

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020



ASCP
BOARD OF
CERTIFICATION®

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**Providing excellence in
certification of laboratory
professionals on behalf
of patients worldwide.**



**Susan Johnson, MSTM,
MT(ASCP)SBB^{CM}**

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

A huge shout out to all laboratory professionals, now more than ever! During the pandemic, it is inspiring to see everyone adapting to the constantly changing environment while continuing to take care of patients.

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) is working to ensure we have newly credentialed healthcare professionals joining our amazing professions. BOC staff continue to work remotely to ensure individuals can take their certification or qualification exams. New processes and procedures have been developed or are in the process of changing to ensure timely turnaround from application to test taking. For example, transcripts are being accepted electronically from Parchment and National Student Clearinghouse.

Pearson Testing Centers continue to take appointments for all certification exams. In recent weeks, due to updated government guidance, test delivery capacity has been reduced or restricted to programs considered essential services, which includes the ASCP BOC. Pearson continues to adapt to ensure all guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention are followed for exam takers. Since the pandemic started, the choice of test dates and locations have been limited. We appreciate everyone's patience and persistence as we work through this difficult

time. While everyone can schedule their exam, they may not be able to schedule on the preferred date and at their preferred location. Individuals may have to change their test location in order to get their preferred test date or change their test date to get their preferred location.

The Board of Governors (BOG) business meeting was held virtually on September 11. It was our second virtual BOG meeting, as we held our spring board meeting virtually on April 3. BOG updates regarding revised examination content guidelines, PBT and MLA application requirements, new eligibility routes for the Qualification in Biorepository Science (QBRS) and the transitioning of the certification in Donor Phlebotomy to a qualification exam can be found in this newsletter.

We are pleased to announce a new certification, the Doctorate in Medical Laboratory Immunology (DLMI). The exam committee is currently working on developing the eligibility, content guideline, reading lists and also test questions. We anticipate the launch of this certification to be in the latter part of 2022.

We have awarded the grant for the Value of Medical Laboratory Science Education and ASCP Certification for Medical Laboratory Professionals. This grant is to examine the efficacy of certification and medical laboratory science education on testing personnel performance. Final details are being worked out, and additional information on this study will be shared in upcoming newsletters.

I am very happy to announce a collaboration between the ASCP BOC and the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) on a position paper titled, "Standardizing the Professional Title of Medical Laboratory Scientists." This paper was developed under the leadership of the

past chair, Susan Harrington, PhD, D(ABMM), MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, and Executive Director Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, and the tireless efforts of board members: Linda Smith, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}BB^{CM} and Kathy Finnegan, MS, MT(ASCP)SH^{CM}. This endeavor began as a discussion at a 2018 board meeting and was in development well before the COVID-19 pandemic began. The primary purpose of this paper is to address the inconsistency of professional nomenclature and the impact this has had on the profession and our professional identity. As demonstrated during the current pandemic, the public and other healthcare professionals lack an understanding of who medical laboratory scientists are and the critical nature of their work and its impact on diagnosis and treatment. In addition, these groups do not comprehend the level of education and training necessary to achieve competency as a Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS). Consequently, there is minimal recognition from the healthcare team, hospital/laboratory administration, government agencies and the public. This affects recruitment and retention for the profession. The position paper is posted on the [BOC website](#). It has been endorsed by each of our Sponsoring, Participating and Collaborating societies, everyone who represents laboratory professionals! I encourage you to read the paper and spread the word. A multi-organizational task force is being formed to develop a plan to disseminate the information. More to come.

In closing, thank you again for everything you are doing to ensure the patients we serve receive the best laboratory focused services possible. Take care and best of health, we need everyone!

CERTIFICATION UPDATES

Update from the Board of Governors Meeting

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) Board of Governors met via Zoom on September 11. Editorial changes were made to many eligibility routes in order to clarify language and for consistency. In addition, ASCPⁱ Specialist and Histotechnologist eligibilities were revised to allow for candidates with either ASCP or ASCPⁱ certification to apply. Updated eligibility requirements can be found on the website at www.ascp.org/certification.

Revised Examination Content Guidelines

Examination Content Guidelines for the MB/SMB, SCYM, and QIHC exams administered beginning January 1, 2021, have been revised. The revised content guidelines are currently available on the [Get Credentialed page](#) of the BOC website.

Update for PBT and MLA Application Requirements

An applicant must be able to verify that they meet all eligibility requirements, including proof of high school graduation or equivalent. A percentage of applications are audited monthly.

Beginning July 1, 2020, any PBT, DPT, or MLA applications that are audited will require the applicant to submit official verification of high school graduation or equivalency in order to be eligible to sit for the examination.

Beginning January 1, 2021, all applicants will be required to submit official transcripts to verify high school graduation or equivalency in order to meet the eligibility requirements. Acceptance into a program or institution does not verify the meeting of this academic requirement.

Complete information is available on the ASCP BOC website at www.ascp.org/boc/transcript. If you have questions about verifying high school graduation or equivalency, please email us at PDInfo@ascp.org.

New eligibility routes available for the Qualification in Biorepository Science, QBRS

Additional eligibility routes have been added for the QBRS to allow for a wider audience of applicants. For complete information, visit www.ascp.org/boc/qbrs.

Certification in Donor Phlebotomy Transitioning to a Qualification in 2022

The current certification for Technologist in Donor Phlebotomy, DPT(ASCP) will be transitioning to the Qualification in Donor Phlebotomy, QDP, as of January 2022. Complete information is available at: www.ascp.org/boc/dpt and www.ascp.org/boc/qdp.

PROGRAM DIRECTORS CORNER

The PDAC Committee has been very busy with our Facebook presence. Currently, we have 491 members, with membership increasing over the past several months. The venue has been a great tool for sharing ideas with other program directors, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many educators have shared their ideas and methods of how to teach the art of science virtually and offered many resources to give quality education to their students. The PDAC Committee monitor postings to enable them to post timely and relevant topics every month. The Facebook page has been a great asset for new and

experienced program directors. It is a wonderful way to share ideas, and many program directors have posed questions that are answered with perspectives from several individuals. It has become a place for conversation as well as sharing information. Topics include molecular biology resources, EEV reminders, pass/fail grades and information regarding CAT exams.

What's coming? Presently, the PDAC Committee is developing a plan to host a virtual event to support and mentor new program directors. Laurie Gillard, MS,

MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SBB^{CM}, Ericka Hendrix, PhD, MB(ASCP)^{CM}, and Susan Graham, MS, MT(ASCP)SH^{CM} have formed a task force to develop the event, which is planned for the early part of next year using the Zoom platform. The event will discuss topics for new program directors. There is a plan to have breakout rooms, so not only will it be more personal but networking can take place among the group.

If you are a program director, faculty member or educational/clinical coordinator and not a member, please think about joining the [BOC Program Director Facebook page](#).

ASCP BOC IS NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

Connect with ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) staff, laboratory professionals, students, program directors and others through the BOC's Instagram channel. The Instagram channel features weekly posts and tips on subjects related to certification,

qualification, CMP and much more! This is a place where you can ask questions and interact directly with BOC staff, experienced volunteers and other laboratory professionals on such subjects!



[Click here to follow us.](#)

NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE BOC UAE ADVISORY BOARD



Aaron Han, MD, PhD

Aaron Han, MD, PhD, is a consultant pathologist with special interest in hematology and coagulation disorders, point of care testing and informatics. He received an MD and a PhD from the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. Dr. Han is American Board of Pathology certified in anatomic and clinical pathology and holds a special qualification in hematology. He is on the faculty at the Mohammed Bin Rashid University School of Medicine in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and is also the Vice President of the Emirates Pathology Society.

Upon receiving confirmation of his appointment to the UAE Advisory Board, Dr. Han said he is very excited to be part of ASCP Board of Certification's (BOC) international outreach efforts, and he looks forward to promoting BOC certification in the UAE and around the globe.

For more information on the UAE Advisory Board, and to learn more about the BOC's advisory board system, [click here](#).

2020 BOARD OF CERTIFICATION AWARD HONOREES

Every year, the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) presents the Distinguished Service Award to volunteers who have made significant contributions toward the BOC mission to provide excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide. The recipients for 2020 are Patty Eschliman, MHA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}DLM^{CM} and Lee Hilborne, MD, MPH, FASCP, DLM(ASCP)^{CM}.

Ms. Eschliman and Dr. Hilborne were to have been honored at a luncheon in Austin, Texas, during the BOG fall meeting in September. When the meeting had to be converted to a virtual event, no award celebration was held. In turn, the ASCP BOC Board of Governors has extended an invitation for Ms. Eschliman and Dr. Hilborne to join them at the 2021 BOC

Award celebration October 30, 2021 in Boston, Mass.

In addition to the Distinguished Service Award, five volunteers received a BOC Board of Governors Service Award in 2020. The volunteers were recognized for having made noteworthy contributions during their tenure as a committee or Board member and received an engraved rosewood clock. The 2020 recipients of the BOG Service Award include the following volunteers:

- **David Chhieng, MD, FASCP**, was recognized for his service on the Board of Governors from 2010–2019.
- **Michelle Nelsen, MS, HTL(ASCP)^{CM}** was recognized for her service on the Histotechnology Examination Committee from 2012–2019.

- **Ericka Hendrix, PhD, MB(ASCP)^{CM}** was recognized for her service on the Molecular Biology Examination Committee from 2011–2019.
- **Liz Sharratt, PA(ASCP)^{CM}** was recognized for her service on the Pathologists' Assistant Examination Committee from 2012–2019.
- **Michael Bowling, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SH^{CM}** was recognized for his service on the Hematology Examination Committee from 2012–2019.

Volunteers are the cornerstone of the BOC, and it is through them that the mission can be fulfilled.

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NEW BOC BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEMBERS

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) Board of Governors (BOG) welcomed three new representatives at the BOG fall meeting on September 11, 2020.



Ericka Hendrix, PhD, MB(ASCP)^{CM} joins the Board of Governors as one of the Association of Genetic Technologists, Inc. (AGT) representatives. She is the program director for the Master of

Science in Molecular Pathology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Lubbock, Texas. Dr. Hendrix previously served on the BOC Molecular Biology Examination Committee from 2011–2019.



Barbara McGahey Frain, MS, SCT(ASCP)^{CM} joins the Board of Governors as the American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) representative. She is the program director for the Indiana University School of Medicine, Cytotechnology

Program, based in Indianapolis, Ind. Ms. Frain previously served on the BOC Cytotechnology Exam Committee from 2008–2014.



Lori Schmitt, HT(ASCP)QIHC^{CM} joins the Board of Governors as the National Society for Histotechnology (NSH) representative. She is the education coordinator at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of the

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Ms. Schmitt previously served on the BOC Histotechnology Examination Committee from 2020–2018.

CMP REQUIREMENT UPDATES

Please review the following Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) requirement updates as they may apply to your credential category:

PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT (PA)

Effective 1/1/2022, the PA(ASCP) CMP requirements will increase from 45 to 60 points by adding:

- 15 additional points in advanced anatomic pathology (cancer specimen examination/staging) and
- one point in medical ethics.

The additional point requirement will go into effect for all PAs recertifying on or after January 1, 2022.

ALL CERTIFICATION CATEGORIES

Effective 1/1/2023, ALL certification categories are required to complete:

- one additional point of continuing education in the area of medical ethics (e.g., HIPAA, compliance, confidentiality training).

This will not increase the overall total CMP points required per category. The

additional point requirement will go into effect for all certificants who are recertifying on or after January 1, 2023.

TECHNOLOGIST LEVEL CERTIFICATIONS

Effective 1/1/2024, the number of dedicated CMP points required for all technologist level certifications will:

- increase from two to eight points to be equal to the current CMP requirements for MT/MLS.

This will not increase the overall total number of CMP points required. The additional point requirement will go into effect for all technologist level certificants who are recertifying on or after January 1, 2024.

HISTOTECHNICIAN

Effective 1/1/2024, the number of dedicated

CMP points required in the area of histology, will:

- increase from two to eight points, to be in line with the MLT CMP requirements.

This will not increase the overall total number of CMP points required. The additional point requirement will go into effect for HT certificants who are recertifying on or after January 1, 2024.

ALL QUALIFICATION CATEGORIES

Effective 1/1/2023, qualification CMP requirements will increase from six to eight points by adding:

- one point in laboratory safety and
- one point in medical ethics

The new CMP point requirements will go into effect for those individuals renewing their qualification credential on or after January 1, 2024.

Credential Category	Dedicated points in area of certification	Advanced AP cancer staging	Safety	Medical Ethics	Effective Date
Pathologists' Assistant		15		1	Jan 1, 2022
ALL Certifications				1	Jan 1, 2023
Technologist level: BB, C, CG, CT, H, HTL, I, M, MB	> from 2 to 8				Jan 1, 2024
Histotechnician	> from 2 to 8				Jan 1, 2024
Qualifications			1	1	Jan 1, 2024

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American Society for Microbiology (ASM)

Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA)

National Society for Histotechnology (NSH)

Collaborating Societies

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BOC MISSION

The mission of the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) is to provide excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide.