ASCP Announces Call for Abstracts for 2011 Annual Meeting

The 2011 ASCP Annual Meeting/World Association of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM) XXVI World Congress Call for Abstracts for pathologists, residents, and laboratory professionals is now open. In addition to traditional scientific abstracts, ASCP will accept for the first time laboratory practice abstracts, which present a summary or case study of a problem and its resolution. This year’s poster competition will have a wider variety of categories, such as “Best Poster by a Resident,” “Best Poster Submitted Outside the United States,” “Best Lab Practice Poster,” “Best Scientific Poster,” and a unique “People’s Choice Best Poster,” which will be determined by attendee votes. Submission deadline is midnight (GMT-6) April 29, 2011. www.ascp.org/2011annualmeeting, and click on Abstracts.

View Lab Professionals Week Videos Online

ASCP’s “Take Center Stage” Online Video Contest encourages laboratory teams across the country to showcase the important role they play every day. This year lab teams were invited to submit short, original videos, essays, and PowerPoint presentations that demonstrated the ways that they go above and beyond their day-to-day responsibilities to achieve extraordinary goals or to provide outstanding levels of customer service. The videos, essays, and PowerPoint presentations are available for viewing at www.ascp.org/labweek and www.facebook.com/ASCP.Chicago, as part of National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, April 24–30, 2011.

ASCP Grants Can Boost Careers

Each year, ASCP sponsors a grant program that encourages residents to travel outside their own institutions to study with experts in various fields of anatomic and clinical pathology. A total of $22,000 will be awarded for 2010–2011. Past recipients report these grants help them gain more knowledge, provide introductions to valuable new colleagues and institutions, and can help them succeed farther in their careers. The deadline for the next round of applications is Aug. 14, 2011.

ASCP-Siemens Scholarships to Combat the Laboratory Workforce Shortage

As part of the Society’s annual scholarship program and the continuing effort to help defray education costs, promote medical laboratory science as a rewarding career, and address the laboratory workforce shortage, ASCP in partnership with Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics is awarding $178,500 to 171 medical laboratory students for 2010–2011. ASCP received nearly double the number of applications this year compared to last year. This year’s recipients will be announced in early April 2011.

ASCP began the student scholarship program to encourage the best and brightest students to pursue careers in the medical laboratory. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement, professional goals, and leadership abilities. To be considered for scholarships in 2011–2012, the application process will begin in August 2011, and students need to apply by Nov. 15, 2011. www.ascp.org/scholarships

New Careers in the Lab Classroom Poster

A “comic-style” poster, aimed at middle and high school science students, reminds children that, “You don’t have to be a doctor or nurse to work in a hospital.” Download a PDF version, or order (sets of five) at www.ascp.org/ComicPoster. Other resources are available at www.ascp.org/CareerLinks.

ASCP Launches Career Center Tab on Facebook

For years, the ASCP Career Center has served as an interactive hub for job seekers, employers, and recruiters. Now, the same job postings can be found in the Career Center tab on the ASCP Facebook page, featuring daily postings of job opportunities directly from employers. www.facebook.com/ASCP.Chicago

Feeling Appreciated

I just read my first issue of Critical Values, and I was so impressed that I can’t wait for the next one to come out! Well done! Although I enjoyed all of the articles, I loved Dr. (Donna E.) Sweet’s article, “Clinicians Need Insight into Lab Quality” (Critical Values, July 2010, p. 18). It presented a clear and concise review of what we, as laboratorians, do day in and day out. We are truly an integral part of the team and are often underestimated and underappreciated. I loved that she provided the history of CLIA and the strict adherence to its rules that we take pride in following each and every day to provide clinicians with results that they can trust. Thanks again for a great magazine.

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Critical Values Inspires

I have been a cytotechnologist for 19 years and, unluckily, unemployed for nine months. I got a positive feeling from the January 2011 issue of Critical Values. I am considering migrating back home to the Philippines to explore new possibilities and the opportunity of opening a cytology laboratory service to help improve, contribute, and become more engaged as global partner. With the lack of cytology laboratory resources and U.S.-trained cytotechnologists, this is a “perfect storm” of opportunity for me and for the country. However, I have some concerns: I have no money, no microscope, and no staining supplies, but I have the willingness to pursue this in an exemplary manner. The time for action is now! Indeed, it will be a strong starting point and a challenge for myself! But I will not find out what it’s like until I do something about it. “Whatever path you follow, the journey begins with the first step. The only way to fail is to not try in the first place.” (“Career Options for Laboratory Professionals,” Critical Values, October 2010, p. 9). Thank you Critical Values for this encouragement.

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