PRESIDENT-ELECT (Select one candidate for this seat)

President-Elect Candidate

Grace Kubin, PhD
Director, State Public Health Laboratories
Texas Department of State Health Services
Austin, TX

Statement of Purpose
All public health laboratories face many challenges, including but not limited to, shrinking funding, workforce shortages, and the next big incident, whether biological or environmental, that requires a rapid and intense response. The ability to alleviate these challenges greatly depends on partnerships. If elected, I would seek to strengthen existing partnerships and to build new partnerships that would support the members of APHL as they face existing challenges and encounter new barriers.

Biography
Grace Kubin is the Director of the Texas State Public Health Laboratories. She has held various positions in the laboratory such as performing testing in support of food borne outbreak investigations, managing biological and chemical threat testing, and serving in the State’s Emergency Medical Operations Center. Under Grace’s leadership the Texas SPHL has built a Continuous Quality Improvement Team focusing on using Lean and Six Sigma principles to drive quality improvement. Grace received her bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees from the University of Texas at Austin.

Grace has served on the APHL Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large since 2015. She has been a member of the APHL Public Health Preparedness and Response Committee since 2009 and the APHL Workforce Development Committee since 2016. She has served as a member on several APHL workgroups: the Business Operational Workgroup, the APHL-CDC Workgroup on Joint Data Collection, the Communications and Marketing Advisory Group, and the CDC-CSTE-APHL Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Taskforce. Grace has been a member of the Network of Laboratory Leadership Alumni since 2008. She received the 2009 APHL Emerging Leader Award for her work in developing relationships with various groups involved with biological and chemical threat emergency response.
President-Elect Candidate

Tamara (Tammy) Theisen
Laboratory Director
Saginaw County Department of Public Health
Saginaw, MI

Statement of Purpose
I welcome an opportunity to contribute to the work of APHL as your President-Elect. If elected, I would bring to this position the knowledge I have gained in various leadership roles both within and outside of APHL. I have a strong commitment to nurturing collaborative relationships that are necessary for public health laboratories to achieve their mission. I believe that all residents, especially private well owners, should have safe drinking water and encourage private well owner’s education. As President, I would work towards strengthening collaborative relationships between all governmental labs and advocating for stronger private well water programs. I would feel honored if you allowed me to serve as your President-Elect for APHL.

Biography
Tammy Theisen has been in public health for over 30 years and is currently serving as the Laboratory Director of the Saginaw County Department of Public Health in Michigan. Tammy earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Medical Technology with a minor in Chemistry and Biomedical Sciences from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan. She became ASCP registered after her internship at Flint Osteopathic Hospital in Flint, Michigan.

Saginaw County is a unique area serving a population of almost 1.4 million residents from both rural and urban communities. SCDPHL is an LRN Lab and a Regional Laboratory for the Michigan Department of Public Health. The laboratory provides the following testing services - STD, food borne outbreaks, clinical, which includes testing for substance abuse, and environmental.

Under Tammy’s leadership, the SCDPHL transformed from a single county laboratory to a Regional Laboratory, increasing the complexity and volume of testing. She facilitated the implementation of a LIMS, introduced new technology for both clinical and environmental testing and has implemented insurance billing to increase revenue. In addition to the high complexity lab responsibilities, she is also the Laboratory Director for the SCDPH clinics, and serves as Technical Consultant for several other Michigan counties, helping them meet and comply with CLIA requirements. Tammy serves on Saginaw County's outbreak investigation team, has been a leader with their County's strategic plan for the past nine years, and mentors quality improvement projects for their Health Department.

Tammy joined APHL in 2003. She is currently representing the local laboratories on the Board of Directors filling an eight month term left vacant by Mary Sue Kitchen. She is the Board liaisons for both the Environmental Science Committee and the Membership and Recognition Committee.
Tammy is a member of APHL’s Local Lab Council, and the Knowledge Management Committee where she continues to bring the local lab perspective to the tables.

**Secretary-Treasurer**

**Secretary-Treasurer Candidate (Unopposed)**

Bill Whitmar, MS
Laboratory Director
Missouri State Public Health Laboratory
Jefferson City, MO

**Statement of Purpose**

Public service has been the focus of my life for 40 years. For the majority of those years I have devoted my life to serve public health and of course public health laboratories.

The extraordinary opportunity before me now is again to be considered for the post of Secretary-Treasurer for the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). Serving on the Finance Committee since 2012, I have had the honor of serving with many wonderful APHL staff, members and specifically several past APHL Secretary- Treasurers: David Butcher; Dr. Judith Lovchik and Dr. Chris Atchison. Each one has imparted upon me the experience that I feel meet the requirements for holding the position of Secretary-Treasurer. Those experiences are complementary to those that are gained by duties of operating a large public health laboratory.

It is my desire to bring my experiences to the Association’s Secretary-Treasurer position and continue the trend of past Secretary-Treasurers whereby the Association’s funds are received timely, disbursed appropriately, tracked and the audits are above reproach.

At this point in time, the future of public health funding does seem unclear while public health services remain as vitally important as ever, thus it is as imperative as ever to ensure that the Association’s appropriations are managed capably.

Thank you.

Bill Whitmar

**Biography**

**Staff member of MSPHL since 1989**
- Laboratory Director- 8 years
- Interim Laboratory Director- 3 years
- Assistant/Deputy Laboratory Director- 3 years
- Emergency Response Manager- 3 years
- Breath Alcohol Scientist and Manager- 12 years

**APHL Committees:**
- 2012-Current, Finance Committee Member
• 2010 Laboratory Standards and Systems Committee
• 2010 Nominations Committee member for Officers and Boards
• 2010 Public Health Laboratory Accreditations Committee Member
• 2007-2009 Public Health Emerging Leader, First Cohort Member

Other notables:
• **Facilitator**, CDC/FBI Joint Criminal and Epidemiological Investigation Workshop Series
  o 2009-Current
• **International Association for Chemical Testing (IACT)**
  o 2000-2002 President
  o 1998-2000 Vice President
  o 1994-1998 Executive Board Member
  o 1993-1998 Various Committee memberships

  **Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy Instructor**
  • 1999-2002

  **United States Department of Commerce Delegate to International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) - Paris, France**
  • 1992-1998

  **United States Department of Transportation, National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) Advisor**
  • 1993

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE (One seat open)**

**Member-at-Large Candidate (Unopposed)**

Richard Steece, PhD,D(ABMM)
Laboratory Director
Tennessee Division of Laboratory Services
Nashville, TN

**Statement of Purpose**

I am very pleased to be nominated for the Public Health Institutional State seat for the APHL Board of Directors. As a past State Public Health Laboratory Director and the current Public Health Laboratory Director for the State of Tennessee I have seen one major consistency in the PHLS over the last few decades and that consistency has been change. We have seen changes over the last decades with emerging or reemerging infections, SARS, MERS, Ebola, Chikungunya, Zika, Multiple Antibiotic Resistance microorganisms, and etc. We have seen changes and challenges in our workforce as the “baby boomers” retire and we struggle to find replacements. We have increased pressure from new Rules and Regulations and dealing with Federal Regulatory Agencies. We have new technologies that are replacing older established technologies and the issue of how to blend or replace the old with the new. We have experienced budget issues, both local and Federal, political issues related
to competition between the public and private sector, and the list of challenges continues to evolve.

I believe I would bring a unique perspective to serve the membership of APHL and the Board of Directors. I actually began my career working at the bench in the PHLs of Minnesota and New Mexico. In addition, to working in multiple state Public Health Laboratories I have worked for the Association of Public Health Laboratories, and directly with all city, county, and state PHLS as the Laboratory Coordinator of the CDC National Infertility Prevention Project. In addition, I would bring my years of experience dealing with regulatory agencies such as CMS and FDA along with my long standing relationships in dealing with National and International Diagnostic Manufacturers. I truly believe the old adage “united we stand, divided we fall” and that is certainly true with the Association of Public Health Laboratories, we have strength in numbers. We are reaching out more every year to harness the power of the APHL as a true PH entity nationally as well as internationally. We have the individual strengths of our membership, our committees, our partners, and new expanding regional collaborations that will be integral to move us into the future. If I am elected to the Board of Directors I pledge to continue to provide guidance to the organization in its move into the always exciting but unknown future.

**Biography**

Dr. Richard Steece currently serves as the Director of the Tennessee Division of Laboratory Services in Nashville, TN, a consolidated laboratory serving Public Health and Environmental agencies in the state. The Division of Laboratory Services also has a regional Public Health Laboratory in Knoxville, TN under Dr. Steece. He has more than 40 years of experience in Public Health Laboratories in Minnesota (Assistant Director), New Mexico and South Dakota (Laboratory Director). In addition, he had worked for the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) for nine years as a Science Advisor and as a Consultant to the Centers for Disease Control National Infertility Prevention Project for seven years. He has also worked internationally and provided support for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Association of Public Health Laboratories, the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute and U.S. Department of the Interior projects in Asia, the South Pacific, United States Territories and Europe. He is a board-certified Diplomate of the American Academy of Microbiology (ASM) and holds a PhD from the University of New Mexico and Bachelor’s/Master’s degrees from South Dakota State University. He has authored numerous publications and has presented technical and public health lectures and seminars at locations across the United States. He currently serves as a member of the Infectious Disease Committee, the Global Health Committee, and chairs the Sexually Transmitted Disease Subcommittee for APHL.