



## **Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT), ASCP Name Change, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: 1994 – 2003**

In 1994, all certification examinations were administered by Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT). The examinations were administered at 75 Sylvan Technology Centers around the country. Paper and pencil tests were totally eliminated.

A new qualification, Qualification in Immunohistochemistry (QIHC), was administered for the first time in 1994. This qualification required submission of a work project.

A new study guide for histotechnology was developed, the BOR Study Guide for Histotechnology, to help applicants prepare for the Histotechnician and Histotechnologist certification examinations.

### **1995**

The number of Sylvan test sites was expanded from 75 to 200 across the U.S.

### **1996**

The ASCP put up their first web site. The Board of Registry was now on the Internet.

### **1997**

In 1997, the Continuing Competence Recognition (CCR) program was finally released after a number of years of study and development. This was a voluntary program that allowed certificants to demonstrate their continued competence every five years by participating in one of three options:

- 60 item CAT examination in their area of certification
- Completion of 60 contact hours of continuing education
- Onsite assessment by their employer

A Qualification with a Point of Care Testing Evaluator (POCTE) Program was also developed. This program consisted of a training program administered as a series of teleconferences for those seeking designation as point of care testing evaluators. Those who completed the training and passes a written self-evaluation test received a certificate of qualification as a Point of Care Testing Evaluator. They were able to evaluate the performance of POCT personnel in their institutions and submit these evaluations to the Board of Registry. The BOR issued reports for POCT personnel who had been successfully evaluated.

### **1998**

The Specialist in Virology, SV(ASCP) was offered for the first time. The experience eligibility route for the Cytotechnology certification examination was discontinued.

## **1999**

The first Board of Registry Vice President, Barbara M. Castleberry, PhD, MT(ASCP) retired, and Kory Ward-Cook, PhD, MT(ASCP) was hired.

The CCR Program was revised. Since so few candidates chose to take a 60-item CAT exam, Option 1 was replaced with the option to complete a specialist or diplomate certification. Options 2 and 3 remained the same.

## **2000**

Beginning in 2000, with the continuing decline in the number of medical laboratory training programs, the Board of Registry became heavily involved in student recruitment in the medical laboratory field. The Board of Registry, with ASCP Communications, developed the booklet "Careers in the Medical Laboratory" and began staffing a booth at the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) conference.

The Specialist in Laboratory Safety, SLS(ASCP) certification was offered. Career and student recruitment continued with the production of a video, "Careers in the Medical Laboratory Sciences", in conjunction with ASCP Communications. A section, "Career Resources", was developed on the BOR web pages.

## **2001**

The Board of Registry adopted a new slogan, "ASCP Certification – The Standard of Excellence." A major practice analysis was launched for Medical Technologist, Medical Laboratory and Phlebotomy Technician.

The certification title, "Histologic Technician" was changed to "Histotechnician" with the same initials, HT(ASCP). This title change was effective for all certificants in this category.

## **2002**

The Board of Registry created their mission statement – *The Board of Registry promotes the health and safety of the public by certifying competent laboratory professionals and maintaining a registry of certificants.* The American Society of Clinical Pathologists changed their name to the *American Society for Clinical Pathology.*

The Board of Registry developed the first online practice tests. Individuals could sign up online, receive a login and password and access practice tests for the following certification examinations: Medical Technologist, Medical Laboratory Technician, Histotechnician, and Histotechnologist. Additional categories were added later on.

## **2003**

The year 2003 was the Diamond Anniversary (75<sup>th</sup>) of the Board of Registry. This milestone occasion was celebrated at a 1920's theme party in New Orleans.

The Program Performance Reports were made available online this year. In addition, three new certification categories and two new qualifications were added:

- Technologist in Molecular Pathology, MP(ASCP)
- Donor Phlebotomy Technician, DPT(ASCP)
- Apheresis Technician, AT(ASCP)
- Qualification in Laboratory Compliance (QLC)
- Qualification in Laboratory Informatics (QLI)

The Phlebotomy Technician, PBT(ASCP) certification was accepted for state licensure in the state of California.

## **Certification Maintenance Program (CMP), International Certification, and ANSI Accreditation: 2004 – 2008**

The Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) was implemented for all certification categories. Certificants, certified beginning January 1, 2004, were issued a time-limited certification for three years. In order to retain their certification, the certificants were now required to complete a Certification Maintenance Program every three years. The program required certificants to earn a minimum number of points in safety, area of certification and other areas such as supervision and education. These points could be earned through continuing education, college coursework, higher level certification, employer assessment, publication, presentations at professional societies, etc. Those individuals who completed CMP would use the initials "CM" after their credentials to demonstrate their continued competence, for example MT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>. Those who did not complete the CMP were no longer certified and no longer permitted to use the initials (ASCP) after their names.

### **2004**

In July 2004, *eLinks for Program Directors*, an electronic newsletter sent 8-9 times per year to all program directors of medical laboratory training programs, was developed. This newsletter provided the latest information from the Board of Registry on new credentials, updated policies, eligibility requirement revisions, and any other information pertinent to the programs.

In this same year, the American Association of Pathologists' Assistants (AAPA) became a participating member of the ASCP Board of Registry with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). AAPA Fellows were eligible for ASCP certification as Pathologists' Assistants, PA(ASCP). The first examination was administered on October 1, 2005.

The American College of Microbiology (ACM) discontinued their test administration in clinical microbiology. They signed an MOU with the Board of Registry in 2004. Future candidates would take the Technologist in Microbiology, Specialist in Microbiology or the Specialist in Virology examinations and be certified by the ASCP Board of Registry.

The Qualification in Immunohistochemistry (QIHC) work project (practical examination) was replaced by an online computer examination. This year also saw the elimination of deadline dates for all certification examination. Previously, there were four deadline dates per year to apply. Now applicants could apply year round and receive a three-month period in which to test once they were determined eligible.

A Globalization Task Force was also established in 2004 to study the possibility of certification in other countries. They were given three years to research the best methods to approach international certification of laboratory personnel.

### **2005**

In 2005, the 400,000 certificant, Lisa McWilliams, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> of Maumelle, AR, was recognized. Ms. McWilliams was invited as a guest at the Board of Registry meeting in the fall.

Previous to her certification, she was a spokesperson for the MT program at the University of Arkansas on a CBS news story.

In July 2005, a new Vice President and Executive Director of the Board of Registry was hired, E. Blair Holladay, PhD, SCT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>.

## **2006**

In January 2006, the ASCP and Board of Registry offices also moved from 2100 W. Harrison to 33 W. Monroe in downtown Chicago.

The ASCP Board of Registry and the National Accrediting Agency (NCA), a competitor of the BOR in certification of laboratory personnel, began talks on uniting the two certification programs.

The first international examinations were offered in Korea beginning January 1, 2006. The first certifications offered were Medical Technologist and Medical Laboratory Technician, with an “i” in superscript after “ASCP”, MT(ASCP<sup>i</sup>), to designate “International Certification”. The Philippines, Hong Kong, and Singapore were added later on that year as approved countries for international certification.

A new international certification category was offered – Technologist in Molecular Pathology, MP(ASCP<sup>i</sup>).

The MT examination was approved for licensure in 2006 by the state of California. Verification of certification was no longer handled manually by staff. An automated online verification system was developed with a third-party vendor to streamline the verification process and return immediate results.

By the end of 2006, a new set of international eligibility requirements was established that would be applicable to any new country approved for certification.

## **2007**

In January 2007, Histotechnician and Histotechnologist practical examinations were eliminated. After extensive studies on computer/written examination results and practical examination results, as well as input from HT educators and other stakeholders, it was determined that the practical examination was not a useful tool in evaluating competence.

The ASCP Board of Registry became accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) under ISO Standard 17024 for the following certification categories: Medical Technologist, Medical Laboratory Technician, and Cytotechnologist. This was a two-year process culminating in a two-day site visit by two ANSI assessors. ISO Standard 17024 was a relatively new standard for accreditation of personnel certification bodies.

Two new international certifications were introduced – Technologist in Chemistry and Phlebotomy Technician. This year was the first year that certifications expired for those individuals certified in 2004 who did not complete CMP.

The following certifications were approved for California state licensure – Medical Laboratory Technician and International Medical Technologist. A separate examination for CA licensure was developed and approved by CA for Medical Laboratory Technician. This examination was for licensure only, and did not include all laboratory areas.

In this year, the ASCP Board of Registry was also designated as the sole provider for New York state licensure examinations for Medical Technologist, Medical Laboratory Technician and Cytotechnologist.

## **2008**

California accepted the following certification examinations for state licensure – Technologist in Microbiology, Specialist in Microbiology, Technologist in Chemistry, and Specialist in Chemistry.

The *Program Director's Guide to Certification* was published online as an eBook. This booklet provided helpful information to program directors on the certification process and on examination preparation.

A new Board of Registry Mission Statement was adopted: *Provide excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide.*

Hong Kong and Panama were also approved for international certification.

The following examinations were retired: Apheresis Technician, Hemapheresis Practitioner and Specialist in Virology.

In August, the ASCP Board of Registry and the NCA signed a Letter of Intent to consolidate the two certification agencies into one agency.

## **Unification with NCA, New Name, International Expansion, 500,000<sup>th</sup> Certificant: 2009 – 2018**

The year 2009 was an exciting one for the ASCP Board of Registry (BOR) with the BOR) and the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA) uniting to form a single certification agency – the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC). The ASCP, Board of Registry, NCA and AGT (Association of Genetic Technologists) signed an agreement for a single certification agency on July 21, 2009.

The Board of Governors (governing body for the BOC) was restructured with the following representation:

- Five ASCP Fellows
- Five ASCP laboratory professionals
- Four ASCLS (American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science) members
- Two AGT members
- Eight other participating society representatives:
  - American Society for Clinical Chemistry
  - AABB
  - American Association of Pathologists' Assistants
  - American College of Microbiology
  - American Society of Cytopathology
  - American Society of Hematology
  - Clinical Laboratory Management Association
  - National Society for Histotechnology
- One public member

The (ASCP) suffix will be attached to all BOC certifications. The title of Medical Technologist (MT) from the Board of Registry and the title of Clinical Laboratory Scientist (CLM) from NCA were changed for U.S. certificants to Medical Laboratory Scientist, MLS(ASCP) under the ASCP Board of Certification for all those individuals who complete the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP). The title of Technologist in Molecular Pathology, MP(ASCP) under the Board of Registry was changed to Technologist in Molecular Biology, MB(ASCP) for all those individuals who complete CMP.

A new mission statement was approved: *Provide excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide.* All physical and electronic records from NCA were transferred to the ASCP BOC.

A new certification examination, Technologist in Cytogenetics, CG(ASCP) was published in this year as well. The international certifications for Medical Laboratory Technician, Medical Technologist, Technologist in Molecular Pathology, Technologist in Chemistry and Phlebotomy Technician were expanded and made available to qualified candidates in any country in the world. The International MT examination is translated into Spanish.

The following certification categories are approved for California state licensure:

- Technologist in Blood Banking (BB)
- Specialist in Blood Banking (SBB)
- Technologist in Hematology (H)
- Specialist in Hematology (SH)

Certification examinations were made available at military test centers in the U.S. and military bases worldwide.

## **2010**

A new standing committee, the BOG Ethics Review Committee, was formed by the BOC Board of Governors (BOG) to review allegations of misrepresentations on applications, inappropriate conduct during examinations, misrepresentations or misuse of certification status. This committee will make decisions on appropriate disciplinary action.

A formal policy and formal procedure for the development of new credentials were established by the BOG. The BOC standing committee, the Examination Oversight Committee, would be responsible for investigating and obtaining data on proposed new credentials from outside groups, and making recommendations to the Board of Governors.

The Qualification in Laboratory Operations (QLO) was approved by the BOG for development.

E. Blair Holladay, the Vice President and Executive Director of the BOC was named ASCP Executive Vice President of the ASCP and took over this position in July 2010. Geraldine Piskorski, MBA was named interim Executive Director of the BOC.

A contract was signed with the state of New York with the ASCP BOC as the sole provider of the Histotechnician licensure examination. The Technologist in Cytogenetics (CG) and the Technologist in Molecular Biology (MB) examinations were accepted by the state of California for licensure in 2010.

## **2011**

On January 1, 2011, Patricia Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> was named Vice President and new Executive Director of the ASCP Board of Certification.

The Specialist in Laboratory Safety, SLS(ASCP) certification was changed to a Qualification by the Board of Governors. The last certification examination was administered December 30, 2011. A new international certification category was developed, the Technologist in Gynecologic Cytology, CTgyn(ASCP). This certification was developed for international certification only and is not transferrable to any U.S. certification.

ANSI accreditation was awarded to the BOC for the following additional certification categories:

- Cytotechnologist (CT)



- Specialist in Cytotechnology (SCT)
- Technologist in Molecular Biology (MB)
- Histotechnician (HT)
- Histotechnologist (HTL)
- Pathologists' Assistant (PA)

## **2012**

ANSI accreditation was completed for all 20 U.S. certifications. The Certification Maintenance Program is required for all International certificants certified beginning January 1, 2012. The Guidelines for Ethical Behavior are officially adopted by the Board of Governors.

## **2013**

The online application process, in development for several years, was instituted. All communication with applicants is now completed online through email notification. Only official certificates are sent by postal mail to the certificants.

## **2014**

An online group for program directors of clinical laboratory training programs was established to share information and post certification-related questions. These questions are answered by a peer-based volunteer group of program directors. A study hall group was also developed as a resource for students in preparing for certification examinations.

The ASCP BOC Vision Statement was approved: *To be the gold standard in global certification for laboratory professionals.*

Paper applications were eliminated. All applications for certification are now required to be completed and submitted online.

The 500,000<sup>th</sup> certificant was certified in 2014. Simeitsa Stamoulas, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> of Baltimore, MD was invited to the BOC Board of Governors meeting to receive her award and attend a dinner with the BOG.

## **2015**

A new certification, Medical Laboratory Assistant, MLA(ASCP) and a new qualification, Qualification in Apheresis (QIA) were approved by the Board of Governors to be offered in 2016.

## **2016**

The new certification for Medical Laboratory Assistants and the new Qualification in Apheresis (QIA) were first offered this year.

## **2017**

Two new certifications, Specialist in Cytometry, SCYM; and International Specialist in Cytometry, were developed with the International Society for Advancement of Cytometry (ISAC) and the International Clinical Cytometry Society (ICCS). The Qualification in Cytometry

(QCYM) was sunsetted in June 2017, and the Qualification in Informatics (QLI) was sunsetted as well.

**2018**

The following new certifications were offered in January 2018: Specialist in Molecular Biology, SMB; and International Specialist in Molecular Biology.