



Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science

## TACLS News

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### TACLS Fall Board Meeting

Dave Falleur, Board Member

The TACLS Fall Board Meeting and continuing education program was held at the Gulf Coast Blood Center in Houston on Saturday, October 18. Vicki Hopwood, Program Director of the Cytogenetics Program at UT MD Anderson, gave a one hour PACE-approved presentation on Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria.



Vicki Hopwood, TACLS Speaker

The TACLS Board meeting followed the presentation. Topics that were discussed included the distribution of the TACLS Public Service Announcements to television stations around Texas. Tapes have been distributed to public and commercial television stations in San Antonio, the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Austin, Dallas-Ft. Worth, and Houston. TACLS members are encouraged to contact their local television

stations and request the PSA be played. The PSA is now on the TACLS website ([www.tacls.org](http://www.tacls.org)). You will need the Real Player streaming video software on your computer to run the PSA on your computer. Real Player is free and can be downloaded from the Real Player website, [www.realplayer.com](http://www.realplayer.com).

There was discussion about electronic voting for officers. Karen McClure and Becky See updated members on the Houston 2004 Annual Conference. The keynote speaker will be Charles Lauer, Editor of *Modern Healthcare*. A wide range of topics will be presented with something for everyone. The conference will be held at the West Chase Hilton from Thursday, April 1, through Saturday, April 3.

Vicki Freeman, TACLS webmistress, updated board members on changes on the TACLS website. One feature that will be added is a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) which would be answered by a panel of experts.

Christina Thompson discussed plans to work with senior citizen's groups to develop a new PSA which would focus on the importance of laboratory testing and understanding what quality issues are important for health care consumers.

Karen McClure is working on the computer-based Student Bowl project which start with the CLS/MT questions this year and CLT/MLT questions next year. TACLS members were

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## TACLS Fall Board Meeting

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asked to help develop new questions, review questions, and make recommendations for the project.

There was discussion about merging the New Mexico Society with Texas. This would involve considerable changes in the bylaws, leadership, and organizational structure. John Wentz will be investigating the pros and cons.

The Winter Board meeting will be held in San Antonio on Saturday, February 7.



TACLS Officers and Board Members

## ASCLS Recommends Name Change for State Societies

The ASCLS Leadership has suggested that all state societies change their name to include ASCLS as part of the name. For example TACLS would become ASCLS-Texas. The change might improve the visibility of ASCLS and state societies around the country. The name change would require changes in bylaws, replacement of letterhead, changes in publications, etc. Becky See, TACLS President, would like to know how you feel about the name change. Please send your comments to Becky via e-mail, [bsee@giveblood.com](mailto:bsee@giveblood.com). We will also be posting a survey on the TACLS website.

## Nomination Committee

The TACLS Nomination Committee announces the following positions to be elected at the next election:

**President-Elect**  
**Secretary**  
**Board of Directors (2)**  
**Nomination Committee**  
**Member of the Year**

Nomination forms and acceptance forms are available on the TACLS website, [www.tacls.org](http://www.tacls.org). Note that the deadline for nominations is **December 15.**

## Rio Grande Valley District Holds Golf Tournament

Karen Chandler, Edinburg

The Rio Grande Valley District of TACLS held a golf tournament at the Tierra Del Sol Golf Club in Pharr, Texas on Saturday, September 27, 2003. This was the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament which the district has sponsored. Proceeds from the tournament were donated to the Shari Hall Scholarship Fund. The most recent recipients of the scholarships, Marshall Holt and Leticia Hawkins, were honored at a recent district meeting. Both recipients are current students in the Clinical Laboratory Science Program at the University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg, Texas.

The Shari Hall Scholarship Fund was started in 1993. It provides scholarships to students enrolled in clinical laboratory science programs in the Valley. The fund is named in honor of Shari Hall, MA, MT(ASCP), a former Program Director at the University of Texas-Pan American, who succumbed to breast cancer in 1993.

## Focus on Laboratory Professionals

Wendy Arneson, UTMB Galveston

In this day and age of distance education, which generally means bringing the educational opportunity to students who are unable to relocate to a university campus, there are some instances when the instructors are also at a distance to the university. I am one of those people. I live in south Florida in the Ft. Lauderdale area and have been teaching at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas, since January of 2000. For about a year of this time, it was necessary for me to reside in Galveston full-time which was an interesting opportunity but a challenge to be away from my husband and young son. During that time I usually flew home every third weekend.

For the past year and a half I have worked part-time on campus, being there about once or twice a month. My usual work week at home involves morning or early afternoon hours devoted to course development or grading electronic papers. Some of my courses are completely online exercises that require students to participate by submitting papers or quizzes to test their knowledge of specific topics before they take an exam. Other courses have narrated lectures that students listen to on their own time and then participate in study questions, problem-solving exercises or quizzes. They still have to participate in some "real class time" by going to a virtual classroom for a webchat. I usually ask them a lot of questions about the topic at hand and determine if they are getting it figured out. The distance students don't seem to notice any difference whether I am on my computer in Florida or in Texas. I am usually just as responsive to their emails. Some of the students are usually shocked to know that I even have been using a dial-up modem for my uploading of lecture material or internet webchats.

They seem to think that anything short of DSL is



not possible. Maybe someday I can graduate up to a faster internet connection at home!

I usually drive the 1300 miles and consider it an interesting way to have some reflection and down time as I drive across Interstate 10. I get a chance to listen to best-selling books on tape that I might not otherwise take the time to read. I can conduct some school business along the way with my cell-phone and take my lap-top computer with me to log onto the internet at night. During the summer months, when my son is out of school, he tags along. He has enjoyed three summers coming to Galveston, making friends, going to Moody Gardens summer camps and NASA space camps. So in distance education, sometimes even the instructors are at a distance.



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