



Volume 41 No. 2

Winter 2019-2020

# The ABPath EXAMINER

*The mission of the American Board of Pathology, 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.*

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## **In This Issue**

**A Word from the CEO  
Trustees in the News  
Thank You  
Search for New CEO  
2019 Board Actions  
ABPath CertLink® FAQs  
Clinical Chem and Micro Focused Practice  
Designations  
Exam Performance**

Visit our Web site [www.abpath.org](http://www.abpath.org)

## IN THIS ISSUE

A Word from the CEO .....	3
2020 American Board of Pathology Officers and Trustees .....	4
Meet Our Trustees .....	5
Michael A. Jones, MD .....	5
Trustees In The News .....	6
Meet Our Staff .....	8
Anthony Schlinsog.....	8
ABPath Thanks .....	9
Our Cooperating Societies .....	9
Our Volunteers .....	9
ABPath CertLink® Item Writers .....	9
Test Development and Advisory Committees.....	10
Continuing Certification Advisory Committee .....	11
Resident and Fellow Advisory Committee .....	11
ABPath Retired Status .....	12
Search for New CEO .....	12
ABPath 2019 Board Actions .....	13
Pathology Program Directors.....	14
General Information .....	14
Important Dates.....	14
Fees .....	14
ABPath Booklet of Information.....	15
Exam Blueprints .....	15
ABPath Ambassador Program/Speakers Bureau .....	15
Continuing Certification for New Diplomates .....	16
ABPath CertLink® .....	17
FAQs .....	17
Honor Code.....	21
Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Microbiology Focused Practice Designations .....	22
ACCME Program and Activity Reporting System (PARS).....	23
ABMS News.....	24
ABMS Continuing Certification Reference Center.....	24
ABMS Board Certification Report 2018-2019 .....	24
Vision for the Future Update .....	25
Certification Matters™ Service for Patients and Their Families .....	25
Examination Performance .....	26
Primary Certification Examinations .....	26
2019 Primary Examination.....	26
5-Year Certified Report .....	26
2019 Subspecialty Examinations .....	27
5-Year Certified Report.....	27
Continuing Certification Examinations .....	28
2020 Examination Dates .....	29
How To Contact Us.....	31

*Newsletter design and layout  
courtesy of Dr. Eric Glassy,  
ABPath Trustee.*



**Rebecca L. Johnson, MD**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## A WORD FROM OUR CEO

Happy New Year!

As we embark on a new decade, it can be a time of reflection on all of the accomplishments of the past 10 years. Here at the ABPath, we have made many changes to certification and Continuing Certification to continuously improve what we do. We have created a culture committed to continuous improvement of our programs and better communications with our stakeholders. The ABPath Board of Directors has allowed this organization to grow and become an ever-better resource to our diplomates, residents, and fellows. Let me share with you just some of the investments we have made in personnel, programs, and infrastructure.

When I began my tenure with the ABPath in 2013, there were 10 dedicated employees, all female. Today, we have 19 employees, including six men. We have built an effective, highly motivated team with diversity, new expertise, and expanded capability, led by Ty McCarthy, our COO. We finally have our own in-house information technology staff, led by CIO Anthony Schlinsog, featured in this issue, so expect to see some wonderful changes and new capabilities in PATHway and on our website next year. We now have a Communications Director, Bonnie Woodworth, who has put our presence on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn and provided much better communications with all of you. Like us! We have a psychometrician, Dr. Aaron Douglas, for exam scoring and improved results turn-around time and to assist us with surveys, research, and publication. We now have an ABPath CertLink® Coordinator, Kasey Davis, assisted by Tara Miller. All of our wonderful staff are committed to serving you.

There are a number of investments that ABPath has made without cost to our diplomates and candidates. We now offer our primary spring exams in Tucson (in addition to Tampa), at the American Board of Radiology's exam center with furnished microscopes, at no additional cost to diplomates. Several years ago, we invested in an exam delivery system that allows diplomates to take their Continuing Certification exams remotely and securely, reducing the burden and cost of coming to the Tampa exam center, again at no extra cost to diplomates. We have partnered with ACCME for electronic reporting of CME/SAM into PATHway, to make CC reporting easier. And our greatest investment and personally my proudest accomplishment, has been the ABPath CertLink® longitudinal assessment program, which, beginning in 2021, will be an alternative to the current CC examination.

If it sounds like I am bragging, I am. These have been busy, but exceptionally rewarding years. I have announced my retirement effective December 31, 2021, so the search for a new CEO is on. I still have a few good years left and hope to accomplish even more with your ongoing encouragement and support. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



## 2020 AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is pleased to announce the ABPath Executive Committee and Trustees for 2020.

### Executive Committee



The 2020 ABPath Executive Committee from left to right: Edward Ashwood, MD (Secretary); Susan Fuhrman, MD (Immediate Past President) Steven Swerdlow, MD (President); Jeffrey Goldstein, MD (Treasurer). Not shown, Michael Jones, MD (Vice President).



### Trustees

The 2020 Trustees of the ABPath are from left to right: Ritu Nayar, MD; Rebecca Johnson, MD (CEO); Edward Ashwood, MD (Secretary); Constance Filling, EdD; Steven Swerdlow, MD (President); Jeffrey Goldstein, MD (Treasurer); Susan Fuhrman, MD (Immediate Past President); Eric Glassy, MD; Karen Kaul, MD, PhD; James Stubbs, MD; Michael Jones, MD (Vice President); Kathleen Beavis, MD; Mohiedean Ghofrani, MD, MBA; Barbara Sampson, MD, PhD.

Dr. Rebecca Johnson is the Chief Executive Officer. She can be contacted at [rljohnson@abpath.org](mailto:rljohnson@abpath.org).

## MEET OUR TRUSTEES

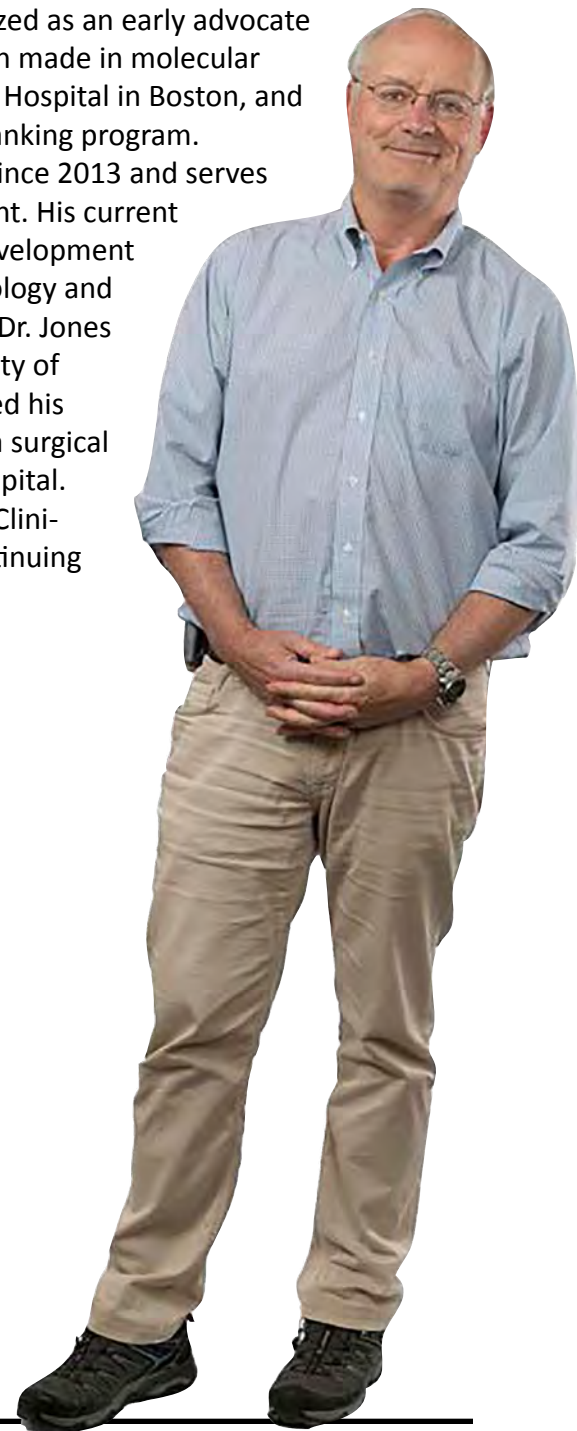


### Vice President

### MICHAEL A. JONES, M.D.

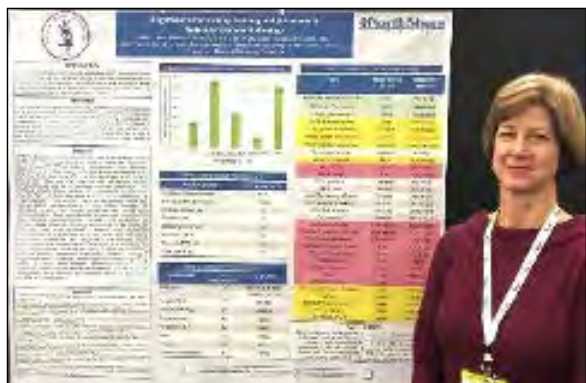
Dr. Jones is an associate pathologist and the former Chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Maine Medical Center (MMC) in Portland, Maine and Clinical Associate Professor of Pathology at Tufts/Maine Medical Center Medical School. He has been recognized as an early advocate for bio-banking as major advances have been made in molecular medicine. He worked with MMC, Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, and Duke University to start a cooperative bio-banking program.

Dr. Jones has been a Trustee of the ABPath since 2013 and serves on the Executive Committee as Vice-President. His current responsibilities include Chairperson, Test Development and Advisory Committee for Anatomic Pathology and Chairperson, Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Jones earned his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and completed his residency at the University of Vermont and a surgical pathology fellowship at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Dr. Jones is board certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and is participating in the Continuing Certification Program.





## TRUSTEES IN THE NEWS



*Dr. Karen Kaul, past president of the ABPath, poses with her poster discussing molecular pathology training and certification.*

### Dr. Karen Kaul Presents ABPath Poster at AMP

ABPath was proud to be represented by Dr. Karen Kaul, ABPath Trustee and Past President, at the 2019 Association for Molecular Pathology Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD. The poster summarized surveys assessing the alignment of fellowship training, certification, and current practice in Molecular Genetic Pathology.



*At CAP19, Pat Godbey, MD (CAP President) recognizes Dr. Ritu Nayar for her Lifetime Achievements in Pathology.*

### Dr. Ritu Nayar Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from CAP

Congratulations to Dr. Ritu Nayar, ABPath Trustee, for receiving the 2019 College of American Pathologists' CAP Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her contributions to the specialty of pathology and improved patient care.



*At CAP19, Drs. Don Karcher, MD (TDAC member, left) and Eric F. Glassy, (right) are sworn in for their second term as Governors of the College of American Pathologists.*

### Dr. Eric Glassy Elected To CAP Board of Governors for Second Term

Congratulations to Trustee Dr. Eric Glassy, elected to a second term to the College of American Pathologists Board of Governors.



**COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS**





Paper published in the American Journal of Clinical Pathology  
doi: 10.1093/ajcp/aqz084

## Dr. Steven Swerdlow Authors Harmonization of Hematopathology Training and Certification Article

Dr. Steven Swerdlow, University of Pittsburgh SOM and President of the American Board of Pathology, was featured in the July issue of the American Journal of Clinical Pathology (AJCP) along with Dr. Rebecca Johnson, CEO, Dr. Aaron Douglas, ABPath Psychometrician, and Dr. Sara A. Monaghan, University of Pittsburgh SOM. The article "Harmonization of Training, Training Requirements, Board Certification, and Practice of Hematopathology" is based on a recent survey of ABPath diplomates and Program Directors and discusses how training, practice, and board certification in hematopathology can become more closely aligned.

You can read the full publication here: <https://academic.oup.com/ajcp/article/152/5/625/5537577>



## Dr. Gary Procop and Dr. Steven Swerdlow, Named Top Cited Scientists

An article published in PLOS Biology features a publicly available database of 100,000 top scientists that provides standardized information on citations, h-index, co-authorship-adjusted hm-index, citations to papers in different authorship positions, and a composite indicator. Former Trustee Gary Procop, M.D. and Trustee Dr. Steven Swerdlow, M.D. were both listed as the top cited scientific authors in the world.

The full article "A Standardized Citation Metrics Author Database Annotated for Scientific Field" and database can be accessed at: <https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3000384>



ABPath President  
Steven Swerdlow, MD



ABPath Life Trustee  
Gary Procop, MD, MS

## MEET OUR STAFF

### Chief Information Officer Anthony Schlinsog



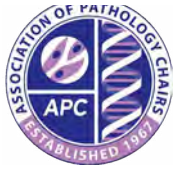
We would like to introduce you to Anthony Schlinsog, ABPath's Chief Information Officer. Anthony relocated from the Kansas City area and joined the ABPath in 2018. With over 20 years of IT and data management experience in healthcare, insurance, transportation, and state government, Anthony brings a unique perspective on the use of technology across a spectrum of disciplines. He has held several IT leadership roles including 3 years as the CIO/CTO for the State of Kansas.

The role and responsibilities of the CIO encompass several different areas at the Board. They include managing the computer systems and infrastructure for the office, as well as the Examination Center, overseeing the development efforts for several applications that are used by the ABPath, and numerous ad-hoc data projects involving the extraction, transformation, and reloading of data from one system to another. As the ABPath is looking to modernize several of its key applications, an important and ever-growing area of responsibility revolves around the design and enterprise architecture of those applications and how they can best be integrated.

Anthony earned his undergraduate degree in Physics from Andrews University in Michigan and his master's degree in Mathematics from the University of Illinois. He and his wife Susan have 2 daughters—one is a civilian Mechanical Engineer for the US Navy in Bremerton, WA and the other is currently a graduate student working on her PhD in Chemistry at Iowa State University.



## ABPATH THANKS...



### Our Cooperating Societies

ABPath has 12 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.

The ABPath would also like to thank the APC/PRODS, ASCP, CAP, and USCAP for their support of the ABPath exhibit booths at their annual meetings. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to connect with our diplomates and answer questions about board certification. Please be sure to stop by the booth and meet our staff when you are there!

### Our Volunteers

ABPath greatly appreciates the time and talents of our many volunteers who are integral in advancing the profession of pathology.

### ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL) Item Writers

The ABPCL Item Writers are board-certified pathologists who share their expertise and write questions for the ABPath CertLink assessment. Their contributions have helped to enrich and further refine the program. We truly appreciate their dedication to help shape the future of Continuing Certification.

If you are interested in contributing questions for ABPCL, please email Kasey Davis: [kasey@abpath.org](mailto:kasey@abpath.org)



# TDAC

Test Development and  
Advisory Committees

## Test Development and Advisory Committees

ABPath would like to thank our volunteers on the TDACs and welcome our newly appointed members for 2020! Each committee is made up of recognized subject matter experts who are leaders in their field. 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.

For more information on the ABPath TDACs for 2020, visit the ABPath web-site: <https://www.abpath.org/index.php/our-organization/news-and-announcements>

Anatomic Pathology

Anatomic Pathology CertLink

Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine

Chemical Pathology

Clinical Informatics (with the Am Board of Preventive Medicine)

Clinical Pathology CertLink

Cytopathology

Dermatopathology (with the Am Board of Dermatology)

Forensic Pathology

Hematopathology

Management and Informatics

Medical Microbiology

Molecular Genetic Pathology (with the Am Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics)

Neuropathology

Pediatric Pathology





## Continuing Certification Advisory Committee

The CC Advisory Committee is made up of 12 volunteer diplomates with diverse backgrounds, specialties, and experience. It is chaired by ABPath Trustee Dr. Eric Glassy. The committee is responsible for advising the ABPath Board of Trustees for evaluation and improvement of Continuing Certification from a diplomate's perspective. Each member serves three years on the Committee.

The CC Advisory Committee has been instrumental in providing candid feedback and recommendations for ABPath's Continuing Certification program and ABPath CertLink®. We appreciate all they do!

Our current committee roster:

Michelle Aurelius, MD  
 Nick Batalis, MD  
 Jennifer Findeis-Hosey, MD  
 Timothy Harkcom, DO  
 Jennifer Kasten, MD  
 Julie Kingery, MD

Eric Konnick, MD  
 Matthew Kuhar, MD  
 J. Jordi Rowe, MD  
 Matthew Wasco, MD  
 Roseann Wu, MD  
 Debra L. Zynger, MD

We would like to give a special thank you to Dr. Jared Abbott, Dr. Emily Green and Dr. Kenneth Youens who have recently completed their 3 year term on the Committee.



## Resident and Fellow Advisory Committee

Our newest committee is made up of 10 Pathology Residents and Fellows with the purpose of providing feedback and suggestions for improvement to ABPath about the board certification process. As the committee gets underway, we look forward to discovering ways to best support pathology residents and fellows in the certification process.

Resident  
 & Fellow  
 Advisory  
 Committee  
 Board Certification



## ABPATH RETIRED STATUS



The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is pleased to offer a new status for retired or retiring board-certified pathologists. Certification with the ABPath is a significant professional achievement. Current ABPath policy requires that diplomates must maintain a medical license and participate in Continuing Certification (if required) in order to remain board certified. This new status of “Retired” will allow former diplomates who have stopped practicing medicine and no longer maintain their medical license nor participate in Continuing Certification to remain certified.

A diplomate with the Retired status will be listed publicly as Retired with the ABPath and on the ABMS Certification Matters™ website.

For more information on the ABPath retired status, visit this ABPath webpage <https://www.abpath.org/index.php/announcements/379-abpath-offers-new-status-for-retired-board-certified-pathologists>

## SEARCH FOR NEW ABPATH CEO



The American Board of Pathology (ABPath)'s Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Rebecca L. Johnson has announced her intention to retire following her very successful 9-year tenure of leadership, effective December 31, 2021. The Trustees of the ABPath are inviting applications and nominations for the CEO position.

Qualified applicants must be ABPath certified in Anatomic and/or Clinical Pathology. Applicants should have a broad range of knowledge and experience in the practice of pathology, graduate medical education, ACGME accreditation, and certification. Applicants must have significant experience in management and administration; excellent communication skills, the ability to work collaboratively with a variety of cooperating societies and national organizations; and the leadership skills to guide the organization through the successful ongoing improvements to the initial and Continuing Certification programs. The full time position requires the CEO to be based at the ABPath office in Tampa, Florida and to fulfill numerous travel and meeting obligations and speaking engagements. To facilitate a smooth transition, ABPath would prefer that the next CEO start no later than July 1, 2021, allowing a 6-month overlap with Dr. Johnson.

Interested applicants should forward their curriculum vitae, names and contact information of three references, and a letter detailing their qualifications and vision for the ABPath by electronic mail to [COO@abpath.org](mailto:COO@abpath.org). Individuals may also nominate pathologists who they believe are qualified and interested. All applications and nominations must be submitted by March 2, 2020.

## ABPATH 2019 BOARD ACTIONS



ABPath is dedicated to programs that serve pathologists, patients, and others who rely on the meaningful credential of board certification. Below are some ABPath Actions for 2019.

- ABPath has implemented a new policy that will allow residents to take time away from training for a maximum total of one-year, for any reason. Rather than creating multiple policies for family leave, parental leave, medical leave, etc., this simple policy allows institutions and departments to create their own leave policies.
- ABPath will publish its first annual report in the spring of 2020 for the year of 2019.
- ABPath has implemented a strategic plan with goals that are specific and attainable, with results that support our mission and bring us closer to achieving our vision.



### Our Strategic Goals

1. Identify and implement relevant and meaningful processes for the assessment of residents and fellows in initial certification programs.
2. Increase the value of Continuing Certification programs by promoting lifelong learning, creating relevant assessments, and supporting diplomates in their efforts to stay current in their area of practice.
3. Increase diplomates' and other stakeholders' satisfaction with and perceived value of ABPath and certification.
4. Develop infrastructure and implement processes that support and promote strategic and organizational effectiveness.
5. Ensure long term financial viability of the ABPath.
6. Increase the effectiveness of the Board of Trustees.



## PATHOLOGY PROGRAM DIRECTORS

### General Information

As the examination dates approach, here is important board certification information for Program Directors and Coordinators.

- Program Performance Reports are now available in PATHway for Program Directors to review. These reports provide historical information on trainees' board examination performance.
- Please go in to PATHway and review/approve your residents' applications.
- All residents must complete and upload the official ACGME autopsy log for their application for certification.



### Important Dates

- February 15, 2020: Late deadline for the Spring 2020 exam application (non-refundable late fees apply).
- February 16, 2020: Application links will be available for the Fall 2020 Primary Certification Exam and Subspecialty Exams.

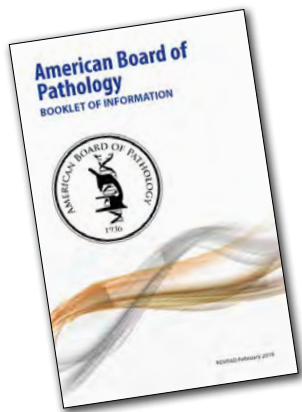


### Fees

Primary and Subspecialty exam fees in 2020 are as follows:

- Combined APCP \$2,600
- AP only or CP only \$2,100
- Subspecialty \$2,100





## ABPath Booklet of Information

The updated Booklet of Information is available on the ABPath Website, [https://www.abpath.org/images/booklets/ABP\\_BOI\\_02\\_19.pdf](https://www.abpath.org/images/booklets/ABP_BOI_02_19.pdf). This document 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.



## Exam Blueprints

The primary and subspecialty examination blueprints (grids) are posted on the ABPath website. The blueprints give categories of topics covered in the examinations with the approximate percentage of questions for each topic.



## 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 (CC, formerly MOC). Please contact Rebecca Johnson, MD, CEO, ([rljohnson@abpath.org](mailto:rljohnson@abpath.org)) if you would like to schedule a speaking engagement.



## CONTINUING CERTIFICATION FOR NEW DIPLOMATES

Congratulations to our newly certified diplomates! ABPath strives to support your ongoing commitment to provide high-quality patient-centered care through the Continuing Certification (CC) program.

Here is what you need to know as a new diplomate. Make sure to share this information with your newly certified colleagues! Your certification is valid for as long you maintain it.

### REMEMBER

CC status is contingent upon meeting all CC requirements and deadlines of the program during each 2-year reporting period. Additional information about the CC program can be found in the CC Booklet of Information <https://shrtm.nu/Tr1z>

- New diplomates are automatically enrolled in the CC Program and ABPath CertLink® and your participation starts the year after initial certification. For example, certification in 2019 means CC Program requirements start in 2020.
- Completing additional training, a fellowship, etc. does not delay or defer your CC Program start or requirements.
- Make sure that you always keep your contact information current in your PATHway profile.
- The CC Program consists of two main components: Reporting requirements and an Assessment requirement.

#### Reporting:

- A reporting form must be completed every two years through your PATHway profile. If you were initially certified in an even numbered year, you will always report in even number years and vice versa for those certified in odd numbered years.
- Reporting forms require medical license information, CME/SAM, and quality improvement activities completed during the two year period.
- An ABPath-approved Patient Safety Course (PSC) must be completed within the first two reporting periods (or by the end of the 4th year).

#### Assessment:

- Beginning in 2021, continuous successful participation in ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL) will meet the Assessment requirement.
- Diplomates have an assessment based on the certification(s) they hold and then also elect questions relevant to their practice.
- Questions are assigned every 3 months (every quarter); questions can be completed at any time during the quarter.



## ABPath CertLink®

As of January 3, 2020, ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL), our online longitudinal assessment of knowledge and judgment, is in its 7th quarter of the pilot program and now has over 9450 participants. ABPath has received valuable feedback from diplomates that has helped improve the program and quality of items. ABPath wants to thank you for your participation and feedback.

ABPath receives many frequently asked questions (FAQ). Below are responses to the most common FAQs.



### **How do I reset my password when my account has been locked?**

ABPCL will lock your account after five failed login attempts. To avoid this, select “Forgot your password?” on the login page prior to entering the incorrect password the 5th time. After the 5th failed attempt, ABPath must reset your password; you will receive a password reset email that will provide instructions. Once your new password has been set, be sure to use your new password when logging in; if you’ve previously saved your password in your browser history for easier log in, be sure to update it with the new password.

## CertLink® FAQs

### **How do I change the email address that I would like to use for ABPCL?**

Contact ABPath at [abpath@mycertlink.org](mailto:abpath@mycertlink.org). ABPath will update your email address in your ABPCL profile; you will then receive a password reset email that will allow you to proceed. Please be sure to also update your contact information in your PATHway account.

### **How do I know if my computer meets the technical requirements for optimal ABPCL performance, including a reliable internet connection?**

The technical requirements for optimal ABPCL performance (which includes having a reliable internet connection) can be found here: <https://mycertlink.org/Dashboard/TechnicalRequirements.aspx>

### **What if I experience technical difficulties with the ABPCL system after confirming my testing environment meets the technical requirements?**

In ABPCL, go to the ‘Need Help?’ menu and select “Run System Check”. If your system passes the check and the issue persists, contact ABPath at [abpath@mycertlink.org](mailto:abpath@mycertlink.org) for further assistance.



**What should I do if my security settings do not allow access to ABPCL?**

If you suspect your institution's security settings/firewall may be preventing you from accessing ABPCL, contact your IT department with the following suggestions:

- Enable pop-ups
- Allow cookies
- Enable DOM storage
- White-list the domain [mycertlink.org](https://mycertlink.org)

If you are still unable to stay logged in:

- Connect to a different network (guest Wi-Fi or cellular network) to determine if a firewall or proxy server is preventing access
- Disable anti-virus software

Your IT staff can use the following website and testing credentials to test access to ABPCL:

- URL: [mycertlink.org](https://mycertlink.org)
- username: fbem.diplomate2@certlinktesting.com
- password: CertL1nk#

**Why is the number of questions in “Your Assessment Details” more than what is assigned for the quarter?**

Each quarter ABPCL delivers 15 new questions that include core items in your areas of certification and elective items from your chosen Practice Areas. You can also receive up to a maximum of 10 clones of prior questions based on your previous performance. The number of questions in the individual Practice Areas will exceed what is assigned because many questions are applicable to multiple Practice Areas and are counted in each corresponding Practice Area. When you answer one of these questions, it is automatically counted in all Practice Areas that it applies to, but only scored once.

**Why are there Practice Areas listed under “Your Assessment Details” that I did not select?**

Under “Your Assessment Details” you may see Practice Areas that you didn't select when you designed your assessment. This is because some questions are applicable to multiple Practice Areas, and all such Practice Areas are listed on your Assessment Details. You only have to answer a question once and it will only be scored once.

**How often will I have to design my assessment?**

ABPath CertLink will prompt you to design your assessment from 31 different Practice Areas every 6 months.

**How do I provide feedback to ABPath on the content or quality of a specific question?**

Item-specific feedback may be given on the Critique screen following each individual question; there is a “Feedback” button on the utility tray that will associate your feedback with that question. Feedback can also be given in retrospect on your Question History page. ABPath reviews all item feedback after the end of each quarter and makes necessary changes. Regretfully, we cannot respond to each of you individually, but know that your comments are reviewed and adjustments made as appropriate.

**Why does the zoom functionality cause some images to be blurry and unreadable?**

The zoom function is meant to enlarge an image, not magnify it (as can be done with virtual microscopy). The resolution of an image will determine the degree of readability as you zoom in. ABPath items usually include several images at low and high-power magnification; be sure to view ALL (up to 10) images for a question. Additional images are indicated by arrows to the left & right.

**Why am I receiving more than 15 questions a quarter?**

One of the hallmarks of ABPath CertLink is the ability to reinforce learning and measure retention of learning. You may see questions that are very similar to ones you’ve answered in previous quarters; they are called clones. Each quarter you will receive 15 new questions and based on your previous performance, you may also receive up to 10 clones. Clones are administered no sooner than 2 quarters after a question has been answered incorrectly or correctly and you indicated you had low confidence with the question.

**What happens if I do not complete any or all my questions by the end of a quarter?**

Any questions left unattempted at the end of a quarter will be recorded as incorrect. ABPCL does not allow for those unattempted questions to be made up in a later quarter. ABPCL sends at least six reminder emails during every 3-month period; please be sure to add [abpath@mycertlink.org](mailto:abpath@mycertlink.org) to your approved addresses to ensure you receive reminders. You may also want to consider setting your own quarterly calendar reminders. We suggest completing your questions early in the quarter to account for possible technical issues, differences in time zones, etc.



CertLink® App



### Where do I get the ABPath CertLink® mobile app to download onto my tablet?

The ABPath CertLink® mobile app is available for download on tablets through Google Play (Android) and Apple (iPad) App Stores at the following locations:

- For iPads: [Apple App Store](#)
- For Androids: [Google Play Store](#)

**\*\*NOTE: ABPCL has NOT been approved for use on smartphones.\*\***

### Free Enrollment for Non-Time-Limited Diplomates

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is offering all diplomates, including non-time-limited (lifetime) diplomates, free enrollment to participate in the ABPath CertLink® pilot program. Participation in this pilot is strongly encouraged and in no way jeopardizes lifetime certificate holders' certification status, nor does it require their participation in the Continuing Certification (formerly MOC) program. For more information visit <https://www.abpath.org/index.php/abpath-certlink> or register in PATH-way.



CME and SAMs  
accredited through  
ASCP



### CME/SAM for ABPCL Participation

As a participant in ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL) you can now claim up to 5 SAM-eligible CME credits for participation during 2019. Credits are claimed through the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) in collaboration with the American Board of Pathology (ABPath). You do not have to be a member of ASCP to claim these credits.

Credits for 2019 can be claimed up until December 31, 2020 and will be applied to the next CC reporting form (2020 or 2021 depending on your initial certification year). Credit is 1.25 hours per completed quarter, which is defined as attempting all questions assigned by ABPCL for that quarter. There is a \$19 ASCP processing fee payable to ASCP to receive your CME/SAM credits and transcript. You may also choose to have your credits automatically appear in your ABPath PATHway account at no additional cost. Make sure your colleagues who also answered ABPCL questions last year know to claim their credit!

How to Claim Your CME/SAM Credits:

1. Click [this link](#) to the ABPath CertLink® 2019 CME Credit Redemption product page on the [ASCP website](#).
2. Add this product to your cart and complete your purchase, logging in when prompted. Your ASCP account will automatically award the correct number of credits based on your 2019 ABPCL participation.

*\*NOTE: If you have an existing ASCP account, log in when prompted. If you are not an ASCP member, do not have an ASCP account or do not know your login information, please select 'Forgot Username/Password' and follow the prompts to receive a password re-set link via email. This will ensure your ABPCL credits are awarded properly. You can also contact ASCP Customer Service for further assistance, during regular business hours: <https://www.ascp.org/content/about-ascp/contact-ascp>*

3. To have credits claimed through ASCP transferred electronically to ABPath via the Accrediting Council for Continuing Medical Education Program and Activity Reporting System (ACCME PARS):
  - a. When logged in to [www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org), navigate to your Dashboard by clicking 'Dashboard' in the top menu of any page.
  - b. Click the 'Profile & Settings' menu item.
  - c. From the Profiles & Settings popup, click the 'Privacy' tab.
  - d. Under 'ABPath Preferences', check the 'Allow my transcript information to be sent to ACCME' check-box.
  - e. Click 'Save'.

*\*NOTE: Please allow up to 1 month for transcript data to be transferred.*

If you have any questions about the ABPCL program, please email: [abpath@mycertlink.org](mailto:abpath@mycertlink.org)



## HONOR CODE

The ABPath has an honor code statement that must be signed by applicants and registrants for ABPath certification exams. We are aware that in the past residents and fellows have used recalled and remembrance items to prepare for Board exams. The ABPath considers this practice to be cheating, unethical, and unprofessional behavior. Program Directors are encouraged to talk with their residents about the honor code, professionalism, and ethical behavior.





## CLINICAL CHEMISTRY AND CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY FOCUSED PRACTICE DESIGNATIONS

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) has two Focused Practice Designations (FPD) in Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Microbiology. The purpose of these two designations is to recognize and provide a credential to diplomates who have successfully completed training in a Commission on Accreditation in Clinical Chemistry (ComACC) or in an American Society for Microbiology Committee on Postgraduate Education Programs (CPEP) accredited training program.

These designations are also available to ABPath certified physicians whose practice has been primarily or exclusively devoted to either of these two areas. These are not new areas of certification, but rather designations. The ABPath will continue to offer subspecialty certification in Chemical Pathology and Medical Microbiology to diplomates who have completed ACGME accredited training in these specialties.

All the information, requirements, and applications for the designations are available on the ABPath website ([www.abpath.org](http://www.abpath.org)). 2020 applications are due by July 1, 2020. Secure exams will be administered remotely during a two-week period in September, dates to be announced. You may contact Renee Holder, Coordinator of Subspecialty Certifications, at: [Renee@abpath.org](mailto:Renee@abpath.org) or (813) 286-2444 ext. 223 with any questions.





## ACCME PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY REPORTING SYSTEM (PARS)

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) has partnered with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to create an automated process for reporting of a pathologist's AMA PRA Category I CME (including SAMs) to the ABPath for our Continuing Certification Program. The ACCME Program and Activity Reporting System (PARS) is now active and provides tracking of completed CMEs in a diplomate's PATHway account.

Once a CME activity is completed, with a pathologist's one-time permission and their ABPath ID#, an accredited CME provider that is participating in PARS will report this information to ACCME, which is then sent on to ABPath. The CME credits will automatically show in the diplomate's CC reporting form in PATHway, beginning with 2019 CC reporting forms, and a transcript of CME credits reported via PARS will be available for download. As an additional benefit of this partnership, diplomates will now be able to search for CME activities by credit type (CME, SAM, and Improvement in Medical Practice [Part IV]), provider, and key word in ACCME's CME Finder (<http://www.cmefinder.org/>).

For more information on PARS and CME reporting visit [this webpage](#).

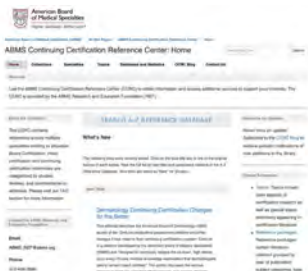


# ABMS NEWS



**American Board  
of Medical Specialties**

*Higher standards. Better care.®*



## ABMS Continuing Certification Reference Center

The ABMS’s Continuing Certification Reference Center (CCRC) is a free resource available to raise awareness about publications regarding physician certification and continuing certification. The content of the A-Z Reference Database is comprised of studies, reviews, commentaries, and other relevant resources. Content is aggregated by publication year, topics, and types of references and may be filtered in a variety of ways. The CCRC also provides links to publicly available datasets and databases commonly used in the certification literature and in health services research overall. You can sign up to receive notifications of new content via the CCRC Blog by entering your email address and clicking on “subscribe.” You will then receive an email requesting confirmation of your subscription. Access the Center here: <https://abms.libguides.com/Home>



## ABMS Board Certification Report 2018-2019

For more than 45 years, the ABMS Board Certification Report has been published to illustrate the continued importance of board certification as a public credential. Each year, the 24 ABMS Member Boards submit information and data describing their certification programs and advancements for continuing certification. ABMS collects this information to give a view of the year and mark trends. The report reflects the growing population of physicians who believe in board certification as a way to demonstrate their specialty expertise and continued commitment to provide safe, quality care. The complete report can be accessed at <https://www.abms.org/board-certification/abms-board-certification-report/>







## Vision for the Future Commission Update

Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future was an initiative that brought together multiple stakeholders to envision a system of continuing board certification that is meaningful, relevant and of value to physicians. After assessing the status of continuing board certification, the Commission made recommendations that address current concerns and outline a path forward for ABMS' continuing certification programs.

The ABMS Member Boards are continuing to make programmatic and process improvements that directly align with the Commission's recommendations. The progress to date is highlighted in a newly created short video: <https://youtu.be/FMUwJRYiJjk>



## Certification Matters™ Service for Patients and Their Families

#HigherStandardsBetterCare

Through the <https://www.certificationmatters.org> website, ABMS provides a free service for patients and their families to find the board certification status of physicians, including whether they are meeting the requirements of an ABMS Member Board continuing certification program and descriptions of the medical specialties and subspecialties in which the ABMS Member Boards offer certification. The site also provides:

- Tips and suggestions on finding a qualified physician and getting the most out of office visits
- Physician perspectives on board certification and the ABMS Program for MOC
- Research supporting the benefits of board certification
- Links to the 24 ABMS Member Boards and other credible health care sites

“  
It gives me peace of mind.”

Certification Matters™

FIND OUT IF YOUR DOCTOR IS BOARD CERTIFIED AT  
[CertificationMatters.org](https://www.certificationmatters.org)





## EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

ABPath examinations are graded using the criterion-referenced method. See the ABPath Website for examination information. The number of candidates passing the examinations does 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.

### Primary Certification Examinations

#### 2019 Primary Examination

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass
AP	680	79%	562	486	86%	118	53	45%
CP	599	81%	527	454	86%	72	31	43%

#### 5-Year Certified Report

Primary	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
APCP	495	504	484	498	485	451
AP only	105	90	79	72	78	58
CP only	65	48	36	50	43	40
APNP	6	17	7	14	11	10

## Subspecialty Certification Examinations

### 2019 Subspecialty Examinations

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass
BB/TM	49	96	46	45	98	3	2	67
CH	1	100	1	1	100	-	-	-
CI	23	78	20	18	90	3	0	0
CYP	143	96	137	134	98	6	3	50
DP	46	98	40	40	100	6	5	83
FP	41	93	39	36	92	2	2	100
HEM	124	97	120	118	98	4	2	50
MMB	14	100	14	14	100	-	-	-
MGP	60	98	58	57	98	2	2	100
NP	23	96	23	22	96	-	-	-
PP	23	96	20	20	100	3	2	67

### 5-Year Certified Report

Primary	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BB/TM	67	57	49	49	47
CH	2	2	1	2	1
CI	17	25	16	16	18
CYP	160	144	141	142	137
DP	40	56	43	52	45
FP	45	48	41	49	38
HEM	156	142	125	140	119
MMB	11	7	9	12	14
MGP	55	57	45	59	59
NP	14	12	17	15	12
PP	26	21	16	20	23

## Continuing Certification

### Continuing Certification Examination

Continuing Certification	Total Candidate #	% Pass
Spring 2019	350	97.8
Fall 2018	371	96.7
Spring 2018	339	97.1
Fall 2017	331	95.8
Spring 2017	265	97.7
Fall 2016	304	99.7
Spring 2016	437	100
Fall 2015	187	100
Spring 2015	213	100

### Continuing Certification Participation Statistics

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Certificates Enrolled	1190	1176	1132	1175	1054
Certificates Lapsed/Revoked	54	64	75	88	88
Diplomates Enrolled	677	627	650	638	583
Diplomates Lapsed/Revoked	49	52	64	71	63

## Examination Dates for 2020

<b>Exams</b>	<b>2020 Dates</b>
<b>Anatomic / Clinical Pathology</b>	
<b>Spring (Tampa)</b>	<b>Starts May 11</b>
<b>Spring (Tucson)</b>	<b>Starts June 9</b>
<b>Fall (Tampa)</b>	<b>Starts October 19</b>
<b>Continuing Certification</b>	
<b>Spring</b>	<b>Starts March 16</b>
<b>Fall</b>	<b>Starts August 17</b>
<b>Subspecialty</b>	
<b>Cytopathology</b>	<b>Starts August 25</b>
<b>Neuropathology</b>	<b>August 28</b>
<b>Forensic Pathology</b>	<b>August 31</b>
<b>Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine</b>	<b>September 1</b>
<b>Chemical Pathology</b>	<b>September 3</b>
<b>Medical Microbiology</b>	<b>September 3</b>
<b>Dermatopathology</b>	<b>Starts September 9</b>
<b>Molecular Genetic Pathology</b>	<b>Starts September 16</b>
<b>Pediatric Pathology</b>	<b>September 21</b>
<b>Hematopathology</b>	<b>Starts September 22</b>
<b>Clinical Informatics (Prometric)</b>	<b>October</b>



## INPUT WELCOME

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

LET US KNOW! We want your feedback and ideas.

Comments on FaceBook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter are all welcome. Make your licensure—and your voice—count!

Contact Rebecca Johnson, MD [rjohnson@abpath.org](mailto:rjohnson@abpath.org) or the Chief Operating Officer Ty McCarthy [coo@abpath.org](mailto:coo@abpath.org)



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**Diplomates:**

**For important alerts, please be sure your contact information in PATHway is up to date.**

**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.

*Stay up to date with import news and information from ABPath.*

*Visit [abpath.org](http://abpath.org) and follow us on social media. ABPath is now on Twitter and Instagram!*

