

A Newsletter from The American Board of Pathology

AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY (ABP) OFFICERS

The following trustees were elected as officers for 2011: David F. Keren, M.D., President, Diane D. Davey M.D., Vice-President, Sharon W. Weiss, M.D., Secretary, Patrick E. Lantz, M.D., Treasurer; John V. Collin, M.D., Immediate Past President.

TRUSTEES

Drs. Steven Swerdlow and Susan Fuhrman were elected trustees of the ABP effective January 1, 2011.

Due to the resignation of Dr. Ricardo Lloyd, a letter requesting nominations for one new trustee was sent to former trustees, cooperating societies, and pathology chairs. Dr. Davey is chair of the search committee. It is anticipated that trustee selection will occur in time for the new trustee to attend the May, 2011 meeting.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Betsy Bennett has announced her intention to retire at the end of 2012. A search committee chaired by Dr. Sharon Weiss has been appointed to look for her successor. For information related to this position, please check the ABP Web site.

75th ANNIVERSARY of the ABP

The ABP is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year with an invitation-only formal dinner to be held on May 2, 2011 at the Trump Hotel in Chicago. Invitations for this event will be sent out shortly. Dr. Deborah Powell will give the keynote address.

COMPUTER UPDATES AT ABP OFFICE

Online applications and registration for subspecialty examinations were implemented in 2010. The system worked well, from the ABP's perspective. We are continuing to review and modify the online application and registration systems for both primary and subspecialty examinations to make them more user friendly for both applicants and staff.

The online reporting system for Maintenance of Certification was also introduced in late 2010 and is currently being used by 2006 and 2008 diplomates. The system is working reasonably well, although we have already identified some changes that will be made for the 2011 reports.

We appreciate the cooperation of program directors, candidates, and diplomates as we implement these new systems.

ABP 2011 BOOKLET OF INFORMATION

The revised *2011 Booklet of Information* is now available on the ABP Web site. This document should be reviewed by Program Directors and residents at least annually to ensure that appropriate requirements are met and procedures are followed.

SUBSPECIALTY EXAMINATIONS

All subspecialty examinations are scheduled for 2011. As noted previously, all subspecialty examinations will now be given annually.

TEST DEVELOPMENT AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TDAC) IN LABORATORY MANAGEMENT

The ABP has established a new TDAC in Laboratory Management chaired by Dr. Susan Fuhrman. Committee members include Drs. Raouf Nakhleh, Melissa Pessin-Minsley, Michael Talbert, Paul Valenstein, and Richard Zarbo.

CERTIFICATE IN CLINICAL INFORMATICS

The ABP has submitted a joint application with the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) for subspecialty certification in Clinical Informatics. The application goes before the Committee on Certification, Recertification and Maintenance of Certification (COCERT) in February, 2011. No major problems are anticipated and this certificate should be approved by the ABMS assembly in September, 2011. Dr. Glenn Merchant from the ABPM is working with ACGME on the information required to be submitted for approval of fellowships in Clinical Informatics.

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

The MOC program continues to evolve. Reporting for the 2006 and 2008 diplomates, due January 31, 2011, is online for the first time. The trustees and EVP are working to increase knowledge about MOC for both diplomates and residents. Several trustees participated in State Pathology Society meetings (California, Wyoming, Utah, Iowa, and Michigan) to discuss MOC. Dr. Davey led a roundtable at the American Society of Cytopathology meeting in 2010 and Dr. Stubbs is scheduled to give a presentation on MOC at the 2011 AABB meeting. Dr. Bennett participated in a Webinar for CAP on this topic and gave a workshop on MOC at the CAP '10 meeting in Chicago. She will be presenting this workshop again at CAP '11 and is also scheduled to speak on MOC at the 2011 ASCP meeting.

At its May meeting, the MOC committee plans to review the online reporting system and establish sign up requirements for diplomates with lifetime certificates.

The *2011 MOC Booklet of Information* is available on the ABP Web site.

VOLUNTARY RECERTIFICATION

The Voluntary Recertification program is available for diplomates with lifetime certificates in anatomic and/or clinical pathology who do not wish to participate in the MOC program. The *2011 Voluntary Recertification Booklet of Information* is available on the ABP Web site.

The Voluntary Recertification examination is a secure, proctored examination and is available only to diplomates who are required to take such an examination in order to obtain or maintain licensure in a particular state. This examination is given in conjunction with the spring and fall primary examinations, at the ABP Examination Center in Tampa. This exam will be in AP, CP, or AP/CP and must be taken in the area(s) in which the diplomate was originally certified. An AP/CP diplomate cannot, for example, take the AP only recertification examination.

The fee for Voluntary Recertification without examination remains \$1000. The fee for Voluntary Recertification with a secure, proctored examination is \$1800.

The Voluntary Recertification program will accept applications through July 1, 2013. After this date, the diplomates who require a secure, proctored examination to obtain a medical license will have to participate in the MOC program.

CERTIFYING EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE REPORTS

In January of each year, a Program Performance Report is generated for each primary and subspecialty program director which includes candidates in their program who have taken the certifying examination. The report includes two pages, each covering the previous 5 years. The first page lists candidates and their examination performance histories by year of examination taken and is sent only to the program director. This page includes candidates who completed all or part of their training in that program. The second page separates results of first-time candidates from results of those who have repeated an examination and includes performance only for candidates who completed all of their training in a given program. The second page is also provided to the Review Committee for Pathology at the time of the program's ACGME accreditation visit. The accuracy of these reports depends on the information that the ABP receives from program directors through the Resident Tracking system.

The Program Performance Reports will be delivered online through PATHway and should be available by January 31, 2011.

NEW DIPLOMATES

The ABP congratulates all of the pathologists who were certified in 2010.

In 2010, the ABP issued 483 certificates in AP/CP, 120 in AP only, 36 in CP only, and 1 in a combined primary/subspecialty. For subspecialty certification 38 physicians were certified in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine, 135 in Cytopathology, 58 in Dermatopathology, 40 in Forensic Pathology, 125 in hematology, and 1 in Medical Microbiology. We also congratulate the 83 pathologists who recertified in 2010.

In 2009, the ABP issued 516 certificates in AP/CP, 117 in AP only, 33 in CP only, and 24 in a combined primary/subspecialty.

EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

All of the ABP examinations given in 2010 were graded using the criterion-referenced method. Results are reported as % Pass for individual years.

The number of candidates passing the examinations does not match the number of candidates certified for several reasons: (1) Many AP/CP candidates, both first-time takers and repeaters, take only one portion (either AP or CP) of the examination. These candidates are not certified until both AP and CP are passed. (2) Certified candidates include AP/CP candidates who passed either the AP or CP examination previously and requested single certification during 2010. (3) Certified candidates also include AP/CP candidates who passed the examinations in a previous year but did not provide documentation of licensure or other required information until 2010.

Primary Examinations 2010

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers		Repeaters	
	#	% Pass	#	% Pass	#	% Pass
AP	823	69	621	82	202	28
CP	728	74	554	85	174	39

2009

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers		Repeaters	
	#	% Pass	#	% Pass	#	% Pass
AP	781	76	606	88	175	35
CP	791	71	543	85	248	42

Subspecialty Examinations

2010

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass
BB/TM	48	79	45	37	82	3	1	33
CYP	160	84	141	124	88	19	11	58
*DP	62	94	50	47	94	12	11	92
FP	42	93	41	38	93	1	1	100
HEM	144	87	132	120	91	12	5	42

***Updated 9/19/2011 to report pathologists only.**

2009

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass
BB/TM	37	81	32	27	84	5	3	60
CYP	158	85	138	117	85	20	18	90
DP	65	78	59	47	80	6	4	67
FP	30	93	28	27	96	2	1	50
HEM	141	88	130	119	92	11	5	46
MGP	49	90	46	44	96	3	0	0
MMB	11	82	11	9	82	-	-	-
NP	40	85	35	31	89	5	3	60
PP	41	71	33	25	76	8	4	50