

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



ASCP  
BOARD OF  
CERTIFICATION®

**The gold standard in  
global certification for all  
laboratory professionals.**

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**Susan Graham,  
MS, MT(ASCP)SH<sup>CM</sup>**

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

At the end of October, the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) Board of Governors (BOG) met in person for the first time in two years, under the leadership of Susan Johnson, MSTM, MT(ASCP)SBB<sup>CM</sup>. While this meeting marked the end of Sue's term as Chair, I would like to acknowledge the magnitude of the challenges she faced. Conducting the business of this organization virtually required talent, tenacity, professionalism and a sense of humor, all characteristics that Sue personifies. Her leadership has been steadfast and inspiring as we have navigated the course during this pandemic. As she leaves her role as Chair, we are all thankful for her energy and poise. Assuming the role of Chair at the end of the meeting is a bit daunting, but I feel prepared and ready thanks to her mentoring and guidance.

I feel compelled to comment further on our ability to gather at the ASCP Annual Meeting in Boston. I couldn't help but appreciate the moments recaptured when meeting face-to-face, the gathering time over a cup of coffee where you could share comments with friends without going to a "breakout room," the sound of the gavel calling the meeting to order, watching people sit back in their chairs after a rousing discussion, and feeling satisfied that their views were represented. And, while we were masked out of respect for one another, I found that we have learned how to smile with our eyes.

The business of the meeting was both considerable and significant. While the details can be found in the following pages, I'd like to highlight some items. The work continues on the standardization of nomenclature for Medical Laboratory Scientists. The collaborative efforts of the ASCP BOC and the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) have given rise to a plan, approved by the ASCP BOC BOG, that includes the transition of MT(ASCP) and MT(ASCP<sup>i</sup>) credentials to MLS(ASCP) and MLS(ASCP<sup>i</sup>), respectively. It cannot be overstated how unified efforts such as these bring solidarity and recognition to our profession. Consistent with this transition is the approval of new names for

certifications in the area of Cytology. Cytologist will replace Cytotechnologist and Specialist in Cytology will replace Specialist in Cytotechnology beginning in January 2022.

Annually, the Board of Governors recognizes individuals who have served the Board of Certification with distinction. BOC Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Patty Eschliman, MHA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>DLM<sup>CM</sup>, and Lee Hilborne, MD, MPH, FASCP, DLM(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, for 2020. For 2021, BOC Distinguished Service Awards were presented to Amy Groszbach, MEd, MLT(ASCP) MB<sup>CM</sup>, Susan Harrington, PhD, D(ABMM), MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, Lena Spencer, HTL(ASCP)QIHC<sup>CM</sup>, and Terry Taff, MA, MT(ASCP)SM. It is a joy to honor and celebrate their contributions and accomplishments.

Two members of the ASCP BOC Board of Governors completed their tenure on the Board. Always a bittersweet moment of celebration and sadness, we are grateful to Laura Bilodeau, MD, FASCP, and Kathleen Finnegan, MS, MT(ASCP)SH<sup>CM</sup>, for their substantial and remarkable service to the ASCP Board of Certification and the Board of Governors. As they leave the Board, we welcome new members Rex Famitangco, MSc, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>QLC<sup>CM</sup>, and Andreana Rivera, MD, FASCP. We look forward to the contributions of our new colleagues.

As the new year unfolds, the exam committees will meet to continue the important work of reviewing and revising the components of the certification and qualification exams. As the landscape of the clinical laboratory changes, so must the certification process to ensure the competency of the individuals implementing those changes. In closing, I hope 2022 provides a safe, healthy, and successful new year.

## CMP COVID-RELATED CONTINUING EDUCATION

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) recognizes the vital work of laboratory professionals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the critical professional development it necessitated. We heard your concerns about obtaining continuing education during the pandemic due to increased workloads and limited availability of in-person training or conferences. This prompted the BOC to develop a time-limited opportunity to use COVID-related activities completed between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021 for up to 12 CMP points towards recertification. These points should be self-entered as a single CMP activity and allocated under “related areas of interest” on the online declaration form.

### Criteria to Claim Credits for the CMP

- To be accepted, COVID-related continuing education (CE) activities must have been completed between **March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021** (and be within your three-year CMP cycle).
- Activities must be work-related and new, additional, or out-of-specialty skills or activities.
- Your Manager/Supervisor must review, verify, and sign-off on the completed activities indicated on the CMP COVID-related CE Claim Form.
- The maximum number of CMP points accepted on the Claim Form is 12.
- These CMP points may be used for **related areas of interest** only.
- The CMP COVID-related CE Claim Form may be used one-time only and for a single CMP cycle.

For more information about this opportunity please refer to this link: <http://www.ascp.org/cmp/covid-points>

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## NEW CMP REQUIREMENTS FOR PATHOLOGISTS’ ASSISTANT (PA) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022

New Pathologists’ Assistant (PA) CMP requirements go into effect January 1, 2022.

The new requirements will be revised by adding 15 new points specifically related to cancer cases and their staging and 1 point in medical ethics for a total of 60 points. The new requirements apply to all PA(ASCP) certificants.

### The new CMP point distribution will be as follows:

- 1 point in laboratory or patient safety (i.e. quality control, quality assurance)
- 20 points in anatomic pathology
- 15 points in advanced anatomic pathology (cancer specimen examination/staging) **NEW**
- 1 point in medical ethics **NEW**
- 23 points in area(s) of anatomic pathology, management, education or other clinical specialties

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) accepts continuing education (CE) for recertification from all sources, as long as they meet the requirements of the program. As a CE provider, ASCP continues to work on developing educational content to support the CMP.

The American Association of Pathologists’ Assistants (AAPA), is well equipped to offer these additional required credits. Please visit their website for further information: [www.pathassist.org](http://www.pathassist.org)

In addition, outside sources that meet the definition of “advanced cancer anatomic pathology” (hospital tumor boards or similar medical conferences) would also qualify for self-recorded CE credits for the additional PA CMP requirements.

## BOC International Advisory Boards

As part of our efforts to contribute globally to the highest standards of patient safety, the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) works to establish advisory boards in all countries requesting additional support and representation. International Advisory Board members are typically program directors of clinical laboratory educational programs, laboratory supervisors, and/or representatives from a country or region's clinical laboratory society.

### 2021 BOC International Advisory Board Appointments

- **India:** Ajay Kumar Prajapati, PhD, and Deepika Varsha, GS, CG(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, joined the India Advisory Board in June 2021.
- **Korea:** Kyung Jin Cho, PhD, stepped down as Chair of the S. Korea Advisory Board in April 2021 although he will remain a member of the Board. Dr. Cho's successor (new chair) is Hyo Chan Kang, PhD.
- **Pakistan:** Muhammad Saeed, MPhil, and Noore Saba, MBBS, MSPH, MPhil, joined the Pakistan Advisory Board in May 2021.
- **Saudi Arabia:** Waleed Tamimi, BSc, PhD, SC(ASCP), joined the Saudi Arabia Advisory Board in May 2021.

### BOC Participates in the 70th Annual Congress

The Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT) a collaborating society of the BOC, held their annual congress (virtually) from May 15-June 14, 2021. As part of the conference, JAMT provided the BOC with a virtual booth, and made the Japanese version of the BOC's international certification brochure available for download via the congress website. The total number of participants for the congress was 7,168.

In addition to its collaborating society agreement with JAMT, the BOC also has a



Participants of the ASCP<sup>i</sup> seminar in Islamabad, Pakistan.

partnership with JAMT, and Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC-Maywood, IL), to arrange for Japanese laboratory professionals to visit a laboratory in the U.S. for one week. The 2019 JAMT visitor, Mari Kunihiro, H(ASCP), recently earned her International Technologist in Hematology H(ASCP) credential. Since 2015, when this partnership was established, four out of six Japanese visitors have earned a BOC credential.



### BOC International Certification Seminar in Islamabad

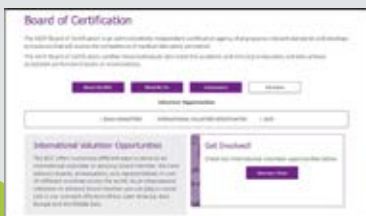
An ASCP<sup>i</sup> seminar was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on August 17, 2021. The seminar was organized by the Pakistan Advisory Board and included an overview of how to navigate the ASCP BOC examination application process. Approximately 50 people attended the seminar.

During the seminar, Usman Waheed, PhD,

and Chair of the Pakistan Advisory Board, said that the medical laboratory profession is becoming one of the most appealing professions in Pakistan. He then emphasized that BOC certification is a major asset for any Pakistani laboratory professional who wants to demonstrate that they have the knowledge and skills to perform essential tasks in the laboratory. Technical experts who also delivered talks on the scope of the medical laboratory profession during the seminar included: Dr. Noor e Saba, MPhil; Dr Akhlaq Wazeer, MPhil; Dr. Muhammad Rehan, and Muhammad Saeed, MPhil.

### BOC Participates at the II Latin American Conference for Biomedicine and Laboratory Science

The Southern Brazilian Association for Biomedicine invited the BOC to participate at their virtual conference held on June 8-10, 2021. The session titled "Opportunities for Brazilian Biomedics in the USA" shared information on ASCP BOC international certification and its benefits, both in the U.S. and abroad. Participants showed particular interest in the application requirements and process, as well as recommendations for preparing for the exams.



## INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The BOC offers numerous different ways to serve as an international volunteer or advisory board member. We have advisory boards, ambassadors, and representatives in more than 30 different countries worldwide. As an international volunteer or advisory board member, you can play a crucial role in our outreach efforts in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. Check out international volunteer opportunities with the BOC at [https://www.ascp.org/content/board-of-certification/about-boc#advisory\\_boards](https://www.ascp.org/content/board-of-certification/about-boc#advisory_boards).

## UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) Board of Governors met October 30–31, 2021. Several motions were passed that impact eligibility requirements, as summarized below. **All updated eligibility requirements will be available on the ASCP BOC website by early 2022.** [www.ascp.org/certification](http://www.ascp.org/certification)

### Technologist in Cytogenetics

- Route 3 of the U.S. and International CG(ASCP)/CG(ASCP<sup>®</sup>) was updated to require six months, rather than nine months, of experience. This was to make all routes equivalent for this category of examination.

### Cytologist and Specialist in Cytology

- “Cytologist” has been adopted as new terminology. The existing credential title of Cytotechnologist [CT(ASCP)/CT(ASCP<sup>®</sup>)] is changed to Cytologist [CT(ASCP)/CT(ASCP<sup>®</sup>)] and Specialist in Cytotechnology [SCT(ASCP)/SCT(ASCP<sup>®</sup>)] is changed to Specialist in Cytology [SCT(ASCP)/SCT(ASCP<sup>®</sup>)]. This will go into effect in January 2022. For further information, please [click here for the ASCP ePolicy article](#).
- **Specialist in Cytology** - A new route was added to the SCT(ASCP) examination to allow someone who graduated from a master’s level CAAHEP accredited cytology program and completion of a Master’s degree to sit for the exam. This route will be available for application in January 2022.

### Histotechnician and Histotechnologist

- For both the U.S. HT(ASCP) and HTL(ASCP), a route was added allowing for members of the military who completed a military program, and who have the appropriate science coursework, to sit for the exam. These routes will be available for application in January 2022.
- **Histotechnician** - Route 1 of the International HT(ASCP) had added clarity regarding the education required to be eligible under this route.

### Medical Laboratory Technician and Medical Laboratory Scientist

- For both MLT(ASCP) and MLS(ASCP), the route requiring CLA(ASCP) certification will be discontinued as of January 1, 2023. Information about this change will be posted to the website in January 2022.

### Qualification in Biorepository Science

- (QBRS) had clarity added to the type and amount of science coursework required for eligibility.

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

The current certification for Donor Phlebotomy Technician, DPT(ASCP) will be transitioning to the Qualification in Donor Phlebotomy, QDP, as of January 1, 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).

## REVISED MLT AND MLS EXAMINATION CONTENT GUIDELINES

Examination Content Guidelines for the MLT and MLS exams administered beginning January 1, 2022, have been revised. The revised content guidelines are currently available on the [Get Credentialed](#) page of the BOC website.



# MOLECULAR BIOLOGY CERTIFICATION: RECOMBINANT DNA TECHNOLOGY TO MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS - TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY INSPIRED BY PAST DISCOVERIES

by Lela Buckingham, PhD, MSc, MB(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>DLM<sup>CM</sup>

Nucleic acid testing techniques used in the clinical laboratory are based on momentous discoveries leading to what was called recombinant DNA technology. Even with their futuristic visions, early scientists may not have predicted what we take for granted as routine work today. Imagine the reactions of historical scientists to our current procedures. The Greek physician Hippocrates (400-377 BC) is credited with the initiation of diagnostic testing of patient body fluids. He may not have realized the true wealth of information in these materials, stored inside of nucleated cells in the form of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), carried by ribonucleic acid (RNA) to be translated into protein and ultimately the phenotypes he observed. We can only wonder how prescient his vision of the information held in body tissues and fluids actually was.

The form of genetic information was first proposed in 1866 by Gregor Mendel as discrete units of inheritance. Mendel would likely be gratified that his theories have been the basis of molecular genetic testing. Fredrich Meischer, who first isolated nucleic acid from cells in 1869, would be intrigued by automatic nucleic acid isolation systems currently used and our ability to obtain his "nuclein" from unlikely sources such as preserved tissue and touched objects. Walther Flemming would certainly appreciate the intricate fluorescent imaging technology that allows medical laboratory scientists to observe and study the mitotic chromosomes that he first described in 1882.

Scientific interest in nucleic acid analysis grew through the late 1940s to early 1950s. After their experiments in the 1940s on DNA as the genetic material, Oswald Avery, Frederick Griffith, Maclyn McCarty, and Colin McCleod might still be fascinated with its use for detection and identification of microorganisms and how disease risk could be traced through DNA. Study of DNA was highlighted by the first description of its molecular structure published by James Watson and Francis Crick in 1951. Rosalind Franklin's famous X-ray diffraction images were key to the solution of the double helix. What would she think of the use of computerized sequence analysis to

instantly predict effects of amino acid substitutions on protein structure and function? Who among the many contributors to the discovery of messenger RNA 10 years later would have predicted the use of a modified RNA as a therapeutic vaccine? Werner Arber, Daniel Nathans and Hamilton Smith, who first described restriction enzymes in the mid 1960s, may eventually have considered the potential use of the Cas enzyme and clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR) for gene therapy. After the demonstration of semiconservative DNA replication in 1958, Matthew Meselson and Frank Stahl would certainly be intrigued by the discovery by Kerry Mullis leading to the nucleic acid amplification methods routinely performed by laboratory scientists today. As high complexity tests using nucleic acids evolved, single target hybridization techniques gave way to multiplex arrays and cytogenetic imaging as well as nucleic acid amplification and sequencing methods.

The American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) recognized the importance of certified knowledge and skills in molecular biology and, in 2003, implemented the Technologist in Molecular Pathology (MP) Certification Examination, which is now the Technologist in Molecular Biology (MB) Examination. Certification in molecular biology initially offered by the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA) in 1997 was recognized by ASCP in 2009. Medical scientists with ASCP certification have realized preferred hiring by medical and industrial laboratories developing and utilizing DNA and RNA analysis for nucleic acid testing, as well as development of diagnostic products and instrumentation.

Molecular diagnostics as a key aspect of patient care has also led to opportunities for administrative and management positions in this area. In medicine, molecular pathology has become a valuable component of diagnostic and prognostic interpretation for physicians. This requires laboratorians who have developed specialized skills, not only in performance of molecular protocols, but design and interpretation of nucleic acid

testing methods for diagnosis and characterization of acquired and inherited diseases. Bioinformatics for clear communications with physicians and other health professionals is of tantamount importance. In keeping current with the evolution of the profession, ASCP introduced the Specialist in Molecular Biology (SMB) Certification Examination in 2018. This examination addresses skills required for supervisors, managers and directors of molecular diagnostics laboratories including advanced molecular testing, bioinformatics, novel clinical applications and laboratory management, including method design and test development.

To establish eligibility for the MB examination, there are sets of minimum prerequisites (routes), depending on education, training and experience. These include combinations of a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally-accredited college/university. In addition to formal training, full time experience in a molecular biology laboratory that offers molecular methods including nucleic acid isolation, amplification, detection, sequencing, hybridization techniques, and data analysis is required. The time of experience (six months to one year) depends on the level of education completed. Routes of eligibility for the SMB examination include successful completion of the MB examination and a baccalaureate or higher degree and full-time experience in molecular biology laboratory (one to three years). Detailed descriptions of the routes to eligibility for testing and subject content for the MB and SMB can be found at [ascp.org](https://www.ascp.org).

As in other fields of study, technology is rapidly advancing. Keeping current with ongoing developments through classes, association and society meetings, original articles, texts, new product development and electronic sources can not only benefit those wishing to become certified in this area, but enhance existing laboratory skills. Scientists of the past would marvel at what is possible in the molecular diagnostics laboratories today. And we have not yet imagined the wonders of the future for this technology, using nucleic acids for prediction, diagnosis, treatment, and eradication of disease.

## SHARING OF PPR INFORMATION

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) would like to remind program directors that the Program Performance Report (PPR) is a paid subscription service meant for use by program directors and program administrators only; specific data from the PPR is not to be shared with the public. The information contained in the PPR should be handled in a confidential manner which respects the rights of the individual whose scores are reported. Individual student data, subtest means, scaled score comparisons, and the histogram are not public information. This information should **not** be shared publicly, including for recruitment efforts or marketing purposes.

Any data that is shared with accrediting bodies or program administration must be anonymized and aggregated where possible. As an outcomes measure for accreditation purposes, program directors may publicly share overall program pass rates (i.e., our graduates have a X- year average pass rate of XX percent on national certification exams; the national average is XX percent).

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## 2022 PPR INVOICE

### Payment Due Jan. 1, 2022 for Uninterrupted Access

Emails with a link to access the 2022 Program Performance Report (PPR) invoices were sent to all program directors of NAACLS, CAAHEP, and ABHES accredited/approved programs, as well as BOC-documented structured phlebotomy and MLA training programs, on October 12, 2021. A reminder email was sent in early December. The invoice amount is \$150 per program and covers the period of January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. Payment instructions are included on the invoice.

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## PDAC TO HOST LIVE EVENTS FOR BOC PROGRAM DIRECTORS

The ASCP BOC Program Director's 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 have also started hosting live events over Zoom to discuss topics that are top of mind to program directors. The first event, held on December 3, 2020, was a "meet and greet" focused on networking and sharing ideas for future live events. The second, held on April 20, 2021, provided program directors with a tour of the BOC website, as well as a deep dive into the EEV process. You can find the recording [here](#). Check the Facebook page for details about upcoming events.

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## PBT AND MLA APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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

# TRANSITION OF ASCP/ASCP<sup>i</sup> CREDENTIALS

## Medical Technologist (MT) to Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS)

In 2020, the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) and the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) collaborated and wrote a position paper titled, “Standardizing the Professional Title of Medical Laboratory Scientists.” The paper was endorsed by all of the ASCP BOC Sponsoring, Participating, and Collaborating societies. The primary purpose of the paper was to address the inconsistency of professional nomenclature and the impact this has had on the profession and the professionals’ identity. Visit the [ASCP BOC website](#) to read the complete paper.

At the BOC Board of Governors (BOG) meeting in October 2021, the BOG approved a plan to transition all MT(ASCP) and MT(ASCP<sup>i</sup>) credentials to MLS(ASCP) and MLS(ASCP<sup>i</sup>). This change of terminology from Medical Technologist to Medical Laboratory Scientist is a critical step in the move towards standardizing the professional title of medical laboratory professionals. BOC staff will be implementing this transition in 2022.

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## IN MEMORIAM

### Susan King Strasinger, DA, MT(ASCP)

July 2, 1939–August 11, 2021

We mourn the loss of Susan King Strasinger, DA, MT(ASCP). Susan was the consummate medical laboratory science professional and during her career was an educator, a mentor, an author, and a volunteer for ASCP. For many years, Susan was the MLT program director for Northern Virginia Community College and later an adjunct professor in the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program at the University of West Florida in Pensacola. She served as the chair and vice-chair of the ASCP Board of Certification’s (BOC) Joint Generalist Certification Examination Committee. For a decade, she served on the ASCP LabQ Editorial Board (Editor-in-Chief, co-chair, and associate editor) and served on the Commission on Publications. Susan and Marjorie DiLorenzo are the authors of the quintessential book, “*Urinalysis and Body Fluids*,” which has been on BOC’s suggested reading list for MLT and MLS for decades. Her contributions to medical laboratory science will live on through everyone who has been touched by her.



To read more about Susan’s life, or to leave a message to her family, go to [www.wolfefuneralhomes.com/obituary/susan-strasinger](http://www.wolfefuneralhomes.com/obituary/susan-strasinger)

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## SUE JOHNSON, MSTM, MT(ASCP)SBB<sup>CM</sup> RECEIVES AABB’S JOHN ELLIOTT MEMORIAL AWARD

ASCP Board of Certification Board of Governors Past Chair, Sue Johnson, MSTM, MT(ASCP)SBB<sup>CM</sup>, was awarded the 2021 John Elliott Memorial Award by the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (AABB). She is the Director of Clinical Education at Versiti and Director of the Transfusion Medicine Program at Marquette University.

Established in 1956, the John Elliott Memorial Award recognizes individuals who have given outstanding service to AABB by demonstrating a willingness to lend his/her expertise to the association through work on committees, the AABB Board of Directors and other areas.

Ms. Johnson was selected for her extraordinary commitment and involvement on various committees and service through her numerous presentations of AABB programs related to immunohematology and reference laboratories.





## 2020 AND 2021 ASCP BOC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS PRESENTATION

Pictured (left to right)  
Amy Groszbach,  
Terry Taff,  
Susan Harrington,  
Patty Eschliman,  
and Lee Hilborne.

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) recognized several volunteers at an awards ceremony in Boston on October 30, 2021. The BOC Board of Governors Chair, Sue Johnson (October 2019–September 2021) presented the BOC Distinguished Service Award (DSA) to both the 2020 and 2021 recipients at a luncheon in their honor.

The DSA is presented to volunteers who have served the BOC for a minimum of six years and made significant contributions involving extra time and effort toward the BOC mission to provide excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide.

The recipients honored in Boston include:

- **Patty Eschliman, MHA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>DLM<sup>CM</sup>**, was awarded a 2020 DSA. Ms. Eschliman served as the Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA) representative to the BOG from 2010–2019. She currently serves on the Laboratory Management Examination Committee.
- **Amy Groszbach, MEd, MLT(ASCP)MB<sup>CM</sup>**, was awarded a 2021 DSA. Ms. Groszbach served as one of the Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT) representatives to the BOG from 2011–2020.
- **Susan Harrington, PhD, D(ABMM), MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**, was awarded a 2021 DSA. Dr. Harrington served as the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) representative to the BOG from 2010–2020. She served as the Chair of the BOG from 2017–2019.
- **Lee Hilborne, MD, MPH, FASCP, DLM(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>**, was awarded a 2020 DSA. Dr. Hilborne served as one of the American Society for Clinical Pathology Fellow representatives to the BOG from 2010–2021. He currently serves on the Laboratory Management Examination Committee.
- **Lena Spencer, HTL(ASCP)QIHC<sup>CM</sup>**, was posthumously awarded a 2021 DSA. Ms. Spencer served as the National Society for Histotechnology (NSH) representative to the BOG from 2011–2020. Ms. Spencer lost her battle with cancer in December 2020. The DSA was sent to her family.
- **Terry Taff, MA, MT(ASCP)SM<sup>CM</sup>**, was awarded a 2021 DSA. Ms. Taff served on the Microbiology Examination Committee from 2013–2020 and currently serves on the BOC Research and Development Committee.

## ONLINE DOCUMENTATION FORMS

**Documentation forms submitted through the mail will not be accepted or processed.** All documentation forms and letters of authenticity must be sent to the appropriate documentation mailbox for the category of application. See the [COVID-19 document](#) for complete information.

## NEW BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEMBERS

At the October 2021 Board of Certification Board of Governors (BOG) meeting in Boston, two new members were welcomed to the BOG.



**Rex Famitangco, MSc, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>QLC<sup>CM</sup>,** joins the Board of Governors as one of the American Society for Clinical Pathology laboratory professional representatives. He is the Laboratory Administrative Director at Morrill County Community Hospital in Bridgeport, NE.



**Andreana (Andy) Rivera, MD, FASCP,** joins the Board of Governors as one of the American Society for Clinical Pathology Fellow representatives. She is a Neuropathologist and Anatomic Pathologist at Houston Methodist Hospital in Texas. Dr. Rivera has served on the BOC Histotechnology Examination Committee since 2015.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS VOLUNTEERS 2021-2022

### Executive Committee

#### Chair

Susan Graham, MS, MT(ASCP)SH<sup>CM</sup> - NY

#### Past Chair

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

#### Secretary

Vicki Freeman, PhD, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> SC<sup>CM</sup>, FAACC - TX

#### Financial Officer

Thomas Alexander, PhD, D(ABMLI) - OH

#### ASCLS Representative

Joan Polancic, MEd, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> - CO

#### AGT Representative

Denise Anamani, MA, I(ASCP)MB<sup>CM</sup> - CT

#### Member-At-Large

William Finn, MD, MASCP - MI

#### Participating Society Representative

Michael Sovocool, MHS, PA(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> - NY

### Governors

Dana Altenburger, MD, FASCP - IL

J.R. Constance, MHA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> - CO

Dana Duzan, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> - WA

Rex Famitangco, MSc, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>QLC<sup>CM</sup> - NE

Elaine Francis, EdD - MA

Catherine Gebhart, PhD, D(ABHI), MB(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> - MA

Amanda Harrington, PhD, D(ABMM) - IL

Alexandra Harrington, MD, FASCP, MT(ASCP) - WI

Ericka Hendrix, PhD, MB(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> - TX

Barbara McGahey-Frain, MS, SCT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> - IN

Andreana Rivera, MD FASCP - TX

Lori Schmitt, HT(ASCP)QIHC<sup>CM</sup> - PA

Linda Smith, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>BB<sup>CM</sup> - TX

Geoffrey Talmon, MD FASCP - NE

Patti Walton, MHSA, MT(ASCP) - TN



**Front row (left to right):** Andreana Rivera, MD FASCP; Alexandra Harrington, MD, FASCP, MT(ASCP); Thomas Alexander, PhD, D(ABMLI); Sue Johnson, MSTM, MT(ASCP)SBB<sup>CM</sup>; Susan Graham, MS, MT(ASCP)SH<sup>CM</sup>; Vicki Freeman, PhD, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> SC, FAACC; Denise Anamani, MA, I(ASCP)MB<sup>CM</sup>; and Catherine Gebhart, PhD, D(ABHI), MB(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>.

**Back row (left to right):** Michael Sovocool, MHS, PA(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>; Rex Famitangco, MSc, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>QLC<sup>CM</sup>; Dana Duzan, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>; Joan Polancic, MEd, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>; Barbara McGahey-Frain, MS, SCT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>; Geoffrey Allen Talmon, MD FASCP; William Finn, MD, MASCP; J.R. Constance, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>; Dana Altenburger, MD, FASCP; and Elaine Francis, EdD.

**Not pictured:** Amanda Harrington, PhD, D(ABMM); Ericka Hendrix, PhD, MB(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>; Lori Schmitt, HT(ASCP)QIHC<sup>CM</sup>; and Linda Smith, PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>BB<sup>CM</sup>.

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## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: LAREKA PRATT

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) worked quickly to offset the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic brought to the certification process. In addition to providing more electronic processes, additional staff was hired. Lareka Pratt is one of two new evaluators hired during the pandemic.

Ms. Pratt began working in the BOC as a temporary employee in April, having been hired and trained over Zoom. In August, she joined the regular, full-time ranks as a U.S. Evaluator working on Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) exam applications. When asked what it was like being hired during a pandemic, she said, *“Being hired during the pandemic was definitely a DIFFERENT experience. Not being able to have face-to-face training, or getting an actual feel for the work environment because everything was virtual, was challenging but exciting.”*

Raised in Chicago, Ms. Pratt attended Southern Illinois University where she majored in business administration.

A musician, she plays violin on the weekends and is currently teaching her daughter to play as well. When not working, she enjoys arts and crafts and experimenting with new hairstyles.

When asked who has inspired her, she said, *“My parents and daughter inspire me. Every day of my life, I have seen my parents give all of themselves to provide a better life for me, while teaching me how to be the best friend and parent my daughter needs.”*

- **Interesting fact:** *I used to work on classic cars with my grandfather.*
- **Most interesting job:** *Working for the City of Chicago Water Department.*
- **Favorite place:** *California, I lived there for three years.*
- **Favorite song:** *I Want to Thank You, by Alicia Myers, or Wanted Dead or Alive, by Bon Jovi.*





## EDITOR

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The vision of the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) is to be the gold standard in global certification for all laboratory professionals.