



ASCP BOARD OF
CERTIFICATION

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

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



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

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

As a long-term volunteer for the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) and, formerly, the Board of Registry, I am passionate about the value of certification. I have witnessed substantial change in content and technology, but the mission of the ASCP BOC remains fundamentally the same: to provide excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide. Allow me to paraphrase to reflect what I believe is the most important part of this mission statement: to provide excellence on behalf of patients worldwide. As laboratory professionals, we have never settled for mediocrity. Every sample represents a patient and a family that relies on us to provide accurate and timely information; they deserve our excellence. Certification is key to establishing competence in laboratory professionals. The ASCP BOC consistently seeks ways to improve our services. One example is the development and implementation of auto-eligibility. The review time for applications of accredited program graduates has been decreased from three to four weeks to 48 - 72 hours, making it possible for applicants to schedule their exam earlier. Once certified, they can begin work or advance within the organization with their new credential.

The current workforce shortage, combined with growing health care needs, has created challenges unlike any we have seen. Issues with recruitment and retention make it difficult to sustain a workforce to support growing test volumes and complexity. When faced with a concern regarding quality in the laboratory, we are sometimes compelled to generate a short-term solution while we initiate a root-cause analysis and problem-solving strategies for long-term resolution.

I see this as an opportunity to collaborate with colleagues toward the end goal of excellence

on behalf of patients worldwide. Collaboration is not a new idea; there are many groups working toward that goal. I believe the ASCP BOC has the unique opportunity to partner with laboratories and educational programs to alleviate the existing workforce shortage while addressing the long-term needs of patients.

Due to a scarcity of graduates from programs educating laboratory professionals, laboratories are hiring individuals with science degrees, such as biology or chemistry, and providing training within the laboratory setting. While this is an acceptable route to certification, the process is arduous, particularly considering existing staff shortages. Partnering with educational programs to provide didactic training would be a win-win. Programs struggling to find clinical placements would find a solution while providing the depth and breadth of information necessary to effectively demonstrate competence on a certification exam. This would significantly lessen the burden for laboratory staff. I would also give a shout out to our colleagues at the National Accreditation Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP), and Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES), as the graduates of their accredited programs demonstrate enhanced outcomes on certification exams. Partnering with an accredited program would be a win-win-win.

As we navigate these challenging times, it is important to keep our eye on the prize, excellence on behalf of patients worldwide. As laboratory professionals, we are looked upon to provide answers. It's what we do. Utilizing our resources and collaborating to enhance our effectiveness is our collective strength.

As a related resource, please see [The NAACLS President's Report – Educational Programs: Threats and Opportunities](#) by Maribeth L. Flaws, Ph.D., MLS(ASCP)^{CM} SM, SI (June 2023).



A LOOK INTO THE ASCP BOC BOARD OF GOVERNORS: STANDING COMMITTEES

Did you know that in addition to providing oversight for all activities of the ASCP Board of Certification, BOC Board of Governors (BOG) members serve on various BOG standing committees? These committees provide direction and oversight into key areas of the BOC. Appointed annually by the BOG chair, the committees serve as subject matter experts and make recommendations to the full Board.

The composition of each standing committee is unique to the work it performs with a few, such as the Program Director's Advisory Committee (PDAC), that have volunteers who are not current BOG members. Some committees also require a specific person to serve as the committee chair. When making appointments, the BOG chair takes into account a variety of things including expertise, experience, and succession planning. In addition to the Executive Committee, which is composed of the BOG officers and one representative from each of the BOC sponsoring societies, there are 12 standing committees.

- The **Credentials Maintenance Committee** is tasked with reviewing all CMP related publications and develops surveys to gather information to pinpoint any problems with CMP requirements or the application process. The CMC makes recommendations regarding changes to the BOG.
- The **Editorial Committee** provides oversight for BOC publications, such as the *BOC Newsletter*.
- The **Ethics Review Committee** reviews all allegations of fraud, misrepresentation, and inappropriate conduct during examination.
- The **Examination Oversight Committee** provides quality assurance for existing and potential certifications and qualifications. They review exam statistics and proposals for new credentials to determine if they fit within the BOC mission.
- The **BOC Finance Committee** makes recommendations to the BOG for the annual budget and provides oversight for BOC finances.
- The **International Credentialing Committee** provides guidance and oversight to the BOG in all areas related to international credentialing.
- The **BOC Nominating Committee** prepares a slate of nominees for the Executive Committee positions. With the exception of the BOG Chair, the Executive Committee is elected annually. In years when the BOG needs to elect a new Public Member, the committee reviews all the nominees for the position and provides a recommendation to the BOG.
- The **Policy and Procedure Committee** reviews current BOC policies and procedures and creates new policies and procedures to reflect changes made by the BOG.
- The **Program Director's Advisory Committee** shares information with Program Directors relevant to the BOC as well as answer questions and address program related issues. Most of the communication is across social media platforms.
- The **Research and Development Committee** reviews current developments in educational measurement, prepares research proposals, responds to requests, monitors, and interprets external research results, provides oversight for ongoing research projects, and disseminates findings.
- The **Social Media Committee** provides oversight for BOC communications over all social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn).

In addition to the BOG standing committees, BOG members volunteer to serve on various task forces. Historically a task force works on one issue, campaign, or project to see it through and make recommendations to the BOG.

GET INVOLVED IN THE BOC!

The important work of the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) can only be accomplished through the dedication and hard work of its valued volunteers. The ASCP BOC has over a dozen Certification Examination Committees and Qualification Work Groups that are composed entirely of volunteers from a variety of specialties, areas of expertise, job positions, facilities of all types and sizes, and geographic regions. These committees are responsible for the development and review of test questions, as well as setting the standards for examinations and performing job task analyses. They are also responsible for reviewing exam eligibility requirements, exam content guidelines, and suggested reading lists for exam preparation. To view a list of current ASCP BOC Exam Committee and Work Group vacancies, and to submit a volunteer application, go [here](#).

The BOC accepts volunteer applications throughout the year; however, all volunteer applications submitted by October 1, 2023, will be prioritized for consideration for exam committees and work groups with vacancies that will be meeting during the spring and summer of 2024. All applications are reviewed by BOC staff and respective exam committees or work groups.

If you would like to volunteer for the Board of Certification, but live outside of the continental United States or Canada, opportunities are available on the ASCP BOC's international advisory boards. The BOC has advisory boards, ambassadors, and representatives in more than 30 countries across the world. More information about volunteering on ASCP BOC International Advisory Boards can be found [here](#).



CREDENTIAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM REMINDERS

NEW in 2024: Increase of dedicated CMP points from 2 to 8 for select categories

Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) requirements will be revised to increase dedicated points from 2 to 8 points for the following certification categories; AT, BB, C, CG, CT, H, HT, HTL, I, M, MB. For example: Technologist in Blood Banking, BB(ASCP) will require 8 CMP points specific to blood banking.

This increase in points applies to certification cycles expiring in January 2024 and moving forward (regardless of when you submit your completed online declaration form). This does not increase the overall total CMP points required.

NEW in 2024: CMP Point requirements for Qualifications added

CMP requirements will be revised to add 2 new points (medical ethics and safety) for all qualification cycles expiring in January 2024 moving forward (regardless of when you submit your completed online declaration form.) This will increase the overall total CMP points required from 6 to 8.

- **1 CMP point in medical ethics**
Topics that can be included under ethics are varied and may include presentations or training related to: HIPAA, FERPA or other confidentiality issues, Compliance, WCAP Inspector Training, IRB, Cultural sensitivity, DEI

(diversity, equity, and inclusion), Sexual harassment/microaggressions, Tissue procurement and banking, Use of controlled materials

- **1 CMP point in patient or laboratory safety**
Topics that can be included under safety are varied and may be related to: laboratory, medical, patient, occupational safety, quality control, quality assurance, (CQI) continuous quality, improvement, hazardous materials, emergency preparedness

For complete information on the CMP, please refer to this link: www.ascp.org/cmp.

A NOTE ABOUT TRANSCRIPTS

All electronic transcripts must be manually downloaded and connected to an application before review and processing can begin. The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) staff receive a high volume of transcripts daily, particularly during the months of March – August.

- Once received by the ASCP BOC, electronic transcripts will be downloaded within **2 weeks**.

- From September – February, allow up to **6 weeks** after a transcript has been downloaded for processing.
- From March – August, allow up to **8 weeks** after a transcript has been downloaded for processing.

Only send transcripts that are necessary to verify the academic requirements have been met. If needed, multiple transcripts

may be submitted to verify all academic requirements. **Do not submit duplicate transcripts** as it delays the processing of all applications.

See www.ascp.org/boc/transcript or www.ascp.org/boc/submit_app for complete information.

NOMENCLATURE: MT(ASCP) TO MLS(ASCP)

To bring more visibility and professional alignment to the medical laboratory profession, the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) Board of Governors approved a plan in October 2021 for the unification of nomenclature. All individuals certified as MT(ASCP) were updated to MLS(ASCP) in the BOC database in 2022. The ASCP BOC recommends that all

credential holders who are still using MT(ASCP) or MT(ASCP[®]) update all references of “MT” to “MLS” in all the places it appears.

Additional information, including “I am MLS” sign-on publications, pledge, FAQs, and other resources are available [here](#).



ASCP BOC PARTICIPATES IN JAMT'S 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) had the honor of participating in the 2023 Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT) Annual Meeting held in Gunma, Japan from May 20-21, 2023. As part of our participation, the ASCP BOC would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Hideo Sakamoto, the Chair of the ASCP BOC Japan Advisory Board, for his outstanding management of our exhibit booth during the event. Dr. Sakamoto has been a dedicated volunteer for ASCP BOC for more than a decade, bringing his extensive expertise in clinical chemistry, molecular biology, and point-of-care testing to our organization.

Dr. Sakamoto is a highly esteemed department chair and Professor of Medical Technology at Kobe Tokiwa University, Faculty of Health Sciences. His teaching areas include molecular biology, genetic engineering, general clinical laboratory management, general clinical medicine, global health, and advanced laboratory medicine technology. Dr. Sakamoto has been actively involved in promoting ASCPⁱ certification and CMP through numerous lectures given to medical laboratory scientists, university students, and graduate school students. Additionally, he has

published several articles emphasizing the significance of ASCPⁱ and providing guidance on the certification application process.

One of the highlights of JAMT 2023 was the reunion of past participants from the JAMT Visitor Program. This program was initiated in 2015 as part of ASCP BOC's commitment to contribute to the highest standards of patient safety globally. Through collaboration with the Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT) and Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC-Maywood, IL), the ASCP BOC arranged for Japanese laboratory professionals to visit laboratories in the U.S. for one week. During JAMT 2023, alumni of the JAMT Visitor Program came together to share their experiences with the ASCPⁱ examination and their time spent visiting LUMC's medical laboratory in Chicago.

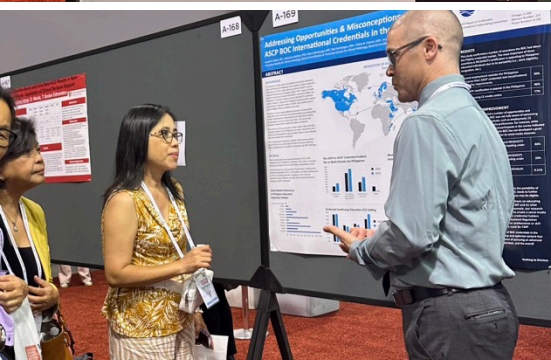
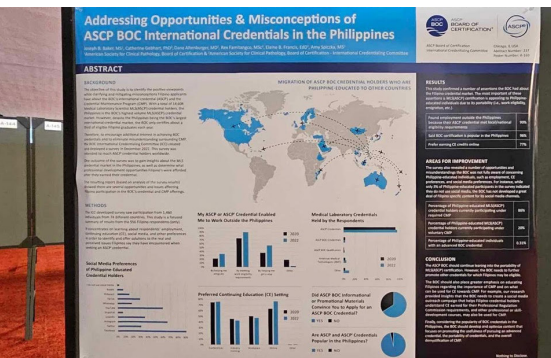
The visitor internship is an exclusive opportunity awarded to individuals who are ASCPⁱ-certified or ASCPⁱ-eligible and are JAMT members and it is funded by JAMT. After a three-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ASCP BOC is pleased to announce that the JAMT Visitor program will resume in the fall of 2023.

"This ongoing partnership with JAMT and LUMC has proven to be a valuable way to foster connections between laboratory professionals in the United States and Japan, and we eagerly await welcoming the next participant," said ASCP BOC, Executive Director, Amy Spiczka, MS, HTL(ASCP)^{CM}SCT, MB^{CM}, CPHQ.

Looking ahead, the ASCP BOC is excited to participate in the upcoming JAMT Congress from May 11-12, 2024, in Kanazawa, Japan, where Ms. Spiczka, will be an invited speaker representing the ASCP BOC throughout the event. The 2024 JAMT Congress is scheduled to take place near the Kanazawa Station in Ishikawa Prefecture.

"We remain committed to advancing the field for laboratory professionals and promoting excellence both in Japan and around the world. Our partnerships with organizations like JAMT and LUMC are vital to achieving these goals, and we look forward to continued collaboration and growth in the future," added Ms. Spiczka.





ASCP BOC EXHIBITED AND PRESENTED RESEARCH AT THE 2023 AACC ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING & CLINICAL LAB EXPO

Visitors to the July 23rd - 27th Expo had the opportunity to explore the ASCP BOC exhibit booth and engage with knowledgeable ASCP BOC staff. Throughout the event, the booth served as a hub for insightful discussions, offering attendees a chance to gain a deeper understanding of the ASCP BOC's credentials and CMP services.

The ASCP BOC went above and beyond its exhibition role, as it proudly presented its groundbreaking research on ASCPⁱ credentials in the Philippines during the AACC 2023 Scientific Meeting. Titled "Addressing Opportunities & Misconceptions of ASCP BOC International Credentials in the Philippines," the research poster presentation took place on July 25th in the Anaheim Convention Center.

The research highlighted the crucial role played by ASCP BOC credentials in empowering laboratory professionals in the Philippines. Attendees eagerly flocked to the presentation, which included a Q&A session that offered valuable insights into the ASCP BOC's initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region.

Amy Spiczka, MS, HTL(ASCP)^{CM}SCT, MB^{CM}, CPHQ, the Executive Director of ASCP BOC,

expressed her enthusiasm for the Expo and the ASCP BOC's Philippines research. "We were honored to be exhibiting at the 2023 AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo and presenting our research on ASCP BOC credentials in the Philippines," she said, adding, "This event provided a fantastic platform to connect with laboratory professionals from around the world, share our expertise, and contribute to the field's advancement on behalf of the patients we serve. We invited all attendees to visit our booth, engage with our staff, and join us during our poster presentation to learn more about ASCP BOC's credentials and the positive impact they have on the profession."

The ASCP BOC's active involvement in the 2023 AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo undoubtedly solidified its position as a leading authority in the field of laboratory medicine. Through its participation as an exhibitor and the presentation of its research, the ASCP BOC continues to advance the boundaries of knowledge and excellence within the medical laboratory community.

THE ASCP BOARD OF CERTIFICATION EXHIBITS AT THE 2023 JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) exhibited at the Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) from June 26–30, 2023 in Providence, Rhode Island. The meeting was sponsored by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), the Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT), and the Society of American Federal Medical Laboratory Scientists (SAFMLS). The five-day conference included integrated educational programs, abstracts and posters, and platforms for industry engagement that included an exhibit hall.

The BOC exhibit booth was staffed by Angela Nunn, Manager of Certification Processing, and Shantina Williams, Assistant Manager of Credential Maintenance. BOC Board of Governors Chair, Sue Graham, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{SH}^{CM}, and Executive Director, Amy Spiczka, MS, HTL(ASCP)^{CM},SCT,MB^{CM},CPHQ spent time in the booth meeting and talking with attendees.

Ms. Nunn noted the SAFMLS presence and shared that a large number of military personnel stopped by the booth to chat, and attendees were friendly and engaged.

The BOC looks forward to seeing everyone at the 2024 Joint Annual Meeting July 7 – 11, 2024 in Pittsburg, PA.

FUTURE PLACES TO FIND THE BOC:

ASCP Annual Meeting
October 18 – 20, 2023
Long Beach, CA

ASCLS Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC)
February 22 – 24, 2024
Las Vegas, NV

THOUGHTS ON MY ASCP SPECIALIST CERTIFICATIONS

Diane Davis, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SC^{CM}, SLS^{CM}

I graduated with my Medical Laboratory Science (then Medical Technology) degree in 1980. I was sooo done with school. It was time to have a life, so my husband and I had babies in 1982 and 1985. After adjusting to a family, I began to wonder what came next with my career. I thought that eventually I'd like to have a leadership position in the laboratory, but earning a graduate degree with a young family was daunting. When I looked at the ASCP BOR criteria for the Specialist Exam in Chemistry (SC) at ASCP, I thought it might be a good fit. I worked in automated chemistry for three years, and then I moved over to special chemistry. I met all of the experience categories in testing, and I was coming up on five years of full-time experience. (Yes, in those days, one had to have five years of experience, not just three!) I worried that as more time passed, I would forget many of the details of my education and previous experiences, so I decided to prepare for the SC(ASCP) exam. I wasn't entirely sure what to do, so I decided that I would read the whole Tietz Clinical Chemistry book from cover to cover! Few of my laboratory colleagues understood why I was doing this. Was I going to get more money? No. Was an SC required to change jobs? No. I told them that I was doing it for myself and that it might never make a difference, but if the time ever came that it could make a difference, I would have it.

I took the exam a couple of weeks after my son's first birthday and passed. A year later, the MLS program at our local university was hiring another faculty member and they were particularly interested in someone who could teach clinical chemistry. At that point, I had eight years of working in clinical chemistry and I had started a master's degree, but

those are modest credentials to teach at a university level. After I was hired for the job, I was told that one of the biggest reasons that I was hired was because of the SC(ASCP) certification. I didn't just have the hours in the laboratory. I had proven that I also had a body of knowledge about chemistry to go with those hours.

While I was at the university, the need for a laboratory safety course arose, and I was tasked with developing it and teaching it. Textbooks for laboratory safety were large, expensive and geared to experts, not the undergraduate novices that I would be teaching. I found a small publishing company that had a paperback safety textbook geared to medical laboratories, and it was perfect. I developed the course and taught it for a couple of years. Teaching laboratory safety also landed me on some safety committees where my learning went beyond the "rules" and into the administrative processes needed to maintain a safe laboratory environment. When the author of the book decided to retire, the publisher offered me the chance to write future editions. I did so gladly, and along the way I earned my Specialist in Laboratory Safety, SLS(ASCP), through both my experiences and the knowledge I had gained. When the publisher retired, she gave me the copyright to the book since I had written the most recent editions. I wanted to continue writing the book, but I am certainly no publisher. I believe that it was not just the content of the book but also my SLS(ASCP) certification that led ASCP to accept the book and publish it. For the second time in my life, I am sure that stretching myself to earn the specialist certification allowed me to achieve my desired goal.

Having my SC and SLS certifications qualified me for exam committee work at NCA (the National Credentialing Agency) which later merged with the ASCP Board of Registry. I served on the NCA Immunology Exam Committee and ASCP's Chemistry and Lab Safety Exam Committees. I feel a great responsibility to see that exams for our profession are gatekeepers to help ensure excellent healthcare but are also relevant, appropriate and fair. In the process of this committee work, I met like-minded individuals who enriched me in different ways of thinking and reinforced my sincerely held beliefs. It's been rewarding. Did I envision these career opportunities when I decided to take the SC(ASCP) exam in 1986? Absolutely not, but I was correct. Having these credentials in the right place and the right time has given me experiences that I likely would not have had otherwise, and I am truly grateful for the career that I've had because of them.



ONE YEAR MILESTONES - THE “FIRSTS”

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

I can certainly affirm and celebrate as the adage states, “Time flies when you’re having fun!” In my first year as the Executive Director of the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC), I am delighted to acknowledge the many collaborative opportunities I have had to listen, learn, engage, and guide. As is also true, we collectively remember and reflect on personal and professional first-time milestones as unique, positive, and progressive.

I am especially grateful to the esteemed BOC Board of Governors, our expert volunteers and stakeholders, as well as the brilliant BOC team for all of the significant successes we’ve achieved in the past year! All of our accomplishments are in support of peer professionals and the patients we serve.

Collectively, we have marked numerous unprecedented achievements this year, including the following “Top Ten” highlights (without any specific ranking):

- 1) **Recognition of the DMLI(ASCP) credential by CMS / CDC as equivalent to high complexity laboratory directorship.** Effective April 1, 2023, the ASCP BOC began accepting applications for the Diplomate in Medical Laboratory Immunology (DMLI) exam. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) accepted the ASCP BOC DMLI certification as an approved board examination for high complexity laboratory directors. This approval is inclusive of all individuals that pass the DMLI(ASCP) exam. This recognition by CMS and CDC is a significant milestone for medical laboratory immunologists and a testament to the unwavering efforts of the ASCP BOC team in serving patients with excellence!

- 2) **Identification of a new exam item bank with positive implementation progress.** Examinations are our main promotion vehicle for patient-centric value and laboratory professionals’ recognition in the healthcare continuum. Embracing an agile, modern item bank platform represents a crucial step in assuring our ongoing value.

- 3) **The BOC Research & Development (R&D) Committee’s publication of the “Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Accredited Programs and Graduates who Sat for the ASCP BOC Examination: Program Directors’ Perspective”** in Laboratory Medicine in the July 13, 2023, edition. Authors include: Dana Duzan, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}; Karen Fong, MEd; Vicki Freeman, PhD, MASCP, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}, SC(ASCP)^{CM}, FAACC; Nancy Goodyear, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}; Teresa S. Nadder, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Amy Spiczka, MS, HTL(ASCP)^{CM}, SCT (ASCP)^{CM},MB(ASCP)^{CM},CPHQ; Teresa Taff, MA, MLS(ASCP), SM(ASCP)^{CM}; and Patricia A. Tanabe, MPA, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

- 4) **ASCP BOC’s post-COVID return to in-person ASCPⁱ outreach.** Starting in July 2022, the BOC has sponsored, exhibited, or conducted in-person ASCPⁱ outreach at:

AACC [ADLM] Annual Scientific Meeting, July 26-28, 2022 (Chicago, IL),

ASCP 2022 Annual Meeting-ASCPⁱ & International Attendees Café, September 7-9, 2022 (Chicago, IL),

2022 ASCP BOC Asia Advisory Chairs Meeting, October 4, 2022 (Suwon, S. Korea),

World Congress of the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS)/60th Conference of the Korean Association of Medical Technologists (KAMT), October 5-9, 2022 (Suwon, S. Korea),

2022 ASCPⁱ Singapore Development Trip, October 11-12, 2022 (Singapore, Republic of Singapore),

Japanese Society of Laboratory Medicine (JSLM), November 17-20, 2022 (Shimotsuke, Japan),

All India Institute of Medical Technologists (AIIMT) National Congress, February 11-12, 2023 (Digha, India),

9th Annual CelebrateLab Conference, April 25-28, 2023 (Abuja, Nigeria),

Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT) Annual Meeting, May 20-21, 2023 (Gunma, Japan)

AACC [ADLM] Annual Scientific Meeting, July 25-27, 2023 (Anaheim, CA)

- 5) **Platform modernization for BOC data visualizations** so that we may track and trend our rich data insights for precise decision-making. An initial series of visualizations are publicly available for the 2022 ASCP certifications and qualifications, as well as ASCPⁱ examinations.



ASCP BOARD OF
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6) **Advancing advocacy through unified laboratory professional nomenclature.**

The Nomenclature Task Force, BOG, and BOC teams along with numerous professional partners, affirmed unified nomenclature for Medical Laboratory Scientists, Cytologists, and the Molecular Biology credential. The “**I am MLS**” campaign is inclusive of a pledge, position papers, FAQs, and is soon to be augmented with job descriptions, as well as a multi-faceted toolkit to increase visibility and accuracy of nomenclature for the laboratory professional workforce.

7) **MLS(ASCP)ⁱ volumes surpassing MLS(ASCP) volumes.**

As we track and trend data, we’ve recognized and are studying the significantly increased MLS(ASCP) applicant volume. Multi-factorial contributions to this emerging market include heightened awareness of the value and portability of BOC credentials, recognition of BOC credentials aligning with enhanced patient care worldwide, as well as the opportunities extended to laboratory professionals worldwide through ASCPⁱ to prove their knowledge.

8) **Auto eligibility implementation.**

Effective February 23, 2023, all paid applications from a student completing an accredited

laboratory program have been made “auto eligible.” In the past, ASCP BOC evaluators had to manually review these applications before releasing them to the program directors’ electronic eligibility verifications (EEV) for program completion. Now, within 24 hours of a paid application being submitted, the program director can verify program completion. As of July 31, 2023, a total of 5,077 applicants have benefited from the “auto eligible” status and workflow optimization. This has enhanced the turnaround time from 3-4 weeks to 48-72 hours, for a student applicant (primarily eligibility Routes 1 & 2) to be able to schedule a BOC exam. Auto eligibility has been recognized as a significant advancement for laboratory professional students and program directors. In turn, the BOC evaluators can likewise review and process other applicants’ documentation for other credential exam routes more effectively. This new approach ensures that newly credentialed laboratory professionals provide laboratory-based patient care more quickly and can help with existing staffing challenges being faced by the majority of laboratories.

9) **Showcasing BOC research at events that span the globe.**

Since October 2022, ASCP BOC has presented, or has been invited to

present, academic posters and other academic work at the 2022 IFBLS World Congress, the ADLM 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting, the ASCP 2023 Annual Meeting, and the International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare, Melbourne 2023. The presentation in Melbourne is an especially unique opportunity for the ASCP BOC. This is because not only will it afford ASCP BOC the incredible opportunity to showcase its achievements in enhancing patient care through ASCPⁱ credentials to key international thought and healthcare leaders and colleagues, but it will also mark the first time the ASCP BOC’s research has been accepted at an international healthcare quality meeting.

10) **It’s all about our collective team!**

This year at our Spring Board of Governors (BOG) meeting, we utilized the CliftonStrengths™ model to harness and harmonize our individual strengths for the collective benefit of those who engage with the ASCP BOC. In addition, our BOG Chair Sue Graham, MS, MLS(ASCP)SH^{CM} and Chair-Elect Vicki Freeman, PhD, MASCP, MLS (ASCP)^{CM} joined the BOC team members as we extended the CliftonStrengths™ learnings, building an even stronger bridge between governance and operations.

How about one more?! Please be on the lookout for a refreshed opportunity to interact with the BOC and advance positive outcomes for engagement and experience through our [new BOC website](#). Available in 2024!

VISIT THE GLOBAL CAFE IN LONG BEACH

Traveling to the U.S. to attend the 2023 ASCP Annual Meeting?

All attendees traveling to the 2023 ASCP Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California, are invited to stop by the Global Café October 18 – 20, 2023. ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about ASCPⁱ credentialing. International guests should look for the signs that say “Global Café” at the Long Beach Convention Center.

The Global Café is an immersive multimedia experience designed to celebrate the important contributions of international certificants, students, volunteers, and other ASCPⁱ stakeholders.

Everyone who stops by the café will be greeted by friendly & knowledgeable ASCP

BOC International staff. Once inside the café, attendees will have the opportunity to download electronic copies of ASCPⁱ informational materials related to applying and maintaining ASCPⁱ credentials.

Attendees are also welcome to relax with a complimentary cup of coffee or tea while enjoying ASCPⁱ videos, the café gallery, and numerous virtual and in-person presentations.

Other fun activities include a launch party for the new ASCPⁱ logo, Lab Superstar nominations, and a My BOC Credential Photobooth, where all attendees can take fun selfies or photos with their friends for posting on social media or share their BOC credential story via video interview!



BOC PARTNERS MEETING DATES

	2023	
SEPTEMBER		
September 8 – 12	2023 NSH Convention	Baltimore, MD
September 24 – 28	48th Annual Conference (AAPA)	Baltimore, MD
September 29 – October 3	38th Annual Clinical Cytometry Meeting and Course	New Orleans, LA
OCTOBER		
October 14 – 17	2023 AABB Annual Meeting	Nashville, TN
October 18 – 20	ASCP 2023 Annual Meeting	Long Beach, CA
NOVEMBER		
November 16 – 19	ASC's 71st Annual Scientific Meeting	Austin, TX
DECEMBER		
December 9 – 12	65th ASH Annual Meeting & Exposition	San Diego, CA
	2024	
FEBRUARY		
February 22 – 24	2024 Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference	Las Vegas, NV
APRIL		
April 9 – 12	ISBER 2024 Hybrid Annual Meeting	Melbourne, Australia
April 26 – 28	44th ASFA Annual Meeting	Minneapolis, MN
JUNE		
June 13 – 17	ASM Microbe	Atlanta, GA
JULY		
July 7 – 11	2024 Joint Annual Meeting (ASCLS/AGT)	Pittsburgh, PA
July 28 – August 1	AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo (ASCLS/AGT)	Chicago, IL

Our mission is to provide
excellence in certification
of laboratory professionals on
behalf of patients worldwide.

Our vision is to be
the **gold standard in**
global certification for all
laboratory professionals.

EDITOR

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