



NEWSLETTER

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



**Susan M. Harrington, PhD,
D(ABMM) MLS(ASCP)^{CM}**

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The Board of Governors met in Chicago in early September. Since the offices of the Board of Certification are also in Chicago, Board members had the opportunity to visit the office and meet the staff for a social hour late Friday afternoon. It was a great pleasure to visit with this dedicated group who support our constituents and exam and work group committees. Hearing about their lives and work responsibilities gave me a better appreciation of how they feel personally connected to those of us who work in the lab and to the patients who depend on our service. The laboratory profession relies on these dedicated individuals to help us demonstrate our worth through credentialing, and we can be truly grateful for them.

The business meetings of the BOG were productive. Minor changes to eligibility routes were approved and can be found elsewhere in the BOC Newsletter and on the website. These changes do not diminish the requirements for exam eligibility. Rather, they are meant to align eligibility for categorical certifications where possible and eliminate redundancies. The sphere of

the BOC continues to expand as new certifications are developed in collaboration with our professional partners. The Specialist in Cytometry (SCYM) exam will be available Oct. 1, 2017 and the Specialist in Molecular Biology (SMB) on Jan. 1, 2018.

The BOC continues to strive to find new ways to improve communication and service to our constituents. This fall, a redesigned website was launched which provides linked access to all of the information for a given credential on a single page. Admittedly a little behind the times, the BOG has also begun to explore ways the BOC might interact with students, program directors, laboratorians and others via social media.

At the September meeting, the BOG said good-bye to a former-Chair and faithful servant of the BOC, Karen Brown, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}. We will greatly miss Karen's wisdom and skill. Deedee O'Brien and Susan Morris, MPH, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, received Distinguished Service Awards for their many years of service on the BOG. We look forward to working with new Board members, Dana Duzan, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Vicki Freeman, PhD, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SC^{CM}, and Catherine Gebhart, PhD. The collective knowledge and experience of all of the BOC volunteers never ceases to impress me. Their achievements and dedication to education and training of laboratorians and to providing excellence in patient care carry us forward in these times of rapid change in healthcare and laboratory practice. As I assume the role of Chair of the BOG, it is my honor to work with them.

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UPDATES FROM THE FALL BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING

The ASCP Board of Certification Board of Governors met in Chicago on Sept. 9 and 10. The following actions were taken by the Board:

Revisions in eligibility requirements:

- Technologist in Cytogenetics (Route 1) – the science and mathematics requirements were eliminated as these are NAACLS-accredited program prerequisites.
- International Specialist in Cytometry (Routes 2 and 5) – the ASCP certification option was eliminated.
- International Cytotechnologist (All routes) – minor clarifications were made in the requirements.
- Specialist in Cytotechnology and International Specialist in Cytotechnology (Routes 1 and 2) – minor clarifications were made in the requirements.
- Medical Laboratory Scientist (Routes 1, 2, 3, and 4) – the science

and mathematics requirements were eliminated from Route 1 as these are NAACLS-accredited program prerequisites. The mathematics requirements were eliminated from Routes 2, 3, and 4.

- Technologist in Molecular Biology (Route 1) – the science and mathematics requirements were eliminated as these are NAACLS-accredited program prerequisites.
- International Technologist in Molecular Biology – minor clarifications were made in the requirements.
- International Specialist in Molecular Biology – minor clarifications were made in the requirements.
- International Specialist in Microbiology – minor clarifications were made in the requirements.

The revised eligibility requirements are available at: [Eligibility Requirement](#).

Click “U.S. Certifications” or “International Certifications”, and then click on the appropriate certification category.

- The Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) requirements for Pathologists' Assistants, PA(ASCP) were revised to require 15 additional points specifically related to cancer cases and their staging, and one additional point in medical ethics for a total of 60 points. These revised requirements go into effect for new certificants beginning Jan. 1, 2019, and for current certificants whose certification expires beginning Jan. 1, 2019.
- Due to the small number of applicants over the last 10 years, the Board approved a motion to sunset the Qualification in Laboratory Informatics (QLI) credential effective Dec. 31, 2017. Applications will be accepted until Nov. 1, 2017, and all work projects must be completed by March 1, 2018.

CMP UPDATE – PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANT, PA(ASCP)

At the Sept. 9, 2017 Board of Certification Board of Governors' meeting, the Board approved a change in the Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) requirements for the PA(ASCP) certificants. This change will become effective for new certificants beginning Jan. 1, 2019, and current certificants whose certification expires beginning Jan. 1, 2019.

The PA(ASCP) CMP requirements have been revised to add 15 new points specifically related to cancer cases and their staging and 1 additional point in medical ethics for a total of 60 points.

The new CMP point requirements will be as follows:

- 1 point in laboratory or patient safety (i.e. quality control, quality assurance)
- 20 points in anatomic pathology
- 15 points addressing macroscopic examination and staging of cancer cases (i.e. advanced cancer anatomic pathology)
- 1 point in medical ethics
- 23 remaining points in areas of anatomic pathology, management, education or other clinical specialties

The Core Values that Define the BOC:

COMPETENCE

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

TRUST

INTEGRITY

STEWARDSHIP

MEET SILVIA FLORES, CHAIR OF THE ASCP BOC PERU ADVISORY BOARD

Silvia Flores, MT, MPH, is a medical technologist from Lima, Peru. She is the current chair of the ASCP BOC Peru Advisory Board. As an advisory board member and chair, Ms. Flores is responsible for promoting ASCP BOC international certification (ASCPⁱ) in Peru by reaching out to laboratory personnel, professionals, government departments and agencies, and other organizations involved in laboratory medicine.

Ms. Flores has extensive experience in the areas of clinical chemistry, hematology, immunology, parasitology, microbiology, blood bank, and quality control/quality management according to national

and international clinical laboratory standards. She holds a master's degree in Public Health and Hospital Management. She possesses diplomas in hemotherapy and blood banking, quality control in the clinical laboratory, and quality management in the clinical laboratory. Ms. Flores is a professor at the School of Medical Technology, Faculty of Medicine Alberto Hurtado, at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH). She teaches general clinical chemistry and advanced clinical chemistry, and is the course coordinator of Clinical Laboratory Instrumentation and Equipment.

Ms. Flores recently attended the ASCP Annual Meeting in Chicago and met with BOC staff to discuss her current ASCPⁱ activities in Peru. She has worked to update the MT program curriculum at UPCH, aligning it with the CLM(ASCPⁱ) certification content and ASCP BOC competencies. However, the UPCH authorities have not yet actively advocated for the use of ASCPⁱ certification. In October 2017, new authorities will be stepping in, and Ms. Flores will meet with them about ASCP BOC international certification. Ms. Flores also has plans to increase the Peru Board's social media presence over the next year and is creating an ASCP BOC Peru Advisory Board Facebook page.

Helpful BOC Links

[NEW Video: How do I apply for ASCP BOC Certification?](#)

[Examination Eligibility Assistant](#)

NEW TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The ASCP Board of Certification Board of Governors welcomed three new members at the September meeting in Chicago.



Dana L. Duzan, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, was elected to a three-year term as an American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) Representative to the Board.

She is the Regional Laboratory Director for Providence Health Care in Washington state. Ms. Duzan is a Past President of ASCLS and a two-time recipient of the ASCLS Robin Mendelson Memorial Award.



Vicki S. Freeman, PhD, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, SC^{CM}, FACB, was elected to a three-year term as an American Society for Clinical

Pathology (ASCP) Member Representative. Dr. Freeman is Chair and Professor

of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Services at University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas. She is an active member of ASCP and AACC. A long time BOC volunteer, Dr. Freeman has been chair of the BOC Research and Development Committee since 2004. She served on the Joint Generalist Examination Committee 1997–2003 and was a member of the Laboratory Operations Qualification (QLO) Work Group 2010–2015.



Catherine Gebhart, PhD, was elected to a three-year term as an American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Member Representative. Dr. Gebhart is Assis-

tant Professor and Director of the Histocompatibility Laboratory and Technical Director, Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Gebhart previously was a member of the Molecular Biology Examination Committee from 2007–2013, where she served as Chair from 2011–2013.

BOC DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS HONORED

The 2017 ASCP Board of Certification Distinguished Service Award was presented to Susan E. Morris, MPH, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, and Deedee O'Brien at an awards luncheon on Sept. 9, 2017 in Chicago.

Ms. Morris and Ms. O'Brien both served on the BOC Board of Governors.

Ms. Morris served the Board of Governors as an American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) Representative from 2009–2016. During her tenure, she served on the BOC Editorial Committee, the Policy and Procedure Committee, and the Nominating Committee. In 2010, she was appointed the BOG Liaison to the Laboratory Management and Safety Examination

Committee and, in 2011, she served on the Laboratory Information Qualification Work Group.

Ms. Morris served as ASCLS President in 2004–2005 and remains very active in both the ASCLS Idaho Chapter and on the Coordinating Council on the Clinical Laboratory Workforce (CCCLW). During her time on the BOG, she represented the BOC on the CCCLW and was elected as CCCLW Chair in 2015. Ms. Morris is the Patient Safety Officer at St. Luke's Medical Center in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Ms. O'Brien served on the Board of Governors as the Public Member from 2006–2015. The Public Member to the Board is

someone that does not have a medical background, but represents the public health interest, serving as the voice of the patient. During her tenure on the Board, Ms. O'Brien served on the Ethics Review Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Research and Development Committee. Ms. O'Brien served on the Ad Hoc Committee on Marketing and Communications from 2008–2010 and chaired the group 2009–2010.

Ms. O'Brien is the Executive Director at Ironstone Farm in Andover, Mass. The not-for-profit provides therapeutic and recreational opportunities using horses and a working farm environment to help people achieve optimum quality of life.



The BOC Distinguished Service Award is presented to Deedee O'Brien (center) by 2015 – 2017 BOG Chair, Kathleen Hansen, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} (right) and BOC Executive Director, Patricia A. Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} (left).



The BOC Distinguished Service Award is presented to Susan E. Morris, MPH, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} (center) by 2015 – 2017 BOG Chair, Kathleen Hansen, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} (right) and BOC Executive Director, Patricia A. Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} (left).

PATHOLOGISTS' ASSISTANTS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE LAB

By L.J. Atieh, PA(ASCP)^{CM}

Pathologists' Assistants (PAs) are the members of the lab team that usually inhabit the gross rooms, autopsy suites, and frozen section rooms of nearly all the pathology labs across the country. PAs provide various services throughout the lab under the direction of the pathologists within the department. PAs are highly trained members of the lab team, either through post-baccalaureate or on-the-job training and experience. PAs process all of the surgical pathology specimens that are sent to the lab. They help the pathologist to render a proper diagnosis of the specimen by accurately providing a gross dictation of the specimen and submission of proper tissue samples in order for the pathologist to have the correct information for diagnosis. PAs can also be involved in various aspects of a department's autopsy service as well. PAs can triage fresh surgical specimens that might require specialized ancillary testing such as flow cytometry, cytogenetics analysis, and immunohistochemical staining.

PAs gross specimens that range in complexity from biopsies and foreign body extractions to routine surgical specimens (appendices and gallbladders) to large, complex surgical cancer resections. They perform various processing aspects that go along with each specimen, such as accessioning accuracy, gross descriptions, gross specimen photography, gross dissection, tissue sampling, and microscopic photography. PAs can also be involved in various aspects of pathology residency programs,

including teaching surgical residents, preparation of education conferences, involvement in research studies, and mentoring medical students. PAs fill many administrative roles within a laboratory as well. They can oversee other PAs, gross room staffs, histology departments, serve as lab safety officers, and even can be a laboratory director. PAs can work outside of community and academic hospital settings which include private labs, medical examiners offices, medical school, reference labs, and research facilities. Some PAs are also self-employed providing travelling PA and autopsy services.

How does one become a certified PA?

Currently, in order to sit for the ASCP BOC certification exam, an applicant must complete a pathologists' assistant degree program at a NAACLS accredited institution, many of which result in earning a Masters' degree. In the past, those who have been trained on the job through both education and experience have also been able to sit for the exam. Many PAs working in the field are members of the American Association of Pathologists' Assistants (AAPA). The AAPA certified PAs in the past, but in 2005, the certification was then given through the ASCP BOC. Those who had passed the APPA Fellow examination were grandfathered into the BOR/BOC. Certified PAs must complete 45 continuing education credits every three years.

What goes on in the frozen section room?

The answer to this question can vary from hospital to hospital depending on the needs of the institution. A frozen section analysis is requested by a surgeon to address an issue while they are performing a procedure. Usually when a specimen is brought to the frozen section room, the surgeon is asking the lab to see if the margins are clear on a specimen and/or a preliminary diagnosis of the lesion. A wide variety of specimens are sent for this kind of intra-operative examination. In some cases, a PA will receive the specimen (making sure it is properly labeled), grossly assess the specimen, perhaps take a photograph, and then they will select tissue to be frozen so that the pathologist can render their diagnosis. The tissue is embedded in a cryostat (a microtome in a contained chamber that is usually kept at -25 degrees Celsius), then the tissue is sectioned and stained primarily with the routine H&E stain. PAs can do some or all of these processes with various other lab team members, including histotechnicians, histotechnologists, and other lab assistants. Other tissue samples may be taken at this time for ancillary testing, research purposes, or tumor banking.

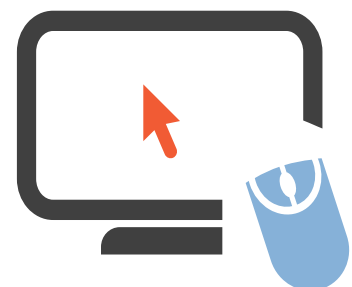
PAs contribute a great deal to the overall efficiency of the lab through their various specialized skills. They are on the front line within anatomic pathology to help keep consistent, effective patient care and a positive work flow throughout the lab.

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION CURRENT

Moving? Changing Jobs? Got a new email address?

It's extremely important that you keep your demographic information up to date with the BOC. Without your current address and email address, the BOC won't be able to send you recertification information. Don't run the risk of your

certification expiring. To keep your demographic information up to date, simply log in with your username and password by going to www.ascp.org/login, then click on Profile & Settings to update your demographic information.



2017-2018 BOC BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Front (left to right): Lena Spencer, HTL(ASCP) QIHC^{CM}; Kathleen Finnegan, MS, MT(ASCP)SH^{CM}; Kathleen Hansen, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}; Susan M. Harrington, PhD, D(ABMM),MLS(ASCP)^{CM}; Sui Zee, MD, FASCP; Alexandra Harrington, MD, FASCP, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}; and Amy R. Groszbach, MEd, MLT(ASCP)MB^{CM}.

Center (left to right): Michael Sovocool, MHS, PA(ASCP)^{CM}; Vicki S. Freeman, PhD, MASCP, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}SC^{CM}, FACB; Laura Lynn Bilodeau, MD, FASCP; Linda Smith, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}BB^{CM}; Deanna K. Iverson, MHS, MLT(ASCP)SCT^{CM},HTL; Helen Bixenman, MBA/H^{CM}, CHC, CG(ASCP)^{CM}DLM^{CM}QLC^{CM}; Susan Johnson, MSTM, MT(ASCP)SBB; Dana L. Duzan, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}; and David Chhieng, MD, FASCP.

Back (left to right): Lee H. Hilborne, MD, MPH, FASCP, DLM(ASCP)^{CM}; Elaine Francis, MEd; Catherine Gebhart, PhD, D(ABHI); Scott E. Aikey, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}DLM^{CM}; Patty J. Eschliman, MHA, MT(ASCP)DLM^{CM}; Thomas Alexander, PhD, D(ABMLI); and Susan Beck, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}.

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2017-2018 EXAMINATION COMMITTEE AND WORK GROUP VOLUNTEERS, CONTNUED

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Mary Smith, PBT(ASCP)^{CM}TX

Lynne Steele, MS, MT(ASCP)IL

BOC PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS' MEETINGS

<p>NOVEMBER 2017</p> <p>ASC 65th Annual Scientific Meeting American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) Phoenix, AZ November 10 – 13, 2017</p>	<p>AUGUST 2018</p> <p>2018 Annual Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) Chicago, IL July 29 - August 2, 2018</p>
<p>DECEMBER 2017</p> <p>59th ASH Annual Meeting & Exposition American Society of Hematology (ASH) Atlanta, GA December 9 – 12, 2017</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2018</p> <p>2018 NSH Annual Symposium /Convention National Society for Histotechnology (NSH) St. Louis, MO September 21 – 26, 2018</p>
<p>FEBRUARY 2018</p> <p>ASCLS Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference (CLEC) American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) Houston, TX February 22 – 24, 2018</p>	<p>42nd Annual Continuing Education Conference American Association of Pathologists' Assistants (AAPA) New Orleans, LA September 22 – 28, 2018</p>
<p>MAY 2018</p> <p>CLMA KnowledgeLab 2018 Long Beach, CA May 6 – 9, 2018</p>	<p>OCTOBER 2018</p> <p>2018 ASCP Annual Meeting American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Baltimore, MD October 3 – 5, 2018</p>
<p>JUNE 2018</p> <p>ASM Microbe 2018 Atlanta, GA June 7 – 10, 2018</p>	<p>AABB Annual Meeting AABB Boston, MA October 13 – 16, 2018</p>
<p>JULY 2018</p> <p>70th AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo American Association for Clinical Chemistry (AACC) Chicago, IL July 29 - August 2, 2018</p>	

2017 BOARD OF CERTIFICATION SERVICE AWARDS

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) Board of Governors awarded 2017 Board of Certification Service Awards to five dedicated volunteers who made noteworthy contributions during his/her tenure on the BOC. The 2017 recipients are:

Angela Foley, MS, MT(ASCP)SH was a member of the Hematology Exam Committee from 2010 to 2016 and served as Vice Chair in 2015 and Chair in 2016.

Deborah Heritage, CG(ASCP)^{CM} was a member of the Cytogenetics Exam Committee from 2010 to 2016 and served as Vice Chair in 2011 and as a Consultant in 2016.

Terry Kotrla, MS, MT(ASCP)BB was a member of the Phlebotomy Exam Committee from 2008 to 2016 and served as Chair in 2016.

Joanne Simpson, MT(ASCP) DLM served on the Laboratory Management Exam Committee from 2010 to 2016.

Richard Van Rheeden, MS, CG(ASCP)^{CM} served on the Cytogenetics Exam Committee from 2010 to 2016.

VISIT THE NEW BOARD OF CERTIFICATION WEBSITE AT

www.ascp.org/board-of-certification

The new website has been developed to be more concise, informative, instructional in tone and focused on the information you need.



BOC STAFF SPOTLIGHT ON CHELSEA PANTANO



Q: If you were a crayon, what color would you be?

A: “Yellow - the color of sunshine and happiness, and in my opinion, the most underrated color in the crayon box.”

This answer seems fitting to the sunny disposition of the Board of Certification’s newest employee, Chelsea Pantano. In September, the BOC welcomed Ms. Pantano as the new Project Coordinator for Examination Activities. She will be working with Exam Activities staff to provide direct support to volunteers and coordinating logistics for Exam Committee and Work Group meetings in Chicago.

Ms. Pantano hails from Sterling Heights, Mich., just outside of Detroit. She attended

Michigan State University, where she studied Psychology. After graduating MSU, she moved to Chicago. This year, she celebrates her sixth winter as a Chicagoan.

In her free time, Ms. Pantano likes to sew and cook. Her most recent hobby is sewing. She takes classes at a local art studio and now owns her own sewing machine to work on projects. Cooking and baking are another interest of hers, and she tries to cook as much as she can when at home. While she enjoys trying out new recipes, she also admits that she loves living in Chicago because of the eclectic and ever-changing food scene. She recently visited Duck Duck Goat, a Chinese-inspired restaurant that puts a creative and modern twist on Asian cuisine. She shared that every bite was amazing, from the short rib bone marrow pot stickers to the duck fried rice.

Ms. Pantano has a deep love for travel and tries to plan one big trip every year. Having travelled to 16 countries, her favorite

destination has been Greece. She spent two weeks traveling between the islands and was captivated by the breathtaking ocean views, vibrant colors, and delicious food. Greece offered a great balance of serenity, adventure, and entertainment, and she definitely will return. New Zealand currently tops her long list of places where she’d like to travel.

When asked what was the best advice she’s ever received, she shared, “Courage doesn’t always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says, ‘I’ll try again tomorrow.’” While more of an inspirational quote than advice, this is something she’s repeated to herself hundreds of times over the past few years to remind her to keep moving forward.

Exam Committee and Work Group volunteers can look forward to meeting Chelsea Pantano during the 2018 meeting season in Chicago.



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