

International

Certification Newsletter

Volume 13 Issue 1

In This Issue:

CLM(ASCP) [®] Exam for Work Eligibility in Panama	2
Meet the Panama Advisory Board Chair	2
BOC Collaborating Society Hosts Job Fair, Promotes BOC Certification	2
International MT(ASCP) [®] Certificant Wins the My BOC Credential Story Contest!	3
IFBLS 33rd World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science	3
BOC Presents at the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc.'s 54th Annual Convention	4
BOC Presents at the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc.'s 54th Annual Convention	4
Recognition of BOC Certificants at Dubai Health Authority Labs	4
Japanese Association of Medical Technologists Practicum	4

Contributors:

Editor:

Patricia A. Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

Managing Editor and

Production Coordinator:

Joseph Brendan Baker, MS

Editorial Advisor:

Susan Montgomery, MBA

Graphics and Layout:

Joanna Mehta

International Liaison:

Kathleen Finnegan, MS, MT(ASCP)^{SHCM}

Regional Representatives:

Cristina González del Riego, Latin America and the Caribbean

Dionysis Vourtsis, Europe

ASCP Board of Certification Editorial Committee:

Patty Eschliman, MHA, MLS (ASCP)^{CM} DLM^{CM}
Lena Spencer, MA, HTL(ASCP) QIHC^{CM}
Dana Duzan, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}
Elaine B. Francis, EdD

Chair's Message



Kathleen Finnegan, MS, MT(ASCP)^{SHCM}
International Liaison, International
Consortium for ASCP[®]

January marked an important milestone for the BOC as it launched a formal process for International MT/MLS(ASCP)[®] certificants to transition their credential to MLS(ASCP) through a new U.S. certification route. However, in order to transition, they must have MT/MLS(ASCP)[®] certification and five years of full-time, acceptable clinical laboratory experience in all required areas in the U.S., Canada, or an accredited laboratory within the last ten years. Full details are available on the [BOC website](#).

On the international development front, we have recently engaged in outreach activities in the Philippines, South Korea, Italy, Panama, and the U.A.E.

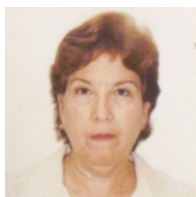
In Sep. 2018, Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Executive Director, ASCP Board of Certification, signed an agreement with CICBTM for the ASCP BOC to administer the theoretical certification examination for work eligibility in Panama. Then in Dec. 2018, Ms. Tanabe delivered a presentation on the value of international certification at the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc.'s (PAMET) annual convention in Manila, Philippines.

In Italy, during IFBLS's 2018 World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science, Sep. 22-26, 2018, in Florence, Joseph Baker, MS, Manager of International Development & Social Media, delivered a presentation on BOC certification as part of a larger breakout session entitled "Quality in Laboratory Medicine: Tools & Support."

And, in January 2019, we received an update from our U.A.E. Advisory Board Chair, Dr. Rana Nabulsi, PhD, FACHE, MSc, CPHQ, that "BOC certification is quickly becoming the culture of [Dubai Health Authority] DHA labs. As certification of laboratories and compliance with international standards are priorities for DHA, certification of laboratory professionals with BOC credentials is a priority."

Clearly, international demand for ASCP[®] continues to expand at a rate never imagined when the ASCP BOC began implementing plans for international certification 14 years ago. Please enjoy all of the exciting international activities taking place as you read this latest edition of the International Certification Newsletter.

Meet the Panama Advisory Board Chair



Gloriela Panizade Pinzón, MT(ASCP), obtained a bachelor of science in Medical Technology from Canal Zone College and was certified by the ASCP BOC in 1970. She is also

licensed with Colegio Nacional de Laboratorios Clínicos (CONALAC), and registered with the Panama Ministry of Health.

Her interest in the laboratory field began during studies at Gradwohl School for Medical Technology, St. Louis, MO. She then returned to Panama to continue her education after winning a scholarship, where she obtained her medical technology degree. Ms. Pinzón started as a generalist where she worked in all the areas of the clinical laboratory, and later rose to become a section supervisor and administrator.

Continuing education has been a priority throughout Ms. Pinzón's career, and she fulfilled this goal by attending ASCP and CAP conferences and seminars, Beckman Coulter training courses, and CDC specialty hematology classes.

She visited several accredited hospital laboratories in the U.S. to gain experience from larger institutions, and brought back new ideas to implement at her worksite.

After the closure of the Gorgas Army Hospital in the year 2000, when the U.S. and the Panama Canal Treaty ended, she started working as the Chief Medical Technologist and Laboratory Manager at San Fernando Hospital, the largest and oldest private hospital in Panama. Her main goal was to update the laboratory information system, the blood bank and clinical laboratory, in order to meet the CAP and AABB accreditation standards.

By 2010, she had completed her objectives and retired from professional practice to concentrate on voluntary promotion of ASCP BOC certification. Along with three other colleagues, she started a Foundation called "Fundación Internacional Para la Certificación y Acreditación" (FICA), which provided scholarships to Medical Technology students who have an interest in ASCP BOC certification, but lack the funds to complete their education.

**Ms. Pinzón had briefly retired as Chair of the Panama Advisory Board, but has graciously returned as Interim Chair.*

BOC Collaborating Society Hosts Job Fair, Promotes BOC Certification

The Korea Association of Medical Technologists (KAMT) sponsored a job fair at KAMT's main office in Seoul, South Korea, on Jan. 4, 2019. Part of the fair included a presentation from Yu Kyong Nae, MT(ASCP), who works in California as a medical laboratory scientist.



▶ Mr. Yu Kyong Nae

Topics of Mr. Kyong Nae's presentation included (1) becoming ASCPⁱ certified, (2) navigating the visa screen process, (3) working with a local sponsor for immigration, and (4) living in the U.S. after receiving a work visa.



▶ Job Fair Attendees

CLM(ASCP)ⁱ Exam for Work Eligibility in Panama

On Sep. 10, 2018, the ASCP Board of Certification and the CICBTM (Consejo Interinstitucional de Certificación Básica de Tecnología Médica /Interinstitutional Council of Basic Certification of Medical Technology) signed an agreement for the ASCP BOC to administer the theoretical certification examination for work eligibility in Panama. The Rector of the University of Panama, Dr. Eduardo Flores Castro, and Ms. Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Executive Director of the ASCP Board of Certification, are shown signing the agreement at the University of Panama.



▶ Dr. Eduardo Flores Castro and Ms. Patricia Tanabe



International MT(ASCP[®]) Certificant Wins the My BOC Credential Story Contest!



► Antonio Insigne, SBB(ASCP)^{CM}, MT(ASCP[®])

As part of its 90th Anniversary Celebration, the BOC held a contest inviting all BOC certificants to share their BOC credential stories. The contest asked participants to submit stories on how earning their credential has impacted their lives. The response the BOC received was immense. The BOC would like to thank all of those who participated and shared their stories! Below is the 1st place winner's story.

Antonio Insigne, SBB(ASCP)^{CM}, MT(ASCP[®])

"My career as a Medical Technologist began in 1990 in the Philippines. [At that time] I had an opportunity to work in the Middle East. Life in the Middle East was great but I knew in my heart that I [would] not [be] satisfied until I fulfilled my dream of working in the United States. So, I decided to take my first ASCP examination, the International Medical Technologist exam, MT(ASCP), in 2010, followed by the BB Technologist Certification Examination, BB(ASCP), in 2011. True enough, these BOC credentials provided more opportunities than I ever expected. In 2011, I got an offer from a prestigious immunohematology reference laboratory, which was my first job in the U.S.

While at that institution, I encountered all the Immunohematology complex cases that inspired me to [take] the Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB) Certification Examination.

The MT(ASCP) helped me get my license as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist by reciprocity in the State of California, and the SBB(ASCP) paved the way for offers in the area of Transfusion Medicine from other reputable big institutions across the nation. Right now, I am very satisfied with my position as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist (Specialist) in a teaching hospital in California. BOC [certification] boosted my confidence at work, whether [I was] resolving challenging cases on the bench or delivering my duties as Specialist off bench, [or] being part of the team that trains the rotating Laboratory Medicine Residents, Transfusion Medicine Fellow, Hematology/Oncology Fellow, and newly hired Clinical Lab Scientists. Also, knowing that I have been certified by the BOC, [meant that] participating in the University-wide Health Improvement Symposium this year was never a struggle for me. In fact, the poster I presented to this symposium was also accepted by the AABB. The BOC [has] made me unstoppable."

IFBLS 33rd World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science

During the 2018 World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science, Sep. 22-26, 2018, at the Palazzo dei Congressi in Florence, Italy, Joseph Baker, MS, Manager of International Development & Social Media, delivered a presentation entitled "The Value of ASCP BOC Certification." The BOC's presentation was part of a larger breakout session entitled "Quality in Laboratory Medicine: Tools & Support." The BOC was also one of three major sponsors of the event, including Abbott and SYNLAB. The International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists (IFBLS) holds the World Congress of Biomedical Laboratory Science every two years. Approximately 500 faculty, administrators, directors, advisors, professionals, students and others in biomedical laboratory science practice and education attended the 2018 congress. The congress provides a variety of student forums, educational sessions, exhibits, poster presentations, workshops, and networking opportunities, specifically geared toward medical laboratory science educators, professionals, and students. The BOC has attended the previous five IFBLS congresses in New Delhi, India, Nairobi, Kenya, Berlin, Germany, Taipei, Taiwan, and Kobe, Japan.



► Barbara Wai Ling Yung, President, Hong Kong Institute Medical Laboratory Scientists, with Joseph Baker at the BOC booth during the 2018 IFBLS World Congress.

BOC Presents at the Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc.'s 54th Annual Convention



▶ Patricia Tanabe at the BOC exhibit booth during PAMET Inc.'s 54th Annual Convention

On Dec. 5, 2018, Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Executive Director, ASCP Board of Certification, delivered a presentation on "The Value of International Certification Towards Career Progression" to medical laboratory educators, professionals, and students attending the annual Philippine Association of Medical Technologists, Inc. (PAMET) Convention in Manila, Philippines.

Those who attended Ms. Tanabe's presentation were particularly interested in the BOC Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) and what they would need to do in order to meet CMP requirements for their credential. As such, Ms. Tanabe spent a fair amount of time explaining the CMP process and what an ASCP BOC credential holder could expect in terms of required continuing education and professional development.

Japanese Association of Medical Technologists Practicum

In September, the ASCP BOC welcomed Mr. Yuki Hara, MSc, to its Chicago headquarters. Mr. Hara was in Chicago as part of a collaborative program between the ASCP BOC, the Japanese Association of Medical Technologists (JAMT), and Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC). The program arranges for Japanese laboratory professionals who are ASCPⁱ certified (or ASCPⁱ eligible) to participate in a week-long laboratory practicum in the United States.



▶ Left to right: Joseph Baker, MS, Manager of International Development & Social Media, Yuki Hara, and Angela Sreckovic, Manager of International Certification & CA Technical Operations

The 2018 convention was held December 3-5 at the Philippine International Convention Center. This year's theme was "Setting New Vision Beyond Borders." PAMET's president, Ronaldo E. Puno, RMT, MBA-H, said the theme was both timely and appropriate. He then stated that "in this era of globalization and integration, there is an urgent need to set our vision on building credentials and on continuous professional development. It is only by being prepared that medical technologists can benefit from the emerging opportunities. It is by equipping our professionals with necessary skills and knowledge that we can best address the challenges ahead of us."

PAMET is an important partner of the BOC and has been a BOC collaborating society since 2006. The BOC often seeks partnerships with organizations that have common goals and objectives. PAMET shares the BOC's belief in building strong international partnerships towards assuring the competency of medical laboratory professionals around the world. The Philippines is also the BOC's largest international certification market. The PAMET Annual Convention offered the BOC an excellent promotional opportunity for reaching out to approximately 4,000 Filipino laboratory professionals.

As of Dec. 31, 2018, there were 11,955 first-time ASCPⁱ examinees and 8,862 ASCPⁱ certified individuals from the Philippines.

Recognition of BOC Certificants at Dubai Health Authority Labs

Once a month, the Chair of the U.A.E. Advisory Board, Dr. Rana Nabulsi, PhD, FACHE, MSc, CPHQ, visits Dubai Health Authority (DHA) Labs where staff have earned BOC certification. According to Dr. Nabulsi, "BOC certification is quickly becoming the culture of DHA labs. As certification of laboratories and compliance with international standards are priorities for DHA, certification of laboratory professionals with BOC credentials is a priority." Dr. Nabulsi added that BOC certification is now part of DHA's DNA, and that it is becoming a tradition to officially recognize newly-BOC credentialed staff each month.

"Laboratory professionals are excited to have ASCPⁱ pins on their laboratory coats. They know BOC certification is a golden tool for enhancing competency, and that certification facilitates compliance with international standards, accreditation and best practices in laboratory medicine."



▶ Left to right: ASCPⁱ pin recipient Mr. Gerald Regencia, HTL(ASCP)^{CM}, Dr. Rana Nabulsi, Dr. Hassan Hotait, Dr. Mouza Al Sharhan, and ASCPⁱ pin recipient Mr. Shefeeque Perungayam, HTL(ASCP)^{CM}. The award ceremony took place at Dubai Hospital Laboratory.

Revised Publications Available Online in February 2019

Go to www.ascp.org/boc to find the most current publications.

- January 2019 U.S. Procedures for Examination and Certification
- January 2019 International Procedures for Examination and Certification
- U.S. Procedures for Qualification
- [Annual Exam Statistics](#)

BOC Facebook Page

The ASCP BOC has a Facebook page. You can follow the page to see what is happening at the BOC:

<https://www.facebook.com/ASCPBoardOfCertification/>

MLS and MLT Practice Analyses Results

The results of the latest Medical Laboratory Scientist (MLS) and Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) Practice Analyses are now available on the BOC website: [MLT & MLS Practice Analysis Report](#)

MLS and MLT Revised Examination Content Guidelines are Now Available

Examination Content Guidelines for MLS and MLT examinations administered beginning Jan. 1, 2019, have been revised. The revised content guidelines are currently available on the BOC web page under "Applicant Resources" for each category.

When Should Your Students Apply for Certification?

Students should complete the online application and submit their application fee when they are on track to complete the program by the official program end date. Applications should not be submitted more than six weeks prior to the date of program completion. If there will be a delay in completing the program for any reason, the student should not apply until they have an actual program end date. Application fees are non-refundable. Please review the Program Director's Guide to Certification for detailed information on all facets of the certification process. This booklet contains a handy planning calendar with application guidelines at the end to assist you.

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. Please notify Angela Sreckovic at Angela.Sreckovic@ascp.org.

BOC Examination – Copyright Violations

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

Understanding ASCP BOC Certification Examinations

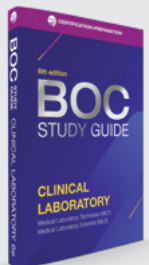
Brief explanations on a variety of topics related to the BOC certification examinations are available at [Understanding ASCP BOC Certification Examinations](#).

ASCPⁱ to ASCP Transition

The BOC now offers a formal process for International MT/MLS(ASCP) certificants to transition their credential to MLS(ASCP) through a new U.S. certification route. Based on previous successful completion of the MLS examination, these MT/MLS(ASCP) certificants will not be required to retake the MLS examination. However, in order to transition, they must have five years of full time, acceptable clinical laboratory experience in all required areas in the U.S., Canada, or an accredited laboratory within the last 10 years. This transition does not circumvent federal work and state licensure regulations, and individuals seeking employment in the U.S. will still need to meet all the U.S. immigration visa requirements. Read more on the BOC website.

New Enhanced 6th Edition of the BOC Study Guide

The new, enhanced [6th Edition of the BOC Study Guide](#) is the authoritative study tool for preparing for the MLS(ASCP) & MLT(ASCP) and the MLT(ASCP) certification examinations. Learn more on the [BOC website](#).



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.

Questions or Comments?

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