

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2022



ASCP
BOARD OF
CERTIFICATION®

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

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**Susan Graham, MS,
MT(ASCP)SH^{CM}**

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together". - Vincent Van Gogh

When I think about the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC), I try to align my thoughts with the mission: to provide excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide, and the vision, to be the gold standard in global certification for all laboratory professionals. When brought together with the quote from Van Gogh, above, I appreciate the many facets of the BOC that contribute to the mission and vision of this organization.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

While not generally considered small, the societies that are represented on the BOC Board of Governors (BOG) are integral to the success of this organization. Their representatives ensure good bi-directional communication fostering an exchange of ideas inclusive of myriad laboratory professionals. An example of this is the ongoing work to standardize the nomenclature for medical laboratory scientists, cytologists, and molecular biologists. Having well-defined roles, consistent titles, and appropriate certification will help to clarify the specific contributions we make and the need to support efforts to grow the workforce.

VOLUNTEERS

There are 140 individuals who volunteer for the BOC. With that many "small things," it's easy to see why we take so much pride in this organization. Each brings expertise, experience, and perspective that contributes to the mission and vision of this organization. It would

be impossible to estimate the number of hours spent by members of committees and task forces, such as Exam Committees and Qualification Work Groups, Research and Development, the Program Director's Advisory Committee, International Credentialing Committee, DCLS Task Force, and the Nomenclature Task Force. By the way, if you are interested in joining this esteemed group of individuals, please visit <https://www.ascp.org/content/board-of-certification/about-boc#volunteer> to submit an application. Keep in mind that committees and task forces are populated with diversity in mind, in order to represent different types/size of facility, specific professional roles, or geographic region.

BOC STAFF

If you have ever had the opportunity to interact with a BOC staff member, I am confident you would agree that they each bring considerable skill and talent to their role in the organization. Whether you have shared an email, engaged in a phone conversation, or had the pleasure of meeting them personally at an event or meeting, you are treated to a work ethic and commitment that is remarkable.

While there are those who would suggest that you **"not sweat the small stuff,"** this is generally not consistent with the personality of a laboratory professional. We recognize how each unique, important role that every **"small"** part, every detail of what we do is important to the final outcome. Whether the desired outcome is excellent patient care or being the gold standard in certification, it's the **"small things"** that make it great!



**Amy Spiczka,
MS, HTL(ASCP)^{CM}SCT,
MB^{CM}, CPHQ**

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENTRY

I am incredibly honored and enthused to serve as the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) Executive Director. The opportunity to learn and lead with our BOC team, Board of Governors, volunteers, program directors, students and beyond, is phenomenal. Our ability to shape the future of our patient-centric profession is one that is dependent on credibility, collaboration, and courage.

CREDIBILITY

Recognition that laboratory professionals provide quality and expert laboratory care is directly tied to our credibility. The ASCP BOC, spanning 94 years in history and nearly 600,000 certificants, brings recognized integrity and unity. The value proposition of ASCP BOC-certified laboratory professionals' credibility is also represented by the coordinated care processes of our multi-disciplinary laboratory team. While we serve effectively across the healthcare continuum, let's continue to work together, elevating the visibility of the laboratory team. Reaching people where they are at as patients, professionals, or students will bring future credibility to the next generations of our laboratory professional colleagues.

COLLABORATION

Having been steeped in the Mayo Clinic model of care through professional roles (including student, laboratory professional, program director, and operations manager), it is clear that inclusion and respect for diversity of thought strengthens a resilient collaborative model. Through the lens of continuous quality improvement and my work with ASCP's Center for Quality and Patient Safety team, curiosity and diligence assures a focus on improving patient experience. Data-driven decision making is also an opportunity for collaboration; something which is at the core of ASCP BOC operations and the Board of Governors sponsoring, participating and collaborating societies,

along with public advisement. The ASCP BOC gold standard thrives through unified committees and task forces. These collaborative models are recognized as providing advocacy, fortitude, and action for the ASCP BOC's vibrant future, even as we elevate workforce engagement. Partnering toward interventions and support mechanisms for the current and future clinical laboratory workforce, is at the heart of collaboration in support of the patients we serve.

COURAGE

The stories and experiences we all share as "laboratory heroes" bring emotional journeys etching our legacy of where we've been, what we've experienced, and who we are individually. Moreover, our commitment to a diverse, equitable, and inclusive laboratory workforce brings courage for who (collectively) we will be as a profession. The affirmations of what we have aspired to be is aligned with a legacy of regarded, patient-centric aptitude. The ASCP BOC continues to keep pace with future scopes of practice, assuring the gold standard of laboratory professional credentials around the globe. Courage will also be necessary as we look at who we want to become, reaching toward the 100-year anniversary of the ASCP BOC in 2028. This moment in time will facilitate ongoing progress, integrity, and stewardship on behalf of patients and the laboratory team.

I look forward our work together with credible, courageous collaboration, and I look forward to to being deemed worthy of your trust and remain receptive to a bright future with elevated possibilities. Living the BOC mission is a leadership compass "to provide excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide." Thank you for sharing in and contributing to this journey of the ASCP's BOC excellence.

[Credibility.](#) [Collaboration.](#) [Courage.](#)

Amy Spiczka, MS, HTL(ASCP)^{CM}SCT, MB^{CM}, CPHQ, was selected as the new Executive Director of the ASCP BOC, effective July 1, 2022. Ms. Spiczka has served as the Senior Director for Quality & Patient Safety with ASCP since 2018. Prior to that, she served in laboratory education leadership roles at Mayo Clinic, MN and as pathology operations leadership at Mayo Clinic, AZ. Her clinical practice, research, and education interests and accomplishments focus primarily on elevating patients' experiences across the healthcare continuum; data-driven operations; validation and implementation of innovative technologies; as well as advancing professional development opportunities for laboratory team members. She assumed the position following Patricia A. Tanabe, MPH, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, who retired June 30, 2022.

MAKING THE LEAP FROM STUDENT TO PROFESSIONAL

Max Louzon, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SBB^{CM}

flowcharts.

Graduation season is always an exciting time to work in education. Soon-to-be graduates are interviewing for jobs, instructors are chasing students trying to get one last assignment handed in, and there is a constant countdown to graduation hanging over it all. In between all of that, I have to fulfill arguably my most important task as a Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) program director: addressing student concerns regarding the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC). Program seniors regularly ask if gaining the credential is worth the cost when looking at the student loans that are quickly coming due. Reflecting on my experience as a laboratory professional and educator, I have been able to share with students the value I see in gaining their deserved credential with the ASCP BOC.

It is my view that the ASCP BOC serves both an external function and an internal one. The former is signaling among laboratory professionals regarding an individual's education and training. As practicing professionals, we recognize the work that goes into the credential, both the time interning at various laboratories, and the many hours devoted to mastering theory. Degree programs may differ between institutions, but the ASCP BOC credential does not change and speaks to an individual's knowledge and dedication.

For hiring managers, the ASCP BOC presents a way to ensure a new graduate knows the essentials. What plasma to provide a patient with an unknown blood type is not a question you want to address during a trauma situation. A rigorous assessment of a candidate's knowledge ensures laboratory managers and directors trust ASCP BOC credentialed individuals to provide accurate patient testing. If a position is available in a lab, instead of focusing on the technical knowledge necessary for clinical lab work, managers can instead focus on culture fit and ensure their labs are staffed with the best possible candidates by looking for ASCP BOC certified individuals. This also allows for an expedited training process that does not rely on teaching the theory behind test procedures and problem resolution

However, while students are taught this role of the credential, it can often feel more abstract especially when they are studying and paying for the exam. It is a hurdle to be cleared. They know that hiring managers want to see the credential, but they fear the process of a "Computer Adaptive Test" and do not always see the value for themselves. Some students talk of postponing the exam indefinitely, while others start to question if it is even necessary. This is where I am able to speak to students regarding the second, less obvious function of the ASCP BOC exam.

When I started training students, I realized that something happens after the students pass the exam, something more than the elation from meeting the challenge of the "hardest exam they've ever taken." The new professional carries themselves differently; they now begin to trust their knowledge and their abilities. Their interactions on the phone with other healthcare providers have more confidence; they begin to not second guess their own decisions; they begin to look at the lab as their responsibility to safeguard and improve. A thorough and rigorous exam allows a candidate's internal self-knowledge to be reflected back to them and made external. This singular mark of outside validation begins the process of thinking of themselves as a professional laboratorian instead of just a student or bystander, and it is important to name that internal shift.

When I meet with those students in my office or in the lab, I share with them that passing the ASCP BOC exam will have value. Managers will see them as new professionals ready to begin the next step in their career development. Coworkers in the lab they join will see a peer who walked a different yet similar path. I also say that when they add those letters to their resume, they will feel a sense of pride in their accomplishment and will feel ready to begin a job as a recognized professional.



SPRING 2022 REGIONAL ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRS MEETINGS

From April through June 2022, the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) held Zoom meetings with the chairs of the Latin American & Caribbean, Asia & Pacific, and Middle East & North Africa regional advisory boards. The purpose of the meetings was to allow the regional chairs to report on recent events, partnerships, and obstacles they have encountered while promoting ASCP BOC credentials. Each chair reported the successes they have had in raising awareness of ASCP BOC credentials in their respective countries.

The meetings also gave the ASCP BOC the opportunity to share changes to the BOC's international outreach efforts. These changes include increasing communication with international volunteers, clarifying the benefits and resources available to volunteers, and more localization of informational and promotional materials.



UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

- Join the ASCP BOC at the 2022 ASCP Annual Meeting, ASCP 100 Year Anniversary, September 7-9 (Chicago)
- Find us at the 69th meeting of the Japanese Society of Laboratory Medicine (JSLM), November 17-20 (Shimotsuke, Japan)
- This fall/winter, the ASCP BOC will conduct a survey to gauge overall awareness of ASCP BOC international certification and CMP. Participation in this survey is crucial to the ASCP BOC's international outreach efforts, so please make sure to keep an eye on your inbox for instructions and a link to the "2022 ASCP BOC International survey."

ASCP BOC STRENGTHENS OUTREACH EFFORTS IN WEST AFRICA

In June 2022, the ASCP BOC appointed Francis Bigojah, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, to be the ASCP BOC Regional Volunteer to West Africa and Ghana. Since receiving his appointment, Mr. Bigojah has created several online groups to discuss ASCP BOC credentials in West Africa, held an Introduction to ASCP BOC International Certification Zoom call with more than 100 participants, and formulated an action plan for promoting ASCP BOC International credentials throughout the region.



Francis Bigojah, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

Mr. Bigojah lives and works in Ho, Ghana. He received his undergraduate degree from University of Cape Coast, and holds certificates in leadership, health management, and patient safety from the University of Washington and John Hopkins University. Currently, Mr. Bigojah works as a medical laboratory scientist at the Ho Teaching Hospital's Blood Transfusion Laboratory.

INTERNATIONAL CREDENTIALING COMMITTEE MEETS TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF ASCP BOC INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

On July 8, 2022, the ASCP BOC International Credentialing Committee (ICC) met with ASCP BOC staff to discuss how to capitalize on the ASCP BOC's international successes and address areas of international outreach that need improvement.

The meeting included a general overview of the ASCP BOC's international outreach history and development efforts. It also included several problem-solving sessions, which required the ICC and ASCP BOC staff to develop and enhance communications methodologies, new international procedures, and discuss realigning the ASCP BOC's international goals and objectives to better serve applicant needs.

International Credentialing Committee



From left to right:
Catherine Gebhart, PhD,
D(ABHI), MB(ASCP)^{CM}, Chair,
Elaine B. Francis, EdD, Dana
Altenburger, MD, FASCP, and
Rex Famitangco, MSc, MASCP,
MLS(ASCP)^{CM}QLC^{CM}

The ICC provide guidance and oversight to the ASCP BOC Board of Governors in all areas related to international credentialing. The committee consists of laboratory professionals & educators from diverse backgrounds and disciplines.

ASCP BOC INDIA ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR VISITS ASCP BOC'S HEADQUARTERS IN CHICAGO

On June 10, 2022, the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) had the privilege of hosting Dr. (Col) Deepak Kumar Mishra, MD, Chair of the ASCP BOC India Advisory Board, at the ASCP BOC's global headquarters in Chicago. Dr. Mishra and ASCP BOC staff discussed Dr. Mishra's outreach efforts in India, as well as several updates to the India Advisory Board.



From left to right: Patricia A. Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, ASCP BOC Contractor, Joseph Baker, MS, Manager of International Development & Social Media, and Dr. Deepak Kumar Mishra, MD, Chair of the ASCP BOC India Advisory Board

MLS EDUCATOR SURVEY RESULTS

In 2020, the ASCP BOC Research and Development (R&D) Committee launched two surveys of MLS education programs as a follow-up to the original surveys conducted in 2016. One survey was designed for participation by program directors of university/college and hospital MLS programs while another survey targeted faculty in university/college and hospital MLS programs. The purpose of the surveys was to gather information to support MLS program directors and faculty in educating students, especially to clarify current issues and reveal trends that may impact future program resources and the quality of MLS education. Click on the links below to read the full articles and access the infographic:

Program Directors - <https://bit.ly/3NeV6e1>

Faculty - <https://bit.ly/3NkR97V>

Infographic - <https://criticalvalues.org/news/item/2022/07/01/medical-laboratory-science-educator-survey>

IMPACT OF COVID SURVEY

All program directors of NAACLS, CAAHEP, and ABHES accredited/approved programs, as well as graduates from these programs in 2020 – current, were sent an email asking them to participate in an Impact of COVID Survey. The ASCP Board of Certification Research and Development Committee prepared the Impact of COVID Survey to gather information on how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted educational programs. The survey is designed for participation by all graduates and program directors from NAACLS, CAAHEP, and ABHES accredited/approved programs.

As with any survey or study, its value depends on the participation of everyone! Your input is vital to the success of this project.

Please take 10 minutes to answer the questions using the links below.

If you are a **NAACLS/CAAHEP/ABHES program director**, please take the survey [here](#).

If you are a **NAACLS/CAAHEP/ABHES program graduate**, please take the survey [here](#).

Program Directors, please share this with all graduates of your program for 2020 – current.

We hope the results of this survey will give the BOC insight into how COVID-19 has affected programs. As a graduate or program director in the laboratory profession, you are the profession's future. The ASCP BOC thanks you for your participation in this important project, and for all you do.

TIMELINE FOR PROCESSING OF TRANSCRIPTS

During the ASCP BOC's busy season, April – September, ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) staff receive hundreds of documents and transcripts daily. All documents, including transcripts, are continuously processed as received. BOC staff will retrieve all transcripts within 10 business days. However, it may take **up to 30 business days after retrieval** for these documents (including transcripts) to be reviewed and processed. Program's are asked to remind students **not to submit duplicate documents or email before this time has elapsed**.

Please note that ASCP Customer Relations will not be able to provide information regarding the status of submitted documents, including transcripts.

Important note for Histotechnology Program Directors: Students who complete a NAACLS accredited HT program, and apply for the **HT(ASCP) examination under Route 1**, do **NOT need to submit any transcripts to the ASCP BOC**. Route 1 requires only completion of your program, which you verify through the EEV. Program Directors with questions should email the BOC at PDInfo@ascporg



CHANGE TO THE ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR ALL ASCP BOC EXAMINATIONS

In March 2022, the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) began requiring applicants to upload completed training and experience documentation forms, as well as Letters of Authenticity, electronically within the application itself rather than submitting them as PDF documents via email. These documents, if required, must be uploaded before the application can be submitted.

The process for requesting transcripts has not changed. Applicants will continue to request that official transcript(s) be sent from their educational institution(s) to the ASCP BOC. Program Directors will continue to verify a student's eligibility through the EEV.

BOC PASS THE BATON CAMPAIGN

"[ASCP BOC] credentials gave me credibility to move up in my technical career. As I progressed in the business development area, it gave me an understanding of the industry and credibility with my clients. Continuous Education (CE) materials [needed for the Credential Maintenance Program (CMP)] in disciplines outside of my immediate job allowed for continuous growth in related fields."

ASCP BOARD OF CERTIFICATION®

Patricia Haneman, MT(ASCP)

ASCP BOC PASS THE BATON CAMPAIGN

Are you a retired or soon-to-be retired laboratory professional?
Are you willing to share your knowledge and experience with others?

If so, the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) wants to hear from you so we can share your insights on a career in laboratory medicine and pathology, including the importance of an ASCP BOC credential, to the next generation of laboratory professionals!

Pass the baton today by visiting <https://bit.ly/3CknS97>.

CREDENTIAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM (CMP) REMINDERS

New in 2023: 1 CMP Point In Medical Ethics for All Certification Categories

Medical ethics is the foundation for all aspects of laboratory sciences and patient care. CMP requirements have been revised to include 1 CMP point in medical ethics for all certification categories with certification cycles expiring in January 2023 moving forward (regardless of when you submit your completed online declaration form). This will NOT increase the overall total number of CMP points required for your category.

Topics that can be included under ethics are varied and may include presentations or training related to:

- HIPAA, FERPA or other confidentiality issues
- Compliance
- CAP Inspector Training
- IRB
- Cultural sensitivity
- DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion)
- Sexual harassment/microaggressions
- Tissue procurement and banking
- Use of controlled materials

Complete information can be found at this link: www.ascp.org/cmp.

CMP COVID-Related CE Extended Through December 2022

Increased workloads and limited availability of in-person training or conferences during this time, may have affected practitioners' ability to obtain continuing education credits for recertification. The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) has approved the use of COVID-related activities performed within the normal scope of work or outside normal job duties for up to 12 CMP points/CEUs toward recertification. To date nearly 400 individuals have taken advantage of this opportunity by completing a [CMP COVID-related CE Claim Form](#). This time-limited opportunity has been extended for an additional year. The form may be used for COVID-related activities completed within the time frame of March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. Information about the opportunity and the COVID-related CE Claim Form can be found [here](#).



**Patricia Tanabe,
MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}**

A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM PATRICIA TANABE, MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

A few weeks ago, I found a card at my local market with a quote from Winnie the Pooh (A. A. Milne), which captures my feelings as I write this farewell message.

“How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.” -A. A. Milne

While I am sad to say goodbye, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities and experiences I have been afforded during my twenty-six years at ASCP.

I never gave much thought to how the ASCP BOC certification exam was developed when becoming certified in 1981 as an MT(ASCP)---soon to be transitioned to MLS(ASCP). However, in 1990, I applied for and got a position at the Board of Registry (now the BOC) as the Manager of Exam Activities. I remember thinking: How do I facilitate a meeting of medical laboratory professionals, PhD scientists, and pathologists to create a certification exam? The answer came to me after attending countless certification examination committee meetings, working with hundreds of committee members, and doing quality control on more than a hundred certification exams. Developing the gold standard certification examination program can only occur through the incredibly hard work of these dedicated volunteers and the conscientious staff. These committee members volunteer their time to work on exam questions, exam-related documents, and processes (i.e., content guidelines, reading lists, eligibility routes). I would joke with these members after they had served six years on the committee and at the end of their term, now that they know how to

write a “good” question and understand the statistics (especially logits), it was time for them to leave! Committee members have told me that serving on this committee is one of the most gratifying experiences they have ever had. I think sharing the common goal of ensuring competence to protect patient safety drives their impassioned service.

Behind the certification programs and the myriad ASCP services are the incredible staff supporting the volunteers. The staff provide the infrastructure necessary for ASCP programs to be successful. I have learned so much working with my colleagues and staff at ASCP. Thinking back over my tenure at ASCP, I have worked with hundreds of incredible medical laboratory scientists and pathologists, fabulous staff, and colleagues as well as dedicated volunteers. I’ve also made many wonderful connections and lifelong friends along the way. I’ve travelled to Latin America, South Africa, Ukraine, and throughout the Asian continent to represent the profession, promote certification and to improve healthcare worldwide. It has been my honor and privilege to serve the profession and to have been the Executive Director of the ASCP Board of Certification.

I won’t say goodbye, but instead will channel my inner Tigger and say, **“TTFN, Ta-Ta for now”**. Until we meet again.

Be well and be happy.



PROMOTING THE MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PROFESSION THROUGH STANDARDIZED TITLES

Frequently Asked Questions:

I am a Medical Technologist/Clinical Laboratory Scientist MT/CLS. Why should I call myself a Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS)?

While we understand the value of our profession, its importance has not been fully recognized by hospital administrations, academic institutions, governing bodies, and the general public. The lack of a consistent title for naming the profession contributes to this lack of awareness and appreciation. Advocating for the profession using a single, acknowledged professional name is a step we can take to advance recognition by the healthcare community and public.

What's wrong with calling us Med Techs or Techs?

"Medical technology" does not mean what it once did. Now it refers to imaging technologies, health wearables, artificial organs, and robotic surgery. Furthermore, there are many fields both within and outside of health care that refer to their workers as "techs" or "lab techs." Other occupations like radiologic technologists, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), computer technicians, and research technicians are also called "techs." While the abbreviated names may be easy to say, they do not always indicate that we work in medical laboratories, nor do they convey the academic background required for our work. Medical Laboratory Scientist is not a designation given to any other type of profession, and it indicates that we work in medical laboratories and perform procedures using principles of basic science.

What will be gained by standardizing to the Medical Laboratory Scientist title?

There is a long history of changes in titles that has created confusion and led to the current situation where multiple titles refer to the same professional. Standardizing to one title will simplify how we refer to ourselves, provide clarity between institutions, and present one face of the profession to the general public and other health professionals. Standardization is a necessary step that will elevate the profession beyond its current status.

Can you give an example of how the current titles are confusing?

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, a *New York Times* article was published on December 3, 2020 titled, "Nobody Sees Us: Testing-lab Workers Strain Under Demand." The author, Katherine J. Wu, interviewed individuals from around the country who perform, manage, or direct testing for SARS-CoV-2. Six different job titles were used to refer to testing personnel. This one article demonstrates the lack of consistency. If someone wanted to join the profession, they would not know what job to look for or what type of education program they should pursue.

Why do we have Medical Technologist, Clinical Laboratory Scientist and Medical Laboratory Scientist titles? What is the history?

The title Medical Technologist (MT) was first used in 1929 and the designation MT(ASCP) was instituted sometime after 1933. The National Certification Agency (NCA), founded in 1976 by the American Society of Medical Technologists (now ASCLS), developed a certification titled Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLS). In 2009, the NCA and the ASCP Board of Registry unified, creating the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) and the current Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) designation.

Would the MLS job title be used for someone who has a bachelor's degree but hasn't graduated from an accredited MLS program?

Yes, if they are performing the work equivalent to a certified individual. To firmly establish Medical Laboratory Scientist as the professional title and not dilute the nomenclature with inconsistent names, it seems necessary to take this step. However, we recommend that certification continue to be recognized by employers in job titles and hiring.



Would the MLS job title be used for someone who has become certified by the experience route rather than by an accredited MLS program?

Yes, if they are performing the work equivalent to a certified individual. To firmly establish Medical Laboratory Scientist as the professional title and not dilute the nomenclature with inconsistent names, it seems necessary to take this step. However, we recommend that certification continue to be recognized by employers in job titles and hiring.

Would someone who only works in one section of the laboratory or someone who has categorical certification be called a Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS)?

For at least the laboratory sections included in typical MLS training, e.g. chemistry, hematology, transfusion medicine, microbiology, or molecular diagnostics, individuals with a bachelor's degree qualified to perform high complexity testing would be designated as MLS or cMLS.

Can job titles distinguish between a certified Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) and someone who doesn't have certification?

We propose that the certified MLS be given the designation cMLS and the non-certified individual MLS, e.g. for name badges. Hospitals and other laboratories may design job title levels based upon experience, MLS education, and certification, but we recommend that all be designated MLS.

Will the ASCP Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) be changing the "Technologist" certifications to "Scientist"?

Currently, the ASCP BOC is transitioning all Medical Technologist (MT) certificants to Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS). The BOC Board of Governors may address other titles and certifications in the future.

What resources are available to help in working with the human resources department at my institution to get job titles changed?

The original position paper supporting a standardized nomenclature, adopted by American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) and the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) is available at:

https://www.ascp.org/content/docs/default-source/boc-pdfs/about_boc/standardizing-the-professional-title-of-medical-laboratory-professionals.pdf

A report of the Nomenclature Task Force which recommends job title changes and sample job description with titles will be available soon.

I am Medical Technologist, MT(ASCP). When does my credential transition to Medical Laboratory Scientist MLS(ASCP)?

You may begin using the MLS(ASCP) credential immediately. Please note that a formal verification of your ASCP certification will continue to reflect MT(ASCP) in the ASCP BOC database until the transition process is completed.

I am Medical Technologist MT(ASCP). When will the transition process be completed?

The process is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

I am certified by an agency that uses the Medical Technologist (MT) designation, not Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS). Should I call myself MLS?

Yes. But in any circumstance requiring use of your credential, like on your resumé, be sure to use the designation of the credential you earned.

I am a Medical Technologist MT(ASCP). How will I be notified when my credential transitions?

Notifications will be sent by email and postal service to the addresses currently on file in your ASCP customer record.

I am a Medical Technologist MT(ASCP). Will I be sent a new wall certificate that says Medical Laboratory Scientist MLS(ASCP)?

No, new wall certificates will not be sent. If, after the transition, you wish to order a new certificate, additional information can be found on the ASCP website at Verify Credentials/General Information/Replacement Wall Certificate.



I am MT(ASCP), but am not required to do the Credential Maintenance Program (CMP). Will I be required to do CMP after the transition?

No, CMP will continue to be voluntary for individuals who were ASCP BOC certified prior to 2004.

Will educational programs align behind the change to Medical Laboratory Science (MLS)?

We hope so. Currently, the majority of programs are MLS. At this time, more than a third remain Clinical Laboratory Science or Medical Technology; however, many are planning the transition to MLS.

Will licensing authorities make the change to Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS)?

Practitioners in licensed states will need to work through the legislature and regulatory agencies within their state's system to change the designation to MLS. This is likely to take some time. So, whenever referring to your license, as on your resumé, always use the proper license title.

How can I get involved and promote the use of the Medical Laboratory Scientist title?

[*Take the pledge!*](#)

Can you summarize the recommendations of the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification Nomenclature Task Force?

BRIEF JOB DESCRIPTION	EXISTING JOB TITLES	PROPOSED JOB TITLE	DESIGNATED ABBREVIATION, E.G. BADGES*	COMMENTS
Baccalaureate-level clinical laboratory testing personnel who are certified and meet CLIA regulatory requirements for testing personnel	Medical Laboratory Scientist/Medical Technologist/Clinical Laboratory Scientist	certified Medical Laboratory Scientist	cMLS	The "c" denotes certification to distinguish from non-certified individuals. The certifying agency is not indicated. Includes qualified practitioners with specific expertise in one department.
Baccalaureate-level clinical laboratory testing personnel who are NOT certified and meet CLIA regulatory requirements for testing personnel	Medical Laboratory Scientist/Medical Technologist/Clinical laboratory scientist	Medical Laboratory Scientist	MLS	Non-certified baccalaureate-educated individuals performing the job tasks of certified MLS. Includes qualified practitioners with specific expertise in one department who are NOT certified.
Associate-level clinical laboratory testing personnel who are certified and meet CLIA regulatory requirements for testing personnel	Certified Medical Laboratory Technician	Certified Medical Laboratory Technician	cMLT	The "c" denotes certification to distinguish from non-certified individuals.
Associate-level clinical laboratory testing personnel who are NOT certified and meet CLIA regulatory requirements for testing personnel	Medical Laboratory Technician	Medical Laboratory Technician	MLT	

2022

SEPTEMBER		
ASCP 2022 Annual Meeting	September 7 – 9	Chicago, IL
47th Annual Conference (AAPA)	September 18 – 22	Minneapolis, MN
OCTOBER		
2022 AABB Annual Meeting	October 1 – 4	Orlando, FL
2022 NSH Convention	October 14 – 19	Reno, NV
37th International Clinical Cytometry Meeting & Course	October 21 – 25	Montreal, Quebec
NOVEMBER		
ASC's 70th Annual Scientific Meeting	November 15 – 20	Baltimore, MD
DECEMBER		
62nd ASH Annual Meeting and Exposition	December 10 – 13	New Orleans, LA
MARCH		
2023 Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference	March 2 – 4	New Orleans, LA
APRIL		
2023 ASFA Annual Meeting	April 26 – 29	Minneapolis, MN
MAY		
ISBER 2023 Annual Meeting	May 3 – 6	Seattle, WA
JUNE		
ASM Microbe 2023	June 15 – 19	Houston, TX
2023 Joint Annual Meeting (ASCLS & AGT)	June 26 – 30	Providence, RI
JULY		
2023 AACC	July 23 – 27	Anaheim, CA

2023

Refer to the individual organization's website for meeting details.



Samantha Bass

BOC STAFF SPOTLIGHT

The newest addition to the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) is Samantha Bass, the Assistant Manager for Program and Committee Relations. Samantha has only been with the BOC for one month and has already become a valuable asset to the team.

We proposed 10 questions in 10 minutes to get to know Samantha better:

1. What did you do prior to working at ASCP?

I worked in the laboratory in microbiology, histology, and pathology.

2. Where did you grow up or where do you call home?

I grew up in Valparaiso, Indiana, and live in the Chicago area now.

3. What was the most interesting job you've ever had?

Working in the Gross Room was the most interesting.

4. Do you have any hobbies or outside interests, or what is your favorite thing to do when not working?

I enjoy live music, sporting events, and traveling.

5. Give us one interesting fact about you.

I rescued a dog and a cat from the animal shelter.

6. What was the best advice you've ever received?

"Just be yourself. You can't please all the people, all the time."

7. What are you passionate about?

Makeup.

8. If you could be any animal, which would you be?

A house cat.

9. What's your favorite movie or book?

Neither, I have a favorite television show, The Office.

10. What is on your bucket list?

To visit the Seven Wonders of the World.



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