

A Newsletter from The American Board of Pathology

AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY (ABP) OFFICERS

The following trustees were elected as officers for 2012: Diane D. Davey, M.D., President, Patrick E. Lantz, M.D., Vice-President, Sharon W. Weiss, M.D., Secretary, Margaret M. Grimes, M.D., M.Ed., Treasurer; David F. Keren, M.D., Immediate Past President.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Betsy Bennett is retiring at the end of 2012. Dr. Rebecca Johnson will take over as Executive Vice President on January 1, 2013. She will begin work at the ABP office in August to allow for a period of overlap with Dr. Bennett.

TRUSTEES

Dr. Rebecca Johnson's appointment as EVP leaves a vacancy on the board. A request for nominations for a new trustee to begin service on January 1, 2013 was sent out to Cooperating Societies, previous trustees, Pathology Chairs, and Presidents of State Pathology Societies in late 2011. The ABP is particularly interested in candidates with a background in the private practice of pathology. The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2012. Nominating letters should be addressed to Dr. Sharon Weiss, Chair of the Search Committee and electronically sent to Dr. Betsy Bennett at the ABP office (bdbennett@abpath.org).

ABP 2012 BOOKLET OF INFORMATION

The revised *2012 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.

CERTIFICATE IN CLINICAL INFORMATICS

The American Board of Medical Specialties approved a new Certificate in Clinical Informatics at its September 2011 meeting. This certificate is jointly sponsored by the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) and the ABP. ABPM will serve as the administrative board for this certificate. The first examination, which will be limited to those who meet the by-experience certification requirements, will most likely be given sometime in 2013. Approval of accredited fellowships in Clinical Informatics by the ACGME is on hold until the new accreditation system is in place. If you would like to be added to the Clinical Informatics email list maintained by ABPM, please send an email to kdh@theabpm.org.

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

Reports for the 2007 and 2009 diplomates are due January 31, 2012. The *MOC Booklet of Information* is available on the ABP Web site. In February 2012, the ABP will publish details of a revised reporting system that will automatically combine reports for all time-limited certificates that a diplomate holds, but which will leave the examination and receipt of a new certificate on the original timeline. Diplomates who have previously chosen to combine reporting of primary and subspecialty certificates will be converted to the new reporting system to reduce the complexity of recordkeeping.

At the same time that the new reporting system is implemented, the ABP will also open participation in MOC to diplomates with non-time-limited certificates. These diplomates will be treated in the same way as those who obtain initial certification with 2 exceptions: 1) participation is not mandatory and a decision to drop participation or failure to meet requirements will not jeopardize the original certificate; and 2) there will be a \$100 fee to join the MOC program. Additional details will be published in February in the updated *MOC Booklet of Information*.

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 *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 which includes candidates in the program who have taken the certifying examination. The report includes two sets of data each covering the previous 5 years. One set lists candidates and their examination performance histories by year of examination taken, and is available only to the program directors. This data includes candidates who completed all or part of their training in that program. The other set of data 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. This data 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 and submitted on applications.

The Program Performance Reports are delivered online through PATHway and the 2012 reports were posted in mid-January. Program directors with questions about their reports should contact restrkg@abpath.org.

NEW DIPLOMATES

The ABP congratulates all of the pathologists who were certified in 2011.

In 2011, the ABP issued 461 certificates in AP/CP, 85 in AP only, 44 in CP only, and 16 in AP/NP. With regard to subspecialties of pathology, 39 physicians were certified in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine, 1 in Chemical Pathology, 128 in Cytopathology, 49 in Dermatopathology, 31 in Forensic Pathology, 118 in hematology, 10 in Medical Microbiology, 60 in Molecular Genetic Pathology, 17 in Neuropathology, and 33 in Pediatric Pathology. We also congratulate the 48 pathologists who recertified in 2011.

EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

All of the ABP examinations given in 2011 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 2011. (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 2011.

2011 Primary Examinations

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	%Pass
AP	808	70	582	475	82	226	89	39
CP	679	75	523	441	84	156	67	43

2010 Primary Examinations

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

2011 Subspecialty Examinations

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass
BB/TM	50	74	43	35	81	7	2	29
CYP	152	84	131	113	86	21	15	71
DP	57	86	51	46	90	6	3	50
FP	37	84	37	31	84	0		
HEM	133	89	118	113	96	15	5	33
MMB	11	91	9	9	100	2	1	50
MGP	65	92	59	58	98	6	2	33
NP	34	94	30	29	97	4	3	75
PP	43	77	37	30	81	6	3	50
CH	1	100	1	1	100			

2010 Subspecialty Examinations

	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.**