It’s been an exciting time for the BOC international team. In September the BOC Board of Governors had the good fortune of being visited by Dr. Rana Nabulsi, the BOC UAE Advisory Chair. Dr. Nabulsi attended the first day of the BOG fall meeting and discussed the various activities the UAE board is facilitating throughout the UAE. Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)CM, Executive Director, ASCP Board of Certification, Jennifer Young, CT(ASCP)CM, Director, ASCP Business Development and International Partnerships, and Colleen Nolan, Chief Strategy Officer, ASCP Center for Business Innovation, Strategy and Giving, recently attended the Asia Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (AAMLS) Congress from Sept. 22-24 in Busan, South Korea. During the congress, Ms. Tanabe gave a special lecture on ASCP BOC’s international portfolio and CMP requirements. Immediately preceding the congress, on Sept. 21, Ms. Tanabe hosted a BOC Asia Advisory Board Chairs’ meeting for six of the BOC’s Asia advisory chairs. The meeting gave the chairs the opportunity to discuss regional successes in promoting ASCP, and to address any challenges their advisory boards have been encountering in their respective countries.

Just east of the Korean Peninsula, in Japan, the BOC continues to make strides towards greater awareness of international certification. During the 2017 Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT) Congress in Chiba, Japan, Dr. Hideo Sakamoto, Chair of the BOC Japan Advisory Board, staffed a BOC exhibit booth for both days of the congress. He also presided over a Japanese-Korean student forum where students discussed the importance of ASCPi. JAMT is a longtime partner of the BOC, and in October the BOC had the honor of working with Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, IL, to host the second round of JAMT visitors to the LUMC labs. BOC is truly making a difference globally, which can be seen in the steady increase in ASCP international examinees and certificants. Indeed, as of Sept. 30, 2017, there were 13,197 first time examinees from 98 countries of education, and 9,138 certifications from 89 countries of education.

The future is truly global!
Every two years, the Asia Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (AAMLS) holds its congress. The objective of holding this biennial congress is to elevate the status of the medical laboratory science profession in Asia and, according to the AAMLS website, “to offer opportunities for exchanges of information on medical science between and among member associations; to enhance mutual understanding between and among medical scientists of member associations and work for mutual assistance and improvement of expertise technologies and to improve reliability on accuracy of medical laboratory tests through cooperation between and among member associations.”

The 2017 AAMLS Congress took place Sept. 22-24 in Busan, South Korea. A BOC collaborating society, the Korean Association of Medical Technologists (KAMT) hosted the 2017 event. KAMT has been a BOC partner for over 10 years and provided the BOC with a complementary exhibit stand during the congress. KAMT also invited Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)CM, Executive Director, ASCP Board of Certification, to speak to a large audience of students and laboratory professionals about ASCP international certification and international CMP.

The BOC often seeks partnerships with organizations with common goals and objectives, and KAMT shares the BOC’s belief in building strong international partnerships towards assuring the competency of medical laboratory professionals around the world.

S. Korea is the BOC’s 2nd largest market, and AAMLS 2017, with an estimated attendance of 5,295 Korean laboratory professionals (and over 400 visiting professionals from other parts of Asia and the world), offered the BOC an excellent promotional opportunity for its certification and credential maintenance portfolio. As of Sept. 30, 2017, there were 967 first time ASCPi examinees and 687 ASCPi certified individuals from S. Korea. Additionally, the congress gave the BOC the ability to meet directly with the BOC Korean Advisory Board and BOC Asia Advisory Board Chairs.

See the accompanying article, “Meet the Asia Advisory Board Chairs,” for the full details.
Meet the Asia Advisory Board Chairs

On Sept. 21 in Busan, South Korea, just prior to AAMLS 2017, the BOC met with six of its Asian Advisory Board Chairs to discuss their progress in promoting ASCP international certification in their countries. Advisory board chairs and members are essential to the BOC’s international outreach efforts, as they are responsible for promoting international certification in their respective countries by reaching out to laboratory personnel, professionals, government departments and agencies, and other organizations involved in laboratory medicine. The BOC holds periodic meetings with its advisory board chairs in order to discuss regional successes in promoting ASCP, and to address any challenges that advisory board chairs are encountering in their countries.

BOC HONG KONG ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

Chris Wong, PhD, MP(ASCP), is a medical laboratory director. Dr. Wong has extensive experience in the areas of medical microbiology, molecular diagnostics, cancer genetics, molecular pathology, and quality control/quality management according to ISO 15189. He holds a PhD in Medical Microbiology and also possesses fellowship qualification from the American Society for Clinical Pathology, the Royal College of Pathologists Australasia, and the Institute of Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Wong has served as the Honorary Assistant Professor at the Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong and Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Macau. He teaches Medical Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. Dr. Wong worked in the Queen Mary Hospital of The University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Sanatorium Hospital before founding the Hong Kong Molecular Pathology Diagnostic Centre (HKMPDC). Currently, he serves as the Laboratory Director of HKMPDC and the consultant of a chain of 18 molecular diagnostic laboratories in China. He is also responsible for the implementation of new methodologies and a quality assurance system for patient care in public and private institutions.

According to Dr. Wong, the Hong Kong Advisory Board is actively promoting the international certification for MB(ASCP) and PBT(ASCP) by providing supplementary revision classes for examination. They are also continuing ASCP information dissemination to medical technology practitioners and university students, forming strategic alliances with professional societies in Hong Kong, distributing brochures, holding lectures and open forums, and promoting the use of online examination preparation materials and examination content guidelines.

BOC JAPAN ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

Hideo Sakamoto, PhD, has extensive experience in the areas of clinical chemistry, molecular biology and point-of-care testing. He is a department chair and Professor of Medical Technology at Kobe Tokiwa University, Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Medical Technology. He teaches molecular biology, genetic engineering, general clinical laboratory management, general clinical medicine, global health and advanced laboratory medicine technology. Dr. Sakamoto serves as Vice President of the Japanese Association of Medical Technology Education (JAMTE), sits on the Board of Directors of the Japanese Society of Clinical Chemistry (JSCC), is an acting member of Internet and e-Learning (C-IeL) of the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC), and is a member of the International...
According to Dr. Sakamoto, the Japan Advisory Board is creating an advisory board member network and plans to staff ASCPi promotional exhibit booths at several upcoming meetings of JAMT, JAMTE and JSLM. Dr. Sakamoto has given numerous lectures on ASCPi to medical technologists, university students and graduate school students to promote BOC international certification and credential maintenance. He has also published several articles on the importance of ASCPi and how to navigate the certification application process.

The ASCP-BOC Philippine Advisory Board was the second Advisory Board established for ASCPi. It has undertaken activities that have enhanced visibility of the BOC's international examinations to Filipino medical technologists and has adhered to the objective of creating progressive standards for medical technology certification.

According to Ms. Medenilla, with so many of the BOC's ASCPi certificants coming from the Philippines, the present goal of the Philippine Advisory Board is to participate actively in their continuing professional development.

At a professional level, Ms. Ong was a member of the Executive Council of the Singapore Association of Clinical Biochemists, endorsing and advancing clinical chemistry training and education. A lifelong learner, Ms. Ong has recently completed her thesis requirement for a Degree of Doctor of Education, Durham University, United Kingdom.

At the last quarter of 2017, Ms. Ong will assume the role of project coordinator working with the International Training and Education Center for Health at the University of Washington (United States) to assist in coordination of activities to strengthen the quality and capacity of health laboratories in Cambodia. However, she will continue to support the BOC while advancing the education of medical laboratory students and professionals in Singapore and Cambodia.

BOC PHILIPPINES ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR
Agnes B. Medenilla, RMT(PRC), MSMT, MT(ASCP), obtained her Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from the University of Santo Tomas and her Master of Science in Medical Technology from the Philippine Women's University in Manila, Philippines. She had further studies and training at the Muhlenberg Hospital School of Medical Technology in Plainfield, NJ, and First Department of Biochemistry, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan. Her laboratory experience started at the laboratory departments of Muhlenberg Hospital and Crippled Children's Hospital of the United Hospitals of Newark at Newark, NJ. Upon her return to the Philippines, she worked in various laboratories and became the Chief Medical Technologist and Administrative Officer at the Department of Laboratories of Makati Medical Center, Makati, Metro Manila.

She became a member of the Board of Medical Technology of the Professional Regulation Commission, the Philippine Government's professional licensing and regulating body. Ms. Medenilla was President of the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists for 2001-2002 and 2005-2006; First Vice-President of ASEAN Association of Clinical Laboratory Sciences from 2005-2007 and Auditor of Asian Association of Medical Technologists from 2002-2005. Currently, she is the Dean of the College of Medical Technology of the University of Perpetual Help System Delta-Molino Campus.

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BOC SINGAPORE ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR
Siew Kim Ong, MS, MAACB, FAACB, MBA, PBT(ASCP), has wide-ranging experience in the areas of laboratory diagnostics that include training and education, student/medical resident’s laboratory internships, regulatory audits by the Ministry of Health and Health Science Authority of Singapore, accreditation audits by CAP and JCI, and maintaining quality control/quality management according to national and international clinical laboratory standards. She graduated with a Master’s in Science from the University of Melbourne, Australia, and a Master’s in Business Administration from La Trobe University, Australia. She possesses certification in Membership and Fellowship in Clinical Biochemistry from the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists. Additionally, she possesses (ASCP) certification in phlebotomy. Ms. Ong is an Associate Lecturer at the School of Applied Science, Temasek Polytechnic, and teaches clinical chemistry preparatory courses for MLT(ASCP) and MLS(ASCP), as well as a phlebotomy course for PBT(ASCP). She has also been nominated as a mentor by he Industry Mentors’ Network for Polytechnic students.

BOC S. KOREA ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR
Kyung Jin Cho, PhD, is a Professor Emeritus, College of Health Sciences, Korea University. Professor Cho is a medical technologist
and a member of KAMT. He received a doctoral degree of Health Science at the Graduate School, Yonsei University (Seoul) in 1993. He started his teaching career at DaeJeon Health College in 1981, teaching hematology, blood banking, public health, hospital administration, and health statistics. After arriving at Korea University, College of Health Sciences, in 1997, he continued teaching hematology, health statistics, stem cell technology and cellular molecular immunology as one of the faculty members of the Department of Biomedical Laboratory Science. At Korea University, he also served as Chair of the Department, Assistant Minister for Core Laboratory in the College of Health Sciences, Acting Dean of the College of Health Sciences and an Academic Board Member of Korea University.

During his sabbatical leave, he studied stem cells at a Mesenchymal Stem Cell Laboratory of Hematology-Oncology, New Jersey Medical School (UMDNJ, now Rutgers) between September 2003 and July 2004 as a visiting professor. During his tenure, he received many excellent teaching awards. He still teaches hematology at the same school and serves as an interviewer for Technical Affairs of Overseas Volunteer Med Techs for the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). He is also a council member for the Foreign School Acknowledgement of National MT Licensing Examination and a member of the Korea Health Personnel Licensing Examination Institute’s (KHPLEI’s) test Item development committee.

When he announced his retirement from Korea University, the Korean Government awarded him the Presidential Medal-Green Stripes Order of Service Merit. Dr. Cho has also published a dozen papers on stem cell research. In the beginning of 2017, he published a new paper on plasma microRNA-33a as a biomarker of atherosclerosis-risk group. Dr. Cho is a long serving member of the BOC Korea Advisory Board, and contributed to the initial introduction of ASCP to S. Korea in 2005-2006. As such, the BOC wishes Dr. Cho a wonderful retirement and thanks him for his years of service to the BOC.

BOC THAILAND ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR

Palanee Ammaranond, PhD, MSc, BSc, is an assistant professor at Chulalongkorn University. Dr Palanee Ammaranond earned her PhD from the University of New South Wales, Australia. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Faculty of Allied Health Sciences at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. Her research interests are focused on HIV immunology, HIV drug resistance, and transfusion medicine.

She received her bachelor’s degree in Medical Technology in 1992 followed by her master’s of science in Biotechnology in 1995. From August 2012 to May 2015, she was Deputy Dean of Research Affairs, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Chulalongkorn University. The Asia Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (AAMLS) elected her to the Board of Directors in May 2013. In May 2015, she became the head of the Department of Blood Transfusion and Clinical Microbiology at Chulalongkorn University.

Currently, Dr. Ammaranond is looking forward to 2019 when the Association of Medical Technology of Thailand (AMTT) will host the 2019 AAMLS meeting.
BOC Promotes International Certification in Ecuador

In October, Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)CM, Executive Director, ASCP Board of Certification, gave a presentation on the ASCP BOC's international portfolio and CMP requirements at the IV Latin American Congress of Actualization and Continuing Education in Laboratory and Translational Medicine.

The event was put together by Dr. Henry Alvarez, President of the ASCP BOC Collaborating Society, Sociedad de Tecnólogos Medicos en Laboratorio Clínico/Ecuadorian Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists (SOTEMELAB). Dr. Alvarez, who is also the Chair of the BOC Ecuador Advisory Board, invited Ms. Tanabe to the event so that she could share her expertise on international certification and credential maintenance with a large number of medical laboratory professionals and students. SOTEMELAB also provided the BOC with complimentary exhibit space which was staffed by Ms. Tanabe and Victoria Sánchez, a local interpreter. Ms. Tanabe distributed Spanish language information on BOC international certification, CMP, and promoted the Spanish language version of the BOC Study Guide.

Taking part in the congress also gave the BOC an opportunity to promote CLM(ASCP) certification to a large number of laboratory representatives, program directors, students, and professionals. CLM(ASCP) is the BOC’s Spanish language medical laboratory scientist examination. As of Sept. 30, 2017, 27 individuals throughout Latin America and the Caribbean have been certified CLM(ASCP), but the BOC is hoping to see an increase in those numbers through its continued involvement in the LAC region, and its ongoing participation in events like the IV Latin American Congress of Actualization and Continuing Education in Laboratory and Translational Medicine.

Updates from the Spring 2017 BOC 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 international eligibility requirements:

- 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.
- International Specialist in Cytotechnology (Routes 1 and 2) – minor clarifications were made in the requirements.
- 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 Requirements. Click on “U.S. Certifications” or “International Certifications”, and then click on the certification category.
Meet the BOC UAE Advisory Board Chair

Rana Nabulsi, PhD, Chair of the BOC UAE Advisory Board, is the Head of Quality at the Pathology and Genetics Department, Dubai Health Authority. Dr. Nabulsi completed her PhD in Quality Management and obtained her master's degree in Molecular Genetics. Dr. Nabulsi is doing her fellowship at American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). She is a Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) by the National Association of Healthcare Quality (NAHQ)-U.S. and is a certified Green Belt-Six Sigma (SSGB) by the American Society of Quality (ASQ). Dr. Nabulsi is a graduate of the ASCP Leadership Academy and has experience in leading more than 20 medical laboratories to achieve College of American Pathologist (CAP) ISO 15189 and American Association of Blood Bank (AABB) accreditations. She is a certified lead auditor for ISO 9001, ISO 15189, ISO17025, and OH&SAS 18001 management systems. Dr. Nabulsi was the 2015 winner of the American Society of Quality (ASQ) award for Quality Professionals in the UAE. According to Dr. Nabulsi, “the ASQ Award was the first of its kind outside of the U.S.” Dr. Nabulsi was also awarded the CAP Inspector of the Year award in 2013 and was named Quality Ambassador for Anglo Arabian Healthcare in 2014.

Dr. Nabulsi is a certified EFQM assessor, trainer and public speaker for local and international healthcare conferences on healthcare quality, safety and leadership and has had numerous articles published on healthcare quality and accreditation.

Dr. Nabulsi also recently attended ASCP 2017 in Chicago and participated in the BOC Board of Governors meeting where she discussed all of the BOC UAE Advisory Board’s activities.

Dr. Nabulsi has assisted the BOC in promoting international certification throughout the UAE. Since 2011. She was named Chair of the UAE Advisory Board in 2014, and in 2016, during ASCP Pathology Update, she presented ASCP Awards to UAE Laboratories with the highest number of ASCP certified laboratory professionals. This February, she will continue her support of the BOC during the BOC’s participation in MEDLAB 2018.

ASCP BOC International Certification Showcased the 66th JAMT Congress

The BOC Japan Advisory Board operated an exhibit booth at the 66th Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT) Congress in Chiba, Japan, June 17-18. Hideo Sakamoto, PhD, who staffed the booth during the event, said nearly 200 people visited the booth, noting that the congress was an excellent opportunity for the Japan Advisory Board to promote ASCP to laboratory professionals and students. The JAMT Congress, according to Dr. Sakamoto, is the largest medical technology meeting in Japan. Approximately 4,300 registered attendees and 1,000 students participated in the congress. With two plenary lectures, a keynote lecture, a cultural lecture, two special lectures, six educational lectures, 15 symposiums and workshops, a Japan-Korea student forum, and presentations on over 568 different topics, the congress truly offered attendees a wealth of educational and professional developmental opportunities.

The student forum, which was presided over by Dr. Sakamoto, was designed to get Japanese and Korean medical laboratory students thinking about the internationalization of the laboratory profession. Three Korean students and four Japanese students presented their future goals as they relate to the global nature of laboratory medicine. Dr. Sakamoto said the forum was highly engaging and that it offered the students the opportunity to voice the importance of ASCP international certification as it relates to becoming part of the international laboratory workforce.
As part of its commitment to contribute globally to the highest standards of patient safety, the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC), for the second year in a row, collaborated with the Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT) and Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC) to arrange for two certified Japanese laboratory professionals to have an internship in the United States.

This fall, Go Kobayashi CT, IAC, Kure Kyosai Hospital Federation of National Public Service Personnel Mutual Aid Associations, and Shuhei Ishii, CT, IAC. Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research, became the second and third students to be awarded an internship opportunity for JAMT members to visit a laboratory in the U.S. Coordinated by the ASCP BOC and LUMC and funded by JAMT, the internship is only awarded to ASCPi-certified or ASCPi-eligible individuals who are JAMT members. The visit took place from Oct. 16-20 at Loyola University Medical Center, in Maywood, IL.

“This ongoing partnership with JAMT and LUMC is helping to build bridges between medical laboratory associations and labs in Japan,” said Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)CM, Executive Director, ASCP Board of Certification, “and we’re hoping this will encourage greater interest in the certification exam and build awareness of ASCP BOC in Japan.”

The BOC would like to expresses its sincere thanks to Dr. Kamran Mirza, Grazina Chatt, Monica Lockhart and Cynthia Blakemore and all the members of the anatomic and clinical laboratories at Loyola University Medical Center who helped to make our Japanese guests feel welcome.

(From left to right) Kamran M. Mirza, MD, PhD, MLS(ASCP)CM, Go Kobayashi, Shuhei Ishii, and Dr. Wojcik.

As you explore the new site, you may notice the feature content area on the home page is now also more instructional in nature and tone. This same instructional design was also applied to the Credential Maintenance Program (CMP).

When a certificant needs to know the points requirements, how to earn points, how to apply points, how to submit a declaration, the navigation is very process driven; content is now presented with a focus on clarity and getting the user the information they need.

Check out the new ASCP BOC website, with all the information for each certification category located in one section. An informative video is included to guide you through the application process.

Go Kobayashi and Shuhei Ishii with Eva Wojcik, MD, and the Japanese translation of her Cytopathology book.

(From left to right) Kamran M. Mirza, MD, PhD, MLS(ASCP)CM, Go Kobayashi, Shuhei Ishii, and Dr. Wojcik.
BOC to Cease Publication of the International Certificant List

The BOC has been very excited by the increase in the number of international certificants over the last few years. However, one unfortunate side effect is there are simply too many certificant names to list in a twice-yearly publication. Therefore, the BOC will no longer publish a listing of recent international certificants in the International Certification Newsletter. Newly Certified Individuals who require verification of certification can do so by using the online verification system.

New Certifications Offered January 2018

Two new certifications will be offered in January 2018: Specialist in Molecular Biology, SMB(ASCP), and International Specialist in Molecular Biology, SMB(ASCPi). Applications will be accepted for these two new certifications beginning Oct. 2, 2017. The first examination administration will be Jan. 2, 2018. Detailed eligibility requirements for these certifications are available at Eligibility Requirements. Click on “U.S. Certifications” or “International Certifications,” and then click on the certification category.

Understanding ASCP BOC Certification Examinations

Brief explanations on a variety of topics related to the BOC certification examinations are available at Understanding ASCP BOC Certification Examinations.

Applicants Requesting Modifications Due to a Disability

If any of your students require a modification due to a disability, we request that your students notify our office in writing at the time of application. Complete information regarding documentation is available on the website.

The ONE Lab International Group

The ASCP BOC International Group is an open group for those interested in ASCP BOC international certifications. Medical laboratory students, professionals, program directors, and others are encouraged to interact with our knowledgeable volunteers and staff who have years of experience in advising international certification applicants. Whether it’s MLS, MLT, CTgyn, MB, PBT, or any other of the BOC’s 21 international certifications, this group can answer any of your certification related questions. Click here to login and get started.

Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions or comments on the information contained in this issue, please email us at Joseph.Baker@ascp.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

How to Locate Your Certification Number

If you need to locate your certification number, you may access it by logging into your record and clicking on “Home Page” under “My BOC Activities.” Then click on the “View Certifications” link. If you require primary source verification of your certification, this information is available at Verification of Certification. There is a $16 charge for this service.

Important - Program Changes

For program directors from international countries for ASCP certification, please notify Angela Sreckovic at Angela.Sreckovic@ascp.org if any of your program information changes.

Inactive Status Due to Military Service

To be considered for an extension of your CMP cycle due to mandatory National Service, please follow the steps below. The $40 inactive status fee is waived in this case.

1. Submit a written request with a copy of the document (PDF) you received requesting you report for National Service, including the beginning and ending dates.

2. Written request and PDF document attachment may be emailed to cmpinternational@ascp.org.

3. Requests for inactive status are reviewed and approved on an individual basis.

4. Your CMP cycle may be extended based on the timing and length of your military service.