

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION TIMELINE (1920s to 2010s)

The following timeline highlights the evolution of the ASCP Board of Certification and the influence of laboratory professionals who have shaped our certification processes from the 1920s to the present day.

1920S – RECOGNIZING A NEED AND ESTABLISHING A REGISTRY

1922 American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) is formed.

1926 ASCP Committee on Registration of Technicians creates rules and regulations for governance of a registry. First report from the Committee on Registration of Technicians was presented by Dr. Kano Ikeda at the New Willard Hotel, Washington, DC, on May 23.

1928 ASCP Board of Registry is officially established to conduct a registration bureau called the “Registration Bureau for Technicians.” The first chair is Phillip Hillkowitz, MD (1928-1940).

1930S – EARLY EXAMINATION AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

1930 First ASCP BOR certificate is issued to Paul H. Adams of Fort Wayne, IN.

1931 ASCP BOR institutes the use of initials “MT” (Medical Technician) and “LT” (Laboratory Technician) after the registrant’s name. Medical Technologist (MT) certification was established.

1933 All registry applicants are required to take a written and practical examination. Exams are 50% oral/practical, 25% written, and 25% personal/psychological. The examination fee is \$10. Of the 66 applicants who take the first nation-wide examination, 56 pass.

1934 First separate meeting of Registry of Technicians (BOR) held in Cleveland, OH.

1935 Becomes apparent that uniformity of grading cannot be accomplished by several scattered examiners. First official examiner, Dr. A. W. Freshman, is appointed. The ASCP BOR decides to give the title Medical Technologist (MT) automatically to those certified Laboratory Technicians with college degrees.

1936 Title Laboratory Technician is discontinued and all subsequent registrants are designated Medical Technologists. American Medical Association publishes the first AMA list of “Accredited Schools for Clinical Laboratory Technicians.”

1938 ASCP BOR is 10 years old and has certified 4,465 technologists. The Registry of Medical Technologists replaces Registry of Technicians.

1939 ASCP BOR publishes “Curriculum for Schools of Medical Technology,” and plans a national program of seminars with state boards of health and medical schools.

1940S – RECRUITMENT AND GROWTH

1940 Use of MT(ASCP) with brackets is begun. Lall G. Montgomery, MD (1940-1964) becomes the second chair of the Board of Registry.

1946 Another medical technologist is added to the ASCP Advisory Committee of Medical Technologist, thus increasing MT representatives to six.

1948 Becomes apparent to the ASCP BOR that essay-type examinations are too slow and cumbersome. A switch is made to only true/false and multiple choice questions. Technologist in Chemistry (C), Technologist in Microbiology (M), Laboratory Aide (LA) and Histotechnician (HT) certifications are established.

1949 ASCP BOR moves to machine analysis for its grading system and begins to provide schools of medical technology with detailed statistical information about their teaching programs.

1950S – NEW SPECIALIST CERTIFICATIONS

1953 Specialist in Microbiology (SM) certification established.

1954 Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB) and Specialist in Chemistry (SC) certifications established.

1956 Second meeting the ASCP BOR is added due to increased work volume.

1957 Cytotechnologist (CT) certification established.

1959 Specialist in Cytotechnology (SCT) certification established.

1960S – HIGHER STANDARDS

- 1962** ASCP BOR moves into new quarters in Muncie, IN and increases staff to 34. ASCP BOR standards rise so that, as of 1962, all medical technologists must have at least three years of college training, with suitable science courses for entrance into an acceptable school.
- 1963** the ASCP BOR discontinues the Laboratory Aide certification for its new Certified Laboratory Assistant (CLA), the second generalist level certification.
- 1965** Willington B. Stewart, MD becomes the third chair of the Board of Registry (1965-1967).
- 1968** George P. Vennart, MD serves as chair of the BOR (1968-1972). Specialist in Hematology (SH) certification is established.
- 1969** ASCP BOR office moves to 710 S. Walcott St, Chicago, IL. Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) certification established.

1970S – EXAMINATION CONTENT GUIDELINES

- 1970** The ASCP Commission on Laboratory Personnel Newsletter is published to improve communications with program directors and educators of the nearly 1200 accredited programs.
- 1971** ASCP BOR moves to ASCP national headquarters, 2100 W. Harrison St, Chicago, IL. Technologist in Hematology (H) certification established.
- 1972** Donald E. Brown, MD becomes BOR chair (1972-1975).
- 1974** ASCP BOR develops the first “Examination Content Guidelines” and defines five categories of certification: MT, MLT, SH, HT, and CLA
- 1975** Certificate number 100,000 granted to Harry Watkins, MT(ASCP), Berkeley, CA. Betty R. Murphy, MEd, MT(ASCP) is unanimously elected BOR chair, the first time a medical technologist holds this post (1975-1976).
- 1976** John Green, MD serves as chair of the BOR (1976-1979).
- 1977** ASCP Board of Directors determines that the ASCP BOR should be administratively independent in matters related to certification.
- 1978** Golden (50th) anniversary of the ASCP BOR is celebrated in St. Louis, MO.
- 1979** Barbara M. Castleberry, MA, MT(ASCP) becomes the BOR chair (1979-1981).

1980S – PASS-FAIL DETERMINATION CONVERTED TO ABSOLUTE STANDARD

- 1980** Katina S. F. Cable, MT(ASCP) from Charlotte, NC becomes the 200,000th certificant. Conversion from norm-referenced to absolute standard pass-fail determination begins. Histotechnologist (HTL) and Technologist in Immunology (I) certifications are developed.
- 1981** ASCP hires first full-time Vice President of the BOR – Barbara M. Castleberry, PhD, MT(ASCP)
- 1982.** Specialist in Immunology (SI) certification established. Certified Laboratory Assistant (CLA) certification discontinued.
- 1983** Technologist in Blood Banking (BB) certification established.
- 1988** ASCP BOR conducts first Wage and Vacancy Survey.
- 1989** Diplomate in Laboratory Management (DLM) certification established.

1990S – COMPUTER ADAPTIVE TESTING (CAT)

- 1990** Phlebotomy Technician (PBT) certification established
- 1991** Certificate number 300,000 granted to Kim Wainwright, MT(ASCP) from Knoxville, IL.
- 1993** Concept of “Qualifications” established. This is a process to recognize an individual’s knowledge and skill in specific technical areas. Qualification in Cytometry (QCYM) established. Hemapheresis Practitioner (HP) certification established.
- 1994** Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) used for all ASCP BOR examinations. All certification examinations are administered on computer using CAT. Qualification in Immunohistochemistry (QIHC) is established.
- 1996** ASCP Board of Certification is on the Internet

- 1997** Qualification in Point of Care Testing Evaluator (QPOCTE) qualification is established. The Continuing Competence Recognition (CCR) program was established to demonstrate continued competence in the field.
- 1998** Specialist in Virology (SV) certification is established. CT experience route is discontinued.
- 1999** New BOR Vice President, Kory Ward-Cook, PhD, MT(ASCP) hired. AACC becomes a participating society on the Board of Registry.

2000S – GLOBAL FOCUS, CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE, ACCREDITATION AND A NEW NAME

- 2000** Specialist in Laboratory Safety (SLS) certification established.
- 2001** Slogan adopted: “ASCP Certification – The Standard of Excellence.” A major practice analysis is launched for MT, MLT and PBT.
- 2002** Mission statement adopted: “The Board of Registry promotes the health and safety of the public by certifying competent laboratory professionals and maintaining a registry of certificants.” The ASCP changes its name to the American Society for Clinical Pathology.
- 2003** Diamond (75th) anniversary of the ASCP BOR was celebrated in New Orleans, LA. Technologist in Molecular Pathology (MP), Donor Phlebotomy Technician (DPT) and Apheresis Technician (AT) certifications were established. Qualification in Laboratory Compliance (QLC) and Qualification in Laboratory Informatics (QLI) were established. PBT(ASCP) certification was approved by the state of California for state licensure.
- 2004** Starting January 2004 the Board of Registry implements the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP), which requires participation in continued education and other activities every three years for those newly certified in order to maintain ASCP certification. Started monthly eLinks for program directors. Eliminated application deadline dates for examinations.
- 2005** A new Executive Director, E. Blair Holladay, PhD, SCT(ASCP)^{CM} was hired. ASCP BOR approved the credential (ASCPⁱ) for international certifications and MT(ASCPⁱ) and MLT(ASCPⁱ) are the first international certifications established. Pathologists’ Assistant, PA(ASCP) certification is established. 400,000th certificant is honored – Lisa McWilliams, MT(ASCP). Conjoint certification for M and SM with the American College of Microbiology is approved. The high school route is discontinued for experience under the Histotechnician eligibility requirements.
- 2006** ASCP BOR office moves to 33 W. Monroe St, Suite 1600 in downtown Chicago. South Korea becomes the first country approved for international certification. The Philippines becomes the second country approved. International version of the Molecular Pathology, MP(ASCPⁱ) is established. The MT(ASCP) certification examination is approved for California state licensure.
- 2007** ASCP BOR achieves accreditation by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for MT, MLT, and PBT certifications. MLT(ASCP), MT(ASCPⁱ) and CMLT examinations are approved for CA state licensure. ASCP BOR is accepted as the sole provider of MT(ASCP), MLT(ASCP), and CT(ASCP) certification examinations for NY state licensure. PBT(ASCPⁱ) is established.
- 2008** M(ASCP), SM(ASCP), C(ASCP), and SC(ASCP) certification examination approved for California state licensure. Program Director’s Guide to Certification, an online handbook was published. A new mission statement was adopted: “Provide excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide.”
- 2009** ASCP BOR and NCA form a single certification agency – the Board of Certification. The certification, Medical Technologist (MT), is changed to Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS). A vision statement was adopted. BB(ASCP), SBB(ASCP), H(ASCP), and SH(ASCP) certification examinations are approved for CA state licensure. Certification examinations are made available at military test centers in the U.S. and military bases worldwide. International certification options are extended to all qualified applicants worldwide. International MT exam is translated into Spanish.

2010 AND BEYOND

- 2010** The first Technologist in Cytogenetics (CG) certification examination is given. The ASCP is awarded the exclusive NY licensure contract for HT and CA licensure for CG and MB.
- 2011** A new Executive Director, Patricia A. Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} is hired.

- 2012** ANSI accreditation is awarded for all BOC U.S. certification programs. The Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) for international certification is started, requiring completion of CMP every three years for those certified beginning Jan. 1, 2012. Guidelines for Ethical Behavior are adopted for all BOC certificants.
- 2013** Converted to an online system for processing applications, with all notifications sent by email.
- 2014** The 500,000th certificant, Simeltsa Stamoulas, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Baltimore, MD, was recognized in Tampa, FL.
- 2015** A new certification for laboratory assistants was approved by the Board of Governors: Medical Laboratory Assistants, MLA; a new qualification for apheresis: Qualification in Apheresis, QIA is approved by the Board. Both of these credentials will be offered in 2016.
- 2016** The new certification for Medical Laboratory Assistants, MLA was first offered this year.
- 2017** Two new certifications, Specialist in Cytometry, SCYM; and International Specialist in Cytometry, were developed with the International Society for Advancement of Cytometry (ISAC) and the International Clinical Cytometry Society (ICCS). The Qualification in Cytometry was sunsetted in June 2017, and the Qualification in Informatics was sunsetted as well.
- 2018** The following new certifications were offered in January 2018: Specialist in Molecular Biology, SMB; and International Specialist in Molecular Biology.