2012 ASCP Public Policy Priorities

The ASCP Board of Directors establishes the following issues as its 2012 policy priorities. These were developed and approved by the Commission on Public Policy (CPP) in December 2011. Issues are ranked into three distinct areas defining the level of advocacy:

- LEVEL 1 -- areas where ASCP will be proactive and should develop special efforts/programs to advocate for the Society's policy statements;
- LEVEL 2 -- areas where ASCP will review developments and advocate where appropriate;
- LEVEL 3 -- areas where ASCP will consider developments and may acknowledge the advocacy efforts of other professional groups.

Within each of the advocacy areas, numbering sequence does not denote importance. As issues evolve, their respective priority levels may change.

LEVEL 1

1) *Patient Safety and Laboratory Quality*
    a) Laboratory Developed Tests
    b) Direct access to testing.
    c) Patient safety within the laboratory and the healthcare environment.
    d) Medical error identification and reduction.
2) *Future of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine*
    a) Personalized Medicine

b) Paradigm of Practice

3) *Workforce*

a) Seek funding for laboratory professional training and students.

b) Promote educational opportunities to improve the supply of qualified laboratory professionals.

c) Adequate funding for graduate medical education in Pathology.

d) Recognition of pathologists and laboratory professionals as an integral part of the healthcare team.

e) Performance evaluation: Pay for performance.

4) *Personnel Standards and Licensure*

a) Formal personnel training and certification requirements.

b) Principles for the licensure and national certification of laboratory professionals.

c) Scope of practice of pathologists and laboratory professionals.

5) *Payment*

a) Reasonable and adequate coding reimbursement.

b) Oppose methods of payment for clinical laboratory services which implement co-payments or competitive bidding.

c) Accurate and appropriate coding for clinical laboratory services.

d) Oppose illegal and unethical practices with regard to laboratory billing (e.g., fee splitting, etc).

e) Monitoring of proposals to bundle Medicare services.

6) *Health Information Technology*

a) Pathology and laboratory medicine informatics.

b) Electronic Medical Record

c) Health data repository

7) *Health Care System Issues*

a) Health Care Reform

8) *Global Health*

a) Support for global health initiatives to promote quality laboratory practice.

LEVEL 2

1) Genetic testing and patents.
2) Cytology regulations.
3) Uniform laboratory standards in all settings where laboratory work is performed, including CLIA issues.
    a) Waived Testing
4) Preventive health screening tests, including Pap Smears, PSA's, fecal occult blood tests, and cholesterol/blood lipids.
5) Emergency Preparedness and Response
    a) Laboratory preparedness for bioterrorism, chemical terrorism, pandemic influenza and other medical disasters.
    b) Natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.
    c) Emerging infectious diseases.

LEVEL 3

1) Medical liability reform efforts.
2) Telemedicine and interstate diagnosis.