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Greetings from the ASCP Board of Certification international team

This year we have many exciting new initiatives. As the new Chief International Liaison, I have the privilege of introducing the latest International Certification Report. In order to make our global communication network even stronger, the ASCP BOC has implemented the International Ambassador Program. We have already had a wonderful international response to this new organizational structure, with several individuals volunteering to be ASCP BOC Ambassadors. As this new program unfolds, it will be described in the following sections of the report. The overall intent is for the ASCP BOC to strengthen its international collaborative activities and continue to expand the ASCP BOC Gold Standard of Certification. We hope you enjoy the updates on the International Ambassador Program and other highlighted articles.

Biosketch:

Dr. Kathleen Becan-McBride is the Immediate Past Chair of the ASCP Board of Certification. She has been a member of the ASCP BOC Board of Governors over the past 10 years. During this period, she was the first Chair of the Board of Governors Globalization Task Force. She initiated the report to the Board of Governors to implement an international certification program. In addition, Dr. Becan-McBride has been on numerous ASCP BOR/BOC exam committees, the Research and Development Committee and the Computer Adaptive Committee over the past 28 years.

Dr. Becan-McBride is a Medical School Professor at The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston (UTHealth), UTHealth Director of Community and Educational Outreach and the Director of the new Biosafety Program at UTHealth. She has been an invited national and international phlebotomy speaker over the years and has traveled extensively internationally.
## International Ambassador Program

### Lead Ambassadors

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Lead Ambassador(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>Lee H. Hilborne, East Asia</td>
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<td>South Asia &amp; the Pacific</td>
<td>Yih-Hsin Chang, South Asia &amp; the Pacific</td>
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<td>Africa &amp; the Middle East</td>
<td>Faisal Ibrahim, Africa &amp; the Middle East</td>
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<td>Europe</td>
<td>Gene Siegal, Europe</td>
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<td>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</td>
<td>Cynthia Johns, Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</td>
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### Regional Representatives

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<th>Region</th>
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<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>Fany Fan, East Asia</td>
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<td>Africa &amp; the Middle East</td>
<td>Alokanda Chatterjee, Africa &amp; the Middle East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</td>
<td>Alexandra Dólleman, Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</td>
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### Advisory Boards

#### Korea Advisory Board
- Kyung Jin Cho
- Tae Un Kim
- Young Kwon Kim
- Moon Jung Shim
- Hyo Chan Kang
- Jang Ho Lee
- Kwang Hyun Ryu
- Man-Gil Yang
- Chun Hee Kim

#### Philippine Advisory Board
- Agnes B. Medenilla
- Mariano M. Tantingco
- Erlinda C. Pijuan
- Soledad L. Bautista
- Nini F. Lim
- Leila M. Florento
- Luella Vertucio
- Mark Yulores
- Lourdes Galbonton

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- Arnold Foo
- Hermia Lam
- Gina Leung
- Alex Leung
- Marianne Leung
- Bosco Yau

#### Singapore Advisory Board
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- Susan Lim Tsui Tsui
- Woo Wee Hong
- Koh Tse Yuen
- Joel Lee
- Alvin Poh Lye Hin
- Saroj Waikar

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- Daisys de Wang
- Mónica Guardia
- Nora Ortiz de Moreno
- Giselle M De Diaz
- Louanne Pearson
- Omara Domínguez

#### Kuwait Advisory Board
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- Mohammad Al-Jafar

#### Greece Advisory Board
- Dionysis Vourtsis
  *In Progress*

#### UAE Advisory Board
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- Samir Awadallah
- Mouza AlSharhan
- Sumedha Sahni
- Soria Sari
- Hala Ibrahim Al Hashimi
- Issam Mayhoub

#### Saudi Arabia Advisory Board
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- Chantziantoniou
- Abdullah Al-Angry
- Hanaa Salem Bamefleh
- Victoria Rani Leo

#### Egypt Advisory Board
- Cecil Dunn
- Hasan Azzazy
- Moamena Kamel
- Hend El Sherbini
- David Rockabrand
- Magdy El Ekiaby

#### Peru Advisory Board
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- Segundo Léon
- Fernando Palacios
- José Antonio Paredes
- Carlos Penalillo
- Patricia Quintana

#### Ethiopia Advisory Board
- Tedla Mindaye

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- Uselencia Esajas, Suriname
- Clio Innes, Bermuda
- Harry Narine, Trinidad
- Colin Roach, Guyana
  *In Progress*

#### Jamaica Advisory Board
- Marcia Dean
- Sonia Richards-Malcolm
- Meredith Williams
- Janice Wissart
- Warren Williams
- Sharon Thompson Kiddo
- Paul Gyles

#### Jordan Advisory Board
- Nael M. Soudi
- Maher Sughayer
- Salwa Amarin
- Randa Al Ahmad
- Aktham Haddadin
- Nashat Dahabra
- Said Ismail
- Ismail Matalka

#### Japan Advisory Board
- Hideo Sakamoto
- Kunihiko Mimura
- Kiichi Ito
- Hirotsu Yukota

#### Ecuador Advisory Board
- Henry Alvarez

#### Taiwan Advisory Board
- Tsu Lan Wu
- Chuan-Liang Kao
- Chun-Nan Lee
- Hong-Mo Lee
- Shu-Chu Shiesh
- Yih-Hsin Chang
- Hsu-Chin Fan
- Kuo-Chien Tsao

#### Collaborative Societies/Professional Organizations/Laboratories/Hospitals

#### Educational Institutions/Program Directors
Tanabe Succeeds Holladay, Becomes Executive Director of the ASCP Board of Certification

Patricia A. Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)CM, BOC Director of Examination Activities, has been named Executive Director of the ASCP Board of Certification and an ASCP Vice President, effective Jan. 1, 2011. She replaces E. Blair Holladay, PhD, SCT(ASCP)CM, who became ASCP Executive Vice President in July.

Full story at: http://www.ascp.org/MainMenu/laboratoryprofessionals/ASCP-BOC-Names-New-Executive-Director.aspx

The ASCP Board of Certification has received over 3,250 applications from 59 countries for ASCP® certification.

ASCP welcomes the newly formed boards from Kuwait, Ethiopia, and Ecuador!

Critical Values Spotlights
ASCP BOC’s International Certification Efforts

Critical Values’ January 2011 edition is entitled “Going Global” and in addition to the many international efforts Society wide, presents an in-depth look at the ASCP BOC’s rapid growth across the globe. Highlights include Panama’s legal mandate requiring all medical technologists to pass ASCP® examination and Singapore’s ASCP® international certification pilot program.

Full story at: www.criticalvalues.org/cv_january_2011/index.html

“The ASCP examination will force the students to review, consolidate, and broaden their knowledge. Afterward, they will be more confident in dealing with doctors. They will be more accountable for their test results and diagnoses, the lab will be safer, and patients in Singapore will ultimately benefit.”

-Siew Kim Ong, Singapore Advisory Board Chair


The long-awaited new edition of the Board of Certification Study Guide – the authoritative study tool for preparing for the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) Medical Technologist (MT) and Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) certification examinations – has been updated and expanded to include new sections on molecular pathology, lab information, safety, answers and explanations for each question, and is now available in Spanish. The Spanish edition is a .pdf download available at the reduced price of $49.

Full details at: www.ascp.org/GuiaDeEstudioBOC
International Ambassador Organization Structure

Chief International Liaison: Kathleen Becan-McBride

E. Asia
- Regional Representative: Fany Fan
- Lead Ambassador: Lee H. Hilborne

S. Asia/Pacific
- *Regional Representative
- Lead Ambassador: Yih-Hsin Chang

Middle East/Africa
- Regional Representative: Alokanda Chatterjee
- Lead Ambassador: Faisal Ibrahim

Europe
- *Regional Representative
- Lead Ambassador: Gene Siegal

Latin America/Caribbean
- Regional Representative: Alexandra Dölleman
- Lead Ambassador: Cynthia Johns

Additional Experts

International Representatives
- Fany Fan
- Lead Ambassador: Lee H. Hilborne

- Yih-Hsin Chang
- Lead Ambassador: Gene Siegal

- Alexandra Dölleman
- Lead Ambassador: Cynthia Johns

Advisory Boards
- Hong Kong
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Japan
- Korea
- Taiwan
- Other E. Asia Countries
- Other S. Asia/Pacific Countries
- Other M.E.A. Countries
- Other European Countries
- Other L.A.C. Countries
- Other Experts As Needed

Regional Representative:
- Lead Ambassador:
  - East Asia: Fany Fan
  - S. Asia/Pacific: Yih-Hsin Chang
  - Middle East/Africa: Faisal Ibrahim
  - Europe: Gene Siegal
  - Latin America/Caribbean: Cynthia Johns

Discipline Specific Experts

Public Health Experts

International Business Experts

International Standards Experts

*In development*
At the Panama City of Knowledge in August 2010 an official announcement was made regarding the adoption of the ASCPi certification for all graduating students in Medical Technology to comply with law No.43 of the 21st of July 2004 which came into effect on the 1st of January 2011. Following the announcement, Drs. E. Blair Holladay and Kathleen Becan-McBride gave a short presentation on the history of ASCPi and its presence worldwide.

Read more at the following: http://www.ascp.org/MainMenu/AboutASCP/Newsroom/Panama-Mandates-ASCPi-Certification-for-Lab-Professionals.aspx

Aug. 28, 2010, marked the final meeting of the International Certification Committee (ICC) in Panama. Six members of the ICC as well as Dr. E. Blair Holladay, Jennifer Young, Dr. Kathleen Becan-McBride, Cynthia Johns, Dr. Ellen Hope-Kearns and Alexandra Dölleman, the regional representative of Latin America/Caribbean, attended.

The Committee reviewed country specific events, statistics, and materials for the International Ambassador Program. Needs were identified such as the development of categorical international certifications and the need for all BOC international examinations to be American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited. As a result of this discussion, and because the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) is a necessary component for ANSI accreditation, the Committee presented a motion for CMP to be required for international certifications.

ASCP BOC would like to thank the former members of the International Certification Committee for their dedication in building the infrastructure that leads us into a new era to be defined by the International Ambassador Program.
The BOC Board of Governors’ (BOG) meeting was held immediately following on Oct. 30-31 in San Francisco. The following actions were approved at this meeting:

Minor revisions were made to the international eligibility requirements for the following categories: International Medical Technologist, International Medical Laboratory Technician, International Phlebotomy Technician, International Technologist in Molecular Biology, and Qualification in Laboratory Operations.

International certificants (ASCP i) certified beginning Jan. 1, 2012, will be required to participate in the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP).

Additional information will be available soon.

ASCP BOC Recognizes New Collaborating Society

In January 2011, the Chilean Association of Medical Technologists (Colegio de Tecnólogos Médicos de Chile) signed an agreement with the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification (BOC), to collaborate with ASCP BOC in its mission to improve clinical laboratory practice worldwide. The collaboration recognizes the Chilean Association of Medical Technologists’ goals align with those of the ASCP BOC, acknowledging ASCP BOC international certification as an opportunity to improve clinical laboratory practice worldwide. According to Kathleen Becan-McBride, EdD, MLS(ASCP)CM,
Immediate Past Chair, Board of Governors and Chief International Liaison, International Consortium for ASCPi, the ASCP BOC welcomes the opportunity to include the Chilean Association of Medical Technologists as an influential leader in the field of international certification of medical laboratory professionals. Dr. Becan-McBride said, “the ASCP BOC’s Board of Governors is delighted the Chilean Association of Medical Technologists has joined the Board of Certification as a Collaborating Society.”

ASCP BOC’s relationship with Chile and the Chilean Association is strong and advancements towards the official agreement are rooted in February 2010’s IX Peruvian Congress of Medical Technologists in Lima, Peru.

At that congress Alexandra Dólleman, ASCP BOC Regional Representative for the Latin America/Caribbean regions, and Juan Carlos Araya, Professor at the University of Chile, discussed establishing an advisory board in Chile. This initial discussion led to the creation of the Chilean Advisory Board, which unofficially launched at the XV Chilean Congress of Medical Technology and V Pan-American workshop of Medical Technologists in July 2010.

The members of the board are: Juan José Díaz Peña (Media Director), Juan Carlos Araya (President), Victor Muñoz Flores*, Macarena Paz Lépez Rivera (Vice President) and María Soledad Vidal (Secretary). The board was officially established on Aug. 18, 2010 at the Chilean Association of Medical Technologists’ headquarters in Santiago.

From August to December 2010, the board distributed promotional materials to the various regional and provincial directors of the Chilean Association of Medical Technologists and to the 13 Universities offering a Medical Technology Program with specialization in Clinical Laboratory, Hematology, and Blood Bank.

Background: the Chilean Association of Medical Technologists was founded in 1969, and in 1981 became a private entity with optional membership. In Chile, Medical Technologists are divided into five areas: Clinical Laboratory, Hematology and Blood Bank; Morph-physio-pathology and Cyto-diagnosis; Otolaryngology; Ophthalmology; and Radiology and Medical Physics. In 2010, the Chilean Ministry of Health implemented a national registration system for all Medical Technologists mandating certification in all areas to obtain recognition. The process takes 5-10 years and includes an examination.

*In Memoriam: The ASCP BOC extends our sincere condolences to the newly formed Chilean Advisory Board, the University of Chile and the friends & family of Victor Muñoz Flores and is grateful for his brief assistance on the International Consortium for ASCPi.

Background and Introduction:

Ecuador’s medical technology program is divided into 20 disciplines, one of which is the clinical laboratory. Biochemists compete for the same positions as medical technologists, but may be better prepared for pharmaceutical industry and research because they obtain practical experience in clinical laboratories, but lack the training to perform a clinical analysis. Medical technologists are better prepared in the clinical area and international certification provides a means for Ecuadorian medical technologists to differentiate themselves from biochemists and gain a competitive edge in the job market. Ecuador hosts fierce competition from the “Bioquímicos,” who are biochemistry students graduating after 5 years of study.

Since 2008, affiliation with the Association of Medical Technologists is no longer required for employment in Ecuador, or for government work. Consequently, discipline specific clinical societies are now common throughout the country. These societies provide updates on technological advances and defend the interests of medical technologists from biochemists, who have their own society, “SEBIOCLI” or “Sociedad de Bioquímica Clínica.”

There are currently three main medical technologist societies. Each one represents a specific specialization. They are Sociedad de Tecnólogos Médicos en Laboratorio Clínico/Society of Medical Technologists in Clinical Laboratory (SOMETELAB), Sociedad de Fisioterapia/Society for Physiotherapy, and Sociedad de Radiología/Society for Radiology.
The OAE (Organización de Acreditación Ecuatoriana or Ecuadorian Organization for Accreditation) is applying for the optional accreditation for laboratories according to ISO 15189. Criteria are still under development, but accreditation for private laboratories will be compulsory in 2011.

Obtaining accreditation in Ecuador may seem intricate, but verifying an individual's degree is straightforward. Since 2000, all graduates register with the “Secretaría Nacional de Educación Superior de Ciencia, Tecnología e Inovación” (Ministry of Education for Science, Technology, and Innovation). This information is accessible to the public through the ministry’s website.

Meetings:

Wednesday Nov. 17, 2010
Dr. Henry Alvarez, Director of SOMETELAB, Sociedad de Tecnólogos Médicos en Laboratorio Clínico, (Association of Medical Technologists in Clinical Laboratory) accompanied Alexandra Dölleman, ASCP BOC Regional Representative for Latin America/Caribbean to the opening ceremony of the XX Latin American Congress of Clinical Pathology/Laboratory Medicine (ALAPAC/ML), where introductions were made to Dr. Luis Narváez, the President of ALAPAC (the Latin American Association of Clinical Pathology). A large number of doctors and pathologists attended the opening ceremony.

Mrs. Dölleman met Professor Murilo Melo, Financial Director of Associação Paulista de Medicina, (Association of Medicine of Brazil).

Thursday Nov. 18, 2010
During a site visit to explore the history of laboratory science in Ecuador, Mrs. Dölleman and Dr. Henry Alvarez met with Lic. Lucía Ulloa, Director of the Bio-analysis Program of the Universidad Católica. It is the first year for this new program with former programs termed “Tecnología Médica.” Lic. Lucía Ulloa provided the university curriculum and the university’s auditorium for the ASCPi presentation. This private university is recognized as the best University in Ecuador after the public Universidad Central.

The ASCPi presentation was attended by over 60 professionals from all regions of Ecuador. After the presentation Dr. Henry Alvarez encouraged all medical technologists to join forces to defend the interests of the profession. There was a vivid discussion on lack of recognition of the profession in Ecuador and of biochemists filling medical technologist positions. Dr. Alvarez offered to be the voice of clinical laboratorians in Ecuador through SOMETELAB, founded 14 years ago. That same evening SOMETELAB board members were appointed to continue the discussions and organize a plan of action to introduce ASCPi international certification in the different regions as a means to regain the status and recognition the profession deserves.

Friday, Nov. 19, 2010
At the Universidad Central Mrs. Dölleman and Dr. Henry Alvarez met with medical technology Professor Bernardita Ulloa and the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Science, Dr. Milton Tapia. These representatives believe international certification would be an excellent opportunity and an asset for students.

In conclusion this short visit was very productive as ASCP BOC laid the first stepping stones to introduce international certification in Ecuador. Dr. Alvarez will be working with Mrs. Dölleman in the coming months to build an ASCPi Ecuador Advisory Board.
Meet the Lead Ambassadors

Lee Hilborne, MD, MPH, DLM(ASCP)CM, FASCP, FCAP
Lead Ambassador, East Asia

Dr. Hilborne is Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA; Medical Director, Quest Diagnostics, Southern California and Deputy Director for Global Health at the RAND Corporation. Dr. Hilborne served as a member of the Board of Directors of ASCP for 10 years and is an ASCP past president. He is currently a member of the Board of Certification Board of Governors, Institute Advisory Committee Chair, and a member of the International Commission.

RAND work included guidance for formation of the National Health Authority for Qatar, evaluation of causes of Gulf War Illnesses, and Evaluation of Pay for Performance in Taiwan. Dr. Hilborne was Associate Director for UCLA HealthCare responsible for quality and patient safety. Further, he serves on a number of editorial boards and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Medical Quality and recently served on several federal advisory committees.

Yih-Hsin Chang, PhD
Lead Ambassador, South Asia/Pacific Region

Upon completing undergraduate MT training in 1990, Dr. Chang received her Bachelor’s from the Department of Medical Technology, Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan. By 1996, she had gone on to receive her Ph.D. from the Institute of Microbiology & Immunology, National Yang-Ming University, Taiwan. Since receiving her Ph.D., Dr. Chang has been a visible and inspiring instructor at numerous university medical technology departments across Taiwan.

Beyond her academic experience, she is the secretary of the Taiwan Advisory Board of the ASCP BOC International Consortium for ASCPi. Dr. Chang always seeks to broaden her view and perception by communicating with medical technologist professionals from other countries.

“It is my honor and great pleasure to serve as the Lead Ambassador for the South Asia/Pacific region, as well as to interact with and provide support to the international ambassadors and advisory board members,” said Dr. Chang. “I believe being involved in international activities to promote mutual understanding amongst the countries of this region will bring brand-new challenges, experiences, and inspirations to me.”

Faisal E. Ibrahim, MBA, HCM, MT(ASCP)
Lead Ambassador, Middle East/Africa

Faisal Ibrahim is the QA/QC Technical Advisor for the U.S National Institute of Health collaborating sites in Ghana and Burkina Faso. Faisal’s educational background includes a bachelor’s degree in Clinical Laboratory Sciences from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2001 and an MBA in Health Care Management from the University of Phoenix in 2005. Mr. Ibrahim then spent the first eight years of his career working in several hospitals in Chicago and Florida.

In 2008 Faisal moved to Egypt where his assistance helped two laboratories become the country’s inaugural recipients of CAP accreditation. Soon after, in 2009, Faisal joined the U.S Naval Medical Research Unit (U.S N.I.H) as the QA/QC technical advisor. Currently, he is working with a set of laboratories in West Africa. His role is to ensure the laboratories are prepared for receipt of CAP accreditation.

In addition to his work in the Middle East/ Africa, Mr. Ibrahim serves as a consultant for the President’s Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR), which is a global health initiative to fight malaria, AIDS, and tuberculosis.
Gene P. Siegal, M.D., Ph.D., FASCP
Lead Ambassador, Europe

Dr. Siegal is an extramurally funded experimental and diagnostic pathologist whose research interest for more than three decades has been focused in Cancer Biology. Specifically, he has been interested in studying tumor-matrix interactions during angiogenesis, tumor invasion, and metastasis in breast cancer. Recent efforts by his group have been directed towards developing new reliable in vitro model systems for studying the effect of nutritional and other factors on prostate and breast cancer progression in humans. He has participated in multiple gene therapy studies utilizing a variety of distinct strategies including mutation compensation, genetic immunopotentiation, and molecular chemotherapy to treat solid human neoplasms, principally ovarian carcinoma. He was most recently funded to develop a conditionally replicating canine adenovirus model that can be used to study host-vector interactions for more effective antitumor oncolytic effect. Dr. Siegal also directs the Histomorphometry & Molecular Analysis Core of the UAB Core Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders and the Interdisciplinary Corroborative Laboratory for Gene Therapy Clinical Trials. Dr. Siegal’s clinical research interests have focused on studies of bone tumors and related conditions. He is the Editor-in-Chief of Laboratory Investigation and serves on the editorial board of an additional seventeen journals.

"As one who was there at the conception, I would like to believe my most significant contribution will be to see this program reach maturity in regards to recognition of the value & meaning of the International credential and have other countries begin to reach parity with the U.S.A., allowing them in turn, to "pass it forward,” thereby lifting up the entire enterprise, supporting an ever changing global marketplace."

Cynthia Johns, MSA, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)CM SHCM
Lead Ambassador, Latin America/Caribbean

Cindy is a Sr. IT Technical Specialist for Laboratory Corporation of America, responsible for laboratory information systems maintenance and coding. In her previous positions, she was the Information Technology Manager for Esoterix, Inc, and Laboratory Manager for Esoterix Coagulation in Denver, CO. Cindy began her career as a special coagulation technologist at Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, IN and has also held positions as department manager and hematology supervisor at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in Lakeland, FL and Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. She has been an active volunteer for the American Society for Clinical Pathology and the laboratory professions throughout her career, providing numerous continuing education programs and serving on several laboratory boards and committees, including positions as chair for the ASCP Board of Certification Board of Governors, BOC International Certification Committee and Associate Member Section Administrative Board. She has also served as an ASCP international consultant and trainer for the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program in Africa and as a member of the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Advisory Committee.
Between August 3rd and 14th, ASCP staff and consultants traveled to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to conduct two back-to-back “Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation” (SLMTA) workshops. Ethiopia has selected 24 of their 39 laboratories to undergo SLMTA’s step-wise WHO-AFRO accreditation process, comprising seven regional reference labs, nine regional referral hospital labs, two university hospital labs, and six reference labs at the Ethiopian Health and Nutritional Research Institute (EHNRI).

Following both rounds of SLMTA training, participants were given the opportunity to take the BOC’s Qualification in Laboratory Operations exam. In total, fifty-five participants took advantage of the opportunity.

During 2010 the UAE Advisory Board increased from two members to seven. Board membership now includes representation from private and government health care sectors as well as the University of Sharjah (UoS), which offers a four year medical laboratory technology program. At UoS, an introductory presentation of ASCP was given to MLT students, graduates and local practitioners (see photograph). Since then, a number of applicants have inquired and applied for the exam. In the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, where there are the largest numbers of laboratories and the most medical technologists are employed, the examination was introduced to applicants directly and several have applied.

On April 26, 2010, at the United Congress on Laboratory Management & Medicine, Radisson Hotel, Kuwait, Dr. Ahmad Sultan gave a presentation titled, “Accredited Laboratories: Importance and availability of International Certification for Laboratory Personnel.”
As part of his lecture on “Molecular Approaches to Cervical Cancer Screening & HPV,” Dr. Linder highlighted international certification opportunities through ASCP. Consequently, approximately 200 technologists and students received ASCP’s contact information, as well as a brief overview of ASCP and its international outreach efforts.

Dr. Linder said attendees were particularly interested in obtaining brochures and more in-depth information on ASCPi, and added that while the event is relatively new, it meets the highest standards of any U.S. biomedical symposium. Accordingly, the HKSMDS indicated the three day symposium has grown into a very successful event, and offers participants a valuable forum for discussing important developments and overcoming challenges in molecular technologies and rapid diagnosis. The HKSMDS states that “the symposium provides a platform for open and frank discussions among clinicians, basic scientists, and health professionals who facilitate not only research, but also the development of new methods for disease control.”

Special thanks goes to Drs. Chris Wong, Thomas Ling, and Daniel Tam for their continued support of ASCP BOC International Certification.

Dr. Linder’s lecture slides from the symposium can be downloaded at: drjlinder.wordpress.com

Hong Kong Society for Molecular Diagnostic Sciences: http://www.hksmds.org/new_en/index.html

Certification for Jamaican Phlebotomists & Medical Technologists Arrives

For practicing laboratorians, continuing education is a necessary part of their professional development, and it keeps laboratories up to date on the latest scientific and technological breakthroughs. Data collected in 2005 indicated that technologists in Jamaica hold bachelor degrees at a rate of 60 percent, diplomas at 15 percent, certificates at 12 percent, on the bench training at 11 percent and doctoral degrees at 2 percent. Globally, some systems have started encouraging technologists to become certified by an external organization. As such, international certification has been offered in many countries, and for some it has proven useful in salary negotiations. One of the leaders in International Certification is the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification (BOC).

ASCP BOC international certification is available worldwide to applicants who meet predetermined eligibility requirements. Since Jamaica’s two main universities meet these criteria, many Jamaican applicants have successfully qualified for the ASCP BOC examinations, which are offered at the reduced examination fee rate of $95USD for applicants trained and currently residing in Jamaica. Additionally, the ASCP BOC has already set up a Jamaican Advisory Board and opened a testing center through its testing provider, Pearson VUE, at the Mona School of Business, University of the West Indies. Jamaican technologists may now consider international certification as a means of validating their skills.

International certification indicates Jamaican medical laboratory professionals have the aptitude needed to provide laboratory services locally and internationally. This was illustrated during 2009’s H1N1 flu pandemic when Jamaica handled its screening efforts domestically using the country’s own highly trained and efficient laboratory professionals. Situations such as this affirm there is no need to send expensive laboratory tests overseas, as Jamaican technologists are quite capable of performing complex laboratory testing. The Jamaican Government needs to acknowledge the hidden treasure of Jamaica. After all, the skills that abound in the human resources of Jamaica are unique, and the technologists quietly working behind their microscopes are not to be taken for granted; they are a vital part of the Jamaican healthcare system.

Submitted by: By Kameaka J. Duncan, (B.Sc.MT(Hon.),CASMET,AMT
Indian Laboratorians Crave Certification

From October to late December 2010, Ms. Alokananda Chatterjee, ASCP BOC Regional Representative, Middle East and Africa region, spoke to over one thousand MLT students and professionals across India on the benefits of the ASCP BOC’s international certification examinations. At these speaking engagements, Ms. Chatterjee presented an overview of ASCP BOC certification opportunities followed by a Q&A session and a quiz. Overall, Chatterjee noted participants as being enthusiastic regarding international certification, with some concern about fees required for transcript evaluation; a process currently required of all applicants from India. The first of these speaking-engagements took place in partnership with Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Pharmacy, the All India Medical Laboratory Technologists Association (AIMLTA) and the State Unit of Chandigarh at a seminar on the ASCP BOC’s International Certification Examination in Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) on Oct. 12, 2010, in Chandigarh, India.

On Nov. 14, 2010, at the Indian Association Hall in Kolkata, ASCP BOC supported and participated in the AIMLTA 37th West Bengal Annual State Conference & Scientific Seminar. During the conference, Mr. Surya Dev of AIMLTA, Delhi communicated the value of ASCP BOC international certification in terms of international accreditation and better job prospects abroad. “It was a well planned and extremely fruitful seminar,” said Chatterjee—referring to the organizational skills of Mr. Subhasish and Smt Aloka Roy of AIMLTA of Kolkata, who organized the seminar.

On Nov. 27, 2010, at the Third Delhi Annual State Conference of AIMLTA & Scientific Seminar held in the Sir Shankar Lal Concert Hall Mr. Surya Dev, AIMLTA of Delhi, attended with Ms. Chatterjee as a co-presenter. The conference, as indicated by Ms. Chatterjee, was expertly arranged by AIMLTA of Delhi and proved extremely beneficial to the participants.

The Twentieth National Congress on Biomedical Laboratory Science & Scientific Seminar of the All India Institute of Medical Technologists (AIIMT) took place from December 18-19, 2010, at St Joseph’s College in Trichy. With over 550 in attendance, the event was a grand success. ASCP BOC brochures, International Certification Reports and spiral notebooks were distributed from the ASCPi table outside the seminar hall to students, professionals, and all the directors of the various institutes under the affiliation of AIIMT. According to Ms. Chatterjee, AIIMT of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal did an exceptional job of organizing the conference. At the conclusion of the congress, Ms. Chatterjee met with delegates from Sri Lanka, representing the Forum of Professional & Educational Development of Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka Association of Medical Laboratory Technologists. According to Chatterjee, the Sri Lankan delegates are interested in introducing ASCP BOC international certifications in Sri Lanka, with the possibility of the Sri Lankan government mandating ASCP certification at all MLT institutes.
The American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) is the largest association of laboratory professionals in the world with over 450,000 individuals certified by the ASCP Board of Certification. Join your colleagues as they work to improve patient safety, and earn the respect and recognition of your peers around the globe!

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Executive Vice President
American Society for Clinical Pathology

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Route 3: CT(IAC) certification AND six months experience in gynecologic cytotechnology.

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