Chair's Message


To make our global outreach efforts even stronger, we have been working to better educate members, non-members, and the public on the differences and similarities between ASCP and ASCPi certification. These efforts include an online comparison of ASCPi and ASCP, promoting ASCP BOC international certification in Asia and at AACC 2018 in Chicago, as well as creating a new BOC International Group on Facebook that will help potential applicants better understand the ASCP application process. If you have not already done so, I would like to encourage you to join the International Facebook Group, and, if you are member of the group, please invite your colleagues to join.

We are also celebrating the BOC’s 90th anniversary. The first mention of the need to identify the “qualified technician” came as early as 1918. A brief history of the early years of the BOC can be found on the BOC website.

Additionally, as of January 2018, the BOC has internationally credentialed over 10,000 laboratory professionals worldwide. Our 10,000th ASCPi certificant is Mr. Rodney Ngang Ngu, MLS(ASCPi). Mr. Ngang Ngu, who received his education in Cameroon, attributes his success as a laboratory professional to his ASCPi credential. Congratulations Rodney on achieving your international MLS credential!

Clearly, the international demand for ASCP continues to expand at a phenomenal rate, and we hope you will enjoy reading about our expansion efforts in this edition of the International Certification Newsletter.
BOC Promotes Certification and Credential Maintenance at the Clinical Lab Expo at AACC 2018

The 70th AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo is the largest global scientific conference and tradeshow in the field of laboratory medicine. During the event which took place in Chicago, and was held concurrently with ASCLS’s Annual Meeting, from July 29-Aug. 2, ASCP BOC staffed an exhibit booth to help answer attendee questions on the BOC certification and credential maintenance (CMP) process.

Additionally, the AACC Annual Scientific Meeting offered the BOC an excellent opportunity to promote ASCP certification and CMP to a large and diverse cohort of laboratory professionals, hear about updates on vital research, and learn about important changes in the medical laboratory field. It also gave potential applicants the opportunity to meet one on one with BOC staff who could answer questions and offer advice on applying for BOC examinations.

“This meeting is an opportunity to educate and publicize the BOC certification to a global audience. It is important to continually promote certification internationally as licensure and regulations for work eligibility continue to be developed,” said Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)CM, ASCP BOC Executive Director.

Meet the Peru Advisory Board Chair

Silvia Flores, MT, MPH, Chair of the ASCP BOC Peru Advisory Board, is a medical technologist from Lima, Peru, and is responsible for promoting ASCP BOC international certification (ASCP) in Peru by reaching out to laboratory personnel, universities, 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.

In 2017, Ms. Flores attended the ASCP Annual Meeting in Chicago and met with BOC staff to discuss her current ASCP activities in Peru. She said she had been working to update the MT program curriculum at UPCH, aligning it with the MLS(ASCP) certification content and ASCP BOC competencies. Ms. Flores also has plans to increase the Peru Board’s social media presence and is creating an ASCP BOC Peru Advisory Board Facebook Page.

Korea Advisory Board Promotes BOC in Daejeon

From June 29-30, 2018, the BOC Korea Advisory Board promoted ASCP international certification and CMP during the 56th Congress of the Korean Association of Medical Technologists. To reach prospective applicants, program directors, and other laboratory professionals, the Korea Advisory Board utilized an exhibit space filled with information on ASCP certification and international credential maintenance (CMP).
The ASCP Board of Certification is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. Since its founding, the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) has evolved to become the gold standard in global certification for laboratory professionals. Today, it has certified more than 525,000 individuals around the world.

In the U.S., the first mention of the need to identify the “qualified technician” came as early as 1918. By the early 1920s, World War I had ended, and the country was moving into the roaring twenties. Pathology was a new medical specialty, and ASCP was founded in 1922. At that time, there were no standards for measuring or qualifications for identifying the competency of laboratory technicians. The ASCP Board of Directors established a Committee on Registration of Laboratory Technicians (the forerunner of the current ASCP Board of Certification). The Committee's goal was to “first define a technician and to make it known that a bureau exists which will bring forth applications for registration.”

A Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) was developed for all certificants who attained certification beginning January 1, 2004, to maintain the competence of laboratory professionals and to provide a mechanism to demonstrate competence. All certificants are strongly encouraged to participate in this program. In 2006, international certification began (ASCPi) with certification for Medical Technologists, Medical Laboratory Technicians, and Technologists in Molecular Pathology. The ASCP Board of Registry first became accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) under ISO Standard 17024 in the three largest certification categories (Medical Technologist, Medical Laboratory Technician, and Phlebotomy Technician) in 2007. In 2009, a merger with the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA) resulted in the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC).

Today, the ASCP BOC, internationally recognized for the integrity of its certifications and qualifications, continues its legacy of excellence by developing new certifications and qualifications to keep pace with the increasing responsibilities and needs of laboratory professionals around the world.

A Brief History of the BOC, and other related 90th anniversary materials can be found on the BOC Website.

BOC Sponsors the 2018 AHPCON Conference

The 2018 National Allied Health Professionals’ Conference (AHPCON), was organized by the Joint Forum of Medical Technologists of India (JFMTI), and took place April 16-18, at the Bhargava Auditorium-Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), in Chandigarh, India. More than 500 delegates and faculty attended the conference. The theme of the conference was “Educating Tomorrow’s Healthcare Leaders & Transforming Technology.”

By sponsoring the event, the BOC gained visibility in Northern India, which is huge potential market for ASCP international certification.

Marjorie Eason, MT(ASCP) in 1953

Dr. Pankaj Kaul, JFMTI, Member of the BOC India Advisory Board (pictured right), and Kaptan S. Sehrawat, AHPCON Chairperson, inaugurating the 2018 AHPCON Conference.

Organizing Committee AHPCON 2018
BOC Participates in the Emerging & Future Skills in Laboratory Medicine Conference in Singapore

On Aug. 3, 2018, as part of the Emerging & Future Skills in Laboratory Medicine Conference in Singapore, Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)CM, ASCP BOC Executive Director, delivered a presentation on The Value of ASCP BOC Certification. The conference was facilitated by, and held at, Temasek Polytechnic. It was an excellent opportunity to highlight the BOC in Singapore, which has seen a nearly 40-percent increase in the number of MLT applications over the past five years. It also gave the BOC Singapore Advisory Board the opportunity to promote ASCP\textsuperscript{i}'s profile in South Asia, including Cambodia.

BOC International Certification at the 67th JAMT Congress

“Let’s go this way” was the theme of the 67th Japanese Association of Medical Technologists in Hamamatsu, Japan, May 12-13, 2018. During the event Hideo Sakamoto, PhD, Chair of the Japan Advisory Board, promoted ASCP\textsuperscript{i} certification from the BOC’s exhibit booth.

With over 4,300 students and laboratory professionals attending, the JAMT Congress is the largest medical technology meeting in Japan, making it an excellent outreach opportunity for the BOC. According to Dr. Sakamoto, over 200 individuals stopped by the BOC booth to discuss ASCP\textsuperscript{i} certification opportunities.
The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) is now on Facebook!

Students, laboratory professionals, program directors, and others can now benefit from the BOC’s new Facebook page and international group. Look for weekly posts and tips from our knowledgeable and experienced volunteers and staff who will provide advice on certification and credential maintenance-related topics. Visitors will also have the opportunity to ask questions and interact directly with BOC staff and laboratory professionals on such subjects as certification, qualification, CMP, and much more!

- **BOC Facebook Page**
- **BOC International Group**

**Important - Program Changes**

Please be sure to notify the BOC office if any of your program information changes, such as your email address, program status, program director, or mailing address. For the U.S., please notify Kristin Blake at kristin.blake@ascp.org. For program directors from international countries for ASCP certification, please notify Angela Sreckovic at Angela.Sreckovic@ascp.org.

**Procedures for Qualification**

The following revised booklet is now available online:

- **Procedures for Qualification**

**New Study Guides Available (MLS/MT, PBT/DPT)**

Two new study guides are now available:

- **BOC Study Guide: Phlebotomy Certification Examinations** is available for the Phlebotomy Technician (PBT) and Donor Phlebotomy Technician (DPT) examinations.
- **BOC Study Guide: Clinical Laboratory Certification Examinations, 6th Edition** is available for the Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) and Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) examinations.

**Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) Certificates Discontinued**

As of July 1, 2018, the ASCP Board of Certification is no longer issuing CMP wall certificates every three years upon completion of the Credential Maintenance Program (CMP). In its place, the BOC will be issuing access to an electronic renewal letter. This will allow certificants faster notification of successful completion of the CMP with the ability to print notification results.

The elimination of CMP wall certificate is due in part to the steady increase in the number of BOC wall certificates being used fraudulently. And, after reviewing the recertification procedure for a number of professional certification bodies, we found that providing a notification of recertification rather than a wall certificate is standard practice.

Upon successful completion of initial BOC certification, examinees will receive a wall certificate indicating their certification by the ASCP Board of Certification. These wall certificates should be safeguarded. They should not be photographed or posted on social media. Instances of fraud have been traced back to individuals who posted their BOC certificate and other personal documents (i.e., college transcripts) on social media. Unfortunately, individuals who post this type of personal information are at risk for identity theft as well as providing an opportunity for others to commit certification fraud.

Please note, the only way to definitively verify ASCP certification is through primary source verification.