

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021



ASCP  
BOARD OF  
CERTIFICATION®

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

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**Susan Johnson, MSTM,  
MT(ASCP)SBB<sup>CM</sup>**

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Now, over a year and one half into the pandemic, we are grateful the vaccine has allowed us to begin to return to the new normal in many parts of the world. Witnessing the wonders of science and medicine in the fight against COVID has been incredible. I know we are not there yet and must continue to remain vigilant, but it is hard not to be optimistic.

Congratulations to the graduates who have made it through arguably the toughest year any student has had to face! For all those who have taken one of the exams after studying on your own in this tumultuous year, bravo! We are excited to have all of you entering the workforce!

Thank you to the laboratory professionals and educators for managing through the last year of constant change! Finally, thank you to the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) staff who have continued to work remotely developing new ways to process applications quickly and to ensure our exam banks reflect the knowledge needed to be successful working laboratory professionals.

The pandemic clearly changed all our lives in so many ways. A positive has been the light that has been shown on laboratory professionals. This light has also reflected the ongoing confusion we have around who we are. As I wrote in the November 2020 Chair's Message, a [position paper](#) was written by the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) and the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and endorsed by each of our Sponsoring, Participating and Collaborating societies; everyone who represents laboratory professionals!

A dynamic, multi-organization task force has formed to develop a plan to disseminate the information. Members of the task force include: myself as chair, Kathleen Finnegan, MS, MT(ASCP)SH<sup>CM</sup>, Elaine B. Francis, EdD, Will Finn, MD, MASCP, Susan Harrington, PhD, D(ABMM), MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, Linda Smith, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>BB<sup>CM</sup>, Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, ASCLS representative Kathy Doig, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>SH<sup>CM</sup>, CLMA representative Bonnie Rubin, MBA, MHA, MT(ASCP) and HR professional Clarke Sinclair who recently joined the group. Amy Stroll, SHRM-CP, previously served as our HR professional member (1/2021 – 6/2021).

We have developed the following goals:

1. Develop a taxonomy of laboratory professional titles
2. Communicate the purpose and need for a standardized title.
3. Universal adoption of standardized titles and language by: Educational Institutions; Human Resource Departments; Practitioners; Legislators; Regulators; Government Entities; and Media – professional & popular press.
4. Change BOC credentials to standardized credentials.

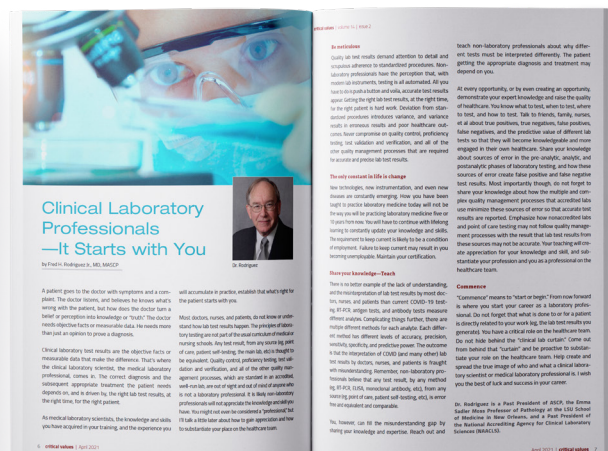
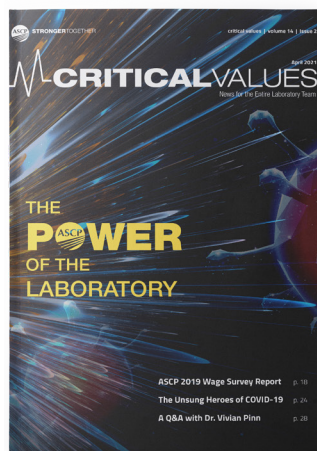
The goal to change BOC credentials to standardized credentials brought a motion to the Board of Governors for BOC staff to begin developing a plan to transition MT(ASCP) to MLS(ASCP). The motion was accepted by the Board, and BOC staff are working on a plan to present to the Board in October.

The examination committees have continued to meet virtually this year and have been hard at work. They are made up of volunteers who are experts in their fields from all laboratory disciplines. Twelve exams were republished in the last year, including CG, DLM, BB/SBB, M/SM, MB/SMB, PBT, QIHC, SCYM & MLA.

A new certification with its associated exam is on the horizon, the Diplomate in Medical Laboratory Immunology (DMLI). The DMLI exam committee is working on developing the question bank. Publishing the first exam is anticipated for the fall of 2022.

The Board of Governors (BOG) board meeting was conducted virtually on April 16. While the BOG has been working hard to serve the BOC, we are excited to hopefully return in person for the fall meeting. Speaking of in person, the ASCP 2021 Annual Meeting will be held both live in Boston and virtually October 27-29.

This is my last message as chair of the BOG and with it, I must say how honored I have been to serve (until October). I could never have imagined what would happen during my term. The dedication of laboratory professionals in meeting the challenges worldwide has been inspiring. I am proud to be part of this amazing profession and will continue to work toward everyone knowing who we are and what we do to help patients!



## CLINICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS—IT STARTS WITH YOU

During Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, you may see such slogans as “Without the lab, you’re only guessing,” and “Medical Laboratory Professionals: Healthcare detectives.” It is true that clinical laboratory test results provide a physician with measurable data allowing for the correct diagnosis for a patient. Medical laboratory scientists use the knowledge and skills acquired in their training in addition to the experience they accumulate in the lab. Fred Rodriguez, MD, FASCP, of the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans and Past President of both ASCP and the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), shares his thoughts on this in [Clinical Laboratory Professionals—It Starts with You](#) in the April issue of *Critical Values*.

## ETHICAL VIOLATIONS IN LABORATORY PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) is reaching out to laboratory managers and human resource personnel for assistance in identifying ethical violations and to ensure that those hiring laboratory personnel are hiring and retaining only certified individuals. Laboratory professionals are held to a universal code of conduct because of their chosen profession. The ASCP BOC “Certification Guidelines for Ethical Behavior for Certificants” addresses everything from patient care to relationships with other colleagues. These guidelines are available in an article [Beware of Ethical Violations in Laboratory Professional Certifications](#) by the BOC Ethics Review Committee that was recently published in *Critical Values*.

## UPDATE FROM THE APRIL 2021 BOC BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The ASCP Board of Certifications (BOC) Board of Governors met via conference call on April 16th. The Board of Governors discussed regular business; no changes were made to eligibility requirements or that will impact programs. The ASCP BOC and ASCP BOC BOG continue to value the work that you do as educators of laboratory professionals.

# FIVE MINUTES WITH JUSTIN WINKLER, BS, CG(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, CYTOGENETICS TECHNOLOGIST

By Annmarie Rupp, CG(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> and Lori Koslosky, CG(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

## What prompted you to take the Technologist in Cytogenetic Exam, CG(ASCP) offered by ASCP Board of Certification?

ACL offered a promotion and raise with part of the qualifications being certified.

## What eligibility route did you use?

I was eligible through Route 2 with a B.A. 45 hrs+ (in a full-service Cytogenetics Laboratory).

## How did you prepare for the exam? How much time did you dedicate to preparing for the exam?

I studied a cytogenetics textbook and glossaries and used a practice exam. My experience in the lab and office was helpful.

## Did becoming certified assist you in your career? If so, how did it assist?

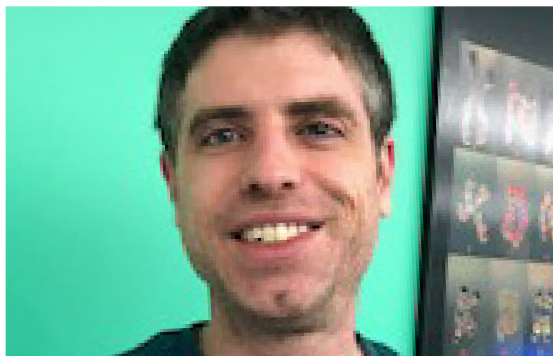
Yes, I received both a promotion and a raise.

## What advice do you have for others considering ASCP BOC as a Cytogenetic Technologist?

Study the definitions of words, and common abnormalities.

## Is there anything else we have not asked that you would like to share regarding becoming a certified Cytogenetic Technologist?

It was challenging, but worth it!



**Justin Winkler, BS, CG(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**

## NAACLS Accredited Cytogenetic Technologist Programs:

### Kennesaw State University

1000 Chastain Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144  
Program Director: Xueya Hauge, PhD  
Phone: (470) 578-6163  
Email: [xhaug@kennesaw.edu](mailto:xhaug@kennesaw.edu)  
[Website](#)

### Northern Michigan University

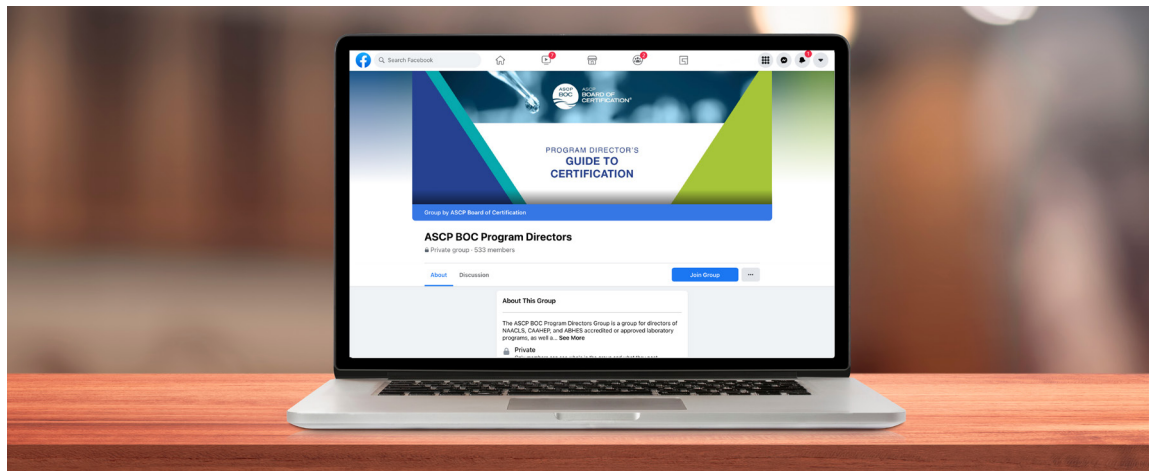
1401 Presque Isle Ave, Marquette, MI 49855  
Program Director: Paul Mann, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>MB<sup>CM</sup>  
Phone: (906) 227-2338  
Email: [pmann@nmu.edu](mailto:pmann@nmu.edu)

### University of Connecticut

Dept of Allied Health Sciences  
358 Mansfield Road, Storrs, CT 06269  
Program Director: Lauren Wilson, MA, CG(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>MB<sup>CM</sup>  
Phone: (860) 486-0044  
Email: [lauren.wilson@uconn.edu](mailto:lauren.wilson@uconn.edu)

### University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

1515 Holcombe Blvd, Unit 2, Houston, TX 77030  
Program Director: Jun Gu MD, PhD, CG(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
Phone: (713) 563-3094  
Email: [jungu@mdanderson.org](mailto:jungu@mdanderson.org)  
[Website](#)



## PDAC TO HOST LIVE EVENTS FOR BOARD OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM DIRECTORS

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) Program Directors Advisory Committee (PDAC) is made up of volunteers with several years of program experience. One of their main roles is to manage the [Program Director's Facebook group](#). They will present several live events over Zoom in the coming months, focusing on the topics that are top of mind to program directors. An event was held on April 20th with a tour of the ASCP BOC website led by Chelsea Pantano, Assistant Manager, Program and Committee Relations of the BOC. This video will be available shortly on the website. The next live event will be held this fall. Continue to watch the [Facebook group](#) for complete information.

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## UPDATE FOR PBT AND MLA APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for Phlebotomy (PBT) and Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA) must be able to verify that they meet all eligibility requirements, including proof of high school graduation or equivalent.

At this time, **all** applicants are 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 Board of Certification website at [www.ascp.org/boc/transcript](http://www.ascp.org/boc/transcript). If you have questions about verifying high school graduation or equivalency, please email us at [PDInfo@ascp.org](mailto:PDInfo@ascp.org).

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## CERTIFICATION IN DONOR PHLEBOTOMY TRANSITIONING TO A QUALIFICATION IN 2022

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





### International Journey: Kum Lam Chan, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Kum Lam Chan, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, or “Martin” as some call him, is a clinical laboratory professional originally from Venezuela who has worked hard to succeed as a laboratory professional in the United States.

Years after receiving his clinical laboratory degree in Venezuela, he moved to the U.S. to find that “obtaining a BOC credential will provide you with the professional confidence that tells you, you are not a foreign individual, but a professional who is qualified and who is also meeting all the standards to work in the US.”

Kum Lam is very candid about the fact that his decision to pursue and attain a BOC credential has provided him with “many opportunities to develop himself as a professional in the U.S.,” allowing him to qualify for the most competitive jobs in his field. By means of his efforts, knowledge and perseverance, Kum Lam has been able to work in several States (e.g., California, Georgia and New York), equipped to apply the knowledge and skills gained and cemented due to his BOC credential journey.

To learn more about Kum Lam’s pursuit of a medical laboratory science career in the U.S., and his MLS(ASCP) journey, watch video [here](#).



### 2020 ASCP Board of Certification Philippines Report

The ASCP BOC recently completed a report on the international certification market in the Philippines. An [executive summary of the report](#), along with a link to the full report, is available via *Critical Values* online.



### COVID-19 specimens in Taiwan

ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) Taiwan Advisory Board member, Yao-Lung Tsai, PhD, was recently featured in *Critical Values* for his [article](#) on the handling and operation regulations of suspected COVID-19 specimens in Taiwan. Read the full article [here](#).



## QBRS EXAMINATION VIDEO INTERVIEW

Are you interested in attaining a Qualification in Biorepository Science (QBRS) qualification? Would you like to have a better understanding of what it takes to prepare and sit for the QBRS qualification examination? Now is your chance to hear directly from an actual QBRS qualification holder about their advanced examination experience. To watch the full interview go to <https://bit.ly/2VGefhX> and scroll to “Qualification Exam Video Interviews.”



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Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT)

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)

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American Association of Pathologists' Assistants (AAPA)

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