



Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science

TACLS News

A Message from the President

Christina Thompson, TACLS President



On April 3, 2004, I accepted the position of President for the Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. I have been a member of TSMT and then TACLS for years, and during those years, I attended meetings, accepted positions when asked, and occasionally volunteered for committees, but I didn't really get involved. I let others serve as officers and board members and I was willing to let others do the work. Honestly, I didn't think I was needed in an organization that appeared to function well and meet members' needs.

Three years ago, I was asked and accepted a position on the TACLS board. During the last three years, I began to understand the dedication and work necessary to keep the association working for all members. When I was asked to be president, I was honored, but

also saw it as an opportunity to "do my part" and serve the association. Since my increased activity in TACLS, I have met wonderful, dedicated professionals working hard for all laboratorians. These dedicated individuals will be able to continue the associations' work and the needs of the membership will continue to be met, but they need more help. Some committees need additional members and some commissions need revitalization.

This year, I have asked the commission chairs to find another member as an assistant and mentor that member into the leadership of TACLS. If you are asked, please accept the challenge and the opportunity to serve the profession and other professionals. If you are not asked and have decided it is time to "do your part", please contact me. I look forward to an exciting and productive year.



TACLS Leadership 2004



**Christina Thompson
President**

Dr. Christina Thompson is Program Director of the Clinical Laboratory Science Program at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. She has been at TAMU-CC since 1976. Prior to that she was the blood bank supervisor at Nueces County Blood Center. Christie has been a board member for TACLS and also chaired several TACLS conventions in Corpus Christi.



Becky See, Past President

Becky has been a Clinical Laboratory Scientist for 21 years. She has been the Director of Quality Assurance at the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center for 15 years and have been an Assessor for the American Association of Blood Banks for 5 years. She is the Chair of Quality Committees with the AABB and America's Blood Centers. Becky is Past President of TACLS and was Secretary for TACLS for 12 years. She will be the Secretary for Region VII and will be the Leadership Development Representative for Region VII beginning this year. This year Becky received the President's Award from the America's Blood Centers.



Candace Schaper, Treasurer

Candy is Lead Tech for Hematology and Blood Bank at Southwest General Hospital in San Antonio. Candy has also worked in hematology or blood bank in Waco, Dallas, and McAllen. Sandy has been TACLS Treasurer since 2000 and also served as Convention Committee Liaison for the 1994 TACLS Convention which was held in McAllen. Candy is chairing the 2006 Convention which will be held in San Antonio.



**Karen McClure
President-Elect**

Karen McClure is an Assistant Professor and Director for the Clinical Laboratory Science program at UT M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. She is currently working on her PhD at UT School of Public Health. She served as the program chair of the 2004 TACLS meeting. She held an "at-large" position on the Board of Directors from 2001-2004. At the national level she is chair of the ASCLS Career Ladder Task Force.



Melissa Bowen, Secretary

Melissa works at University Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. She performs molecular testing in the Virology Laboratory. She is also in the U.S. ARMY Reserves as a Laboratory Officer. Melissa is also serving as District 5 President.

TACLS Leadership 2004



Karen Murray

Board Member at Large

Dr. Karen Murray is Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at Tarleton State University. Prior to this position she was Chairman of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences at Tarleton. Karen has served TACLS as a Board Member and President of District 13. Karen serves on the ASCP Board of Registry Exam Committee and is a site visitor for NAACLS.



Karen Chandler

Board Member at Large

Karen Chandler has been a member of ASCLS since 1975. She has been active at the national, state and local level. She is a Past President of TACLS and has served a previous term as a board member as well as Traveling Seminar Chair. At the National level she has served on several committees and was the Co-Chair of the Chemistry, Urinalysis, and Ligand (BUL) Scientific Assembly from 2001-2003. She is presently employed at the University of Texas-Pan American as the Program Director for the Clinical Laboratory Science Program and also serves as the Assistant Dean for the College of Health Sciences and Human Services.



Vicki Freeman

Board Member at Large

Dr. Vicki S. Freeman is currently the Chair of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. She has been a medical technologist for more than 25 years and involved in medical technology education since 1986. Dr. Freeman has just received the ASCP Associate Excellence in Education award. Vicki is also a recipient of the ASCLS Kendall Professional Achievement Award in Education. She has numerous grants from HRSA and from the Department of Education on the development of distance and web-based curriculum.



David Falleur

Board Member at Large

Dave is Chair of the Clinical Laboratory Science Program at Texas State University-San Marcos. Dave chaired the TACLS Convention Committee in 2003. He is also the Editor of the TACLS Newsletter.

Photo Not Available

Judy Baughman

Board Member at Large

Judy is currently the Reference Supervisor at Parkland Hospital in Dallas. Judy was also a transfusion services supervisor at McAllen Medical Center. Judy has served as President of TACLS, and also been President of Districts 6 and 16. Judy was Chairman of the Traveling Seminar Committee.

TACLS News

is an official publication of the Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science and is published monthly. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Submission of articles is subject to space and editorial review and should be directed to the TACLS News Editor,

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