

April 2004

Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science

TACLS News

What a Convention!

Becky See, TACLS Past President

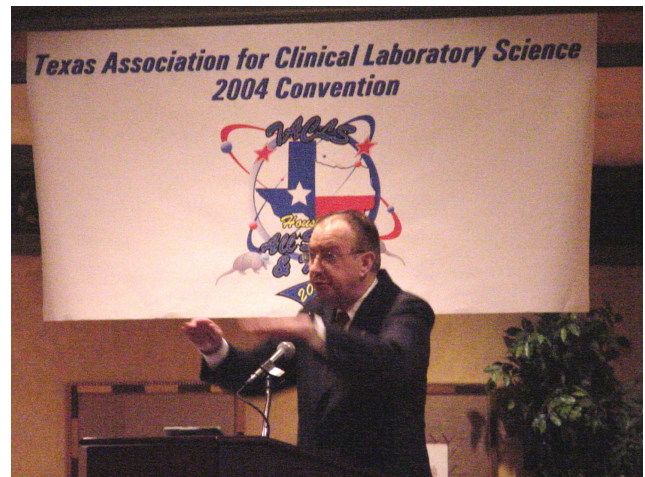


The 2004 Convention Committee would like to thank all who participated in the Annual Meeting held in Houston April 1-3. We had 19 exhibitors and over 260 attendees. Everyone had a great time and the educational programs were outstanding.

The Committee would especially like to thank the vendors that supported the meeting. Please take the time to thank your representatives from these companies. Also, a special thanks goes to Ellen and David Sanderson and John Wentz for their help before and during the meeting.

The meeting next year in Corpus Christi should

be exciting. If you are interested in helping on the committee, speaking or participating as a vendor, please contact Christie Thompson or Duncan Samo.



TACLS Conference 2004

Dave Falleur

The TACLS Conference 2004 was held at the Westchase Hilton in Houston, April 1-3, 2004. The first day of the conference included workshops on FISH (fluorescent in situ hybridization) and Multiple Myeloma testing. Workshop participants had an opportunity to get some hands on experience with these techniques. At the same time, the opening rounds for CLT and CLS student bowl competition began. The keynote speaker was Kenneth L. Mattox, M.D., F.A.C.S., a trauma surgeon from Houston. Dr.



Mattox is one of the most recognized surgeons in America and has developed many innovative techniques and surgical treatments and has a surgical procedure named after him. Dr. Mattox

TACLS News

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gave an entertaining and provocative presentation on health care issues and concerns for the future.

Scientific sessions were offered in the afternoon. A grand opening of the exhibits was held



later in the afternoon and included light refreshments sponsored by the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. Exhibitors and sponsors included Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, The Methodist Hospital, MD Anderson Hospital, Cardinal Health, Parkland Hospital, Baxter Healthcare Roche Diagnostics, Mireles Technologies, Infolab, ARUP, Leeds Instruments, The Binding Site, Harris County Hospital District, and Smith Medical. A student forum and business meeting followed the reception in the exhibits area. The results of the TACLS 2004 election were announced at the business meeting. New officers include Karen McClure, President-Elect, Melissa Bowen, Secretary, Judy Baughman, Board Member At Large, and Nominations Committee members, Sandra Cabrera and Sandra Tijerina.

On Friday morning, conference participants enjoyed a continental breakfast and attended scientific sessions and the final rounds of the

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CLT and CLS Student Bowls. Karen Chandler coordinated the Children's Miracle Network Silent Auction which continued into the afternoon. Karen was also the keynote speaker at the luncheon and spoke on leadership development and involved all attendees in a personality assessment "True Colors" which identified common traits in four personality types.



The TACLS Awards presentation was held later in the afternoon, and President Becky See recognized Omicron Sigma Recipients, TACLS



Member of the Year, and Student Bowl teams. John Wentz was the recipient of the Member of the Year Award. A business meeting followed the Awards Program and the major items of business

was the nomination and election of delegates to the House of Delegates at ASCLS in Los Angeles.

On Saturday morning, a smaller dedicated group enjoyed a relaxing continental breakfast before the scientific sessions. The luncheon featured ASCLS President, Barbara Brown as the keynote



speaker. Barbara discussed the importance of ASCLS as an advocate for laboratory professionals. She described the efforts of ASCLS in lobbying against the Medicare Copayment proposal, and supporting funding of the Allied Health Restoration Act, which would provide scholarships and financial support for clinical laboratory students and educational programs.

A business meeting followed the luncheon. Karen Chandler and Becky See presented a check to Imeka Hatfield from the Children's Miracle Network.

Almost 300 laboratorians attended this year's conference. More than 150 students attended. We hope to have another successful conference in Corpus Christi next year. The dates will be March 31-April 2 at the Corpus Christi Omni Hotel.

TACLS Student Bowl Teams

The following students participated in the CLT Student Bowl Competition. Teresa Spain was the coordinator.

Grayson County Community College
Rusty Wendt, Marissa Vorves, and
Francis Colopietra

Temple College
Donna Finto, Mark Kendall, Clinton Mouser
Shalaunda Pete, Sue LeBlanc-Reed

Del Mar College
Imelda Reyes, Caleb Bishop, Denise Gonzalez,
Mica Riggs, Douglas Williams

Houston Community College
April Sylvester, Karla Manning, Lori Qualls,
Monica Webb, and Jeffery Austin

The following students participated in the CLS Student Bowl Competition. Carrie Blais was the coordinator.

M.D. Anderson Red Team
Dorothy Meindok, Padmaja Alturu, Jami
McKell, Olga Flores

M.D. Anderson Yellow Team
Rominna Sugay, Sophia Quezada, Karena
Fernandez, Julianna Pham

UT Southwestern
Amanda Frantzen, Serey Ol, Ed Sanlin, Jessica
Miller

Methodist Hospital
Angelina Meza, Kristina Lovelace, Sarah Lacy,
Hina Jalil

Texas A&M Corpus Christi Green Team
Brooke Young, Lori Boyd, Valerie Requenez,
Tim Dewees, Wade Landers

Texas A&M Corpus Christi Blue Team
Linda Baltes Smyth, Brooke Woods, Michael
Hernandez, Bettina Marines, Mary Stewart

UT Health Science Center-San Antonio
Randy Cunningham, Epp Goodwin, Stephanie
Frazee, Darrell Drouillard, Sophia Ibrahim

First Place, CLT
Temple College

Second Place, CLT
Del Mar College

Third Place, CLT
Houston Community College

First Place, CLS
UTHSC-San Antonio

Second Place, CLS
Methodist Hospital

Third Place, CLS
M.D. Anderson Hospital

Congratulations to all Student Bowl team
members - you are all winners!



Carrie Blais, CLS Student Bowl Coordinator

TACLS 2004 Student Bowl

CLT Student Bowl Winners



Temple College, 1st Place

CLS Student Bowl Winners



UT Health Science Center-San Antonio, 1st Place



Del Mar College, 2nd Place



Methodist Hospital, 2nd Place



Houston Community College, 3rd Place



M.D. Anderson, 3rd Place

Silent Auction Is A Success!

Karen Chandler

TACLS held its annual silent auction on April 2, 2004 in Houston, Texas. For the last several years, the silent auction has been a tradition at the annual meeting. Proceeds from



the auction are divided between the Childrens' Miracle Network and the Student Scholarship Fund. This year's auction raised over \$900.00.



During the Board of Director's Meeting on April 3, TACLS President Christina Thompson presented a check for the Memorial Hermann Children's Hospital which is the designated



member of the Children's Miracle Network for Houston. Imeke Hatfield was on hand to receive the donation for Hermann Hospital. On behalf of the TACLS Board, I would like to thank everyone who donated items for this worthy cause. The Board would also like to thank everyone who took the time to bid on the auction items. Students from the University of Texas-Pan American assisted in the coordination of the auction during the meeting. The following people donated items this year:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Joan Aldrich | Dave Falleur |
| Ellen Sanderson | Judy Baughman |
| Louann Lawrence | Candy Schaper |
| Sandra Cabrera | Karen McClure |
| Becky See | Karen Chandler |
| Shirlyn McKenzie | Linda Smith |
| Mireles Technologies | Carol Creech |
| Christi Thompson | Debbie Faubion |
| Delores Parrott | UTPA Faculty |
| Rio Grande District- XVI | |



Keeping Our Students Involved

Shirlyn B. McKenzie, PhD, CLS NCA
Region VII Director

Each week I get an update on the new ASCLS members by state and category of membership. It amazes me how many student members we have in this organization. Each report lists more new student members than PF1 or PF2 new members. This disparity increases as the time for the state meetings draw closer. Also, at many of the annual state meetings in Region VII, student attendees outnumber the other categories of member attendees. I

deduce from this, that many educators are doing a great job at getting their students to understand the benefits of ASCLS membership. One of the big draws for student membership in Texas and Louisiana for CLT/CLS students is the annual student bowl. Students love to participate in the student bowl but must be members of ASCLS to do so. I know also that students who attend the state and national meetings love the experience and promise to come back next year. When I met a group of students waiting for the elevator at our national meeting several years ago, I asked how they liked the meeting. They were gushing with comments about how much fun they had and how great the exhibits were. They vowed to come back the next year. So why don't the majority come back or even renew membership as first year professionals (FYP)?

The number of FYP is far below what is expected based on previous year's student members. That means we are losing a great number of members. Student members only pay \$25 to join ASCLS and FYPs only pay \$40 (plus state dues). Even at \$40, that's only about \$3.50

per month, about the price of a meal at McDonalds. Price can't be the reason we loose these students as FYP members. Perhaps we need a study to identify the reasons students don't elect FYP membership so we can address the problem head-on. On the other hand, I think many of us already have a good idea of why we loose students once they graduate.

These reasons include:

- Graduates move and do not give ASCLS a forwarding address. ASCLS has tried to address this by having the student list a permanent address such as their parents' address on the application.
- Graduates are not encouraged to join by their supervisors or colleagues at the bench. I have heard from many graduates that the individuals they work with do not even know about ASCLS

(although they may remember ASMT) or they belong to ASCP and don't know the difference in the value of membership in ASCLS.

- Graduates are actually discouraged from joining ASCLS by colleagues.
- They get engrossed in their new life and don't remember to renew if they don't get a renewal notice. Then they fall into the trap with their colleagues.

However, all of this is anecdotal information. I have never seen a study with empirical data.

Occasionally we see the students become very active members of ASCLS. In Region VII, we have several that have progressed into state and national leadership positions. In San Antonio, there are two former students who have stayed very active in TACLS and ASCLS despite being surrounded at work by those who are not

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Keeping Our Students Involved

interested in joining a professional organization. However, these two individuals have a great supervisor who recognizes the potential in them and allows them to go to continuing education sessions and state and national meetings without taking vacation. This is on the condition that they give a presentation on what they learned to those who stayed in the lab. I am intrigued by the question as to why these two continue to be involved in their professional organization and their classmates do not. They all took the same classes from the same instructors. Louisiana has two recent graduates who served as President of the LSCLS and one moved into a national committee position. What keeps these members motivated?

I think this would make a great research study. If anyone is interested, grant money is available from the E&R Fund in ASCLS. Proposals are due June 1. You can get the directions from the ASCLS Website. Go to ascls.org, click on leadership, click on appointed committees and then on the Education and Research Fund (E&R) link. Anyone interested? How about collaborating with someone in ASCLS to do this? If you are interested contact me at mckenzie@uthscsa.edu.

TnT Shirts Available

These limited edition Texas N Tennessee shirts are available to Texas and Tennessee members only. Show your pride at the ASCLS Meeting or any other gathering for that matter. The denim long sleeve shirts cost \$38.23 which includes taxes and shipping. Sizes are S, M, L, XL, and XXL. You should place your order by June 15 at the latest to get your shirt back before the meeting. Send your order (with size request) and check to

Fran Sorrell
3159 Powell Ave
Memphis TN 38112

You can also e-mail your order to Fran at fsorrell@mpl-llc.com. She accepts Mastercard and Visa only.



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TACLS Business Meeting

Dave Falleur

There were three business meetings held at the TACLS conference in Houston. Here's a summary of the results of those meetings.

- Board members led by Karen Murray are developing a new member packet, which will have information about TACLS, continuing education opportunities, and encourage them to take an active role in a leadership position. The packet will be distributed to all new members later this year.

- Fifteen members were elected to the House of Delegates at ASCLS meeting in Los Angeles. The following persons were elected:

Joan Aldrich	John Wentz
Duncan Samo	Karen McClure
Karen Chandler	Vicki Freeman

Alternate delegates will be:

Melissa Bowen	Debbie Faubion
Melissa Leaver	Linda Smith
Sandra Cabrera	Candace Schaper
Michelle Kanuth	Carol Creech
Lynn Little	

President Christi Thompson and Past President Becky See will also represent Texas at the House of Delegates.

- Adam Moya, CLS Student from Texas A&M–Corpus Christi was elected as a delegate at the Student Forum.

- Two new ASCLS scientific assemblies have been added. Generalist/Public Health, and Genetics. There are also some new combinations of scientific assemblies based on common interests.



- Joan Aldrich was honored for her many years of service to TACLS and ASCLS. She will be retiring from her faculty position at UT Southwestern and will be moving to Indiana.

- Texas will again co-host the TnT “BootScootin Boogie” at the ASCLS meeting in Los Angeles. Special host shirts for Texas and Tennessee members are available for purchase. See accompanying article in this issue of the newsletter.

- Melissa Leaver, chair of the Membership Development Committee, reported that membership has increased in the past year. She has written follow up letters to lapsed members and welcome letters to new members.

- Newly elected officers were installed. They are:

Nominations Committee	Sandra Tijerina
	Sandra Cabrera
Board of Directors	Judy Baughman
Secretary	Melissa Bowen
President-elect	Karen McClure
President	Christina Thompson

- Upcoming TACLS meetings will be held in Corpus Christi, March 31-April 2, 2005, and in San Antonio in 2006.

Faculty Position Announcement

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER AT
DALLAS



POSITION: CLINICAL CHEMISTRY FACULTY
MEMBER

- Full-time, 12-month appointment
- Faculty rank dependent on qualifications

DUTIES:

- Teach Clinical Chemistry lectures and laboratories and related subjects to clinical laboratory science/medical technology senior and junior students
- Coordinate Clinical Chemistry practicum course at affiliated clinical institutions
- Duties appropriate to a full-time faculty appointment

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Masters degree required (doctoral degree preferred)
- CLS(NCA) or MT(ASCP) certification required
- Clinical laboratory experience, including Clinical Chemistry
- MT/CLS student teaching experience, including Clinical Chemistry

COMPENSATION:

- Salary commensurate with qualifications.
- Attractive benefits package

STARTING DATE:

- Position will be available August 1, 2004

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

- Send a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and names and addresses of three references to the following address.

Lynn M. Little, PhD, CLS(NCA), MT(ASCP)
Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical
Center
5323 Harry Hines Blvd
Dallas, Texas 75390-8878

lynn.little@utsouthwestern.edu

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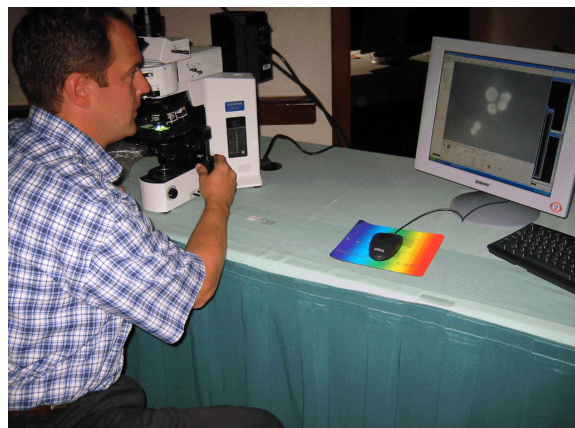
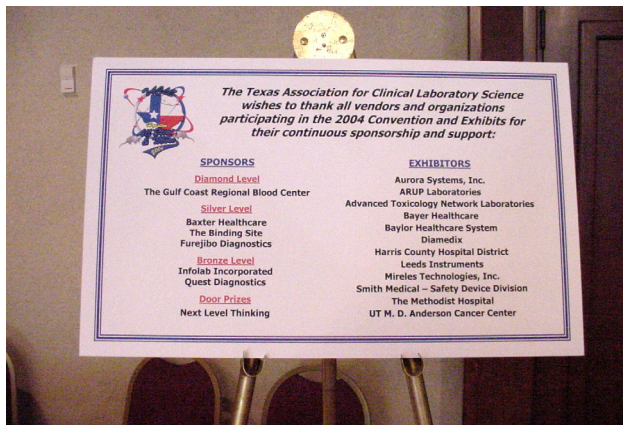
TACLS Poster Session Winner

Jennifer Hartmann, UTMB CLS student received first prize in the TACLS Poster Sessions for her poster titled, "Development and optimization of a real-time quantitative PCR assay for Hepatitis B virus (HBV) load determination." Jen received a certificate and a check from TACLS President Becky See at the TACLS Awards Program.



Thanks to the following Exhibitors and Sponsors Who Helped Make the TACLS 2004 Conference a Success:

Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center
 The Methodist Hospital
 MD Anderson Hospital
 Baxter Healthcare
 Roche Diagnostics
 Mireles Technologies
 Infolab
 ARUP
 Leeds Instruments
 The Binding Site
 Harris County Hospital District
 Parkland Hospital
 Smith Medical
 Cardinal Health



How Did You Celebrate National Medical Laboratory Week?

Send your photos and story to dfalleur@txstate.edu for publication in the May issue of *TACLS News*



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