

Cardinal Health urEssential 2018 Finalist Bio

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Mary Ann McLane

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While Dr. Mary Ann McLane, PhD, MLS(ASCP) is currently a professor in the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences at the University of Delaware, she has a long history of making an impact wherever she works. In 2013, for example, she helped Christiana Care Hospital's clinical laboratory staff members publish their experience in developing a new Performance Improvement system.

Using her research and grant/manuscript preparation skills, and by learning about evidence-based diagnostics and screening from Oxford University, she created a manuscript (published in 2014) detailing the implementation of the lab's new ALERT system, which has improved patient safety and enhanced communication between the medical laboratory staff and emergency department clinicians.

In addition to her role as a laboratorian, Dr. McLane has also advanced education for lab professionals. She is responsible for the development of a collection of virtual clinical laboratory experiences animated by STEMsims.com, which are designed to teach students about a range of topics including mass spec, osmometry, automated urinalysis, blood gases, pipetting, tumor markers, and more.

In her career, she has mentored over a thousand students in the MLS student lab programs at the University of Delaware, Temple University (Philadelphia, PA), Neumann University (Aston, PA) and Thomas Jefferson University (Philadelphia, PA). And since 2009, she has taught at least 400 additional students in her course, "The Language of Medicine."

The students she has trained have gone on to become supervisors, lead techs, consultants, education coordinators, program directors, physicians, physician assistants, nurses, and post-doctoral research fellows. Dr. McLane sees the success of her students as an extension of her own patient care record. In the words of one who knows her: "True leaders do not create followers, they create future leaders."

Just as important as mentoring the next generation of clinicians, however, is her work educating the public. Since 2010, she has organized the ASCLS booth at the USA Science & Engineering Festival in Washington, DC, increasing the number of volunteers each year threefold.

In 2016, she coordinated the participation of AACC and ASCP in a mock clinical lab booth, which provided over 600 youths and their families a close look at how science is done in the clinical lab. Dr. McLane has also participated each year in the annual Apple Scrapple Festival health fair in Bridgeville, DE, spreading ASCLS pamphlets to hundreds of participants and creating a live lab feed for public viewing.

Within professional societies, she has also served as an author, speaker, and leader. As President for the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), she used her “Provide the Face” program to highlight the efforts of other laboratorians. To further this initiative, she was also instrumental in naming the last week of April “Medical Laboratory Professionals Week.”

As a result of her prolific career, Dr. McLane received the Lindback Award for Excellence in Teaching Award in 2002, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Professor of the Year (Delaware) in 2010, and the Robin H. Mendelson Memorial Award from the ASCLS in 2001 and 2011.

Dr. Mary Ann McLane received her PhD in Physiology and MSc in Medical Technology Education from Temple University (Philadelphia, PA), and a BSc in Medical Technology from Neumann University (Aston, PA).

Her journey into the medical laboratory science profession was—in her words—circuitous. “I knew nothing about the profession beyond the “Do Not Enter” sign over the lab door, as I entered to get blood work done for school health checks. It wasn’t until a faculty member at Neumann University announced a new major—medical technology—that I practically dropped everything to join the first 1976 graduating class. I saw how the profession combined the best aspects of my love for science, my talent for teaching, and my desire to help people.”

Summing up her life’s work to date, she said, “Forty-two years later, it is still the best career, where I must admit that I have never worked a day, since it has been such a joy to do what I love.”

We at Cardinal Health recognize Dr. Mary Ann McLane as a truly outstanding leader, educator, professional, and clinical laboratory scientist. We are proud to name her the 2018 urEssential Laboratory Professional of the Year.

In addition to the award, Cardinal Health will provide an educational grant of \$25,000 in her honor to the University of Delaware students pursuing careers in clinical laboratory science.