American Society for Clinical Pathology
Board of Registry

ASCP Certification:
The Standard of Excellence

BOR Newsletter

Winter 2009

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Chair's Message

Kathleen Becan-McBride, Ed.D., MT(ASCP)CM

It is with pleasure and excitement that I introduce myself as the incoming Chair of the ASCP BOR Board of Governors. I am honored to have the opportunity of working with our Past-Chair, Cindy Johns, MSA, MT(ASCP)CMSHCM, who has been a wonderful leader, and our stalwart Executive Director, Dr. Blair Holladay, SCT(ASCP)CM as well as all of the members of the Board of Governors, the BOR Staff and our BOR Volunteers. Even in the critical economic environment facing our nation, we can be optimistic about the future of the ASCP Board of Registry. The BOR continues to hold the "Gold Standard of Excellence." In fact, at the Fall ASCP Meeting, the 80th year celebration of the ASCP BOR exemplified the continued standard of excellence in certification nationally and now internationally. With our national and global focus, at the Fall 2008 meeting, the BOR Board of Governors adopted the following new Mission Statement – "Provide Excellence in Certification of Laboratory Professionals on Behalf of Patients Worldwide." It is the intent of the BOR to protect the health and safety of the public through quality standardized testing and certification. In accordance with the new Mission Statement, the BOR has expanded its global program from five countries to 28 – offering certification services in countries seeking to strengthen clinical laboratory services and laboratory professional values. As of December 2, 2008, the total number of international applicants for all international categories (international MT, MLT, MP, PBT) was 1394.

We are anticipating even more exciting news in the progress between the National Credentialing Agency (NCA) and the ASCP BOR to unite into a single certification agency. Our agencies are continuing to work towards this unification goal that will be of great importance to our profession and our future laboratory professionals.

Another highlight that supports additional enthusiasm for now and the future of the BOR is the strong performance that is occurring with the BOR's Certification Maintenance Program (CMP). The rate of participation in the program is above that originally projected with an overall 45% participation in the program and

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Update from the October 2008 Board of Governors' Meeting

The Board of Governors of the Board of Registry met on October 18 and 19 in Baltimore, MD. The following actions were taken at this meeting:

- A new mission statement was adopted by the ASCP Board of Registry: "Provide excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide."

- The Qualification in Laboratory Compliance will be discontinued effective September 1, 2009. The last date to submit an application form for this qualification is June 1, 2009.

- A special exception has been granted for active U.S. military personnel enrolled in Military Laboratory Specialist courses and NAACLS/CAAHEP accredited laboratory training programs to permit them to take the certification examination prior to graduation from the program. Active U.S. military personnel who are enrolled in Military Laboratory Specialist courses have been approved to sit for the ASCP Medical Laboratory Technician examination within the last three weeks of Phase II training provided they are in good standing. Active U.S. military personnel enrolled in NAACLS/CAAHEP accredited Histology, Cytotechnology, Specialist in Blood Banking or Medical Technologist training programs will also be permitted to sit for the appropriate examination within the last three weeks of the training program if they are in good standing. The Board granted this special exception since active military personnel are deployed immediately following graduation. A final transcript will be required before examination results and a certificate are mailed. If you have any questions regarding this new provision for active military personnel, please contact Gerry Piskorski, Director of Certification Activities at geraldine.piskorski@ascp.org or 312-541-4887.

- The Board of Governors of the Board of Registry approved the following eligibility requirements for international certification in microbiology, Technologist in Microbiology, M(ASCP^{i}):

  Route 1: MT(ASCP^{i}) certification AND a baccalaureate degree or equivalent from an accredited/approved* educational institution; OR

  Route 2: Baccalaureate degree or equivalent in any biological or chemical science from an accredited/approved* educational institution, AND one year full time acceptable clinical laboratory experience in Microbiology in an accredited/approved** laboratory facility; OR

  Route 3: Baccalaureate degree or equivalent in any biological or chemical science from an accredited/approved* educational institution, AND successful completion of a structured program in Microbiology*. The structured program in Microbiology must be equivalent to the curriculum for Microbiology in the Medical Technology Program; OR

  Route 4: Graduate level degree (Master's, Doctorate, or equivalent) in Microbiology or an appropriately related field from an accredited/approved* educational institution, AND six months full time acceptable clinical laboratory experience in Microbiology in an accredited/approved** laboratory facility.
  These six months of experience must be under the supervision of the Laboratory Director.

  *Accredited/approved by a governing regulatory association or Ministry. Countries without a prevalent system of accreditation/approval must have programs/educational institutions approved by an International Advisory Board appointed by the ASCP Board of Registry, or eligibility will be determined by transcript evaluation. Training programs which do not grant university credit as part of a Medical Laboratory program will be counted as experience.

  **Accredited by JCI, CAP, ISO 9000 or a governing regulatory association or Ministry. Countries without a prevalent system of accreditation must have laboratories approved by an International Advisory Board appointed by the ASCP Board of Registry.

- The revalidation requirements for the Qualification in Immunohistochemistry (QIHC) have been revised to expand the types of activities acceptable to maintain this Qualification. The IHC qualification may be revalidated by documentation of 30 contact hours of acceptable continuing education in Immunohistochemistry, as defined on the list of topic areas, OR by completion of 15 contact hours of acceptable continuing education as described above and 15 contact hours of other activities related to immunohistochemistry as follows:

  - Employer offered courses (e.g. in-service, vendor sponsored)
  - College/university coursework (10 contact hours for each quarter hour; 15 contact hours for each semester hour)
  - Research & preparation for presenting a workshop or course (first time only; 5 contact hours)
  - Authoring journal articles for peer-reviewed publications (5 contact hours)
  - Authoring a book (over 300 pages – 21 contact hours; less than 300 pages – 14 contact hours; chapter – 7 contact hours)
  - Editing a book (5 contact hours)
  - Presenting posters/exhibits (3 contact hours)
  - Serving on an examination committee (2 contact hours per year)
  - Serving on committees/boards related to IHC (national, state, regional, local – 2 contact hours per year)

  Please see the ASCP web site under Qualifications for complete information.

- The Board of Registry celebrated their 80th anniversary this year at the ASCP annual meeting with an evening reception and an anniversary cake. (See photos.) A history of the Board of Registry, "Around the World in 80 Years" is available on our web site.

ASCP Exams Soon Available to Service Members On-Base

Starting in mid-December, U.S. Military Service members and their family members will be able to take ASCP certification exams at over 100 DANTES and on-base National Test Centers (NTCs) worldwide. DANTES and NTC test sites are located on military bases and provide Service members with the education support they need for career enhancement while on active duty. ASCP exams will be delivered along with several other medical exams currently delivered at DANTES locations. The ASCP Board of Registry is excited to work with DANTES and Pearson VUE (ASCP-BOR's computer-based testing provider) to offer convenient, on-base testing to Service members and their families.

After receiving an admission letter, military personnel and family members who wish to register for an ASCP exam at a DANTES location should visit www.pearsonvue.com/military.

Chair's Message Continued from page 1

total participation of 2,622 as of September 1, 2008. The number of laboratory professionals who have been recertified attest to the commitment that they have to the profession and patient care. The BOR's recertification program is providing assurance to the public that laboratory professionals are maintaining their competency. We strongly encourage you and your colleagues to participate in this program since it demonstrates to your employer and peers that you are dedicated to your profession and committed to maintaining your competency in laboratory responsibilities.

The BOR continues to be a very busy with many ongoing projects to enhance our laboratory professionals, Some examples of these projects include successful inspection and reapproval by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Assessment for accreditation of the BOR; the new ASCP BOR Web Site for easier usability; practice analyses research to maintain highest quality exams; new edition of the BOR Study Guide; and an on-line and printed handbook for Program Directors. I would be delighted to receive questions, comments or suggestions regarding any of the BOR activities and I look forward to the opportunity to working with you and all of our laboratory professionals in future endeavors.

ASCP Board of Registry Board of Governors 2008-2009

(front row) Kenneth Emancipator, MD, FASCP; Marilyn Gamble, HTL(ASCP)^{CM}; Cynthia S. Johns, MSA, MT(ASCP)^{CM}SH^{CM}; Kathleen Becan- McBride, EdD, MT(ASCP)^{CM}; Marsha C. Kinney, MD, FASCP; Walter Oliveira, MT(ASCP)^{CM}SI
(back row) Kathleen (Kay) M. Doyle, PhD, MT(ASCP)^{CM}; Timothy G. Miley, MD, FASCP; Carol S. Duncan, MA; Barbara D. Benstein, PhD, SCT(ASCP) ^{CM}; Susan L. Wilkinson, EdD, MT(ASCP)SBB; Martin Kroll, MD, FASCP; Marian Cavagnaro, MS, MT(ASCP)DLM; James L. Wisecarver, MD, FASCP; Robert W. McKenna, MD, FASCP; Perthena A. Latchaw, MS, MT(ASCP); William J. Becker, DO, FASCP; Karen A. Brown, MS, MT(ASCP); W. Rae Rader, MPA, PA(ASCP)^{CM};
Absent: Mary-Elizabeth O'Brien

2008-2009 Officers and Members Elected by the Board of Governors

At the Spring BOR Board of Governors Meeting on March 1-2, 2008 in San Francisco, CA elections of the Board of Governors were held.

The following elected officials took office beginning October 2008. The members of the executive committee of the BOR BOG are as follows:

Kathleen Becan-McBride, EdD, MT(ASCP)CM

was elected to the office of Chair of the BOR BOG. She is a representative of the Council of Laboratory Professionals of the ASCP. She is a member of the Finance Committee. Dr. Becan-McBride previously served as Vice Chair of the Board of Governors, Board Liaison to the Hemapheresis Examination Committee, as Chair of the Globalization Committee and Long Range Planning Committee and as a member of the BOR Research and Development Committee, Phlebotomy Examination Committee and Computer Adaptive Testing Committee.

Walter Oliveira, MT(ASCP)CMSI

was elected to the office of Vice Chair of the Board of Governors as an ASCP Council of Laboratory Professionals representative. He is serving as Chair of the Council of Committee Chairs, Board Liaison for the Phlebotomy Examination Committee, and a member of the BOR Finance Committee. Previously, Mr. Oliveira served as Chair and Vice Chair on the Immunology Examination Committee and a member of the BOR Long-Range Planning Committee.

Cynthia S. Johns, MSA, MT(ASCP)CMSHCM

holds the office of Immediate Past Chair. She is Chair of the Nominating Committee, Parliamentarian, and Board Liaison to the Laboratory Informatics Qualification Committee. Ms. Johns started as a BOR volunteer in 1999 as an ASCP Associate Council representative to the BOG. Throughout the years, she has served as Chair of the BOR BOG, a member of the Finance Committee, Board Liaison to the Joint Generalist and Phlebotomy Examination Committees, Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee of the BOG, and a member of the Policy and Procedure Committee and member of the CMP Taskforce.

Marilyn S. Gamble, HTL(ASCP)CM

will continue to serve the office of Secretary of the BOR BOG which she has held since October of 2005. Ms. Gamble has been a member of the BOG as a representative from the National Society for Histotechnology since 2002. She is the Chair of the Policy and Procedure Committee, the Board Liaison to the Histotechnology Examination Committee and a member on the CMP Taskforce. In the past, she was a member of the Histotechnology Examination Committee and the BOR Globalization Taskforce.

Kenneth Emancipator, MD, FASCP

will remain as the Financial Officer of the BOR BOG and therefore is also the BOR representative to the ASCP Finance Committee. He is serving as the Chair of the BOR Finance Committee and as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Marketing/Communications. In the past, he has been the Board Liaison to the Chemistry Examination Committee and the Board Liaison to the Laboratory Management & Safety Examination Committee.

Marsha C. Kinney, MD, FASCP

is serving on the BOR BOG Executive Committee as Member-at-Large. Dr. Kinney is a representative from the Fellows Council of the ASCP. While serving as a Member-at-Large, she is also is Chair of the Editorial Committee. Previously she has served as a member on the Ad Hoc Committee on Marketing/Communications.

New BOG Members Assume Duties in October 2008

During the elections, the BOG selected two new members: **Karen A. Brown, MS, MT(ASCP)** representing the ASCP Council of Laboratory Professionals and **Martin H. Kroll MD, FASCP** representing AACC.

Board Members Re-elected

Six incumbent members were re-elected to the BOG. Re-elected were: **William J. Becker, MPH, DO, FASCP** representing the ASCP Fellows Council; **Walter Oliveira, MT(ASCP)^{CM}SI** representing the ASCP Council of Laboratory Professionals; **Susan L. Wilkinson, EdD, MT(ASCP)SBB** representing the AABB; **Barbara D. Benstein, PhD, SCT(ASCP)** representing the ASC; **Timothy G. Miley, MD, FASCP** representing ASH and **Marilyn S. Gamble, HTL(ASCP)** representing NSH.

Beware of Fraudulent Certification

The number of people misrepresenting their certification status has significantly increased over the years. There is an individual in Georgia who falsely claimed ASCP certification as a Medical Technologist (MT) at five different places of employment within the last three years. Another individual in Illinois claimed MT certification in applying for employment in three different states, two within less than one month. Both of these individuals submitted forged documents, ASCP ID cards or Certificates of Qualifications, to potential employers. They were identified as fraudulent because the employers verified their certification through the Board of Registry online verification service.

Misrepresentation can occur in a variety of ways. Individuals have improperly obtained ASCP Member ID cards or certificates of qualification from ASCP certified individuals, made copies and changed the name to their own. This copy is then used to obtain employment in a higher level job. In some cases, individuals have modified their own ASCP Member ID card to indicate a higher level of certification.

When you are hiring laboratory professionals, do not accept copies of certificates. Ask to see the original. ASCP Member ID cards should not be used to verify certification. If they are not able to produce an original certificate, certification should be verified through online verification of certification. The individual's certification category, certification number and date of certification will be provided by e-mail or fax. Verification of certification has become even more important with time-limited certificates. With the introduction of the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) beginning in 2004, recently certified individuals must complete this program every three years. Individuals who do not successfully complete the program may no longer use the certification initials after their name [e.g. MT(ASCP)^{CM}] and their certification is no longer valid. Any inquiries regarding their certification status will indicate that the individual is no longer ASCP certified.

Protect the integrity of your own ASCP credentials and your certification record by not loaning your certificate or ASCP Member ID card to another individual. Individuals who misrepresent or misuse their certification status will be barred from future certification in any category and any current certification may be revoked. To maintain the value of ASCP certification and, most importantly, for patient safety and welfare, we must all be vigilant in recognizing and reporting fraudulent credentials.

ASCP Board of Registry Roster as of December 31, 2008

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International Certification

ASCP-BOR International Certification Expands to 28 Countries

Agency decentralizes services to offer improved global customer service and patient safety

CHICAGO – Sept. 10, 2008 – The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Registry (BOR) has expanded its global program from five countries to 28 – offering certification, lifelong education, network opportunities and other services in countries seeking to strengthen clinical laboratories. The international certification exam became reality in South Korea and the Philippines in 2006. Hong Kong, Panama and Guyana were added in 2007.

Global certification effectively offers laboratory professionals around the world the opportunity to earn the gold standard in certification from ASCP-BOR and to reap the career benefits of this distinction. Currently, ASCP[i] certification is available in the categories of International Medical Technologist, International Medical Laboratory Technician, International Technologist in Molecular Pathology and International Phlebotomy Technician.

International Technologist examinations in Chemistry and Microbiology are in development.

In April, the BOR Globalization Committee met in Panama to discuss a draft decentralization plan. The plan would help to evenly disseminate international certification responsibilities among the Chicago office, country-specific advisory boards, and regional representatives.

"International certification was designed to meet the global demand for a reliable health care system that will preserve patient safety and standardize and ensure excellence in laboratory practice worldwide. BOR volunteers and staff feel a true sense of accomplishment because we are beginning to see the results of the hard work that went into globally implementing this extraordinary certification," says Kathleen Becan-McBride, EdD, MT(ASCP)[CM], immediate past chair of the ASCP-BOR Globalization Committee.

The strategy for next year includes satellite offices in Panama and the Philippines. The goal is to eventually set up regional satellite offices on each continent. These offices will provide improved customer service by allowing regional representatives to explain the ASCP[i] application

process in the native language to prospective applicants. Furthermore, they will provide additional support to program directors, laboratory officials, practitioners, and students throughout the region.

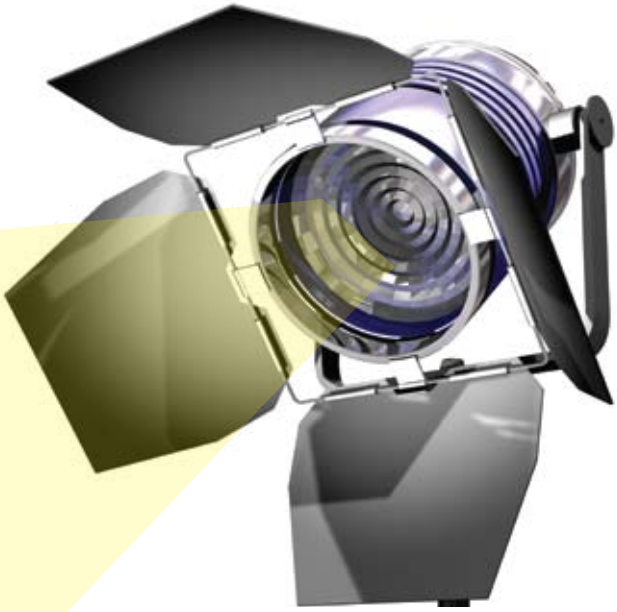
For 80 years, ASCP-BOR has set the bar for those wishing to have their laboratory science competencies recognized and respected around the world.

International applicants can begin the certification process by visiting www.ascp.org/international.

Approved Countries:

- Argentina
- Australia
- Bermuda
- Brazil
- Chile
- China
- Costa Rica
- Czech Republic
- Dominican Republic
- Greece
- Guyana
- Hong Kong
- India
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Korea
- Kuwait
- Poland
- Qatar
- Panama
- Philippines
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Trinidad & Tobago
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates

Staff Spotlight – Julie Mueller



Julie Mueller joined the ASCP Board of Registry in May 2006 as Assistant Manager of Certification Activities and in February 2007 was promoted to Manager of Certification Maintenance. In this capacity, she manages all aspects related to the BOR Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) and activities related to verification of ASCP certification including database maintenance for all certificants. She also acts as backup to the Manager of Certification Processing.

Julie brings 10 years of professional association experience to the Board of Registry. Before joining the ASCP, she worked with the National Association of Realtors in their education and marketing departments and traveled extensively as an onsite representative and promoter of products and services. She served as Vice President of Publications for the Illinois Bankers Association and was responsible for the development, production and marketing of manuals, booklets and brochures for banking professionals.

Julie took an interlude from association work to raise her children while enjoying a second career closer to home as a Youth Services Librarian for both the Thomas Ford Memorial Library of Western Springs and the Itasca Community Library.

In her free time, Julie volunteers as a costume designer/technician for the Western Springs Community theatre. She also enjoys attending her teenage son's various garage band/musical gigs and visiting her daughter at the University of Illinois, Champaign campus. Other interests include: tennis, hiking, home improvement projects (especially those involving power tools!), movies and live theatre.

Board of Registry 80th Anniversary Celebration

The Board of Registry celebrated their 80th Anniversary at the ASCP October 2008 Annual Meeting with an evening reception and an anniversary cake.

Cynthia Johns, MT(ASCP)CMSHCM signing the banner.

Cutting the Cake; Cynthia Johns, MT(ASCP)CMSHCM, outgoing Board of Governors' Chair; E. Blair Holladay, PhD, SCT(ASCP)CM, BOR Executive Director; and Barbara Kasallis, Manager of Board Relations.

Perthena Latchaw, MT(ASCP)CM, BOG member chatting with Lee H. Hilborne, MD, MPH, DLM(ASCP)CM, FASCP, FCAP, Outgoing President of ASCP.

Mark Stoler, MD, FASCP, ASCP President-Elect; Barbara McKenna, MD, FASCP, ASCP President; and Walter Oliveira, MT(ASCP)CMSI, Vice Chair of the Board of Governors.

BOR Newsletter | **Winter 2009**

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