



Leonard Scinto, MT(ASCP)SC,DLM, is currently employed at North Shore Medical Center in Miami, FL, a Tenet Healthcare Facility, and holds the title of Director of Laboratory Services. Previously, from 2008-2014, Leonard held the position of Director of Laboratory Services, while working at Norwalk

Hospital, Norwalk, CT.

Leonard completed his MPA in Health/Health Care Administration/Management from New York University in 1990, and received his Master's in Medical Biology in 1981 from Long Island University. He also earned a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Biology/Chemical Sciences with High Honors from the University of Bridgeport in 1976, and is a graduate Yale-New Haven Hospital School of Medical Technology; where he received the David Seligson Award.

Mr. Scinto has been published in the Journal of Hospital Cost Accounting for "Methods of Laboratory Cost Accounting"; presented a poster abstract at the ASCP National Meeting titled "Developing a Visual Monitor for Test Turnaround Time Improvement," and currently serves on the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Advisory Board at Miami Dade College, Miami, FL.

### What did receiving the BOC Lab Hero Award mean to you?

"I was humbled when I learned that I was selected as Laboratory Hero. To be selected and recognized by the ASCP/BOC our national certifying organization is an amazing honor."

### How did your friends, family colleagues, etc., react to the news that you had received a 2020 BOC Lab Hero Award?

"My son Matthew, saw the announcement of my selection as Lab Hero on Facebook. He shared it on Facebook. It was amazing to see the wonderful comments and well wishes posted on social media. He later told me that I received over 300 likes on the posting."

### Everyone gets BOC certification for a different reason, what's your story?

"I graduated with degree in Biology. I was heading down the path for a medical or pharmacy career. Two weeks after I graduated from the University of Bridgeport with my BA, my Dad had an unexpected myocardial infarction at work and died. It was a great loss to my family and myself. I took a year off from school to sort things out. I was fortunate to find a position as a lab assistant at a local medical laboratory. I fell in love with the work. Dr. Frank Zeoli, PhD, the laboratory owner and director, encouraged me to return to school and pursue a career in medical laboratory science. I subsequently enrolled in a Master's Program in Medical Biology at Long Island University (CW Post Campus, Greenvale, NY) where I learned about the ASCP and the Board of Registry [now the BOC]. As part of my master's degree, I applied to several hospital-based medical technology programs so I would be able to meet the requirements to sit for the ASCP Medical Technologist [now the ASCP Medical Laboratory Scientist] exam. I was accepted at the Yale-New Haven program where I flourished. It was the best 12 months spent in my educational career.

I still remember the day I received the letter from the ASCP BOR that I passed the exam and could use the credentials MT (ASCP) after my name. I was so excited. Ready to get my career started.

Over the next several years, I continued down the certification process and earned a Specialist in Clinical Chemistry SC (ASCP). Later, after graduating from the Wagner School at New York University with an MPA in Health Policy and Administration, to demonstrate my newly acquired management knowledge, I sat for and was awarded my Diplomat in Laboratory Management, DLM (ASCP).

For me the BOC credential was the way for me to demonstrate my knowledge and competency in the clinical laboratory profession. It also allowed me to network and to join with other ASCP credentialed professionals on focus groups and at national meetings.”

### **Why did you choose Lymphoma and Leukemia Society as your BOC Lab Hero charity?**

“I chose the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). I am a cancer survivor. I have Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. I participated in an experimental Clinical Trial treatment 15 years ago. It has slowed down the progression of the disease. I learned about this trial thru LLS. This donation will help to support new research and provide patient education for newly diagnosed patients. The donation will be put to great use.”

### **What message would you like to send to all of the medical laboratory professionals around the world this Lab Week?**

“We are all Laboratory Heroes. Over the past year, the pandemic placed an intense focus on SARS-CoV-2 testing. A spotlight was placed on our profession and illuminated the important role our laboratorians play in patient care. Over my career, I have worked with so many dedicated laboratory professionals. Our profession is so dynamic. It has been and continues to be a great journey learning and growing with our ever-changing technology landscape. This is what continues to light the passion in me about my life’s work. To my fellow Lab Heroes: Stay passionate about the work you do and the lives we continue to save and heal. We are the Champions of the Health Care Team.”

