



## PROGRAM SPEAKERS

Jackson, Wyoming

Oct. 3 – Oct. 5, 2021

### **Hassan Aziz, PHD, FACSS, MLS(ASCP)CM**

Dr. Hassan Aziz is the Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. Dr. Aziz is the current President for the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). He is a Fellow of the Association of Clinical Scientists (ACS) and of the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia (UGA). He is a certified Green Belt Six Sigma and TEDx speaker.

Aziz has an extensive international experience in higher education, consulting and advisory work. He is an external examiner for several international academic programs and an adjunct faculty to a number of institutions. He is an active member of national and international professional and scientific societies and organizations. He represents ASCLS at the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS) and he is a member of its Scientific Network of Experts. He is currently the Chair of the CLEC 2021 Steering Committee. He founded the Qatar Advisory Board of the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) in 2013 and is a mentor and a consultant for the ASCP Global Outreach Program. He is a VIP mentor to new program directors through the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS) as well as a site visitor for clinical laboratory programs.

In addition to numerous international conference presentations and guest speaking engagements, Dr. Aziz has over 75 peer-reviewed publications. In 2019, he was the recipient of the prestigious ASCP Lifetime Achievement Award and the Distinguished Author Award by ASCLS. He is a consulting editor for Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) published by ASCLS, and on the Development Board of Critical Values published by ASCP.

### **Amanda Barzak, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**

Amanda Barzak is the supervisor of Transfusion Services at Poudre Valley Hospital where she has been since 2012. Amanda oversees the final review and distribution of blood products produced by the Garth Englund Donor Center.

### **Dennis Begos, MD, FACS. Medical Director, Nova Biomedical**

Dennis was a practicing surgeon for over 20 years prior to joining Nova. He currently works in the medical and scientific affairs department as a director. He brings his clinical experience and industry experience to deliver a unique perspective on this topic.

### **Lucia Berte, MA, MT(ASCP)SBB, DLM; CQA(ASQ)CMQ/OE**

Luci Berte has worked for over 25 years as a trainer and consultant in laboratory quality management systems in the U.S., Canada, and many countries worldwide. She served as a key developer of the American Association of Blood Banks and Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute QSE-based model for quality management in laboratories and blood banks, along with the supporting educational materials and programs.

She has also been a member of the writing teams for the international medical laboratory standard ISO 15189:2012 and the current revision. Luci has written over 50 papers and at least 13 books and chapters on laboratory quality management. She has given numerous presentations at local, state, provincial, national, and international meetings plus many audioconferences and webinars.

### **Dan Cavalancia Sr**

Dan Cavalancia is a graduate from the University of Akron with over 35 years' experience in Diabetes and Drug monitoring. His experience includes HPLC, GC and TLC. The last 31 years Dan has been working for Bio-Rad Laboratories ranging from roles of Account Executive, Regional Manager and National Account Management. Dan works with the US team in the Public Health sector and specialize at Bio-Rad in HPLC in fields of A1c, Beta Thalassemia and Newborn screening. He resides in Ohio with his wife Lori of 37 years.

### **Scott Dunbar, MS, BS**

Scott has been working in hematology sales for 24 years. Prior to this, he worked at the University of Colorado in the bone marrow transplant lab. He likes to travel and play ice hockey.

### **Angela Durden, MD, FCAP**

Dr. Angela Durden is a pathologist at Yellowstone Pathology Institute (YPI) in Billings, Montana, where she has worked since 2009. She earned her medical doctorate from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport and completed her residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. Upon completion of her residency, she completed a fellowship in gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary pathology in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. Durden currently serves as the President and laboratory medical director of YPI and as the laboratory medical director of St. Vincent Healthcare laboratory and Cancer Centers of

Montana (St. Vincent) laboratory. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two children, gardening, hiking, traveling, and being a couch potato with her two cats.

### **Sarah Elliott, PhD**

Dr. Elliott completed her PhD in Microbiology and Immunology with a focus on Molecular Biology at the University of Minnesota. After completion of her PhD work, Dr. Elliott joined DiaSorin as an Infectious Disease Specialist in 2017. In this role Dr. Elliott was the subject matter expert for the serology-based infectious disease assays. In 2019, Dr. Elliott transitioned to DiaSorin Molecular as a Senior Scientist in the Scientific Affairs team.

### **Michele Fisher, MT(ASCP) ASQ CLSSGB**

Michele is an Improvement Specialist at ARUP Laboratories and has worked in quality systems at ARUP for over 24 years. In addition, Michele has worked and taught as a registered Medical Technologist for 17 years in laboratory disciplines including Transfusion Medicine, Immunology, Chemistry, and Hematology. She has served as the compliance coordinator and quality specialist for Transfusion Medicine and served on the ARUP Continuous Quality Improvement Board. Michele has served on the board of the local UAHQ chapter as the Education Council Co-chair.

Currently, Michele is active in continual improvement instruction and mentoring continual improvement projects at ARUP

### **George Fristma, MS, MLS**

George has managed his blog, The Fritsma Factor, since 2007. He consults for the Laboratory Medicine Division of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine and is an Associate Professor on the faculty of Michigan State University. George is a consulting editor for the Clinical Laboratory Science journal and contributing author for Rodak's Hematology, Elsevier, published 2020. He is also scientific advisor for Inflammatory Markers Laboratory, Inc., Precision BioLogic Inc, and BioMedica Diagnostics, Inc. George holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and chemistry from Calvin University, a Masters in Medical Laboratory Science from Wayne State University, and advanced course work from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

### **Thomas Lohmann, MD**

Dr. Lohmann has practiced pathology for over 35 years, directing academic and commercial laboratories. He now directs the medical and scientific group for Sebia-USA.

### **Blaine Mathison, BS, M(ASCP)**

Blaine Mathison is currently a Scientist in the Institute for Clinical and Experimental Pathology at ARUP Laboratories in Salt Lake City. Mr. Mathison has been studying Parasitology for over 20 years, including working at the Institute of Parasitology at the Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic, the Arizona State Health Department, and the CDC, where he managed the DPDx website for nine years. He has published extensively on Parasitology and Entomology, the latter of which is also a personal hobby.

### **Tina Mattox, F-ABC, MLS**

Tina Mattox is a Forensic Scientist with the Idaho State Police. She is a full-time drug chemist and crime scene responder.

### **Hannah Mirrashed, PhD, CLS(ASCP)**

Dr. Hannah Mirrashed is currently a clinical laboratory director at Plumas District Hospital in Quincy, California. She received her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Genetic on new antimicrobial drug discovery, her M.Sc in Genetic on developing genetic biomarkers and her B.Sc. in Microbiology. Dr. Mirrashed received two fellowships from Canadian Government and Ministry Research Innovation for NanoBio Technology and later Canadian National Science Engineering Research Council supported her research in Nutrigenomic study on Medicinal compounds. In 2012, she moved to southern California working as a research Manager and Lead Scientist at Western University dedicated to the clinical research and testing on biomedical devices and rare disease indications. Her knowledge and research background in Science and Clinical testing helped her in setting up 3 laboratories in Canada and USA. Her outstanding abilities are well recognized in the field. Her work has been published in numerous peer-reviewed journals. She is also frequently honored with awards for research in clinical study and molecular science, training skills and more importantly for her leadership, management skills and her scientific innovation in health care.

### **John Mitsios, PhD**

Dr. Mitsios is a clinical consultant in the Scientific and Clinical Affairs team at Siemens Healthineers. His primary research interest throughout his education and training has been in coagulation, with an emphasis on platelet function and biology. Dr. Mitsios was on the faculty at Weill Cornell University as an Assistant professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, as well as Assistant Attending Clinical Chemist at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. He was Assistant Director of the Special Coagulation Laboratory at BioReference Laboratories, overseeing the day-to-day activities of the lab and signing out clinical hemostasis cases

### **Joel Mortensen, PhD, MLT, HCLD, FAAM**

Dr. Mortensen is Director of the Diagnostic Diseases Testing Laboratory at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. He is a Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and has collaborated on more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, case studies and book chapters. He holds numerous positions on hospital committees, national and professional boards and has been a frequent invited speaker at scientific conferences and other educational forums. His interests include rapid testing in the lab and outpatient settings and applying his LEAN manufacturing processes training to clinical microbiology.

### **Erin Peper, M.S., PBT (ASCP)**

Erin has been working in the field of Phlebotomy for almost 18 years. She started as an inpatient and outpatient technician, spent 11 years as an Assistant Supervisor of multiple outpatient phlebotomy labs and the last 3 years in Phlebotomy Education as the Associate Program Director and now Program Director of the Mayo Clinic School of Health Science Phlebotomy Technician Program with programs running in Rochester, Minnesota, Jacksonville, Florida and coming soon to Phoenix, Arizona.

### **Jean Patel, PhD, D(ABMM)**

Dr. Patel joined Beckman Coulter Microbiology after nearly seventeen years at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in the Antimicrobial Resistance Reference Laboratory and the Office of Antimicrobial Resistance. Prior to that, she was the Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and the Assistant Director of Clinical Microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Patel is known worldwide for her expertise and publications in the area of antimicrobial susceptibility testing. She has held many roles with the Clinical Laboratory and Standards Institute (CLSI), including the Chairholder of the Subcommittee for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing.

### **Luke Plumier, MD**

Dr. Plumier grew up in rural Illinois and attended medical school near his hometown at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. Upon graduation he moved out west, completing his residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He then pursued further subspecialty training in both surgical pathology at the University of Washington and Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. He joined Billings Clinic in 2019 and currently serves as the Medical Director of the Billings Clinic Blood Bank/Transfusion Medicine service. True to his rural roots he also serves as medical director for hospital laboratories across Montana, including Central Montana Medical Center, Glendive

Medical Center, and Livingston HealthCare. He has a passion for patient safety and blood supply stewardship and is excited to have the opportunity to speak with you today.

### **Melanie Pollan, PhD, MT (ASCP)**

Melanie Pollan, PhD is the Senior Director of Scientific & Clinical Consulting for Laboratory Diagnostics in North America and she also serves as the North American Collaborations Manager.

Dr. Pollan began her career more than 20 years ago with a BS in Clinical Laboratory Science, and served the laboratory in several roles including technologist, consultant and administrator. She furthered her studies by pursuing both a Master of Science and a Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Health Science at the University of MS Medical Center with an emphasis in pathophysiology.

Dr. Pollan demonstrates her passion for laboratory medicine on a daily basis by supporting laboratorians and clinicians with education in multiple diagnostic disciplines, including cardiac, liver, infectious disease, diabetes, sepsis, and endocrinology. During the past year she has also been involved in the development of both antigen and serology assays for the detection of COVID-19 infection.

### **Rodney E. Rohde, PhD, MS, SM(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, SV<sup>CM</sup>, MB<sup>CM</sup>, FACSc**

Rodney E. Rohde, PhD is a University Distinguished Professor and Chair for the Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) Program in the College of Health Professions at Texas State University. He also 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 is an ASCP board certified Specialist in Virology, Microbiology and Molecular Biology. 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. Dr. Rohde served as Associate Dean for Research in the College of Health Professions for nine years. 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 published over 75 research articles and abstracts, two books and is a highly sought keynote presenter with over 100 international, national, and state conference presentations. His two books focus on Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) adaptation and Clinical Considerations in Rabies, respectively. In recent

years, he has become a globally viral author subject matter expert utilizing invited articles, TEDx talks, podcasts, video casts and interviews to enhance science communication and translational health research literacy in public health, healthcare and the medical laboratory environment. During the #SARSCoV2 / #COVID19 pandemic, Doc R is the #1 quoted Texas State subject matter expert and has conducted over 130 interviews for podcasts, TV, newspapers, and internet sites as well as delivered dozens of webinars and workshops at the international, national, state, and local levels. He has received numerous awards and honors during his career, and most recently, added to The Pathologist's PowerList 2020 (global award).

### **Chris Stamatkin, PhD**

Dr. Stamatkin currently serves as a Scientific Affairs Manager at Roche Diagnostics. He earned his doctoral degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences from University of Kentucky's College of Pharmacy. Prior to joining Roche, he has held positions such as lead staff scientist at Covance laboratories, in the immunoassay and special chemistry group, and as assistant research professor at the Indiana University School of Medicine. Today, he is here to present on the topic of Biomarkers in Alzheimer's Disease.

### **Jon Windsor, MLS(ASCP), MPH**

Jon Windsor is both a medical laboratory scientist and epidemiologist for the University of Colorado Center for Global Health and their collaborators. He works on a variety of projects related to infectious diseases and diagnostics for funders such as the WHO, UNICEF, and Gates foundation while serving as a bridge between the laboratory and epidemiology disciplines.

### **Jewell Zweegman, Professional Speaker, LMT, MR**

Jewell Zweegman is a favorite at IMSS. She brings enthusiasm and excitement wherever she goes and always has great tidbits of wisdom to pass along. Jewell wears many hats and is not only a business owner and customer service guru, but she is also a licensed massage therapist, master reflexologist, a nationally certified weight loss specialist AND has over 19 years' experience as a professional speaker. WHEW! In Jewell's spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, doing crafts, and enjoying a trip or two.

