



# ASCLS-IL INSIGHTS

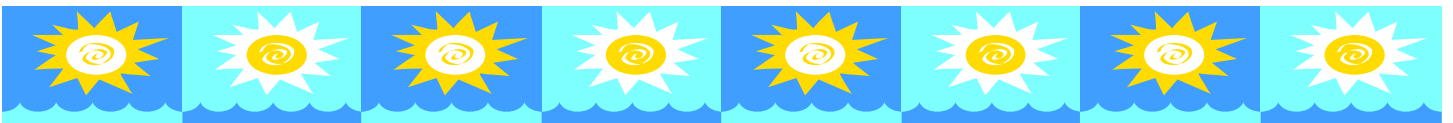
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## Quality Assurance

## Quality Assurance & Control Of Laboratory Testing Within Methadone Maintenance Treatment

By: Eleanor Wolfram, MS, CLCP(NCA)

Currently, under contract I am auditing quality assurance and control laboratory policies and procedures for rehabilitation centers. One of my more fascinating assignments for this task is at a Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) institution. This is such an interesting area in which laboratory services are performed on a daily basis, I thought it might be interesting to share this type of services with my ASCLS-IL colleagues.

### Methadone: The Treatment Medication

Methadone is a synthetic pure opioid agonist with good oral bioavailability, and a long duration of action. Methadone prevents withdrawal symptoms and helps reduce drug cravings in opioid dependent (i.e., heroin addicted) individuals. It also impedes the euphoria produced by short acting opioids. This collection of traits makes this drug an appropriate choice for opioid maintenance therapy.

### Value of Good Laboratory Practices

The design and implementation of urine collection, testing and interpretation should be done in a way that maximizes patient retention, compliance monitoring, positive treatment outcomes, and safety of the patient and others. Results of the urine drug lab tests should be interpreted by the physician in conjunction with functional stability and should not replace good clinical judgment.

### Test Sample Collection

Ideally, urine test samples should be obtained on a random schedule under the direct observation of personnel trained in the collection of urine samples. The validity of a test can be increased further by measuring the temperature of the sample immediately after collection, having patients remove obstructing clothing, bluing of the toilet water and ensuring no access to running water in the collection area.

### Enzyme Immunoassay

Typically urine test samples are initially screened using an enzyme immunoassay. Ideally, urine screening should include: opioids, benzodiazepines, cocaine and methadone. Depending on local geographical (urban versus rural) drug use patterns and clinical judgment the lab test may also include amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabinoids, and ethanol.

### Chromatography

A more specific tests using gas, thin layer chromatography or high-pressure liquid chromatography will identify specific drugs of abuse, as well as the presence of the methadone metabolite. The frequency of testing for methadone metabolite should be individualized based on the clinical setting. The absence of the methadone metabolite in a urine specimen may indicate that the patient had tampered with the sample or that methadone has not been consumed as directed.

### Test Results & Outcomes

Results of urine drug screens may provide valuable information can be used as an aid in: adjusting methadone dosage; aiding in assessing functional stability; documenting baseline drug and periods of abstinence; minimizing and/or eliminating possible drug interactions; reevaluating treatment goals; and verifying self report of drug use.

Eleanor A. Wolfram is a regulatory compliance auditor. My email is: [eaw60660@yahoo.com](mailto:eaw60660@yahoo.com)

## Membership Renewal



It's time to renew your 2009-10 ASCLS membership! It's time to "empower your professional life"!

Although the word "empower" seems to be a contemporary buzzword, the word *empower* is not new, having arisen in the mid-17th century with the legalistic meaning "to invest with authority, authorize." Now this 7-letter word has a more general recognized meaning of "enabling oneself to act strategically to succeed and to be actively engaged in areas of choice." As clinical laboratory science professionals we must be empowered in our profession and believe that we can live our professional lives beyond all barriers real and conceived. Together, united in and supported by ASCLS, as practicing professionals we are empowered through....

- ⇒ Being informed of all that impacts or has the potential to impact how we practice our profession
- ⇒ Being connected to clinical laboratory science professionals throughout our state, our region, and the nation
- ⇒ Being able to expand our professional knowledge and skill sets through affordable continuing education, mentoring programs, and professional resources
- ⇒ Having a voice and choice in the future direction of our profession

Every year when you make the decision to renew your ASCLS membership, you are making a professional statement about your core beliefs... **YOU** are a true clinical laboratory science professional. **YOU** believe that what you do brings value to healthcare and the patients you serve. **YOU** know that your voice, your value, and your vision are important. **YOU** are committed to professional excellence through professional involvement."

Don't wait... Renew your ASCLS membership today to...

***Renew your professional spirit...***

***Renew your professional passion...***

***Renew your professional pride...***

***RENEWYOU!***

# 2009 CLT & CLS GRADUATES

## OSF Saint Francis Medical Center School of CLS:

Matt Thompson  
Vanessa Stone  
Jessica Wright  
Amanda Birkett  
Jaclyn Osmun  
Lindsay O'Rourke

## St. John's Hospital School of Clinical Laboratory Science

Megan Allsop  
Joseph Sherman  
Misty Willis  
Stacey Wolfe  
Audrey York

## Elgin Community College CLT Graduates

Judy Cain  
Jennie Clapper  
Angela Heim  
Sylvia Pruszynski  
Angelica Rojas  
Leo Velgara  
Zaida Velgara  
Farah Zaidi

## Kankakee Community College CLT Graduates

Regina Altenberger  
Lisa Cornell  
Jacqueline Frahm  
Joshua Jacobs  
Jessica Jenkins  
Jeni Madison  
Natasha Montgomery

## University of Illinois at Springfield CLS Graduates

Meg Cairo  
Susan Farthing  
Faiza Luteify  
Jumoke Ogunfolu  
Katy Paul  
Whitney Ringhausen  
Nicole Schupp



## Illinois State University CLS Graduates

Latoya Alexander	Jaclyn Gruber	Valerie Reed	Erinn White
Taylor Bernardin	Traci Kiedaisch	Princess Sayon	Jackelyn Williams
Heather Bryant	Alexandra Mackey	Danielle Shields-Robison	JiSun Yu
Neewah Bullock	Natalie Navarro	Nicole Stein	Cheryl Berezan
Robert Burries	Ross Owen	Tai Stephens	Kelly Gresham
Cleverette Conley	Michael Plochocki	Tamra Trent	Raven Kuchan
Tara Fredrickson	Amanda Quigley	Kate Waldschmidt	

# 2009 CLT & CLS GRADUATES

## Illinois Central College

### CLT Graduates

Heather Brant      Jodee Norbutas  
 Mary Greve  
                                  Hoa Ho  
 Misty Mayer  
                                  Timothy Mickna  
 Wendy Quinn  
                                  April Robley  
 Isis Smith

## Rush University

### CLS Graduates

#### Bachelor of Science Degree:

Jerry Harris                      Jessica Ridolfi  
 Kamran Husain                  Christine Sokol  
 Kyung Jung                      Miguel Villarreal

#### Master of Science Degree:

Vera Chu                          Jennifer McCall  
 Amelia Elefson                  Jermaine McGill  
 Jason Kozlowski                  Nicholas Moore  
 Michael Marin                      Carlomagno Ore  
    Vyvy Tran

## North Shore Health Systems-

### Evanston

### CLS Graduates

Sylvia Anders  
    Shweta Dalal  
 Candice Dougherty  
    Haley Montgomery  
 Jigna Patel  
    Manali Patel  
 Sohel Patel

## VA Hines Hospital CLS

### Graduates

Julie Adkins  
    Maureen Fruge  
 Jenna Gorrell  
    Marcus Johnson  
 Alex Nichols  
    Agnieszka Tyl

## Oakton Community College

### CLT Graduates

Ewa Czaicki                      Jill Paha  
 Shashank Dave                  Bhakti Patel  
 Ewa Dziadkowiec                  Bruce Pindras  
 Pat Hamamoto                      Samira Sarkis  
 Akiko Mizuno                      Jalpa Soni  
 Moe Oroujeh                      Aimee Warunek

## Blessing Hospital School of

### CLT

Scott D. Thrasher  
    Heather Wright  
 Vera P. da Silva

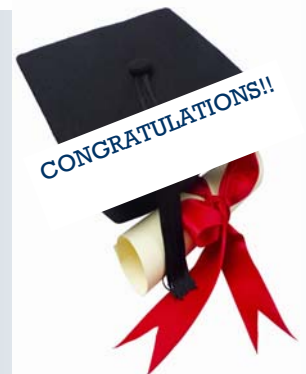


## Northern Illinois University

### CLS Graduates

#### Bachelor of Science Degree

Oliver Adapon	Leigh Davis	Kristina Hudak	Mary Frances Ohl
Lisa Boehm	Raylene Elkins	Jeanette Hunter	Wendy Ropp
Andrew Borg	Kate Fletcher	Shauna Little	Amanda Starleaf
Rebecca Burgess	John Gage	Megan Madison	Holly Toynton
Sarah Champion	John Galan	Dennis Moore	Rebecca Zarr-Berg



## ASCLS NATIONAL MEETING

## ASCLS NATIONAL MEETING 2009 IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

*For those of you that couldn't attend the national meeting in Chicago, here is what you missed.....*

- ⇒ The two certifying agencies, National Certifying Agency (NCA) and American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) have decided to merge and form the Board of Certification (BOC). The new title for laboratory professionals will be Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS). The certifying agency in parentheses will remain ASCP. The merge will become effective on October 23, 2009 at which point NCA will be dissolved as a corporation.
  
- ⇒ The Levels of Practice position paper was brought to the House of Delegates for a vote. After several motions of modification, specifically in the field of molecular testing, the HOD approved the white paper.
  
- ⇒ The Talent Management/Succession Planning white paper was also brought to the HOD for a vote. The white paper was approved as written.
  
- ⇒ Our very own Paula Garrott received the Mendelson award at the House of Delegates meeting. The Mendelson award is given to the ASCLS member who has given outstanding service to ASCLS, the ASCLS E & R fund, and/or the CLS field. Congratulations Paula!!

## ASCLS NATIONAL MEETING 2009 IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

- ⇒ Alpha Mu Tau Members, Inductees, and their guests met at U.S. Cellular Field, where even in the midst of an unpredictable financial crisis, managed to raise thousands of dollars towards scholarships for the future of Clinical Laboratory Science, our students. Way to Go!
- ⇒ Scientific sessions were recorded and were available for purchase for those that could not attend the meeting.
- ⇒ New officers were inducted at the House of Delegates meeting, including our new Region VI director, Dr. Tim Randolph. Congratulations!

ASCLS-ILLINOIS  
STATE MEETING

SAVE THE DATE

FOCUS  
ON OUR  
FUTURE

DOUBLETREE HOTEL — OAKBROOK, ILLINOIS

APRIL 12-14, 2010

ASCLS-IL is an affiliate society of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and one of five states in ASCLS Region VI, which also includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

ASCLS serves as the voice of all clinical laboratory professionals, creating a vision for the advancement of the clinical laboratory practice field, and advocating the value and the role of the profession ensuring safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient centered health care.

- Promoting the value of the profession to healthcare and the public
- Uniting the profession to speak with one voice
- Advocating on behalf of the profession
- Promoting professional independence
- Enhancing quality standards and patient safety
- Ensuring workplace safety
- Providing professional development opportunities
- Promoting expanded roles and contributions of clinical laboratory professionals to the healthcare team
- Increasing the diversity in the profession and expanding the voice and role of under-represented individuals and groups



We're on the web!  
[www.ascls-il.org](http://www.ascls-il.org)