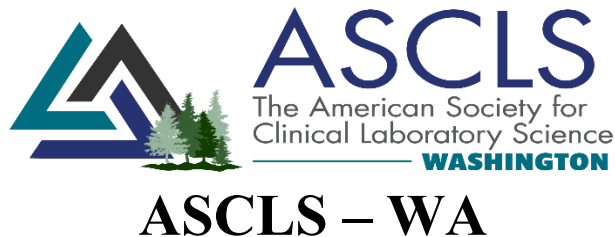




*The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Washington  
Clinical Laboratory Conference*

*“Trends & Strategies for 2024”*

**REGISTRATION FLYER**



November 13, 2023

VIRTUAL EDITION

# *Agenda*

- 9:00 – 9:05**                    **Welcome**
- 9:05 – 9:15**                    **Opening Remarks**  
Romesh Gautom, PhD  
Director, Washington State Public Health Laboratories
- 9:15 – 10:30**                    **Keynote Address:**  
***“Reimbursement & Regulatory Spotlight: Policy Outlook from the Nation’s Capital”***  
Dennis Weissman
- 10:30 – 11:00**                    **Break**
- 11:00 – 11:45**                    **“Respiratory Virus Season 2023/24”**  
Scott Lindquist, MD
- 11:45 – 12:30**                    **“Candida auris in Washington State: Current Update”**  
Emily Schneider, MPH
- 12:30 – 1:00**                    **“Washington State Medical Test Sites Program Updates”**  
Jessica Holloway, BSMLS, MLS(ASCP)
- “WA State Medical Test Site Survey and Investigation Top Ten Deficiencies: November 2023**  
Lori Eschenbacher, BSMT(ASCP), CLS(NCA)
- 1:00 – 1:45**                    **“Laboratory Personnel Shortage: 2023 and Beyond”**  
Program Director Panel Discussion
- 2:00**                                **Wrap Up**



## **P.A.C.E CREDIT**

Four (4.0) P.A.C.E. credits are available for this program. ASCLS-WA is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E.® Program.



## ONLINE REGISTRATION

Thank you for your interest in the laboratory conference. This year it will be a virtual conference and we are using MS Teams as the platform. In order to register for this conference, you will need to register online. [Please use this link to register.](#) Once you complete the registration, you will be given the option of joining the conference on MS Teams if you have the program or to simply “join” the conference using other browsers. Please plan to join the conference at least 10 minutes prior to 9:00 AM to deal with unexpected technical problems.

**CONFERENCE FEE: \$25.00.**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ASCLS-WA.**

**Send Checks to: Leonard Kargacin**

**PO Box 117**

**Mount Vernon, WA 98273**



# Trends & Strategies for 2024

## Speaker and Session Information

**Level: Intermediate Contact Hours: 4.0**

### **“Reimbursement & Regulatory Spotlight: Policy Outlook from the Nation’s Capital”**

With the end of the federal Public Health Emergency, the clinical laboratory industry must come to grips with the business and policy realities at play during this shifting environment. This session will analyze the current Medicare reimbursement and policy climate affecting labs and pathologists in the post-COVID era and help participants to better understand what to expect in the coming year from key legislative and regulatory proposals. Specific focus will be on PAMA payments and policy, changes in CLIA fees and personnel requirements, oversight of laboratory developed tests (LDTs), and regulatory “wake-up” calls from some unexpected places at the federal level.

#### **Speaker: Dennis Weissman**

Dennis Weissman is a nationally known, independent analyst, consultant, speaker, and thought leader for the clinical laboratory and anatomic pathology sectors for over three decades, Dennis is President of Dennis Weissman & Associates, LLC, Falls Church, VA, a consultancy which provides market intelligence, business leadership, public policy advice and M&A advisory services to diagnostic and life science companies. Previously, he founded and served as president to Washington G2 Reports (now G2 Intelligence.)



### **“Respiratory Virus Season 2023/24”**

Dr. Lindquist, the Washington State Medical Epidemiologist, will present the current surveillance system for RSV, Influenza, and Covid. He will cover the epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of each of these along with a review of the new DOH respiratory dashboard.

**Speaker: Scott Lindquist, MD, MPH**, is the Medical Epidemiologist for the State of Washington.



### **“Candida auris in Washington State: Current Update”**

Since its discovery in 2009, *Candida auris* has emerged as a fungal pathogen of public health and clinical concern. *C. auris* has spread widely internationally and nationally, including to Washington State. This presentation will review current testing capabilities at WA PHL, highlight the national *C. auris* picture, and discuss prevention and response work in Washington.

**Speaker: Emily Schneider, MPH**, is the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network West Regional Epidemiologist for the Washington State Department of Health Public Health Laboratories



### **“Washington State Medical Test Sites Program Updates”**

Relevant updates on the Medical Test Site program will be given, including transition of the program name from LQA to MTS, upcoming changes to CLIA-required Proficiency Testing and LDTs, and important reminders for rule compliance.

**Speaker: Jessica Holloway, BSMLS, MLS(ASCP)**, is the Facilities Program Manager for Medical Test Sites.

### **“WA State Medical Test Site Survey and Investigation Top Ten Deficiencies: November 2023”**

This presentation will introduce the new WA State DOH surveying team and will discuss the top ten deficiencies cited by the WA State Department of Health in 2023.

**Speaker: Lori Eschenbacher, BSMT(ASCP), CLS(NCA)**, is the Medical Test Site Survey and Investigation Manager.



## “Laboratory Personnel Shortage: 2023 and Beyond”

This panel of practicing MLS and MLT educators will answer questions and address common concerns with regards to training students. The panel members will discuss barriers to rotation sites being able to train students, common length of time on site training is expected of MLS/MLT students, and the impact pay has had on student enrollment.

### Speakers:

- **Esther Lim**, MSML, BSBME, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, is the MLT program director at Shoreline Community College located in Shoreline.
- **Max Louzon**, MLS (ASCP), SBB (ASCP), is the MLS program director at the University of Washington in Seattle.
- **Shawna Martin**, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, is the program director at the Heritage University CLS program in Toppenish.
- **Laurianne Mullinax**, M.S., MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, is the director of the School of MLS at Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane.
- **Patrick Tracy**, MA, MT (ASCP), is the MLT program director at Wenatchee Valley College in Wenatchee.



## Conference Objectives

At the conclusion of the seminar, participants will have learned, or will be able to:

- Examine how the end of the federal public health emergency has affected the business & policy environment for the laboratory industry.
- Describe the current diagnostics of RSV, Influenza, and Covid -19 respiratory viruses.
- Discuss why *C. auris* is a major public health and clinical concern.
- Discuss upcoming changes to CLIA-required Proficiency Testing and LDTs.
- Discuss the most typical laboratory deficiencies cited by the WA State Department of Health Medical Test Site team.
- Identify barriers to rotation sites being able to train students.

