



October 2 - 3, 2025
Virtual

NWWMILS

Educational Sessions

Chat with Attendees

2025 Northwest Medical Lab Symposium Virtual Meeting

Program Grid

Time	Thursday, Oct 2	Friday, Oct 3
8:00 - 9:00 am	Advantages of High-Performance Liquid Chromatography for A1c Testing for Diabetes	Navigating AST Verification Woes – a Practical Approach
9:30 - 10:30 am	Resume Writing And Interview Skills For Today's Job Market	Case Studies Using Digital Cell Morphology
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Molecular Diagnostics for Vaginitis and STIs	Updates in Transfusion Medicine
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Break	Break
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Taking the Mystery out of Bone Marrow Procedures	Improving Chronic Kidney Disease Care Through Laboratory-Driven Population Health
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Case Studies in Hemostasis and Anticoagulant Monitoring: Questions and Conundrums in Coagulation	Quality Improvement and Clinical Impact Evaluation
4:00 - 5:00 pm	Behind the Petri Plate: How Lab Results Drives Infection Prevention and Patient Safety	

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Washington and Oregon
ASCLS and AMT Societies



2025 Northwest Medical Lab Symposium

Virtual Meeting

Thursday, October 2, 2025

8:00 - 9:00 AM Session 1 1 Contact Hour

Level: Intermediate

Advantages of High-Performance Liquid Chromatography for A1c Testing for Diabetes

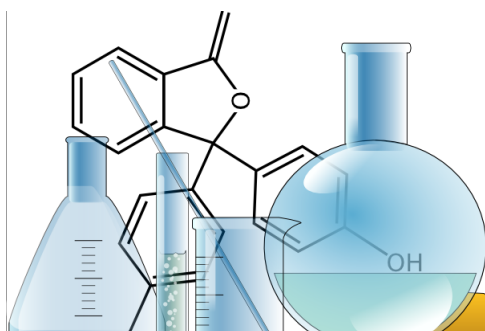
- Priya Sivaraman, PhD

Tosoh Bioscience Inc., Gantz Road, OH

This topic provides an overview of the incidence and growing prevalence of diabetes, underscoring the clinical importance of HbA1c as a marker for long-term glycemic control. It covers the various methodologies available for HbA1c testing, outlining their respective strengths and limitations. Particular attention is given to ion-exchange HPLC, highlighting its advantages in A1c testing. The discussion further examines the ability of HPLC to detect and presumptively identify commonly occurring hemoglobin variants and fetal hemoglobin, an essential factor in ensuring accurate results. Finally, the session reinforces the value of ion-exchange HPLC in supporting high-quality patient care.

- § Review the definition and incidence of Diabetes.
- § Describe what is Hemoglobin A1c and its importance.
- § Discuss the value of High Performance Liquid Chromatography for A1c testing.

Tosoh Bioscience Inc.



9:30 - 10:30 AM Session 2 1 Contact Hour

Level: Basic

Resume Writing And Interview Skills For Today's Job Market

- Jennifer Calderon, BA

ARUP Laboratories, Salt Lake City, UT

How to write resumes for job hunting in today's world and interviews (what is an interview like now). What HR professionals and laboratory managers are looking for in a resume.

- § Describe resume formatting and applicable content.
- § List how to discover transferable skills and motivation for position.
- § Describe how to prepare for interviewing.

ARUP Laboratories

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Session 3 1 Contact Hour

Level: Intermediate

Molecular Diagnostics for Vaginitis and STIs

- Christina Muzny, MD, MSPH

Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Alabama
Birmingham, AL

This session will review updated epidemiology of common bacterial sexually transmitted infections as well as review current screening and diagnostic testing guidelines. The pros and cons of obtaining a molecular diagnostic test over using a traditional diagnostic for vaginal infections and STIs will also be discussed. An updated summary of currently available molecular diagnostic tests performed either at the point-of-care or in a centralized lab will be presented.

- § Provide an overview of the epidemiology of common bacterial STIs and vaginal infections, including co-infections.
- § Review current screening and testing recommendations for bacterial STIs and vaginal infections.
- § Discuss benefits of ordering a molecular diagnostic test compared to traditional diagnostic methods and Suggest future areas of research.



2025 Northwest Medical Lab Symposium Virtual Meeting Thursday, October 2, 2025

1:00 - 2:00 PM Session 4 1 Contact Hour
Level: Intermediate

Taking the Mystery out of Bone Marrow Procedures

- Heather Parks, MS, MLS (ASCP)^{cm}
University Hospital, San Antonio, TX

Bone marrow procedures can often be a mystery to new employees and students until they attend one. Sometimes patients, students, and laboratorians fear the procedure. This session illuminates what happens in a bone marrow aspiration and biopsy, as well as the laboratorian's role in obtaining an ideal specimen. Bone marrow structure, function, dysplasia, and pathological examination will also be discussed.

- § List at least five specific steps that happen in a bone marrow aspiration and biopsy.
- § Describe the laboratorian's role in processing the sample.
- § Assess various scenarios and possible solutions (inadequate sample, feeling faint, provider interactions, and frail patients)
- § Apply knowledge of hematological conditions to bone marrow appearance (macroscopic and microscopic).

2:30 - 3:30 PM Session 5 1 Contact Hour
Level: Intermediate

Case Studies in Hemostasis and Anticoagulant Monitoring: Questions and Conundrums in Coagulation

- Paul Riley, PhD, MBA
Diagnostica Stago, Inc., Parsippany, NJ

Coagulation testing is often not well understood, and this presentation aims to describe the coagulation process in general, then identify the role of different coagulation assays in the identification of hypercoagulable states, along with therapeutic anticoagulant drug monitoring, featuring specific clinical cases.

- § Describe the process of coagulation in the context of overall hemostasis.
- § Identify the role of different routine and specialized coagulation assays in diagnosis of hemostatic problems, especially thrombosis.
- § Present current methods for therapeutic drug monitoring and/or measurement for anticoagulants given to hospitalized patients.

Diagnostica Stago, Inc.

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM Session 6 1 Contact Hour Level: Intermediate

Behind the Petri Plate: How Lab Results Drives Infection Prevention and Patient Safety

- Evan Sylvester, MPH, AL-CIP, CIC, LTC-CIP, WFR, MT(ASCP)^{cm}
Providence Health Services, Seattle, WA

This course delves into the vital role of the laboratory in preventing and managing healthcare-associated infections, including Central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI), Catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI), C. diff, and contaminated blood cultures. Laboratory professionals play a crucial part in identifying pathogens, ensuring accurate testing, and delivering timely results that inform treatment and infection control strategies. Effective collaboration between the lab, infection prevention teams, and infectious disease specialists strengthens efforts to reduce infection rates and enhance patient outcomes. Participants will explore key connections and strategies that drive successful infection prevention practices.

- § Outline the impact of laboratory reporting of positive blood cultures, the role the lab plays in reduction of contaminated blood cultures and its impact to CLABSIs.
- § Discuss the impact to urinalysis, urine cultures and the impact to CAUTIs.
- § Describe the impact C. diff testing may have on patient care and hospital reimbursements.



2025 Northwest Medical Lab Symposium Virtual Meeting Friday, October 3, 2025

8:00 - 9:00 AM Session 7 1 Contact Hour
Level: Intermediate

Navigating AST Verification Woes – a Practical Approach

- Lindsey Nielsen, PhD, (D)ABMM
bioMérieux, Salt Lake City, UT

This session will provide practical guidance for designing and troubleshooting antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) verification studies. Topics include acceptance criteria and exceptions, isolate and challenge organism selection, comparator considerations, therapeutic applications, and key resources such as FDA decision summaries, CLSI guidelines, and alternative methods for calculating errors. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to streamline verification processes and ensure regulatory confidence.

- § Describe recommended AST verification criteria and expectations and delineate between data skewed by isolate or comparator selection bias.
- § Comprehend FDA decision summaries and manufacturer performance specifications in context of your lab's verification studies.
- § Develop acceptance justification based on therapeutic and facility-specific needs.

bioMérieux

9:30 - 10:30 AM Session 8 1 Contact Hour
Level: Intermediate

Case Studies Using Digital Cell Morphology

- Emily Thompson, MLS(ASCP) MSE
CellaVision, Bedminster, NJ

During this session, we will examine various hematologic cases and their related clinical conditions and diagnosis. We will also discuss some advantages to using digital systems to aid in examination of peripheral blood and body fluid samples.

- § Describe how artificial intelligence and neural networks can standardize the manual differential in Hematology.
- § Describe how effective the system is for Hematology cases presented.

CellaVision



11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Session 9 1 Contact Hour
Level: Intermediate

Updates in Transfusion Medicine

- Theresa Nester, MD
Bloodworks Northwest, Seattle, WA

During this session we will spend some time looking at issues related to transfusion support of trauma patients, including in the pre-hospital setting. We will review the current clinical trial progress with low titer group O whole blood, and discuss some of the challenges that arise with both its production and its distribution to medic groups within the community. The data suggesting benefit of pre-hospital plasma for patients with traumatic brain injury will be reviewed, and the use of cold stored platelets will be discussed. Other updates will be given if time allows.

- § State 3 issues that make provision of low titer group O whole blood for the pre-hospital setting challenging.
- § Describe the findings of the PAMPer trial and the secondary analysis suggesting that plasma in the pre-hospital setting may be of benefit to patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- § State two Standards found within the 1st edition of AABB Standards for Out Of Hospital and Prehospital Transfusion Administration Services.

Bloodworks Northwest



2025 Northwest Medical Lab Symposium Virtual Meeting Friday, October 3, 2025

1:00 - 2:00 PM Session 10 1 Contact Hour
Level: Intermediate

Improving Chronic Kidney Disease Care Through Laboratory-Driven Population Health

- Anna Fetzer, MPH

National Kidney Foundation, New York, NY

Although chronic kidney disease (CKD) significantly increases cardiovascular risk, it remains widely underdiagnosed in primary care. In the United States, only about 10% of individuals with laboratory indicators of CKD receive a formal diagnosis, and recommended testing for those at risk is still infrequent. These care gaps hinder early detection and the timely implementation of both established and emerging therapies that can slow disease progression. Given that CKD is a laboratory diagnosis, laboratory professionals are uniquely positioned to support population health strategies aimed at enhancing CKD detection and management. This session explores models of lab-led population health programs and considerations for evaluating their return on investment.

- § Describe the factors that contribute to low levels of CKD testing and diagnosis.
- § Discuss laboratory-driven population health approaches for CKD.
- § Translate CKD-related laboratory data into a business case for quality improvement.

Sponsors

We are grateful for the sponsorship from
the following:

ARUP Laboratories

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Bloodworks Northwest

CellaVision

Diagnostica Stago

Tosoh Bioscience Inc.





2025 Northwest Medical Lab Symposium Virtual Meeting Friday, October 3, 2025

2:30 - 3:30 PM Session 11 0.5 Contact Hour

Level: Intermediate

Quality Improvement and Clinical Impact Evaluation

- Laurianne T. Mullinax MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}
Providence Washington/Montana, Spokane, WA

This session will include presentations of MLS student projects evaluating the impact and success of quality improvement projects, or areas for improvement in current laboratory procedures and practices. Examples of previous projects include, "How did blood culture bottle shortages impact pathogen recovery rates?" "Did educational interventions improve blood product transfusion reaction monitoring?" or "Do courier drop times vary between days of the week or with seasonal weather?" Details of specific projects will be added to session descriptions closer to the dates of the conference.

Two of Two, But Is It True?": Determining True vs. Incidental Recovery of Skin Contaminants from Multiple Blood Culture Sets

- Contributors: Katherine Callender, Mirella Perez Martinez, Vy Pham, Richard E. Davis, PhD, D(AB-MM), MLS(ASCP)

- § Calculate the frequency of skin flora recovered in total and highly mixed (3+ organisms) blood cultures.
- § Evaluate effectiveness of comparative antibiotic susceptibility testing (AST) to determine "sameness" of skin flora isolates recovered in more than one blood culture set from the same patient.
- § Determine the impact of narrowing comparative AST policy to certain organisms and/or to monomicrobial cultures.

Evaluating Timing and Burden of *Cutibacterium acnes* Recovered from Surgical Cultures

- Contributors: Loan Hoang, Tara McInnis, Vivian Tran,
- Richard E. Davis, PhD, D(ABMM), MLS(ASCP)
 - § Investigate extended-hold *C. acnes* culture positivity for the Providence Washington/Montana Microbiology Core Laboratory compared to previous evaluations.
 - § Determine the correlation between bacteria colony forming units (CFUs) and the day the culture was identified as positive.
 - § Show differences in contamination rates observed in extended hold cultures compared to previous evaluations.
 - § Examine characteristics among strongly positive (high burden) cultures.

Registration Form

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Online registration and credit card payment is available at
<http://www.asclswa.org/NWMLS.html>
or
For mail registration send this form with a check payable to
Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium.

First Name _____ Last Name _____
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Category	Fee	Total Fee
ASCLS/AMT Professional/Technical	\$40.00	\$
ASCLS #	AMT #	
Non-Member	\$60.00	\$
Student	\$10.00	
Total Fee		\$

Your fee covers both days of the Northwest Medical Lab Symposium.

The live sessions will be recorded and available to registered attendees for 60 days after the meeting.

To Register by Mail:

Complete the registration form and mail the registration form and check payable to
Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium to:

2025 Northwest Medical Lab Symposium
Brenda Kochis
44 West 26th Avenue
Spokane, WA 99203-1818

If questions, contact Brenda Kochis:

Email (preferred): ASCLSBren@comcast.net

To Register Online:

Go to <http://www.asclswa.org/NWMLS.html> Click on "Online Registration" to go to the online form. Credit cards can be used to pay for registration.

Registration Deadline: **September 26, 2025**

This deadline is to allow us to provide the information for access to the Virtual NWMLS. Registrations are still accepted after this date.