



## PROGRAM SPEAKERS

Jackson, Wyoming

Oct. 6 – Oct. 8, 2022

### **Michael Astion, MD, PhD**

Dr. Astion is a clinical pathologist who is Medical Director, Department of Laboratories at Seattle Children's Hospital and Clinical Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Washington. His career is divided between clinical service, teaching, and research and development. He has authored more than 20 software titles, 40 peer-reviewed papers, and 40 editorials. Dr. Astion is a frequent speaker at professional meetings, where he lectures on issues related to laboratory stewardship and management; laboratory economics and outreach; and medical errors. His awards include:

- AACC Annual Award for Outstanding Contributions to Patient Safety (2006)
- AACC Annual Award for Contributions to Management Science (2007)
- AACC Annual Award for Contributions to Education (2014)

### **Aigars Brants, PhD**

Aigars Brants is a native of Republic of Latvia. He received his MS and PhD from Cornell University in Biology. Currently, Aigars is Director of Scientific Affairs at Binding Site, Inc, but has held similar positions at Sebia Electrophoresis and Roche Tissue Diagnostics. He resides in Atlanta, GA

### **Michael Brown, MD**

Michael Brown, MD is a pathologist with Yellowstone Pathology Institute in Billings Montana. He is Medical Director of the blood bank at St. Vincent Healthcare, and Chair of the hospital's Patient Blood Management Committee.

### **Toni Clinton, PhD; MT (ASCP); BCLD (ABB)**

Dr. Clinton began her career in laboratory medicine as a junior high school volunteer at a rural hospital. She attended college at Wichita State University, where she received a Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology. Dr. Clinton obtained her PhD from the University of Kansas Medical School in Physiology. She later completed a fellowship in clinical pathology.

Dr. Clinton has experience in all aspects of the medical laboratory professions, serving in front line and leadership roles in academic medicine, hospital laboratories, physician office laboratories, and in the commercial lab industry. She has worked as a bench technologist, a technical director, medical director, a VP of operations, and most recently as a General Manager. She has focused her career on promoting and developing quality systems, building teams, and building patient-centric laboratory businesses.

Dr. Clinton and her husband Kevin have four children. They enjoy traveling and creating new adventures with their family. In her spare time, she enjoys rowing and yoga, anything involving yarn, and can be found most fall weekends watching college or professional football and/or filling out her fantasy football roster.

### **J.R. Constance, MHA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**

J.R. Constance is a healthcare management consultant and is a clinical laboratory scientist with over 40 years of experience in the clinical laboratory arena. He has worked in a variety of hospital settings, ranging from large university hospitals to small 25-bed critical access hospitals and has held positions ranging from bench tech and laboratory supervisor through laboratory directory and outreach support director. In 2007 J.R. formed Rodric Consulting, LLC, a clinical laboratory management consulting company providing a wide range of laboratory consulting services. Most recently he has been focused on operational efficiencies and laboratory process improvement and redesign.

Over his career J.R. has been very active professionally. He is a Past President of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science and served on the ASCLS Board for 8 years. He continues to participate on national committees and task forces and is also the current Secretary of ASCLS-Colorado.

### **Alexander Fohl, PharmD**

Alex Fohl has been at Roche Diagnostics since 2017 focusing on the cardiac portfolio. Prior to joining Roche, he was a clinical pharmacist at two hospitals located in Indianapolis, Indiana where he precepted students and residents.

Alex is a licensed pharmacist who earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Purdue University and completed a two-year pharmacy practice residency in Critical Care from the University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers.

### **Lynne Garcia, MS, CLS, BLM, FAAM**

Lynne Garcia, MS, CLS, BLM, FAAM, former Manager of the UCLA Clinical Microbiology Laboratory, is currently the Director of LSG & Associates, providing training, teaching, and consultation for Diagnostic Medical Parasitology and Health Care Administration. She has given over 400 presentations (international, national, and local) and published over 175 peer-reviewed manuscripts, book chapters, and articles. *She is the author of [Diagnostic Medical Parasitology \(6<sup>th</sup> ed, 2016\)](#) and [Practical Guide to Diagnostic Parasitology, \(3<sup>rd</sup> ed, 2021\)](#) ASM Press, Washington, D.C.* She is the Editor-in-Chief of Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook (3<sup>rd</sup> ed, 2010). She is also the Editor-in-Chief of Clinical Laboratory Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (ASM Press, 2022 – 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). She is a Senior Editor for Clinical Microbiology Reviews and a reviewer for 9 other journals. She consults for the CAP Microbiology Resource Committee, is past chair of the CLSI Parasitology Subcommittee, and was elected as a Fellow of The American Academy of Microbiology in 1991. She has served on many committees for ASM, as well as serving as past president for the Southern California Branch of ASM. Lynne is the recipient of the American Society for Medical Technology Microbiologist of the Year award, the Joseph J. Kleiner Memorial Award for technical writing, Outstanding Achievement Award (AAB), Professional Achievement Award (SWACM), the Louis Pasteur Award (IL Branch of ASM), and the 2009 ASM bioMérieux Sonnenwirth Award for Leadership in Clinical Microbiology.

### **Mary Hammel, MLS(ASCP)**

Mary Hammel is a Laboratory Manager at UCHealth in Colorado. In this role and as the Best Practice Team leader, she sets strategic direction for the POC programs at 12 hospitals, 12 FSEDs, and 145 Urgent Care and Primary care clinics for UCHealth.

### **Shanise Keith, CPT (NHA), AHI (AMT)**

Shanise Keith is the new Executive Director of the Center for Phlebotomy Education, an international educational resource for those who perform, teach, and manage blood collection procedures for clinical testing.

Before she took over her current position, she worked as a phlebotomy instructor and program coordinator for over 10 years. She has over 13 years of work in different healthcare settings including the emergency department, and as a forensic phlebotomist. As a part of her new role, she serves as the editor of Phlebotomy Today, an educational blog, and works as an expert witness for phlebotomy-related lawsuits. Phlebotomy is her passion, and she is grateful to be in a position where she can share her love and knowledge of it with others.

### **Walter Kelley, DO, FCAP**

Dr. Kelley is the Medical Director for the UT/NV, ID/MT, and CO/WO regions of the American Red Cross, where he provides medical oversight for blood donors and blood products, directs three high complexity Immunohematology Reference Laboratories, and is the director for stem cell apheresis collection and cell therapy laboratory processing for the Intermountain Blood and Marrow Transplant Program. Dr. Kelley was trained in Transfusion Medicine by Nobel Laureate Harvey Alter, MD (who discovered Hepatitis C) at the National Institutes of Health. Prior to that, he was trained in Pathology at the University of Maryland Medical Center under John Hess, MD, MPH, inventor of SOLX® (AS-7).

### **Rick Panning, MBA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>cm</sup>**

Rick Panning, recently semi-retired from a career where he has been in laboratory leadership positions for 36 years, including most recently as Senior Administrative Director of Laboratory Services for HealthPartners and Park Nicollet in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota (leadership for eight hospital laboratories, clinic laboratories for two large medical groups, and a central laboratory). Previously, he served as Vice President of Business Development at Fairview Health Services (supporting laboratory, imaging, pharmacy, and rehab services) and Vice President for Laboratory Services at Allina Hospitals and Clinics, an integrated health system with 10 hospitals and 70 clinic laboratories in Minnesota. For 12 years, he was President of Laboratories for Fairview Health Services in Minneapolis and also served as Chief Executive Officer of the American Red Cross blood services in the North Central region. Currently working part-time as a Senior Healthcare Consultant for ARUP.

Rick has been very active in the laboratory profession, especially within the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), where he has served as a State President, Regional Director, and President of the National Society. Currently, Rick is a member of the ASCLS Government Affairs Committee, a member of the Constituent Society Task Force, and Past Chair of the Coordinating Council for the Clinical Laboratory Workforce (CCCLW).

### **Lisa Peterson, PhD, PhD, D(ABMLI)**

Dr. Peterson is an Assistant Professor of Pathology at the University of Utah School of Medicine and a Medical Director in the Immunology division at ARUP Laboratories, where she oversees testing that aids in the diagnosis of autoimmunity and immune deficiency. Dr. Peterson's research interests include development, evaluation, and validation of assays for the diagnosis and management of immune deficiencies and autoimmune diseases, with a focus on autoimmune neurologic diseases. She is very interested in optimizing test utilization and in understanding factors that drive variability in the performance characteristics of immunology-related laboratory tests to optimize both intra- and inter-laboratory correlations to improve patient care. She has authored more than 30 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and serves as an ad

hoc reviewer for a number of clinical and laboratory journals. Dr. Peterson currently serves as secretary of the Association of Medical Laboratory Immunologists (AMLI) as well as chair of the society's membership committee. In addition to AMLI, she has active membership in AAN, the American Academy of Clinical Chemistry (AACC) and the Clinical Immunology Society (CIS).

### **Keila Poulsen, MLS(ASCP)H, SH**

Keila Poulsen has been a laboratory professional for over 50 years! As a young woman she had a chance to work in a lab and knew she had found her niche in life. She attended Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah where she received a degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences. She has never looked back. She thoroughly enjoyed her job as supervisor of Hematology for Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center where she inspired her staff to be their very best. In addition to her job, Keila has been very active in ASCLS at the state, regional, and national levels and has served in many positions and on many committees. She has been instrumental in the training of students at BYU for 40 years. She has co-authored Anderson's Atlas of Hematology, a desktop reference for clinical labs. She is the mother of two sons and grandmother to four and the proud owner of a Harley Davidson.

### **Andrea Prinzi, PhD, MPH, SM(ASCP)**

Dr. Prinzi is a clinical microbiologist by training and spent over 12 years as a bench microbiologist at Children's Hospital Colorado. She obtained her Master's in Public Health with an emphasis in epidemiology in 2014, and spent several years designing and teaching microbiology-focused programs to clinical providers on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. In early 2022, Dr. Prinzi obtained her PhD in clinical and translational science where her research focused on antimicrobial and diagnostic stewardship of pneumonia diagnostics in mechanically ventilated patients. She has published several peer-reviewed manuscripts that focus on stewardship and infectious disease diagnostics, and she is an active blog writer for the American Society for Microbiology. Dr. Prinzi currently works as an infectious disease medical science liaison for bioMérieux. The opinions and statements in this presentation do not reflect the opinions of bioMérieux.

### **Debbie Shell, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> SM, DLM**

Debbie Shell has over 25 years of leadership experience in a hospital setting, including laboratory, infection control, and quality management. She was an Idaho State University adjunct faculty member from 2005-2009 and since 2010 has been an instructor in the Medical Laboratory Science Program. Debbie has been actively involved in government affairs on the state, regional and national levels since the mid-1990's. She has been a member of the ASCLS PAC Board of Trustees and the Government Affairs Committee, currently serving as Chair. She has attended the

ASCLS Legislative Symposium almost every year since it originated in 1989 and enjoys sharing the knowledge she learns there.

### **Melissa Siemsen, MLS(ASCP)**

Melissa Siemsen is the Blood Management Coordinator at Saint Vincent Healthcare in Billings, Montana. She has 16 years of laboratory and management experience; currently holds a BS in Medical Laboratory Science and will complete her MBA in Healthcare Management this fall. Melissa oversees the current program most recently certified by the Joint Commission and is one of only seven nationally to be so recognized by the Joint Commission. She was also recently recognized as a Cardinal Health Honoree for her work. Melissa is pioneering patient care in her area and is a go-to subject matter expert. Melissa is married and has a wonderful daughter and son. They all love to rodeo and have a couple champions in the house!

### **Becky Socha, MS, MLS, BB(ASCP)**

Becky Socha has her bachelor's degree in medical technology from Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass and her master's degree in Clinical laboratory Science from University of Massachusetts, Lowell. She is a clinical laboratory scientist with over 40 years of experience in the hospital laboratory environment and has worked in all departments, with a concentration in Hematology and Blood Banking.

Becky also has over twenty years of experience teaching as an adjunct instructor in MLS programs at several universities. She has taught Hematology and Transfusion Medicine as well as Clinical Lab Theory and Pathophysiology. She currently works in Hematology at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore where she is key operator for hematology instrumentation and primary trainer for new employees.

Becky is passionate about education. In addition to many speaking engagements, Becky authors monthly articles for Lablogatory, a Blog for Medical laboratory Professionals.

### **Robyn Sorrell, MHA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**

Robyn has been a Medical Lab Scientist for over 27 years, with the last 16 years as a Lab Manager. She completed a Masters of Healthcare Administration & Management in 2016, and has a Lean Greenbelt certification. She has been working as the Manager of Laboratory Services at Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland, CO, a Level I trauma center, wearing many hats as Lab Manager, Manager of Quality, Safety and Compliance, Point of Care, and Pathology. Robyn has managed every department in the clinical laboratory including Point of Care, Pathology, Hematology, Chemistry, Microbiology, Blood Bank, a donor center, outpatient labs and draw sites. Also included in her management experience are 3 years as a

hospital lab director. Robyn has participated in the planning and design of several different laboratories, and has planned the move of existing laboratories.

### **David Tomichek**

I have an MBA in Business Administration and a BS in Medical Technology. I have spent more than 20 years in the clinical lab and have worked for BioRad for 25 years. (at the same time). My areas of expertise are Immunology, Serology, Chemistry, Diabetes and Hemoglobin Screening.

This is my third time speaking at IMSS.

### **Beth Warning, MS, MLS (ASCP)<sup>cm</sup>, AMT (AHI)**

Beth is an Associate Professor and Campus Based Program Director with the MLS Program at the University of Cincinnati where she currently teaches healthcare ethics within the College of Allied Health Sciences. She received both her B.S degree in Medical Technology and her M.S. in Technology Management from Northern Kentucky University. Prior to moving to academia, Beth spent 25 years in a clinical lab, with positions as a hematology bench tech, hospital based MLS program director, Safety supervisor, and eventually, lab director for critical access and immediate response labs. She is active in ASCLS, currently serving on the ASCLS Board of Directors, and has presented at a variety of conferences and workshops throughout her career.

### **Jennifer Wolcott, MLS(ASCP)SBB<sup>CM</sup>**

Jennifer is the Laboratory Manager at St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings, Montana. Prior to becoming manager, she also held the roles of Quality Coordinator, Blood Bank Supervisor and Medical Laboratory Scientist. In 2015 Jennifer fulfilled a career goal of getting her Specialist in Blood Banking Certification. A Montana native, she was happy to get back to Montana after many years living and working in Hawaii, California, and Alaska. Jennifer has three children/young adults who are the light of her life. In her spare time, she enjoys camping and hiking. She also likes road trips, hot springs, and discovering new destinations.

### **Steve Young, PhD, D(ABMM)**

Steve Young is the Director of Research and Clinical Trials at TriCore Reference Laboratories and a Professor Emeritus of Pathology at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Young had a successful academic research career in evaluation and development of diagnostic techniques for both clinical microbiology and biodefense. He currently continues to be PI on multiple FDA clinical trials and completed over 300 FDA clinical trials.

## **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. A kiss is still a kiss, a sigh is just a sigh, so IMSS will change as time goes by. Jewell will take you on a journal of reminiscing to help you get through life...as time goes by.

