



NEWSLETTER

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

CHAIR'S MESSAGE



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

What an honor it is to be writing in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the BOC! I came to the Board of Governors as the representative of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) in 2010. Having a BS in Medical Technology, ASCP Board of Registry (BOR) certification in 1984, and 15 years of clinical bench experience before graduate school, I thought I understood all about the clinical laboratory. Serving with the BOC has enlightened and enriched my experience of the profession in so many ways.

You will read about the rich history of the BOC in other parts of this newsletter, but let me highlight a few details from my perspective. Originally founded as the Registry of Technicians by the ASCP in 1928, the Board was established to set qualifications for competency of Laboratory Technicians (Medical Technologists). Fortunately, that has not changed, but the Board has certainly grown by leaps and bounds. In 2018, the BOC now offers 23 certifications for the U.S. and 18 internationally. The volume of exams has expanded, as has the quality of our process. The CAT (Computer Adaptive Testing) exam format ensures rigor and validity of exams. Practice analyses provide the basis for content. Experts with a broad range of experience utilize sound data to assess exam content and revise and write questions continually. The process is more complex than I would have thought when I was new to the BOC, but I have come to greatly respect it and the product produced.

Not only can we appreciate the range and quality of credentials of the BOC, but behind all of this are the volunteers who make

it possible. They work on exam committees and other teams that evaluate and improve on related activities, such as credential maintenance, issues of ethics, website, development of new credentials, and international certification. Volunteers come from a variety of institutions from all over the U.S. and represent every discipline within laboratory science. Supporting them and providing for the ongoing certification process are, of course, the dedicated staff in the Chicago offices.

Pivotal to the success of the BOC is the coalition of societies represented by the volunteers. The ASCP, ASCLS and AGT are sponsoring groups, and eight other laboratory science societies provide representatives, like myself, to the Board of Governors. The BOC is truly special in this respect. All laboratory professionals have representation. Everyone has a voice, and maintaining that united voice will continue to allow us to grow the profession and respond to the changes and challenges we face in the evolving healthcare industry.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with other dedicated laboratory professionals. If you have the opportunity to volunteer for the BOC or one of our professional societies, I hope you will consider getting involved. It will benefit you and those you represent, and you will enjoy it! Thank you for getting certified, maintaining your certification and demonstrating that laboratory personnel have specific knowledge and skills that sets them apart from other scientists and health care workers.

Here's to another 90 years!

Contents:

- 1 Chair's Message
- 2 ASCP Board of Certification: A Guiding Light in Laboratory Medicine for 90 Years
- 3 90th Anniversary Celebration in Chicago
- 4 Brief Overview of the ASCP Board of Certification
- 4 2018 Board of Governors Service Award Recipients
- 5 ASCP BOC Promotes Certification & CMP at the 70th AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo
- 5 Staff Spotlight: Retirement Celebration for Kathy Santoianni
- 6 BOC Professional Partners Meeting Dates



ASCP BOARD OF CERTIFICATION: A GUIDING LIGHT IN LABORATORY MEDICINE FOR 90 YEARS

Since its founding as the American Registry of Medical Technicians in 1928, 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.

“The ASCP BOC legitimized the profession,” says Elizabeth Wheeler, MT(ASCP), who was certified by the BOC 49 years ago.

In the early part of the 20th century, there were no standards for measuring or qualifications for identifying the competency of laboratory technicians. Since the inception of the American Registry of Medical Technicians, many changes have taken place in laboratory medicine and the BOC.

From its early days, the BOC portfolio of credentials grew to include qualifications, in addition to certifications, to recognize an individual’s skill in specific technical areas. In 2004, the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) was developed to uphold the competence of laboratory professionals by requiring participation in continuing education to maintain certification. In 2006, the BOC introduced international certification. A year later, the organization

was accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). In 2009, the BOC, then the ASCP Board of Registry (BOR), merged with the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA) to form the present-day ASCP BOC.

This evolution has developed a legacy of excellence that unites laboratory professionals around the world. To this day, a group of 25 retired medical laboratory professionals gather monthly for breakfast at a diner in suburban Chicago. In addition to camaraderie, what they share in common is their certification from ASCP.

“We are a community of professionals,” says Alan Hoffstadter, MT(ASCP)SBB, who recently celebrated his 50th year of BOC certification as a medical technologist. “We (who meet monthly) are all medical laboratory professionals who became trained and certified under the auspices of the ASCP BOC, an organization that looks to train individuals to the highest levels of professionalism.”

While the BOC honors its esteemed history, it also recognizes that it needs to evolve to meet future needs of the profession. “Being

in the educational realm, I focus on what our new practitioners need to know,” says Michelle Brown, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SBB^{CM}, who was certified by the BOC as a medical technologist in 1998. “We need to teach them the skills and tasks, but we also need to move from task-oriented to team-oriented, and that is a theme I use when I teach.”

Dr. Brown is director of the master’s degree program in Healthcare Simulation at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is a volunteer on the ASCP BOC Blood Banking Examination Committee. With the efforts of volunteers like Dr. Brown and many other certificants, the ASCP BOC continues to lead the way in providing a qualified medical laboratory workforce in the 21st century. To learn more about the ASCP BOC, visit www.ascp.org/boc.

“We are all medical laboratory professionals who became trained and certified under the auspices of the ASCP BOC, an organization that looks to train individuals to the highest levels of professionalism.”



90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN CHICAGO

June 8, 2018 marked the beginning of the ASCP Board of Certification's 90th year of recognizing laboratory professionals. It was during the June 8-11, 1928 society meeting in Minneapolis that the ASCP board approved the creation of a permanent Board of Registry that would issue certificates for Laboratory Technicians and Medical Technologists.

The Board of Certification kicked off the 90th anniversary with cake for all ASCP staff on June 8, 2018. Staff were joined by the Pathologists' Assistant Examination

Committee who happened to be meeting in the Chicago office at the time. The celebration continued on June 11, 2018 when the Cytotechnology Examination Committee met in Chicago and were welcomed with special treats.

The 90th anniversary celebration will continue throughout the year with special events planned during the ASCP Annual Meeting in Baltimore on October 3 – 6, 2018. BOC staff will also be on hand in the Exhibit Hall with a video highlighting the BOC's 90 years and special giveaways.



Congratulations to the ASCP Board of Certification on its 90th Anniversary!

For 90 years, the ASCP Board of Certification has been the gold standard in global certification for medical laboratory professionals. In 1928, the ASCP Board of Registry, now the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC), was established as part of an effort to standardize laboratory services and ensure the competency of laboratory technicians. Over the past 90 years, the demand for a qualified laboratory workforce has grown and evolved, but the BOC has remained committed to promoting patient safety through certifying qualified laboratory professionals. Check out [this video](#) to see how the BOC has evolved and grown over the years. To learn more about the ASCP BOC, visit www.ascp.org/boc.



Pathologists' Assistants Examination Committee and guests, front row from left to right: Charlene Gettings, MS, PA(ASCP)^{CM}; Kjerstin Buboltz, PA(ASCP)^{CM}; Liz Sharratt, PA(ASCP)^{CM}; and Mike Sovocool, MHS, PA(ASCP)^{CM}. Back row from left to right: Ajit Paintal, MD; Rob Cottrell, MHS, PA(ASCP)^{CM}; Cherie Germain, MHS, PA(ASCP)^{CM}; and Dan Soderberg, MHS, PA(ASCP)^{CM}. Not pictured: Jerry Taxy, MD, FASCP



Cytotechnology Examination Committee and guests, left to right: Aparna Mahajan, MD; Maixin Wu, MD, PhD; Deanna Iverson, MHS, MLT(ASCP)SCT^{CM}, HTL; Mike Berry, SCT(ASCP)^{CM}MB^{CM}; and Mike Martinak, SCT(ASCP)^{CM}. Not pictured: Christine Alvares, CT(ASCP)^{CM}; David Chhieng, MD, FASCP; Lisa Duncan, MD; and Jorge Franco, MLT(ASCP)SCT^{CM}, HTL^{CM}, MB^{CM}.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE ASCP BOARD OF CERTIFICATION

From the American Society of Clinical Pathologists Committee on Registration of Laboratory Technicians to the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification (BOC), many changes have taken place in laboratory medicine and in the recognition of medical laboratory professionals.

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."

The current ASCP Board of Certification was founded in 1928 as the Registry of Laboratory Technicians. Over time, the name was changed to the ASCP Board of Registry. As the years passed, additional

certifications were added. Credentials titled, "Qualifications," were developed and added to the BOC portfolio of credentials. Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) was instituted in 1994, resulting in examinations given year round, administered and graded by computer.

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).

The ASCP BOC, now 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. In 2014, the ASCP BOC certified the 500,000th certificant. These certificants make up the majority of the U.S. medical laboratory workforce. From 2016 through 2018, the following new credentials were added:

- Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA)
- Specialist in Cytometry (SCYM) and International Specialist in Cytometry
- Specialist in Molecular Biology (SMB) and International Specialist in Molecular Biology
- Qualification in Apheresis (QIA)

The ASCP BOC continues to lead the way in providing a qualified medical laboratory workforce in the 21st century.

2018 BOARD OF GOVERNORS SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS

The ASCP Board of Certification Distinguished Service Award (DSA) will be presented during the Board of Governors meetings in Baltimore on October 6, 2018. In addition to the DSA, three BOC volunteers are being recognized with a 2018 Board of Governors Service Award for their contributions to the mission of the BOC. Award recipients must have served the BOC for more than three years on the Board of Governors or a BOC committee and have made noteworthy contributions during his or her tenure as a committee or Board member. The 2018 recipients are:

L.J. Atieh, PA(ASCP)^{CM}, volunteered on the Pathologists' Assistant Examination Committee from October 2009 to September 2017, and served as Committee Chair from October 2014 to October 2017. Prior to that, Mr. Atieh served as Vice Chair from 2011 – 2015.

Marie Pezzlo, MA, MT(ASCP)SM^{CM}, volunteered on the Microbiology Examination Committee from October 2010 to September 2017, and served as Committee Chair from October 2014 to September 2017. Prior to that, Ms. Pezzlo served as Vice Chair from 2012 – 2015.

Janie Roberson, SCT(ASCP), volunteered on the Cytotechnology Examination Committee from October 2009 to September 2017, and served as Committee Chair from October 2013 to September 2017. Prior to 2013, Ms. Roberson served as Vice Chair from 2015 – 2017.

All three recipients received an engraved clock and a letter of appreciation from BOG Chair, Susan Harrington, PhD, D(ABMM), MLS(ASCP)^{CM}.

The Core Values that Define the BOC:

COMPETENCE

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

TRUST

INTEGRITY

STEWARDSHIP

ASCP BOC PROMOTES CERTIFICATION & CMP AT THE 70TH AACC ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING & CLINICAL LAB EXPO

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 from July 29-Aug. 2, ASCP BOC staffed an exhibit booth to help field 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 lab professionals, hear about updates on vital research, and learn about important changes in the medical laboratory field. And, it also gives potential applicants the opportunity to meet one on one with BOC staff who can answer questions and offer advice on applying for BOC examinations.

“This meeting is an opportunity to further educate and publicize the BOC certification to a diverse and 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.



The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) Annual Meeting and Exposition was held concurrently with the AACC meeting in Chicago. Ms. Tanabe presented an update on BOC activities to ASCLS meeting attendees at the Swissotel on July 29, 2018.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: RETIREMENT CELEBRATION FOR KATHY SANTOIANNI

On June 28, 2018 Kathy Santoianni retired from the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) after 31 years and eight months of service to the organization. Ms. Santoianni originally served as a clerk/typist in ASCP Education Division. She then transferred to the Board of Registry as the administrative assistant to the director of Applicant and Certificant Activities, Gerry Piskorski, MBA. As the Board of Registry (BOR) and BOC shifted and grew over the years, so had Ms. Santoianni's role. She most recently served

as project coordinator for Certification Activities, taking on additional projects and activities to support credentialing in the Board of Certification.

BOC staff celebrated her retirement with a Tigger-themed luncheon in her honor on June 15th. ASCP staff wished her well with tributes and cake on June 27, 2018. Ms. Santoianni looks forward to spending her free time spoiling her grandchildren and her dogs.



BOC PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS MEETING DATES

SEPTEMBER 2018	NOVEMBER 2018	JUNE 2019
<p>2018 NSH Annual Symposium/Convention National Society for Histotechnology (NSH) St. Louis, MO September 21 – 26, 2018</p> <p>44th Annual Continuing Education Conference American Association of Pathologists' Assistants (AAPA) New Orleans, LA September 23 – 28, 2018</p>	<p>ASC 66th Annual Scientific Meeting American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) Washington, DC November 10 – 13, 2018</p>	<p>ASM Microbe 2019 American Society for Microbiology San Francisco, CA June 20 – 24, 2019</p>
OCTOBER 2018	DECEMBER 2018	JULY 2019
<p>2018 ASCP Annual Meeting American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Baltimore, MD October 3 – 5, 2018</p> <p>AABB Annual Meeting AABB Boston, MA October 13 – 16, 2018</p>	<p>60th ASH Annual Meeting & Exposition American Society of Hematology (ASH) San Diego, CA December 1 – 4, 2018</p>	<p>71st AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo AACC Anaheim, CA August 4 – 8, 2019</p>
FEBRUARY 2019		
<p>ASCLS Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference (CLEC) The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) Baltimore, MD February 21 – 23, 2019</p>		



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BOC PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS

Sponsoring Societies

Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT)

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS)

American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)

Participating Societies

AABB

American Association of Pathologists' Assistants (AAPA)

American Society of Cytopathology (ASC)

American Society for Microbiology (ASM)

Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA)

National Society for Histotechnology (NSH)

Collaborating Societies

AACC

American Society of Hematology (ASH)