

# International Certification Newsletter

Volume 12 Issue 1

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## Chair's Message



Kathleen Finnegan, MS, MT(ASCP)SH<sup>CM</sup>  
International Liaison, International  
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Hello, and welcome to the fifth digital edition of the International Certification Newsletter. In keeping with the spirit of the 2018 Winter Olympics, the BOC is hitting the slopes in 2018 at full speed!

In February, Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, ASCP BOC Executive Director, represented the BOC at Sharjah University and at the MEDLAB 2018 Congress in Dubai, UAE, where Ms. Tanabe staffed an exhibit booth from Feb. 4-7, 2018.

The 2018 MEDLAB Exhibition & Congress was an enormous opportunity

for ASCP BOC. As the largest attended laboratory expo worldwide, it marked an excellent opportunity for promoting ASCP certification to the over 26,000 attendees from more than 129 countries. Accompanied by 17 multi-disciplinary CME-accredited conferences, the MEDLAB Congress provides education, best practices, and the chance to learn, meet, and network with leading laboratorians from across the globe, as delivered by over 128 thought-leaders.

Just prior to MEDLAB, the ASCP BOC had the privilege of sponsoring the 25th National Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science in Kolkata, India, as well as the 64th Meeting of the Japanese Society of Laboratory Medicine.

In addition to all of the great news coming out of the Middle East and Asia region, I am proud to announce that, as of Dec. 31, 2017, we have 14,064 first-time examinees from 98 countries of education!

Clearly, we have made huge progress over the last decade in promoting ASCP international certification across the globe. We hope you will enjoy reading about these efforts in this issue of the International Certification Newsletter.



Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, ASCP BOC Executive Director, at the BOC exhibit booth during MEDLAB 2018

From Feb. 2-8, 2018, Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, ASCP BOC Executive Director, represented the BOC at Sharjah University and at the MEDLAB 2018 Congress in Dubai, UAE.

At Sharjah University, as part of a two-day MLS exam preparation course, Feb. 2-3, Ms. Tanabe presented information on ASCP BOC certification to an audience of over 70 students and laboratory professionals. Ms. Tanabe said, "Providing an overview of certification to applicants from outside the U.S. is important since these populations tend to be less familiar with the ASCP BOC certification exam and application processes."

After presenting at Sharjah, Ms. Tanabe staffed an exhibit booth at the 2018 MEDLAB Congress. The BOC has exhibited

at MEDLAB since 2013 because, with over 26,000 attendees from over 129 different countries, the congress offers the BOC an excellent opportunity to promote ASCP international certification to a large and diverse cohort of international lab professionals. In addition, it 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.

The BOC also partnered with the Eurospan Group to offer congress attendees the opportunity to review and purchase examination preparation materials and books right from the BOC exhibit booth. Ms. Tanabe said attendees responded favorably to this arrangement with Eurospan and to being able to speak with her directly.

*"I always get such positive energy from the attendees at this meeting. These are young professionals who are just beginning their career and are so motivated to further their education and their credentials. It's also an opportunity for me to talk with attendees about how the BOC can provide better services and the benefits of becoming certified."*

The BOC's presence at the event over the past six years appears to be making a difference in the region. In 2013, for instance, the BOC received about 200 ASCP<sup>i</sup> applications from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. As of Dec. 2017, the BOC has received nearly 1,300 unique MENA region applications.

"This meeting is an opportunity to further educate and publicize the BOC certification to a worldwide audience. It is important to continually promote certification in the MENA region as licensure and regulations for work eligibility continue to be developed," said Tanabe.

## BOC Sponsors the 25th National Congress of the All India Institute of Medical Technologists



AIIMT's inauguration ceremony for the 25th National Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science

The ASCP BOC recently sponsored the All India Institute of Medical Technologists' (AIIMT) 25th National Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science, Dec. 9-10, 2017, in Kolkata, India. Sponsoring the event gave the BOC the opportunity to raise awareness of ASCP<sup>i</sup> certification to a growing Indian market, which has seen a 120-percent increase in the number of BOC international applicants over the past five years.

Over 300 delegates from various parts of India and other parts of the world attended the congress. According to ASCP BOC India Advisory Board Member and AIIMT President, Mr. Manindra Chaudhuri, there are enormous possibilities in India to encourage medical laboratory professionals to take ASCP BOC international certification examinations. Mr. Chaudhuri said he believes that "BOC international certification will uplift the knowledge and skills of laboratory professionals in India, as well as help define a standard for the future."



## The ASCP BOC Japan Advisory Board Promotes ASCP<sup>i</sup> at the 29th World Congress of the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and 64th Japanese Society of Laboratory Medicine National Congress



Dr. Hideo Sakamoto, Chair of the Japan Advisory Board, with E. Blair Holladay, PhD, MASCP, SCT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, Chief Executive Officer, ASCP, at the BOC Exhibit Booth during WASPaLM 2018. Dr. Holladay was in Kyoto as an invited speaker of JSLM and WASPaLM

During the 64th Japanese Society of Laboratory Medicine (JSLM) National Congress, held Nov. 16-19, 2017, at the Kyoto International Conference Center, Hideo Sakamoto, PhD, Professor at Kobe Tokiwa University and Chair of the Japan Advisory Board, represented the ASCP BOC and staffed an exhibit booth.

The JSLM Congress was held in conjunction with the 29th World Congress of the World Association of Societies of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (WASPaLM). WASPaLM's mission is to improve health throughout the world by promoting the teaching and practice of all aspects of pathology and laboratory medicine. It is in keeping with the patient-centered mission of JSLM, as well as the BOC's mission of providing excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide.

With about 2,000 laboratory professionals and pathologists from around the world attending, Dr. Sakamoto said the joint event marked an excellent opportunity for the Japan Advisory Board to promote ASCP<sup>i</sup> to a large international audience. Dr. Sakamoto added that *“over 200 individuals, many of them visitors from outside of Japan, stopped by the BOC exhibit booth during the conference to learn more about BOC certification.”*

Brochures and pamphlets on how to apply for BOC examinations and the importance of staying credentialed were also distributed at the booth, along with copies of an article on the importance of attaining a BOC credential (written by Dr. Sakamoto).

Event attendees also had the opportunity to participate in two keynote lectures, four educational lectures, multiple educational programs, and 17 symposia. The event also included 44 oral presentations and 168 poster presentations with presenters hailing from 24 different countries.

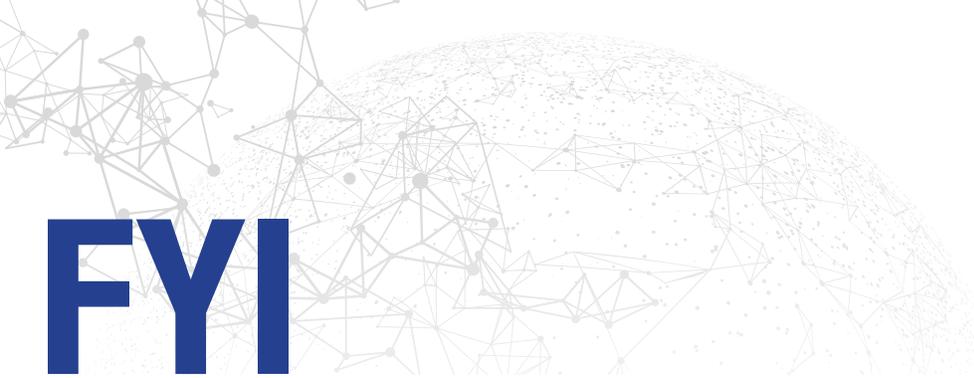
## Meet the ASCP BOC Qatar Advisory Board Chair



Hassan Aziz, PhD, FACSs, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Hassan Aziz, PhD, FACSs, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, received his doctorate degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2000. Throughout his career, he has been interested in different aspects of medical laboratory science, higher education, and health informatics. Dr. Aziz is an active member of national and international professional and scientific societies and organizations. He was elected to the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) Board of Directors between 2009 and 2012. He represents ASCLS at the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS). He founded and was appointed Chair of the Qatar Advisory Board of the ASCP BOC in 2013 and is a consultant for the ASCP Global Outreach Program.

Dr. Aziz is an external examiner for a number of international programs and an adjunct faculty to a number of institutions. He is a Fellow of the Association of Clinical Scientists. In addition to numerous international conference presentations and guest speaking engagements, Dr. Aziz has written more than 75 peer reviewed publications. He is a consulting editor for Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) published by ASCLS, is on the Development Board of Critical Values published by ASCP, and served on the editorial advisory board for Advance for Medical Laboratory Professionals.



# FYI

## The ASCP Board of Certification is now on Facebook!

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Students, laboratory professionals, program directors, and others can now benefit from the BOC's new Facebook page. 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 to the page 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! [Click here to check it out!](#)

## ONELab Group Transitioning to Facebook

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ASCP and the ASCP BOC made a strategic decision to move all community activities from the **ONELab** website to BOC social media channels, as interaction from all users is much greater on social media channels than on **ONELab**. The ultimate goal is to facilitate enhanced interaction that is more convenient for our users. Current content on **ONELab** will be transferred to Facebook. To access the ASCP BOC International and Program Directors groups on Facebook, click on the following links:

- [ASCP BOC International](#)
- [ASCP BOC Program Directors](#)

We do realize that this shift may affect some users' ability to engage in community activities while at their institutions, and hope that you will join us from home or through your portable devices.

## Revised Publications Available Online

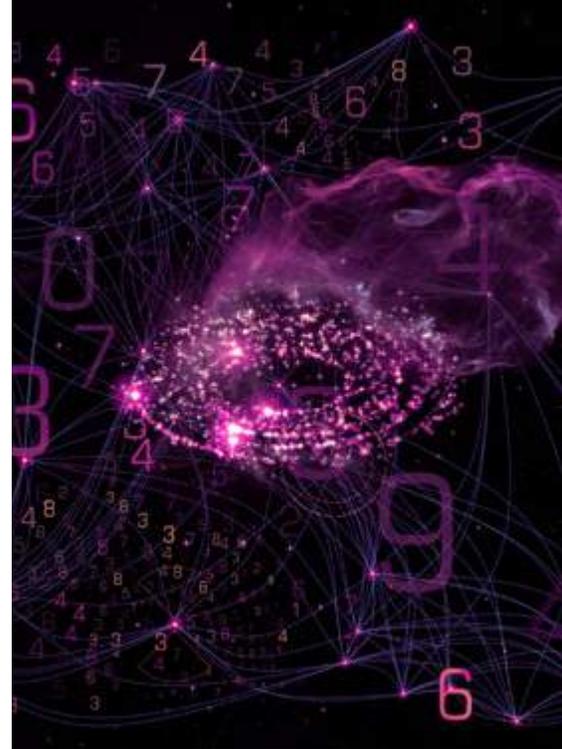
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- [January 2018 U.S. Procedures for Examination and Certification](#)
- [January 2018 International Procedures for Examination and Certification](#)
- [January 2018 CMP Booklet](#)
- [U.S. Procedures for Qualification](#)

## BOC Examination – Copyright Violations

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The ASCP BOC monitors the Web regularly for copyright violations on websites that purport to have questions from BOC examinations. Individuals with ASCP BOC certifications who contribute to these sites are in violation of the pledges they sign on the application form and on site prior to taking the examination. Certification can be revoked and individuals can be barred permanently from taking any BOC examination by violating these pledges. Please remind your students not to share information from the examination.



## Understanding ASCP BOC Certification Examinations

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

## How to Locate Your Certification Number

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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.

## Questions or Comments?

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If you have any questions or comments on the information contained in this issue, please email Joseph Baker, MS, at [Joseph.Baker@ascp.org](mailto:Joseph.Baker@ascp.org).

We look forward to hearing from you!