

## Advisory Board Members

**Carlo Ledesma, SH(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, MT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**, was born and raised in the Philippines and immigrated to the United States armed with a bachelor's degree in medical technology from the University of Santo Tomas, in Manila. Over the years, Mr. Ledesma has worked in a university hospital and reference laboratories, and as an educator for laboratory programs. He shares his passion for hematology with students at local high schools through his volunteer role as an ASCP Career Ambassador. In appreciation of his commitment to mentor others, by providing support, encouragement and promotion of the field of pathology, ASCP is honoring Mr. Ledesma with the 2018 Mentorship Award. Currently, Mr. Ledesma is a program director for a medical laboratory technology and phlebotomy program at Rose State College in Midwest City, OK. Carlo's professional experience in the lab includes dealing with special hematology. In this capacity, Carlo has seen firsthand the miracles of timely diagnosis and the impact of accurate laboratory results on patients' lives.



**Cliff Sullivan, MD**, works at Emory University where he specializes in Transfusion Medicine/Blood Banking and Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. His academic interests focus on optimizing laboratory testing and algorithms to improve patient care. Dr. Sullivan feels pathologists and laboratory professionals have a duty to educate fellow clinicians on laboratory utilization as well as patients on the fundamentals of the laboratory and its role in their care. One of his goals in patient advocacy is making patients aware of the existence of pathologists and medical technologists. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with friends while eating good food and drinking delicious cocktails.



**Deedee O'Brien** is the Executive Director of Ironstone Farm and Challenge Unlimited, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a variety of therapeutic interventions using horses to people with disabilities and mental health issues. Her experiences as the final caregiver for her mother and her partner taught her the importance of education, gathering second opinions, seeking different opinions, and advocating for loved ones. That empowerment made all the difference in their quality of life as their health deteriorated, and gave her the confidence to make decisions for herself when faced with her own illnesses. She is passionate about working to make that difference for others. She spends her leisure time sitting by the fireplace and reading a good book.



**Kim Sanford, MD**, is the Director of Transfusion Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) since 2012 after serving as Associate Director from 2008 until 2012. She also serves as Medical Director of the laboratory at VCU's Stony Point Medical Center and Director of Undergraduate Education for the Department of Pathology. Dr. Sanford graduated summa cum laude with a BS in medical technology from VCU. After working in a variety of laboratories in the Department of Pathology at VCU for six years, she entered medical school. Following medical school she completed residency in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at VCU. In 2008, she then became Associate Medical Director of Transfusion Medicine and Medical Director of Stony Point Laboratory. Dr. Sanford has authored text book chapters and peer reviewed publications and has served as faculty at national meetings sponsored by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP). She is currently on the Board of Directors for the ASCP and has had leadership positions in ASCP developing educational content at national meetings and for ongoing education of all laboratory professionals. She was awarded both the H. P. Smith Award for Distinguished Pathology Educator in 2015 and the Mastership Award in 2011 from ASCP for her national contributions to education. Dr. Sanford is a passionate teacher who has been awarded the Outstanding Teacher Award in the pathology introduction course for VCU medical students for five consecutive years. Her weekend activities include ballroom dancing, running, kayaking, fishing, and snow skiing.



**Lynnette Chakkaphak, MS, MT(ASCP)**, has more than 40 years of experience in hospital and medical laboratory management. In her current role as Director of Clinical Operations at St. Vincent's Health System, she oversees all laboratory and imaging services at three acute care hospitals, as well as directs operations of a large outreach laboratory business. Patient advocacy and education are a natural fit for Ms. Chakkaphak given her career-long commitment to patient safety and high reliability organizational training. She strives to ensure that patients have the resources and information they need to make informed decisions about their own care. On weekends you can find Ms. Chakkaphak at the soccer fields coaching her five-year-old grandson's soccer team or enjoying the beautiful beaches in the Jacksonville, Florida area.



**Susan Graham, MS, MT(ASCP)SH<sup>CM</sup>**, has served as Associate Dean of the College of Health Professions at SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, New York for seven years and held the position of Assistant Dean of the College for three years prior to that. She has also served as Chair and Program Director, Department of Clinical Laboratory Science, since 2002. Susan is currently a member of the Board of Governors of the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC), which provides excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide. She has been the proud recipient of the BOC Distinguished Service Award in 2014 and the ASCP Excellence in Education Award in 2017. Ms. Graham says that being involved with Patient Champions allows her to make the connection between the laboratory and the patients the laboratory team serves. When you see the impact the lab has on the lives of patients and their families, working in the laboratory becomes incredibly meaningful.



**Tiffany Channer, MPH, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**, honed her skill and knowledge of blood banking at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY, where she completed her 9-year tenure as Blood Bank Educational Lead Medical Technologist III/ Safety Officer. She's currently working as a Technical Supervisor for OneBlood, Inc. at Tampa General Hospital in Tampa, Florida. Ms. Channer is an ASCP Career Ambassador and was named an ASCP Top Five 40 Under Forty honoree in 2015 for her dedication and advocacy relating to education and laboratory medicine. The Patient Champions initiative speaks to Ms. Channer's core values of education and advocacy. By creating a platform for patients to share their stories, and sharing them on ASCP's social networks, she believes we can educate millions about the laboratory's vital role in diagnosis and prognosis of disease. Having patients be the voice of countless individuals suffering from different ailments can be empowering as well as therapeutic for these individuals.

