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Getting at “Does”

George Miller (1990) described the levels of competence in the form of a pyramid. The first two levels, “knows” and “knows how” are essentially cognitive functions. These, for the most part, should be obvious in pathology. Practitioners of our craft need to know the diseases of humans and the associated pathophysiology, but we also need to be able to diagnose and characterize these entities and communicate the findings to other care providers. These latter skill sets demonstrate the ability to “Do,” which is the pinnacle of Miller’s competence pyramid. This is the expectation of independent practitioners and is what makes the pathologist an indispensable part of the healthcare team.

I was recently asked to moderate a session that explored how ChatGPT and similar artificial intelligence (AI)/machine learning (ML) programs would impact the Boards community. Needless to say, there was a healthy mixture of both excitement and fear in the room. Although ChatGPT doesn’t get all the questions I ask it right, it doesn’t do too badly. It is also important to understand that the current version is the equivalent to the Model-T and that before long there will be a Mustang (Yes, I am from Detroit). Most Board examinations consist, at least in part, of multiple-choice questions (MCQs), which are an excellent and efficient means of testing a large body of knowledge in a limited period of time. These types of questions predominantly test “Knows”, and when vignettes are provided can assess “Knows How.” The question that arises is: How will AI/ML change the Boards landscape when highly accurate knowledge is readily accessible? I recently had a conversation with a senior Emergency Department physician who only works part-time, and he admitted that he relies on “UpToDate” more than ever. Soon, with AI/ML, even more information that is even more accurate and up-to-date will be readily available on demand. Perhaps our evolution, as a Board, needs to be towards assessing the higher-level functions of “Show How” and “Does,” but how to get there?

Slightly over 1,400 pathologists responded to a recent survey regarding whether they were given the opportunity to independently sign-out cases during residency training. Although only 10% (145/1419) of these individuals were afforded the opportunity to do so, 74% felt that it had a positive impact on their early career. Similarly, slightly over half (i.e. 57% [726/1,274]) of pathologists who were not afforded this experience felt that if they had the opportunity, it would have positively influenced their early career. Personally, I have never met a pathologist who had a senior “hot-seat” rotation, and thought it was a bad experience. This is truly a Pathology community issue and not just an ABPath issue, so it will require a community solution. Our significant decision, as a community, is whether to keep training and assessment status quo, or, like our neighbors to the North, work toward “competency by design” (https://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/cbd/competence-by-design-cbd-e).
Admittedly, Pathology is a challenging space in which to allow advanced residents and fellows to “Do,” since many of the diagnoses rendered are definitive and will result in significant decisions. The challenge is how to afford the development of competence while simultaneously insuring patient safety. It is clear from our survey that some have done it successfully; we need to learn from them. The ABPath is building and intends to pilot a voluntary, formative, simulated sign-out experience for residents in training, which is targeted for launch in early 2025. This should afford a heightened assessment of “Shows How” and “Does” in a safe learning environment. ABPath will also continue to support the efforts of our colleagues who are exploring Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) as in-training competency-based assessments. We will continue to learn from our colleagues at Massachusetts General Hospital who continue to report success with their “Promotion in Place” pilot, wherein individuals who have demonstrated competence are allowed to practice with “sheltered independence” (Dr. Black-Schaffer; personal communication). The ABPath under the leadership of our President, Dr. Ritu Nayar, will explore these and related issues with our Cooperating Societies at our Spring meeting, and throughout the year. Stay tuned, as we will continue to explore getting at “Does.”

Gary W. Procop, MD, MS
CEO, American Board of Pathology
Professor of Pathology

Miller’s Pyramid of Clinical Competence

- Collective Competence
- Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs)
- Individual Competence
- Possessing Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

DOES
Actually applies that knowledge in practice; shows competent behavior on the job

SHOWS HOW
Exhibits competent behavior in realistic situations (simulations)

KNOWS HOW
Applies knowledge in context-rich situations

KNOWS
Has some knowledge, skills and abilities; masters the basics

2023 AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is pleased to announce the ABPath Board of Trustees and Executive Committee for 2023.

Trustees

Pictured from left to right: front row—Jennifer Laudadio, MD; Mark K. Fung, MD, PhD; Ritu Nayar, MD; Constance M. Filling, EdD; Mohiedean Ghofrani, MD, MBA; Barbara A. Sampson, MD, PhD; Kathleen G. Beavis, MD; Julie D. Kingery, MD.

Back row – ABPath CEO Gary W. Procop, MD, MS; Edward R. Ashwood, MD; Matthew J. Wasco, MD; Jeffrey D. Goldstein, MD; Eric F. Glassy, MD; James R. Cook, MD, PhD.

Executive Committee Officers

Pictured from left to right: Kathleen G. Beavis, MD, Secretary; Ritu Nayar, MD, President; Barbara A. Sampson, MD, PhD, Vice President.

Back row: Mohiedean Ghofrani, MD, MBA, Treasurer; Jeffrey D. Goldstein, MD, Immediate Past President.
We would like to congratulate Patty Schnoor on her retirement from the Board. Patty has been an invaluable member of the ABPath team serving as the Slide Librarian and ensuring the quality and accuracy of thousands of microscopic glass slides used for certification exams. For over 34 years, Patty’s attention to detail has been instrumental in maintaining the extensive ABPath slide library. She has been an important part of the ABPath’s success over the years.

Following her retirement, Patty is planning to travel and spend time with her husband, children and grandchildren.

We want to express our gratitude for all she has done and wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement. Her contributions to the ABPath will always be remembered and appreciated. Congratulations, Patty, and enjoy this new chapter of your life!

Patty Schnoor
Slide Librarian

ABPath Staff

Pictured from left to right:
Front row: Kasey Williamson, Renee Holder, Geri Wills, Ty McCarthy, Dr. Gary W. Procop, Anthony Schlinsog, Josie Santos, Amanda Zombros,
Back row: Colette Earnest, Mary Pyfrom, Clarita Scioscia, Tyler Sandersfeld, Alissa Eagle, Bonnie Woodworth, John Lemke, Mario Levesque
BOARD ACTIONS

Launch of ABPath CertLink® Quality Assurance and Improvement Plan

ABPath announced in February the launch of a two-year quality assurance/quality improvement initiative for ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL), the online longitudinal assessment platform for the Continuing Certification Program. This initiative is designed to enhance the user experience and ensure that the program continues to support the highest standards of continuous learning and professional development of board-certified pathologists.

“We have listened to the feedback from our diplomates and are taking action to make a great program even better,” says CEO of ABPath Gary W. Procop, MD, MS. “We are committed to providing the highest quality program for our physicians, and this two-year improvement initiative is a testament to our dedication to our diplomates and the profession of pathology.” Read the announcement here.

ABPATH NEWS

American Board of Pathology Announces the Appointment of New TDAC Members

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is pleased to announce the appointment of the following new members to the ABPath’s Test Development and Advisory Committees (TDACs) beginning in 2023. The TDACs are responsible for developing and reviewing the ABPath certification exam questions that assess and certify a physician’s education, knowledge, experience, and skills in order to provide high-quality care in the pathology profession. Read the announcement here.

- Alain Borczuk, MD - Anatomic Pathology
- Kyle T. Bradley, MD - Hematopathology
- Elizabeth Bundock, MD - Forensic Pathology
- May Chan, MD - Dermatopathology
- Susan Ely, MD - Forensic Pathology
- Mark Ewalt, MD - Molecular Genetic Pathology
- Alexandra Kovach, MD - Pediatric Pathology
- Zahra Maleki, MD - Cytopathology
- Peter Perrotta, MD - Management & Informatics
- Arie Perry, MD - Neuropathology
- Roseann Wu, MD - Cytopathology
FOCUS ON EXAMS

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EXAMS

Before the Exam

The following information will help candidates as they prepare for the 2023 certification examinations. More detailed information is available on the ABPath website.

All ABPath Primary and SS exams are administered through PVU Professional Test Centers.
REMINDERS

- Candidates’ first and last name in PATHway must match the first and last name on the two forms of ID they will show to enter the exam on your scheduled day. If they do not match, notify ABPath as soon as possible.

- Candidates need to be sure their primary email address in PATHway is current. This is where they will receive important exam information from ABPath and Pearson VUE.

HELPFUL EXAM RESOURCES

- Blueprints and Exam Descriptions
The ABPath provides examination descriptions and blueprints for Primary and Subspecialty exams. The blueprints give categories of topics covered in the examinations with the approximate percentage of questions for each topic. Be sure to check them out if you are preparing for an upcoming exam!

**Primary Exam Blueprints and Exam Descriptions link**

**Subspecialty Exam Blueprints and Exam Descriptions link**

**Example of a Primary Certification exam blueprint.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anatomic Pathology Exam Blueprint</th>
<th>Approximate %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Written/Practical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP Management &amp; General Pathology Principles</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitourinary</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymph Nodes and Spleen</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bone Marrow</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head and Neck</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alimentary Canal, Pancreas, Liver, Extrahepatic Biliary Tree, Gall Bladder</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endocrine</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gynecologic and Placenta</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Kidney</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory, Pleura, Mediastinum</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central and Peripheral Nervous System</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft Tissue and Bone</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecular Techniques</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic/Autopsy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cytopathology</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; Informatics-General</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Percentage</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Number of Questions in Each Section</strong></td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours Allotted for Each Section</strong></td>
<td>3 Hrs 25 Mins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• **Primary Exam Daily Schedules**
For a detailed look at the structure of the exam day, see the Daily Exam Schedules.

**Primary Daily Exam Schedule AP link**

**Primary Daily Exam Schedule CP link**

**Subspecialty Daily Exam Schedules link**

*Example of an exam schedule for a Primary Certification exam.*

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**2023 Anatomic Pathology (AP) Exam Schedule**

- Breaks include: four 15-minute optional breaks and one 60-minute lunch break.
- **You are not** required to take any break or you may return early from a break, so your exam day can be shorter than the allotted time.
- If you wish to continue your exam at a 15-minute optional break, select “Continue Exam” in the bottom right corner of the screen to begin the next section.
- If you decide to take the 15-minute optional break, click “Begin Break” raise your hand and the proctor will log you out of the exam.
- At the 60-minute lunch break, raise your hand and the proctor will log you out of the exam. If you choose not to take the 60-minute lunch break, inform the proctor that you would like to continue with your exam.
- You **MUST LEAVE** your testing station during all breaks you choose to take; breaks cannot be taken at the testing station.
- At the completion of each break, you will be accompanied back to your testing station and the proctor will log you in to continue your exam.
- If you return late from a break, the excess time will be subtracted from the next section’s allotted time.
- If you take an unscheduled break during your exam, the test time will not stop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Number of Items</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(20 min)</td>
<td>Tutorial/Honor Code</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(69 min)</td>
<td>Combined Section A 69</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 min per item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15 min)</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(90 min)</td>
<td>Virtual Microscopy I 30</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 min per item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15 min)</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(68 min)</td>
<td>Combined Section B 68</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 min per item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(60 min)</td>
<td>Long Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(90 min)</td>
<td>Virtual Microscopy II 30</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 min per item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15 min)</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(68 min)</td>
<td>Combined Section C 68</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 min per item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15 min)</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(90 min)</td>
<td>Virtual Microscopy III 30</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 min per item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(10 min)</td>
<td>Exam Survey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Combined Sections = Written and Practical questions
**Virtual Microscopy Practice Site**

The ABPath certification exams use Virtual Microscopy (VM) technology for viewing microscopic images to answer select exam questions. Microscopes and glass slides are no longer used in certification exams.

The **VM Practice site** contains 5 sample Virtual Microscopy questions, similar to what you will find on ABPath exams.
• **Practice Tutorial**

The **Practice Tutorial** will help familiarize candidates with the functions and features of taking the exam(s). It should take no more than 30 minutes to complete and candidates may revisit the tutorial as many times as they like. Candidates are strongly encouraged to review the Practice Tutorial before the exam.

• **Pearson VUE Professional Test Centers**

For general information on scheduling an exam appointment and what to expect at Pearson VUE Professional Test Centers visit the **ABPath website**.
• **ABPath Honor Code**

Applicants sign an Honor Code when applying for certification. This is a legally binding contract between the physician and the ABPath. Candidates will be asked to agree to the Honor Code again when beginning their exam. Candidates may want to review it [HERE](#) before the exam to save time on exam day.

Program Directors are encouraged to talk with their residents about the honor code, professionalism, and ethical behavior.

**ABPath Honor Code**

Applicants sign an Honor Code when applying for certification. This is a legally binding contract between the physician and the ABPath.

Any violations of the Honor Code may be sufficient to bar a person from qualification, terminate participation in an examination, invalidate the results of a candidate’s examination, cause the withholding or revocation of scores or certificates, or merit other appropriate action by the ABPath.

I understand and agree that as an applicant:

- I have the responsibility for supplying to the ABPath information adequate for a proper evaluation of my credentials.
- I have the responsibility to update any information required in connection with my application and certification, including providing the ABPath complete information relating to any restrictions on, or the suspension or revocation of, my medical license(s) within 60 days of any such restriction, suspension, or revocation.
- I may be disqualified from taking an examination or from issuance of a certificate in the event that any of the statements herein or on this application, or hereafter supplied by me to the ABPath, are false or if I have failed to provide material information or in the event that any of the rules governing such examinations are violated by me.
- I request and authorize the evaluation and validation of my credentials in accordance with, and subject to, the rules and regulations of the ABPath.
- ABPath may release the results of my examination(s) to the director of my pathology residency training program.
- ABPath may provide information to appropriate parties concerning my status as board certified or not certified, dates and bases for action(s) related to my certification, and/or other appropriate information; all disclosures will be in compliance with the law.
- All decisions as to my credentials and qualification for admission to the examination and for certification rest solely and exclusively in the ABPath, that its decision is final, and my exclusive appeal from any adverse decision is pursuant to the ABPath’s rules and procedures.
- ABPath and its trustees, officers, members, representatives, agents, and any person who supplies information regarding my credentials from any actions, suits, claims, demands, or damages arising out of, or in connection with, any action taken by any of them regarding this application, the gathering, collecting, and use of

• **Accommodation Requests**

All requests for accommodations, including those for nursing mothers, must be made to ABPath. Please make requests before scheduling opens for your particular exam(s). For Primary exams, contact [Mary@abpath.org](mailto:Mary@abpath.org) and for Subspecialty exams, contact [Renee@abpath.org](mailto:Renee@abpath.org).

• **Cancellation Policy for Primary and Subspecialty Exams**

Last year the ABPath updated the cancellation policy to begin in 2022. If a candidate chooses to cancel their examinations(s) they must cancel by the cancellation date for the exam(s) for which they are registered. Please refer to the ABPath website, for [cancellation dates](#).

The full [cancellation policy](#) can be found on the ABPath website.
Day of the Exam

ID Reminder
You will need to show 2 forms of identification for check-in at the test center and when returning from breaks. One must be an original (no photocopies), valid (unexpired) government-issued photo ID (e.g., driver’s license, passport) that includes your name, photograph and signature. Both forms of ID must match the first and last name that is listed in your Pearson VUE account.

All IDs must be issued by the country in which you are testing. If you do not have the qualifying ID issued from the country you are testing in, an International Travel Passport from your country of citizenship is required.

Candidate Rules Agreement
When candidates arrive at Pearson VUE they will read and agree to the Candidate Rules Agreement prior to entry into the exam room. We recommend candidates review them on the website before the day of the exam.

What You Can Bring into the Test Center
No items are permitted in the exam room except for your ID, face mask, and locker key if you are using a locker for personal belongings, food, and beverages. Whiteboards and markers will be provided for use during the exam. Access the Practice Tutorial here, for an exam test drive.

Food and Beverages
We encourage candidates to bring their own food, drink and snacks. Storage lockers are provided. Pearson VUE test centers do not provide food and beverages and they may not be easily available in the surrounding area.

Get There Early
We suggest you get to the test center 30 minutes prior to your exam appointment.
After the Exam

Results
Exam results will be available 4-6 weeks after the last day of the exam window.

Candidates will receive an email when the results are available. Results will be posted on the Board Correspondence page in PATHway.

Please note, to receive your results, ensure a current, valid, full and unrestricted medical license showing the expiration date has been uploaded to PATHway.

Certificates
Engraved certificates will be mailed to successful candidates approximately 3-4 months after the exam results are released. Before receiving the certificate, candidates will receive an email from the engraver Jim Henry to confirm certificate details.
INFORMATION FOR PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

PATHway Login
As a reminder, Program Directors and Coordinators share the same login to PATHway for their program. Program Directors have a separate login for their personal accounts.

Program Performance Reports
Program performance reports will be released in January 2024 for residents and fellows taking exams in 2023.

ABPath Booklet of Information
The updated Booklet of Information should be reviewed by program directors, program coordinators and residents at least annually to ensure that certification requirements are met and ABPath policies and procedures are followed.

ABPath Ambassador Program/Speakers Bureau
The ABPath Trustees and CEO are available to speak to pathology departments with residency training programs and national, state and local pathology societies on topics such as ABPath Updates, Certification Examinations, and Continuing Certification. Please contact Ty McCarthy, COO at coo@abpath.org, if you would like to schedule a speaking engagement.
The CC Program has two primary requirements for maintaining certification: quarterly participation in ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL) and submission of biennial reporting forms. These requirements allow diplomates to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the field of pathology and demonstrate their commitment to ongoing learning and professional growth.

We are pleased to announce some important changes that will be effective in 2023. These changes are designed to improve the CC Program and ensure that it remains relevant and meaningful for our diplomates.

**ABPath CertLink® Quality Assurance/Improvement Plan**

ABPath recently launched a two-year quality assurance/quality improvement initiative for ABPCL. The initiative is designed to enhance the user experience and ensure that the program continues to support the highest standards of continuous learning and professional development of board-certified pathologists.

After an intensive review of question feedback and insight from diplomates about the ABPCL platform, ABPath developed a comprehensive plan to ensure that the platform and content continue to meet the needs of its users. Over the next two years, ABPath will be working on a multi-focused initiative to update terminology, improve image quality and the content of questions, and more rapidly introduce new content from leading journals. [Read more here.](#)

**Question Reduction**

Beginning in July 2023, new ABPCL questions per quarter will be reduced from 15 to 10 new questions and up to 5 clones as a part of the ABPCL improvement plan. Performance and participation requirements must be met.
CC Program Reminders
CME for ABPCL Participation
If you are participating in ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL), you can claim up to 5 CME credits for successful participation. The credits may be claimed from February to December during the year following your participation through the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) in collaboration with ABPath. You do not have to be a member of ASCP to claim these credits. For more information on claiming CME, click HERE.

Text Reminders
Diplomates may choose to receive text reminders at the end of each quarter for ABPCL. Once logged into ABPCL select the Profile tab in the heading to make the change.

Contact Information
Keep your email up to date in both ABPCL and PATHway to ensure you are receiving important information and updates from ABPath.

Booklet of Information
For complete information on the CC Program and policies, see the CC Booklet of Information.

ABPCL
Questions can only be answered on a desktop computer or tablet. Questions can not be answered on a smartphone.
Our Cooperating Societies

ABPath is proud to have 16 Cooperating Societies that we collaborate with to identify and address issues of importance to the profession of pathology. Through these valuable relationships, our Cooperating Societies support diplomates in their life-long learning and improvement in practice, their participation in Continuing Certification, and documenting their participation in educational and quality assessment activities.

ABPath recently welcomed the American Society of Dermatopathology (ASDP) as a new Cooperating Society. The mission of the ASDP is to improve patient care, support member needs and advance the field of Dermatopathology through education, advocacy and innovation.

The ABPath would like to thank the APC/PRODS, ASCP, CAP, and USCAP for their support of ABPath exhibit booths at their annual meetings.

LIST OF SOCIETIES

- Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists
- American Association of Neuropathologists
- American Medical Association Pathology Section Council
- American Society for Clinical Pathology
- American Society of Dermatopathology
- American Society for Investigative Pathology
- American Society of Cytopathology
- Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies
- Association for Molecular Pathology
- Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology
- Association of Pathology Chairs
- College of American Pathologists
- National Association of Medical Examiners
- Society for Hematopathology
- Society for Pediatric Pathology
- United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology
- USCAP
- ASIP
- SNAP
- AMP
- APC
- AAMC
- ASH
- ASCP
- SH
- AAD
- AAMOA
- USCAP
- NAAEM
- AAPA
- AAPP
ABPath volunteers contribute their time and expertise in support of our mission and promote excellence in the practice of pathology. We thank them for their selfless dedication.

View a complete list of current ABPath committee members [HERE].

**Test Development and Advisory Committees**
The TDACs are responsible for developing and reviewing the ABPath certification exam questions that assess a physician’s knowledge, judgment, and skills in order to provide high-quality care to patients. Each committee is chaired by an ABPath Trustee and consists of recognized subject matter experts who are leaders in their field. They spend many hours throughout the year in service to our profession and certification programs.

**Continuing Certification (CC) Advisory Committee**
The Continuing Certification (CC) Advisory Committee is made up of 13 volunteer diplomates with diverse backgrounds, specialties, and experience and is chaired by an ABPath Trustee, currently Dr. Eric Glassy. It is responsible for advising the ABPath Board of Trustees for continuous evaluation and improvement of Continuing Certification from a diplomate’s perspective. Each member serves three years on the Committee.

**Resident and Fellow Advisory Committee**
The Committee is made up of Pathology Residents and Fellows with the purpose of providing feedback and suggestions for improvement to ABPath about the board certification process and ways to best support pathology residents and fellows in the certification journey. The committee is chaired by ABPath CEO, Dr. Gary W. Procop.
ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL) Item Writers

The ABPCL Item Writers share their expertise by writing questions (items) for the ABPath CertLink® longitudinal assessment. Their contributions have helped to enrich and refine the program.

We would like to acknowledge the following ABPCL Item Writers for providing exceptional support to ABPCL by contributing 11 or more items for ABPath CertLink® in 2022. Thank you for all you do to support professional development in pathology.

- Borislav Alexandrov Alexiev, MD
- David Alter, MD
- Nicoleta Arva, MD
- Nicholas Batalis, MD
- Hae Yoon Grace Choung, MD
- Jordan Colson, MD
- Abha Goyal, MD
- Arash Lahoutharahdashti, MD
- Mercury Lin, MD
- Zahra Maleki, MD
- Robyn C Reed, MD
- Majed Refaai, MD
- Hamza N Tariq, MD

ABPath would like to thank the Pathologist Educator for supplying questions to be used in ABPCL. The Pathologist Educator is an on-line resource reporting on the research, innovations, personalities, and policies that shape pathology. We appreciate their support in lifelong learning for pathologists through ABPCL, ABPath's on-line longitudinal assessment platform.

You can find The Pathologist and The Pathologist Educator at:

https://thepathologist.com
https://tinyurl.com/bwb4363s

scan or tap to go to website
ABMS Insights Newsletter

The ABPath is one of twenty four member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). ABMS represents nearly one million active board-certified physicians who are aiming higher to better serve their patients, families, and communities. To read ABMS news and updates visit the ABMS at:

https://www.abms.org/inside-abms/abms-insights-newsletter/
EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE for 2022

The ABPath uses criterion-referenced scoring for its certification examinations. Setting the criterion standard for each exam is performed every 3-5 years.

The number of candidates passing the examinations may not match the number of candidates certified for several reasons:

1. Some 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 the reporting year.
3. Certified candidates also include candidates who passed the examinations in a previous year but did not provide documentation of licensure or other required information until the reporting year.

See the ABPath Website for examination information.

Primary Certification Examinations

2022 Primary Examination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Candidates</th>
<th>First-Time Takers</th>
<th>Repeaters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>#</td>
<td>% Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>79%</td>
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<td>CP</td>
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<td>92%</td>
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5-Year Certified Report

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Primary Exam Pass Rates (% Pass = Spring exam pass rate)

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<th>Primary</th>
<th>2018 % Pass</th>
<th>2019 % Pass</th>
<th>2020 % Pass</th>
<th>2021 % Pass</th>
<th>2022 % Pass</th>
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*New criterion standard applied
## Subspecialty Certification Examinations

### 2022 Subspecialty Examinations

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<th>Subspecialty</th>
<th>Total Candidates</th>
<th>First-Time Takers</th>
<th>Repeaters</th>
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<tr>
<td>CI</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>CY</td>
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*FPClinMB = Focus Practice Designation-Clinical Microbiology

### 5-Year Certified Report

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*FPClinMB = Focus Practice Designation-Clinical Microbiology
### Subspecialty Examinations Pass Rates

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<th>2019 % Pass</th>
<th>2020 % Pass</th>
<th>2021 % Pass</th>
<th>2022 % Pass</th>
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*New criterion standard applied  **FPClinMB = Focus Practice Designation-Clinical Microbiology

### Continuing Certification Program

#### Participation Statistics

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Certificates Enrolled</td>
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<td>933</td>
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<td>Certificates Lapsed/ Revoked</td>
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<td>New Diplomates Enrolled</td>
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<td>Diplomates Lapsed/ Revoked</td>
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11,124 Diplomates are currently enrolled in the Continuing Certification Program.
EXAMINATION DATES FOR 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams (Pearson VUE)</th>
<th>2023 Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anatomic / Clinical Pathology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>May 15 - June 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>October 10-22</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subspecialty</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine</td>
<td>September 11-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical Pathology</td>
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<td>September 11-24</td>
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<td>Dermatopathology</td>
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<td>Forensic Pathology</td>
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<td>Neuropathology</td>
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<td>Pediatric Pathology</td>
<td>September 11-24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Informatics (Pearson VUE)</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FEEDBACK WELCOME

Have an idea for the Newsletter? Want to contribute to improving ABPath CertLink®?

We welcome your feedback and ideas.

Make your certification—and your voice—count!

Contact Chief Operating Officer Ty McCarthy

coo@abpath.org
About the American Board of Pathology
The mission of the American Board of Pathology, as a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties, is to serve the public and advance the profession of pathology by setting certification standards and promoting lifelong competency of pathologists. Founded in 1936, the ABPath accomplishes this mission by establishing certification and continuing certification standards and assessing the qualifications of those seeking to obtain voluntary certification in the specialty of pathology.

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