIENCE AT
THE LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

CASE STUDY: TRANSIENT
ABNORMAL MYELOPOIESIS
CASE (TAM) 2024

ODU MLS PROGRAM CELL
BOWL SEMI-FINALISTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
SPRING MEETING 2024



Looking Forward Together

HELLO FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

I am honored to write my first newsletter piece as President-Elect for ASCLS-VA and appreciate your faith in me. The Radford University Medical Laboratory Science Program looks forward to hosting the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Virginia chapter (ASCLS-VA) meeting this April! Located in Radford, VA, “The New River City”, we know you will enjoy exploring our beautiful campus and surrounding area.

SEE THESE LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.radford.edu/>

<https://www.visitradford.com/>

Since 2019, our program has been part of Radford University, in the Artis College of Science and Technology. We are fortunate to have pre-clinical students enrolled at the Radford campus, where the faculty and staff ensure an environment that fosters engagement, supports growth, and ensures inclusion. Facilities for our clinical cohort students are located at the Roanoke site, where we provide clinical simulation exercises that prepare our students for their rotations in accredited laboratories. We are exceptionally proud of our graduates who are now leaders in the profession and working to help prepare the next generation of laboratory scientists. I am reminded every day that this is absolutely the best career I could have found.

Krystina Angelini and Jennifer McBride (left to right)



We have planned several events for our meeting! The schedule includes PACE credits for continuing education, a student quiz bowl on Friday, cuddles with Tartan Tails therapy dogs, and review sessions for the certification exam. Vendors and recruiters will be on site, tours of campus facilities are scheduled. Those of you who know me are wondering why I haven't mentioned this yet: OF COURSE, we'll have plenty of good food and fellowship with your colleagues. The MLS faculty deserve most of the credit for making this event happen. I blurt out the big idea, then Krystina and Jennifer step up to do the spreadsheet creating, list making, detail coordinating, and task completing. I am sure there will be something for everyone to enjoy. You can find more information at www.ascls-va.org

Please make plans to join us in April! I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Laura Link, MS, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}
Program Director, Medical Laboratory Science Program
President-Elect, ASCLS-VA





SAMUEL STALLINGS' EXPERIENCE AT THE LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM

I've always been curious about the way our government works and as a developing laboratory professional, I've become interested in learning about the lab community. These two things came together for me when the Virginia chapter of ASCLS was kind enough to send me to the annual Legislative Symposium in Washington, DC in October of 2023. I didn't really know what to expect, since I had only ever attended one ASCLS function (the VA board meeting where I first heard about the symposium). I didn't know any members other than my college professors who had introduced me to the society. Nevertheless, I took the train up to Alexandria late on a Sunday night and checked into the hotel. Upon waking the next morning, I headed down to the conference hall and picked up my name tag and map of Capitol Hill.

Monday morning was the educational part of the conference. They had one day to transform us into fierce lobbyists, ready to field any question a representative and their staff might throw at us. We heard from Executive Vice President Jim Flanigan and ASCLS' lobbyist Patrick Cooney. Our main goals were first to convince the Health-Education-Labor-Pensions (H.E.L.P.) committee to invest more in laboratory education programs and allied health careers, and then to pass the Supporting Access to Laboratory Services Act (S.A.L.S.A.) meant to correct the fee schedules issued by Congress in 2014. It was a lot to take in but by the end of the afternoon I felt like I could hold my own in a congressional debate. The afternoon was followed by a networking session. I was able to make some new friends from around the country. It was great to meet other students and professionals, and to hear about their careers and educational journeys. It was only a little over a year ago when I learned what this profession was, so it felt good to find some peers besides the other five students in my MLT programs.



Sam and ASCLS VA Doryan Redding at the Hilton Old Town Alexandria in between sessions

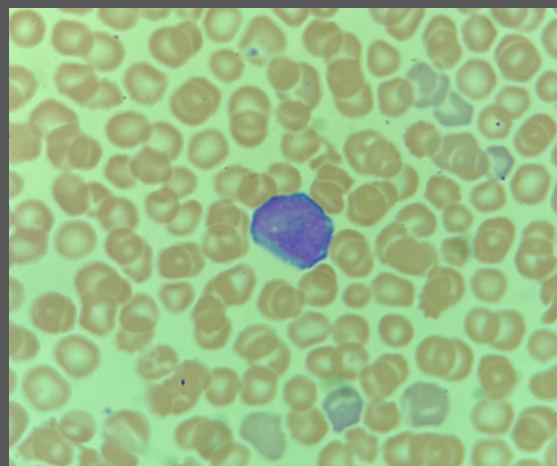
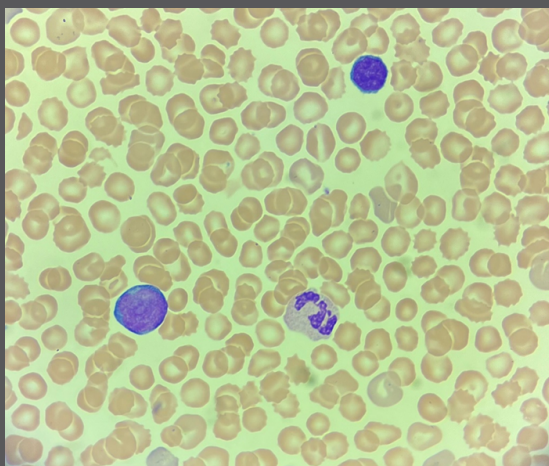
I woke up on Tuesday morning and it was time to travel up to the Hill. With such short notice, I was unable to schedule any appointments with my VA representatives, but I had made friends with some colleagues from North Dakota the night before and was able to tag along to the meeting with their senators. I've spent plenty of time in DC over the years, but I've never seen the House or Senate buildings, much less walked the halls of the congressional office buildings. We sat down in the North Dakota offices and spent about twenty minutes explaining our positions and answering questions. They were very welcoming and receptive. It was a very cool experience, and I plan to go back next year and meet with my own Senators and Representatives from Virginia. I had no idea that members of congress could be so accessible. It is an experience I would recommend to anyone: not only is it important for our profession, but civic engagement is what keeps our democracy healthy.

TRANSIENT ABNORMAL MYELOPOIESIS CASE (TAM) 2024

BY BRIANA SHELTON, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}, SH (ASCP)^{CM}

The patient presented upon birth at 38 weeks with varying numbers of blasts from 4-20% over the first three days of life with leukocytosis and thrombocytopenia. Trisomy 21 was noted to be diagnosed during prenatal testing.

Immunophenotype by flow cytometry is myeloid with partial CD7 expression and is consistent with transient abnormal myelopoiesis (TAM) associated with Down Syndrome.



IMAGES MAGNIFIED X 1000

Flow cytometry report: A small, immunophenotypically abnormal myeloid blast population is detected (~3% of events). In a patient with confirmed trisomy 21, the features are suggestive of transient abnormal myelopoiesis (TAM). Confirmation with molecular testing (GATA1 mutation analysis) is recommended.

Transient Abnormal Myelopoiesis (TAM) presents with clinical and morphological findings that are commonly indistinguishable from AML. TAM is a disease of neonates, commonly presenting at 3–7 days of life with spontaneous remission. 20–30% of patients with TAM will go on to develop ML-DS within 1–3 years following resolution of TAM.

J (Eds). WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues (Revised 4th Edition). Lyon: IARC; 2017.

Arber DA, Orazi A, Hasserjian RP, et al.

International Consensus classification of myeloid neoplasms and acute leukemia: integrating morphological, clinical, and genomic data. Blood. 2022 Sep 15;140(11):1200-1228.

<https://doi.org/10.1182/blood.2022015850>

Massey GV, Zipursky A, Chang MN, Doyle JJ, Nasim S, Taub JW, et al. A prospective study of the natural history of transient leukemia (TL) in neonates with Down syndrome (DS): children's Oncology Group (COG) study POG-9481. Blood. 2006 Jun 15;107(12):4606-13. <https://doi.org/10.1182/blood-2005-06-2448>

Yen-Chun Liu, Huifei Liu, Jennifer Chapman, Jennifer M. Levine Olga K. Weinberg, Julia T. Geyer, et al.

Myeloid Proliferations Associated with Down Syndrome: Clinicopathologic Characteristics of Forty Cases from Five Large Academic Institutions Pathobiology 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000530431>

ODU MLS PROGRAM MAKES IT TO THE CELL BOWL SEMI-FINALS!

By Rachel Childs, M.S, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

The Cell Bowl is an online interactive competition between Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) and Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) programs across the nation. It is sponsored by ASCP and hosted by Medical Lab Lady Gill who posts weekly updates on the competition on her YouTube channel. Programs compete by having their students play the CellAtlas Cell Quiz game on their mobile devices. This free to download application tests the students' ability to quickly identify as many normal and abnormal hematological cells within 60 seconds. Each week, programs submit their top student's score from the game to see how they rank amongst the other programs participating. The Cell Bowl competition runs for 7 weeks, culminating in the top teams from the varsity league (programs with perfect scores) and junior varsity (programs without perfect scores, but had the most correctly identified cells among the remaining teams) winning for their league.



This season, the ODU Monarchs made it all the way to the semi-finals for the junior varsity league in the competition! Concluding the season, ODU ranked #1 for the East Coast teams in their division!

Go ODU Monarchs!





Elevate your expertise and connect with like-minded professionals at the ASCLS Virginia State Meeting 2024! Join us on April 5-6th at Radford University for a dynamic experience filled with knowledge, camaraderie, and career-enhancing opportunities.





Unlock the Future of Laboratory Science at ASCLS Virginia State Meeting 2024!

What to Expect:

 **Student Quiz Bowl Competition:** Witness the brilliance of the next generation as student teams compete in an exhilarating quiz bowl, showcasing their skills and passion for laboratory science.

 **Continuing Education Credit Sessions:** Stay at the forefront of your field with a diverse range of captivating sessions. Expand your horizons, delve into cutting-edge research, and earn valuable continuing education credits.

 **Networking Opportunities:** Forge lasting connections with fellow laboratory professionals. Share insights, exchange ideas, and build a network that will enrich your professional journey.

 **Register Now at ascls-va.org:** Don't miss this chance to be part of a transformative event in the heart of Virginia. Secure your spot and immerse yourself in the future of medical laboratory science.

Why Attend:

- Stay informed with the latest advancements in laboratory science.
- Collaborate with industry experts and peers.
- Elevate your skills through engaging education sessions.
- Ignite your passion for laboratory science with the Student Quiz Bowl.
- Build a network that will shape your future in the field.

 **Register Today and Join Us in Shaping the Future of Laboratory Science! ascls-va.org**

Embrace the opportunity to learn, connect, and thrive at the ASCLS Virginia State Meeting 2024. We look forward to welcoming you to Radford University for a weekend of innovation and inspiration.

