International Certification Categories:

International Medical Technologist, MT(ASCPi)
International Medical Laboratory Technician, MLT(ASCPi)
International Technologist in Molecular Pathology, MP(ASCPi)
International Phlebotomy Technician, PBT(ASCPi)

Coming Soon:

International Technologist in Chemistry, C(ASCPi)
International Technologist in Microbiology, M(ASCPi)

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ASCP and the CDC

International Certification is currently being offered on a country-by-country basis; currently approved countries are South Korea, The Philippines, Hong Kong, Panama, and Guyana. To date, we have received over 1,000 applications, and that number is increasing daily.

The ASCP Board of Registry remains dedicated to improving the health and welfare of the public at home and abroad. As part of ASCP Board of Registry’s global efforts, the international division is interested in working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop an assessment of individuals following Laboratory Management Training in South Africa.
Representatives of Daegu Health College visit ASCP

On July 8th, three representatives of Daegu Health College visited ASCP headquarters. In-Sook Yoon, PhD, MT(ASCP)CT, Professor in the Department of Medical Technology, brought third-year student, Jung-Yeon Lee, and second-year student, Ji-Eun Kim, to meet with ASCP BOR International Certification Representatives, Jennifer Young, CT(ASCP)™ and Jennifer Sherdan, PBT(ASCP)™ to discuss ASCP® certification in South Korea. Daegu Health College has the largest program in Medical Technology in Korea. Funded by a grant from the university, the three also toured the laboratories at RUSH University Medical Center and planned to visit the Pathology Departments of various medical centers and MT, CT, and HT programs in the U.S. before returning to Daegu, Korea.
An International Focus Defined: 
Developments from the April 2008 ASCP 
BOR Globalization Committee

The ASCP Board of Registry Globalization Committee 
began in 2002 as a taskforce to explore the possibility of Globalization. In 2006, the possibility became reality as the new certification designation, ASCP\textsuperscript{i} (i indicating international) was approved by the BOR Board of Governors; and ASCP international examinations were offered in South Korea. The Globalization Committee which is composed of educators, administrators, and practitioners with broad national and international expertise and experience in the laboratory profession convened this year in Panama to explore future expansion of current international offerings.

The main objective of this year’s Globalization Committee meeting was to define a coherent plan for future countries interested in the international credential. Each committee member received regional assignments and reviewed the available information on educational systems, medical technology curriculums, English proficiency, accredited laboratories, availability of testing centers, needs assessments, and other correspondence related to each region. Based on this information the Committee defined a clear order of investigation by country for ASCP International Certification pursuits. Countries identified as primary order of investigation are detailed in the Regional Updates section of this report.

In recognition of a need for International Certification throughout Latin America, the Committee recommended further research be conducted on the issue of Spanish translation for ASCP\textsuperscript{i} examinations. Although English remains the international language of medicine, and an international certification should grant one the ability and the leverage to cross borders and practice in other countries, ASCP is sensitive to the fact that a considerable portion of the world speaks Spanish. As international certification is not intended for immigration to the United States, the Committee may consider a translated version of ASCP\textsuperscript{i} examinations. This translated option will likely carry a different yet to-be-determined set of credentials to differentiate certificants who have taken the examination in English from those who test in Spanish. No other languages are being considered for translation at this time.

In addition to initiating International Certification in new regions, the coming year will showcase a comprehensive package of international offerings through development of new international versions
categorical examinations. International Technologist in Chemistry, C(ASCP) and International Technologist in Microbiology, M(ASCP) categories are currently in development. International versions of the ASCP Technologist in Hematology and Cytotechnology examinations will follow. As part of the new international examination developments, ASCP BOR staff continues work on an examination option to allow ASCPi certificants to convert from ASCPi to ASCP certification after meeting certain eligibility requirements and passing a short examination compiled of U.S.-specific regulation questions redacted from international examinations. After compilation of this bridge examination, the Committee will be called upon for assistance with the development of eligibility routes for subsequent review and approval by the ASCP Board of Governors.

Also in FY09, to better serve international laboratory professionals, ASCP will be piloting satellite offices in Panama and the Philippines. These regional offices will be responsible for customer service, verifying applicant eligibility, and application processing. This proposal will allow regional representatives to explain the nuances of ASCP application in the native language to prospective applicants and provide education on ASCP international certification to Program Directors, Laboratory Officials, clinical laboratory practitioners and students throughout their assigned locales.

Lastly, in a continuing effort to support Program Directors and improve medical laboratory education around the world, ASCP will offer Program Performance Reports that are currently provided to all Program Directors in the U.S. These reports provide a summary of examinee performance statistics, including a breakdown into subtest areas. ASCP is hopeful that these reports can be developed into “Country Performance Reports” that will provide statistics to countries approved for ASCPi examinations. This information will assist foreign Program Directors in improving areas of their curriculum by targeting subtest areas that have suboptimal performance.

The Globalization Committee meets once a year to discuss the future of international certification. The coming year promises many exciting developments. For more information, please visit the international section of the ASCP BOR website: www.ascp.org/international or contact Jennifer Young, Manager of International Certification at jennifer.young@ascp.org.
Laboratory Professionals Week was celebrated worldwide from April 20-26, 2008. Last year, it was celebrated for the first time in Suriname; however, it was a small-scale affair. This year, the planners wanted to organize a larger event so that more people in Suriname would be aware of the dedicated work of laboratory professionals.

Organizers started the week with a 5km Health Walk on Saturday April 19th. A total of 633 people registered, including Technologists, those from other professions, and the general public. Due to the rain, not all registrants attended, but it turned out to be a well organized and successful activity.

In addition to the walk, Suriname celebrated with appearances on national television, a lecture, and a special awards ceremony.
The Philippines and Panama

ASCP will soon be opening regional satellite offices, beginning in Panama and the Philippines. Once established, customer service representatives will be available in these regions to assist with application processing and all ASCP® related inquiries. Please continue to direct all inquiries to ascpinternational@ascp.org until logistics are in place and a formal announcement of the new office is made.

Hong Kong

In April, ASCP began receiving applications from individuals who received their education in Hong Kong. To date, applications for international certification have been processed in the MT(ASCP®), MLT(ASCP®), and PBT(ASCP®) categories.

India

In August, Jennifer Young, CT(ASCP)CM of ASCP Board of Registry, Isha Ruparel, MA of ASCP Membership, and Kaitlin Sandhaus of ASCP Institute/PEPFAR will travel to the 2008 IFBLS World Congress in New Delhi, India. This trip will allow ASCP representatives to conduct the first face-to-face meeting with appointed members of the ASCP India Advisory Board and detail plans for moving forward with international certification for Indian graduates and current laboratory practitioners. In addition to Indian colleagues, they will meet with Leila Florento, PhD, President of PAMET (Philippines), Tsu-Lan Wu, President of TSLM (Taiwan), and representatives from other professional organizations, government, and education to discuss global trends in the medical laboratory and the need for certification. In addition to his other responsibilities, Vincent Gallicchio, PhD, MT(ASCP), ASCP Globalization Committee Member and President of IFBLS, will present on International Biomedical Laboratory Science Education and ASCP® certification. If you are planning on being in attendance for the Congress please stop by the ASCP booth in the exhibition hall to meet the ASCP representatives!

In Development...

At the annual Globalization Committee meeting in April, the Committee outlined the following countries under primary investigation for offering ASCP® certification. Where none exist, regional advisory boards are presently being formed to aide staff with the implementation of systems of verification and shaping other requirements before ASCP® certification examinations can be offered. Look for announcements of international certification for several more countries soon!

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ASCP<sup>i</sup> Certification for Saudi Arabia

Nikolaos Chantziantoniou, BSc, ART(CSMLS), CT(IAC)
Cytopathology Supervisor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Education Coordinator, Clinical Lecturer, PBCP, CAMS, KSAU-HS

The quest for ASCP<sup>i</sup> certification in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia started in 2006; but, nearly seven thousand kilometers east of Panama City. This journey had several twists and turns over an oceanic expanse but it was a successful experience nonetheless. Interestingly, the desire to access coveted ASCP certification for the various clinical medical laboratory disciplines that are actively practiced in Saudi Arabia long precedes Panama, however the integral parameters were simply not in focus to foster such desires prior to 2006.

These parameters began to crystallize in 2005.

During a formal ceremony on March 16, 2005, to establish the College of Medicine, at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences (KSAU-HS), in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz directed the establishment of the College of Applied Medical Sciences (CAMS) under the auspices of KSAU-HS. The CAMS was destined to umbrella various allied medical disciplines, but initially including: Clinical Laboratory Medicine, Emergency Services and Respiratory Therapy.

On January 16, 2006, the conditions for crystallization were being set. Soon thereafter the backdrop was prepared as was the administrative infrastructure to support future teaching in clinical laboratory medicine. Stern decisions were taken. Targets were drawn. And the task of program development took form, purpose and considerable urgency.

After an involved review of existing, and proven curricula predominantly in Canadian and American academic institutions, appropriate curricula were adopted from Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, USA, through a negotiated partnership with KSAU-HS. By September 17, 2006, KSAU-HS witnessed the establishment of the Post-Baccalaureate Certification Program (PBCP); consisting of three clinical laboratory programs: (1) Cytotechnology; (2) Clinical Chemistry, and (3) Molecular Biology. The PBCP curricula provided a 1-year, dedicated categorical fast-track platform focusing multi-lateral resources toward specific outcomes.
On September 27, 2006, the PBCP at KSAU-HS was launched with its first academic year. It is most worthy of mention that these academic programs are the first of their kind in the greater Middle East region, and unique to King Abdulaziz Medical City, Riyadh, which encompasses the KSAU-HS campus.

The Post-Baccalaureate Certification Programs at KSAU-HS, are predominantly supported by the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine given the immediately-available human and technical resources as offered by a comprehensive College of American Pathologists accredited operation. This project’s ultimate aim was to produce qualified Saudi graduates able to succeed and secure certification credentials from internationally recognized professional Academies and Societies in their respective disciplines.

After reviewing in excess of 100 candidates, 14 students comprised the inaugural PBCP class, and the interest demonstrated since then by interested candidates continues to increase geometrically. The 3rd academic year of this highly successful project is due to commence in late September 2008.

One parameter of this project however, that is essential and appropriate for the graduates, is professional certification. Hence, with the inauguration of the PBCP, so too began our quest for possible ASCP certification credentials for our graduates.

ASCP recognition granted to Saudi Arabia, and the access to ASCP certification that is offered to both graduates of KSAU-HS and to practicing employees in clinical laboratory medicine throughout the Kingdom is no small feat. But it was not until a group convened in the Panamanian rainforest on April 4, 2008, that the crystallization process was brought into focus, and was nearly complete.

Since Panama, and from the heart of Saudi Arabia, activities have been explored in earnest to formalize the ASCP© Saudi Arabia Advisory Board. With the formation of this body, incoming applications may then be evaluated to ultimately declare candidates eligible to conduct the first ever ASCP© certification examinations in Saudi Arabia.

This overall achievement is a testament of the visionaries and their convictions from both sides of the Atlantic; forward-thinking energy from elemental players was the ultimate driving force behind this project. It is with much respect and gratitude that I personally herewith acknowledge the major contributions made by the below-listed individuals, to whom this commentary is dedicated. It has been an honor for me to participate in this project, and it is also clear that, with such supportive energy, the journey has barely started. The likely final destination has yet to come into focus.
Congratulations to our newest ASCP® International Certificants!

Certified February 29, 2008 through June 30, 2008

International Medical Technologist, MT(ASCP®)

Noelle Grace Abarquez
Engilbert Abuan
Amelita Aguilos
Kwang-sup Ahn
Nelson Alabado Jr.
Jerold Alcantara
Edgar Aliangan
Lily Aileen Alinao
Hydee Claire Alobba
Liza Grace Alpon-Araneta
Lolita Alvarado
Aileen Andrada
Ngozi Anijah-obi
Ayenne Anoos
Roy Aradillos
Caroline Aragon
Catherine Aragon
Gleen Auguis
Aye Aye Aung
Liezl Balatbat
Belen Balbin
Teodorico Ballaho
Rochelle Balle
Lynnette Baquial
Leslie Anne Batac
Melvin Blanco
Ma. Elizabeth Boltron
Vannielon Bonjoc
Melissa Botabara
Arianne Bulangkit
Ryan Kristoffer Cabalinan
Christian-Lynn Caballes
Ammi Mercadita Calpito

Analu Canete
Learna Grace Carinal
Nolan Castillo
Alberto Jr Cerda
Mark-Allan Cervantes
Yoo Kyoung Choi
Warren Chu
Elaine Joy Coderes
Custer Columna
Catherine Correa
Margarita Ana Cruz
Delight Damole
Marina De Los Santos
Glenda Deguzman
Marian Elican
Alfredo Jr. Espejo
Alma Espina
Marian Eusoya
Maria Luisa Eya
Odites Fabroa
Aileen Ferreria
Jocelyn Flores
Honey Mitzi Gabiana
Lora Mae Gandeye
Francisco Garcia
Rex Jr. Gatilogo
Charity Faith Gayatin
Annalyn Go
Kimberly Go
Ma. Rizza Gomez
Glen Joy Grijalvo
Madilyn Guancia
Olanpayongan Gumama
Jasmin Gutierrez
Milagros Gutlay
Eric Hernandez
Aileen Hiponia
Emelyn Igmen
Mary Joy Infante
John Frederick Jimenez
Sun Jung Kang
Mi-Hee Kim
Madeleine Lacierda
Carlo Ledesma
Su-Cheol Lee
Nami Lee
Peregrina Leonarda Lee
Florence Libot
Vita Ligaray
Hector Kevin Lim
Clara Amor Llanos
Melodee Llerin
Charles Mapalai
Erren Mae Manuel
Maria Aurora Masa
Merwin Joveric Matias
Maria Antonia Mendoza
Mark Rodrigo Mendros
Venus Menez
Ma. Wema Mojar
Wilfredo Notario Jr
Chiclet Ong
Michael James Ostrea
Faith Oyangurin
Judy Padilla
Glecelynn Palubio
Nympha Paralejas
Lucila Pasia
Kenent Pasion
Racquel Peñalosa
Joanne Lee Pineda
Ernesto Principe
Christian Ramos
Lester Rapanut
Melissa Reodica
Jeane Jovy Reyes
Orby Reyzon Reyes
Eulogia Ribas
Rosario Robel
Jonar Robles
Mayleen Robles
Juovy Rosales
Edella Sabale
Gerardo Saguinsin
Mari Stefanie Segundo
Younju Seo
Dianne Christine Sia
Hector Singson
Jihan Reina Sitoy
Eun Hee Son
Christine Sonota
Amy Soriano
Ma. Theresa Sta. Ana
Luisito Sy
Amy Tad-Awan
Jayson Talaue
Denish Mitz Talavera
Sandy Lou Tapuyao
Cherry Ann Tengco
Cynthia Tia Lim
Lagrimas Timado
Sheila Marie Tormon
Arlene Tuazon
Eric Jones Uy
Jose Eleuterio Galo Valderrama
Maria Isabel Valerio
Joanne Vergara
Mark Alvin Villanueva
John Mark Viray
Garry Dwight Vitug

International Medical Laboratory Technician, MLT(ASCP³)

Suhee Ahn
Youngnam Kim
Sujin Kim
Kyung Hee Kim
Sangjin Kim
Catherine Nebres
Gun Hwa Seo
Su Mi Woo
Hakson Yoon
More Testing Centers Opening!

For eligible applicants living abroad who have received their education in approved countries, Pearson Testing Centers in the following countries will soon be offering ASCP examinations:

Costa Rica
Brazil
Chile
Argentina
Dominican Republic
Jamaica
Trinidad & Tobago
Turkey
Czech Republic
Greece
Poland
Russia

For ASCPi Certificants working in the United States:

How has your ASCPi certification been helpful in your current position or in your search for employment in the U.S.?

Please direct your comments to Jennifer Sherdan, PBT(ASCP)CM at jennifer.sherdan@ascp.org