



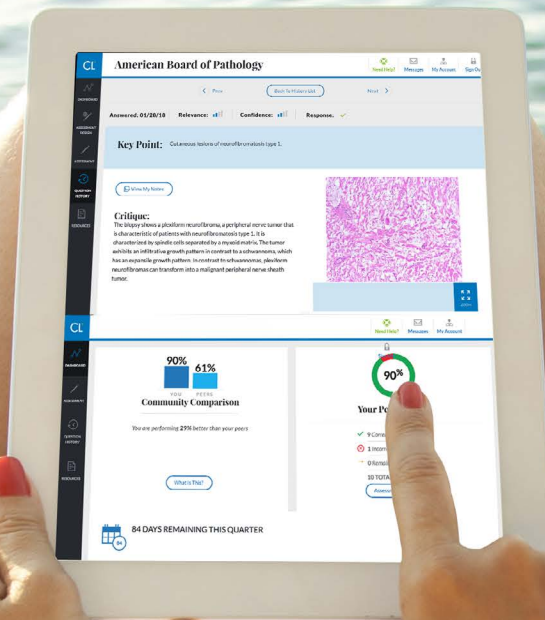
Volume 41 No. 1

Summer 2019

The ABPath EXAMINER

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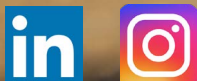


ABPath CertLink®
Mobile App for Tablets



CertLink® App

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Visit our Web site www.abpath.org

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Rebecca L. Johnson, MD
Chief Executive Officer

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

Our newsletter is full of great information about your Board's activities. We hope you will enjoy reading it.

In the seven years that I have had the privilege to serve as the Chief Executive Office of the ABPath, there have been many changes for continuous improvement, most recently significant changes to the Continuing Certification Program (formerly MOC).

As a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties, we have an opportunity to learn from the experience and wisdom of other Boards. I remember the first time we heard a presentation from the American Board of Anesthesiology on their

MOCA[®] Minute pilot. The idea of a formative and summative longitudinal assessment made so much sense for the life-long learning and improvement in practice activities that we want for our diplomates and they also want as professionals. We are now in our second year of the ABPath CertLink[®] pilot. The feedback that we have received from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. We have had comments such as CertLink is fun, I learned something, it is convenient and relevant. We believe that the results of the pilot will demonstrate to ABMS that ABPath CertLink is a reliable and valid alternative beginning in 2021 to the once every 10-year Continuing Certification examination. We could not have launched this pilot without the hard work of our dedicated volunteer item writers and staff editors. We are grateful for their service to the ABPath.

For our diplomates with non-time limited certificates, we encourage them to participate in ABPath CertLink in 2020, at no cost and with no jeopardy to their lifetime certification. We ask that you share with them your CertLink experience and encourage them to sign-up. They can earn AMA Category 1 CME for participation.

ABPath will have a booth at the upcoming ASCP and CAP Annual Meetings. Please stop by to say hello and give us your feedback. We are getting more active with social media since hiring a Communications Director, Bonnie Woodworth. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca L. Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chief Executive Officer
American Board of Pathology

2019 AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is pleased to announce the ABPath Officers and Executive Committee for 2019, pictured below:



Trustees

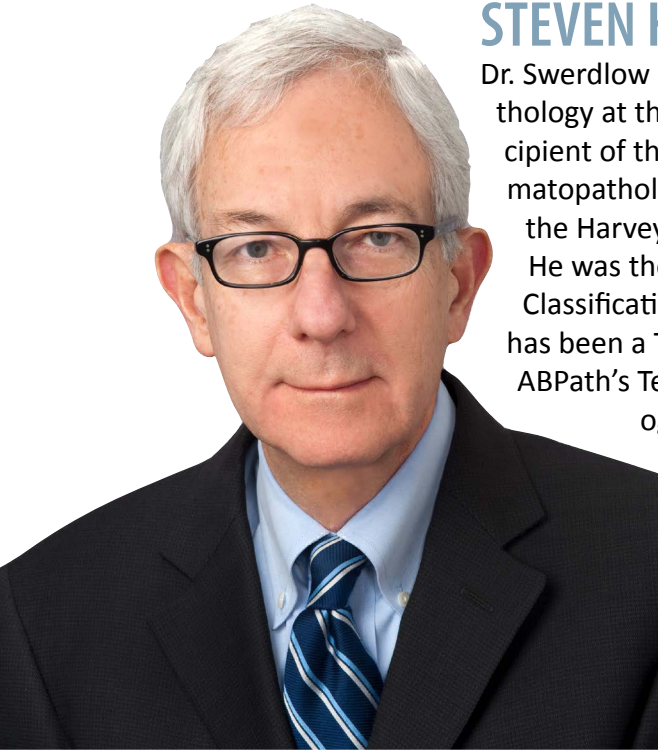
The 2019 Trustees of the ABPath are from left to right: Ritu Nayar, MD; Rebecca Johnson, MD (CEO); Edward Ashwood, MD (Secretary); Constance Filling, EdD; Steven Swerdlow, MD (Vice President); Jeffrey Goldstein, MD; Susan Fuhrman, MD (President); Eric Glassy, MD; Karen Kaul, MD, PhD (Immediate Past-President); James Stubbs, MD; Michael Jones, MD (Treasurer); Kathleen Beavis, MD; Mohiedean Ghofrani, MD, MBA; Barbara Sampson, MD, PhD.

Dr. Rebecca Johnson is the Chief Executive Officer. She can be contacted at rjohnson@abpath.org.

MEET OUR TRUSTEES

Vice President

STEVEN H. SWERDLOW, MD



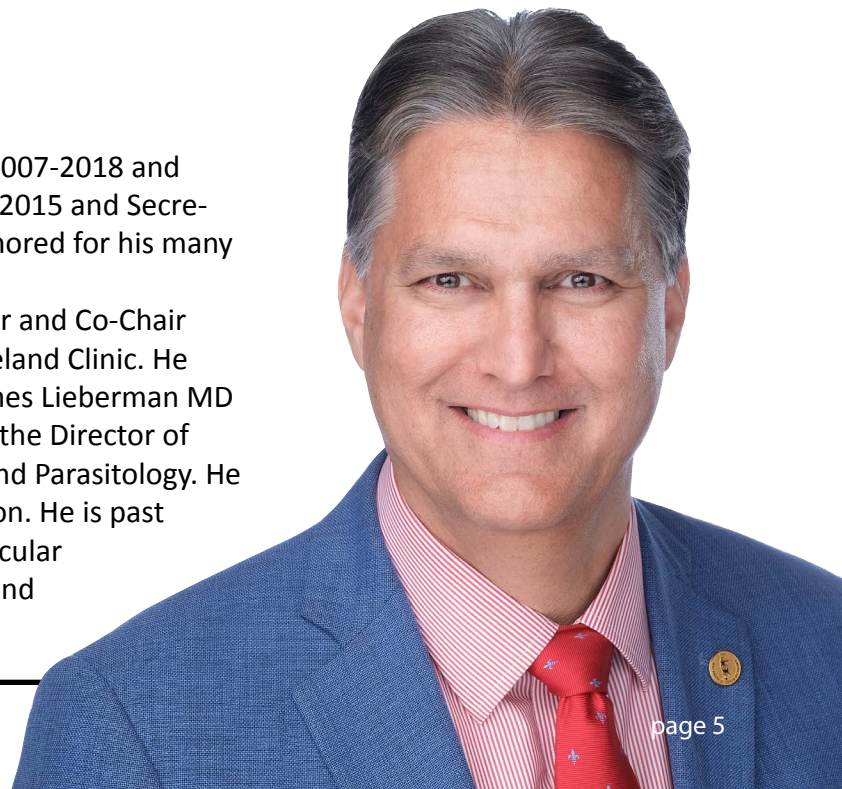
Dr. Swerdlow is Professor of Pathology and Director, Division of Hematopathology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He was the recipient of the inaugural Berard-Dorfman Founders Award for a senior hematopathologist from the Society for Hematopathology in 2015 and of the Harvey Goldman Master Teacher Award from the USCAP in 2017. He was the lead editor for the 2008 and 2017 editions of the WHO Classification of Tumours of Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues. He has been a Trustee of the ABPath since 2011. He is currently Chair of the ABPath's Test Development and Advisory Committee for Hematopathology, Bylaws Committee, Committee on Examinations, and the Strategic Planning Committee. Dr. Swerdlow earned his medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed his residency in pathology at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, hematopathology fellowship with Dr. R. D. Collins at Vanderbilt University, and a research fellowship at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, England. Dr. Swerdlow is board certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and is participating in the Continuing Certification Program.

Life Trustee

GARY W. PROCOP, M.D., M.S.

Dr. Procop was a Trustee of the ABPath from 2007-2018 and served as President in 2016, Vice President in 2015 and Secretary in 2013-2014. This summer he will be honored for his many contributions to the ABPath as a Life Trustee.

Dr. Procop is currently the Medical Director and Co-Chair for Enterprise Medical Operations at the Cleveland Clinic. He holds the Belinda Yen-Lieberman PhD and James Lieberman MD Endowed Chair in Clinical Microbiology and is the Director of Molecular Microbiology, Virology, Mycology and Parasitology. He was recently appointed Vice Chair for Education. He is past Chair of the Departments of Clinical and Molecular Pathology, and past Section Head for Clinical and Molecular Microbiology. Dr. Procop received



a Bachelor of Science degree from Eastern Michigan University, followed by MD and MS degrees at Marshall University School of Medicine. He completed residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology at Duke University Medical Center and a Clinical Microbiology Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, and Medical Microbiology. His primary interests are developing and promoting best practices in laboratory testing, the practical applications of molecular diagnostic methods for the diagnosis and treatment of infections; infectious disease pathology; mycology and parasitology. He has given more than 645 scientific presentations, and has 212 published manuscripts, 50 chapters, and three books to his credit.

His responsibilities at the ABPath included Chair of the Test Development and Advisory Committee for Microbiology, the Ethics and Professionalism Committee, and the Maintenance of Certification Committee. He was the recent Chair of the ABMS Committee on Continuing Certification and is a Member of the ABMS Board of Directors.

TRUSTEES IN THE



Congratulations Dr. Ritu Nayar!

Ritu Nayar, MD received the International Academy of Cytology's (IAC) prestigious Maurice Goldblatt Award at the 20th International Congress of Cytology in Sydney, Australia. The annual Goldblatt Award was inaugurated in 1960 by the late Maurice Goldblatt, the founder and Honorary Chairman of the Cancer Research Foundation in Chicago. Recipients have been esteemed cytopathologists from around the world and receive a certificate and gold medal. Dr. Nayar was recognized by the IAC for "her successful and effective efforts to develop, test and publish standardized cytologic terminology on a worldwide basis; for serving the International Academy of Cytology and the American Society of Cytopathology in establishing efficient continuing education events; and for her impact while serving on multiple national and international committees." Dr. Nayar, an ABPath Trustee, is Vice Chair of Education and Faculty Development, Department of Pathology and Professor of Pathology and Medical Education at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.



The Maurice Goldblatt Award was presented at the 20th International Congress of Cytology, Sydney, Australia, May 2019 by the chairman of the award committee Dr. Volker Schneider

<http://bit.ly/2YhOP84>



ICC 2019
IAC AWARD LECTURES I

Prof Ritu Nayar
Maurice Goldblatt Award Lecture 2018

Journeys and Landscapes

- My professional and personal journey
 - What I have learnt
- Reflect on changing landscapes in
 - Cervical cancer prevention
 - Medical education

THANK YOU

- International Association of Cytology
- My Family, Mentors, Sponsors, Mentees, Friends and Northwestern Team

ICC 2019

2018 IAC GOLDBLATT AWARD ADDRESS

20th International Congress of Cytology
5-9 May 2019, Sydney, Australia

Ritu Nayar, M.D.
Professor of Pathology & Medical Education
Vice Chair for Education & Faculty Development
Northwestern University & Northwestern Medicine,
Chicago, IL, USA

ABSTRACT

Harmonization of Training, Training Requirements, Board Certification, and Practice of Hematopathology

Sara A. Monaghan, MD,^{1,2} Steven H. Swerdlow, MD,^{1,3} Aaron R. Douglas, PhD,¹ Kristen Johnson, PhD,¹ and Rebecca L. Johnson, MD¹

Objective: Hematopathology (HP) is ever-changing with an exploding knowledge base, increasing academic and rapidly changing clinical practice, more therapeutic strategies that may require the identification of specific targets, unique prognostic indicators, and hematopathologic care needs, and the 2016-2017 World Health Organization (WHO) classification of hematopathologic disorders. These emerging changes create major challenges for training hematopathologists and academic training requirements, particularly given the field's rapid evolution of HP fellows. It also presents challenges for being a certification organization that is able to measure and track to board certification only for those who are deemed competent. To bring the American Board of Pathology (ABPath) to serve the public and address the current and future needs of HP, we convened a roundtable and working group consisting of pathologists, an academic representative, and a board representative to discuss the current and future needs of HP. The goal was to identify the current and future needs of HP and to propose a plan of action to address these needs. A detailed and lengthy document was produced in HP that was published over a 12-month period. A large consensus document was produced and is available for review. Practice and training needs

Paper published in Journal of Clinical Pathology
doi: 10.1093/ajcp/aaq084

Harmonization of Training, Training Requirements, Board Certification and Practice of Hematopathology

Dr. Steven H. Swerdlow, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and ABPath Trustee presented a poster titled *Harmonization of Training, Training Requirements, Board Certification and Practice of Hematopathology* at the USCAP 2019 Annual Meeting. Co-authors were Dr. Sara A. Monaghan, University of Pittsburgh SOM; Dr. Aaron R. Douglas, ABPath; Dr. Kristen Johnson, College of American Pathologists; and Dr. Rebecca L. Johnson, ABPath.

The poster, based on recent surveys of ABPath diplomates and Hematopathology (HP) fellowship directors, outlined the current practice and training in HP. The practice of hematopathology has under-

The poster contains several sections with data visualizations:

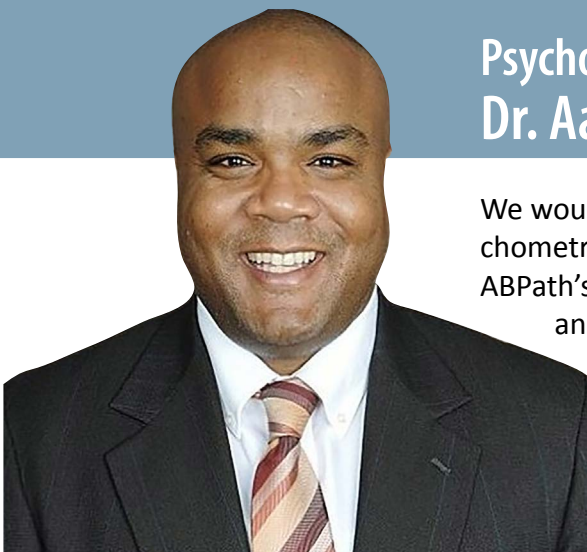
- Characteristics of who took the test:** A bar chart showing the distribution of test takers by gender and age group.
- Program directors:** A bar chart showing the number of program directors by institution type (Academic vs. Non-academic).
- What constitutes the educational preparation of the PHS:** A bar chart showing the number of fellows by institution type.
- Program directors' perceptions regarding distribution of fellows:** A bar chart showing the number of fellows by institution type.
- Number of fellows who took the test:** A bar chart showing the number of fellows by institution type.
- Number of fellows who took the test:** A bar chart showing the number of fellows by institution type.

gone major changes over the last few decades and there was a paucity of data that could provide guidance to HP program directors, to the ACGME pathology resident review committee responsible for accreditation of fellowship programs and program requirements, and to the ABPath which is responsible for certification in HP. The findings should result in further discussion among the major stakeholders so that training, practice, and board certification in HP can be more closely aligned, a process which has already begun. A full manuscript is in press in the American Journal of Clinical Pathology.

Great work Dr. Swerdlow and all!

MEET OUR STAFF

Psychometrician Dr. Aaron Douglas



We would like to introduce you to Dr. Aaron Douglas, ABPath's Senior Psychometrician. As a psychometrician, his primary responsibility is to score ABPath's board certification exams and conduct research on certification and continuing certification.

Dr. Douglas came to the Board in 2017 with over 15 years of experience as a scientist in standardized testing and psychometrics. He has worked diligently to streamline our exam scoring processes and expedite the reporting of exam results, resulting in significantly improved turnaround time for exam results reporting.

"Although the work is very complex, and requires intense focus, scoring exams is one of my passions," says Aaron.

Dr. Douglas is originally from Pittsburgh, PA. He received his Doctorate in Educational Psychology, specializing in Educational Assessment, Testing and Measurement, and Applied Statistics from Penn State University. He has a one-year old daughter and enjoys spending time with his family and traveling.

Aaron's expertise and cheerful demeanor add to the ABPath's team effort to serve our community of pathologists. Aaron says, "I wish all of our diplomates and future candidates much success in their careers."

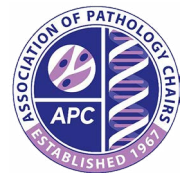
ABPath Staff

The professional staff of the American Board of Pathology is dedicated to supporting our candidates and diplomates in achieving and continuing board certification in pathology. Our team is always ready and eager to assist!



THANK YOU TO OUR COOPERATING SOCIETIES

The ABPath would like to thank the APC, ASCP, CAP and USCAP for their support of the ABPath exhibit booths at their annual meetings. When you attend these meetings, we hope you will stop by and meet our staff. ABPath would also like to thank the many Cooperating Societies who attended the ABPath Spring Board meeting. The Vision Commission for Continuing Certification recommendations were discussed and how ABPath is meeting those recommendations to support the ongoing competency of certified diplomates. We appreciate their valuable input and feedback as we refine our Continuing Certification program.



ABPath VOLUNTEERS



The ABPath has many volunteers who contribute their time and expertise in support of our mission and who promote excellence in the practice of pathology. We greatly appreciate everything they do to advance our profession.

A very special thank you to our Test Development and Advisory Committees (TDAC). ABPath has 15 committees that are responsible for developing and reviewing the ABPath certification exam questions that assess and certify a physician's knowledge, judgment, and skills. Each committee is made up of recognized subject matter experts who are leaders in their pathology subspecialty field.

2019 Test Development and Advisory Committees

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



Thank you to our ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL) Item Writers!

We would like to thank our ABPCL Item Writers that have shared their expertise and have written 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.



ABPath Continuing Certification Advisory Committee Update

The Continuing Certification (CC) Advisory Committee is made up of 12 volunteer diplomates with diverse backgrounds, specialties, and experience and is chaired by an ABPath Trustee. 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.

We would like to thank the following members of the Continuing Certification Advisory Committee. The Committee has been instrumental in providing candid feedback and recommendations for ABPath's Continuing Certification program and ABPath CertLink®. Their efforts have been invaluable.

Jared Abbott, MD
Michelle Aurelius, MD
Nick Batalis, MD
Jennifer Findeis-Hosey, MD
Emily Green, MD
Julie Kingery, MD

Eric Konnick, MD, PhD
Matthew Kuhar, MD
J. Jordi Rowe, MD
Roseann Wu, MD, MPH
Kenneth Youens, MD
Debra L. Zynger, MD

Accepting Nominations for Three New Members

The Committee is seeking new members. If you or you know of another diplomate who is interested in serving, please provide a nomination letter and CV to Dr. Eric Glassy, Chair of the Continuing Certification Advisory Committee, at efglassymd@affiliatedpath.com.

**MEMBERS
NEEDED!**





ABPath NEWS



American Board of Pathology Announces New Certification Mark to Display Your Certification Status

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is pleased to provide diplomates an electronic certification mark for use in their emails, websites, print materials, and social media. The certification mark identifies a physician as board certified by ABPath. The use of this mark informs the public that a physician meets the certification requirements established by the ABPath and is committed to providing a higher standard of patient care. It is available as a free download through ABPath's PATHway for diplomates in good standing.

To download your diplomate certification mark:

- Sign into your PATHway account at abpath.org.
- Click on the Board Correspondence tab and download the certification mark.
- Review the Guidelines for Stating Certification Status.
- Use the certification mark in your email signature, website, or social media profile.

ABPath encourages you to display your certification status proudly!

**Use of the ABPath certification mark is subject to the Guidelines for Stating Certification Status.*



Certified by the American Board of Pathology
Promoting Excellence in the Practice of Pathology



Certified by the American Board of Pathology
Promoting Excellence in the Practice of Pathology



ABPath Fees Changes

The American Board of Pathology strives to meet the needs of our candidates and diplomates with certification programs that incorporate the highest standards for our profession. We are committed to continuous improvement and providing high quality programs and services to advance our profession.

We are pleased to report that the ABPath has made significant investments in infrastructure, capacity, and personnel over the past several years, while maintaining the same fees since 2003. ABPath has not increased fees by supplementing annual revenue with money from reserves that grew from wise investments. A careful analysis of ongoing expenses necessitates that the ABPath must increase fees to cover costs and avoid depleting our reserves to an unsafe level.

The fee changes are outlined below:

In 2020

The primary and subspecialty exam fees, and single certification fee will increase by approximately 18%. The ABPath has been sensitive to keeping candidate and diplomate fees reasonable. Our new exam fees still compare favorably to other American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member boards' fees.

- The primary combined (APCP) exam fee will be \$2,600.
- The subspecialty and one-part (AP or CP) exam fees will be \$2,100.
- The single certification fee will be \$1,200.
- The CC exam fee will not change in 2020.

In 2021

- The CC fee will be \$150 per year.
- Current CC fees, including the exam, are \$1200 over a 10-year CC cycle. The new fee will be a total of \$1500 over a 10-year cycle. This fee will include the cost of ABPath CertLink. ABPath CertLink is anticipated to be an alternative to the once every 10-year exam beginning in 2021. Our CC fees will remain the lowest of all 24 ABMS member boards.

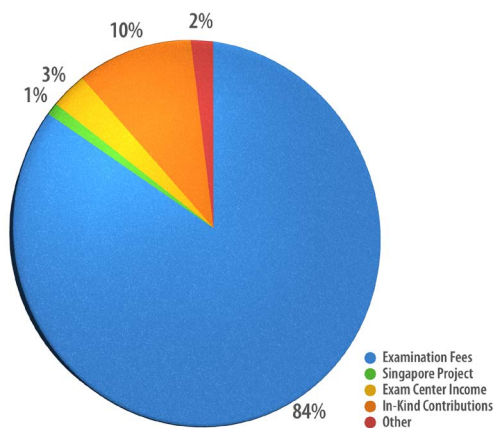
ABPath strives to provide open and transparent communications with all stakeholders. To maintain the technology, programs, administration and innovations, our fees must cover our expenses. We are dedicated to high quality programs and assessments that demonstrate to patients, colleagues, and the public that our certified pathologists meet the highest standards of care in pathology. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at questions@abpath.org.



2018 Financials

REVENUE

ABPath revenue is generated from multiple sources. Examination fees are collected for the Primary, Subspecialty and Continuing Certification exams. The ABPath Exam Center is rented by three other boards for delivering their exams each year and ABPath assists Singapore in the development of their certification exams. Examination questions are written by volunteer pathologists. Per the IRS, their services must be reported as an In-Kind Contribution (equivalent time a pathologist would be paid had they charged for these services).

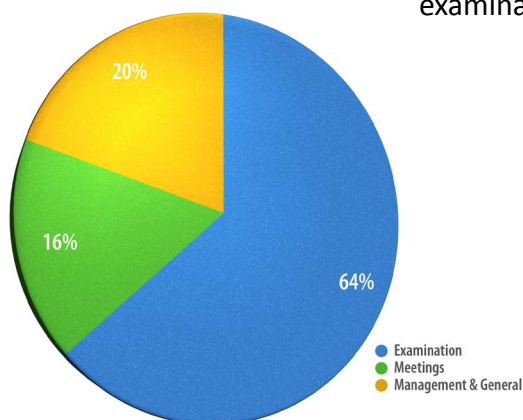


Revenue

Examination Fees	83%	3,562,450
Exam Center Income	3%	123,766
Singapore Project	1%	60,000
In-Kind Contributions	10%	430,846
Other	2%	106,417
Total Revenue		4,283,479

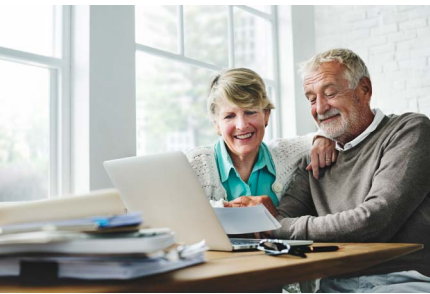
EXPENSES

Examination fees cover the cost of credentialing candidates; the development, administration and scoring of the exam; reporting results, and maintaining the Continuing Certification program, including ABPath CertLink. Expenses include the travel and administrative expenses for volunteer test committee members and Trustees. Management and general expenses include: employee salaries, benefits, insurance, information technology support and licensing, facility and equipment rental and maintenance, ABMS member fees and the cost of providing services to our diplomates such as ABPath CertLink, ACCME PARS and remote Continuing Certification examinations.



Expenses

Examinations	63%	3,432,261
Meetings	16%	886,420
Management & General	20%	1,104,411
Total Expenses		5,423,09



New Retired Status for Diplomates

Are you retiring from active practice? Certification with an ABMS member board is a significant achievement. ABPath wishes to continue recognizing physicians as diplomates after they have stopped actively practicing medicine and no longer wish to maintain their medical license and certifications.

Retired status may be requested from ABPath by any current diplomate or another ABMS Member Board. Eligibility for Retired status with ABPath requires the following:

- No longer being actively engaged in direct, indirect, and/or consultative patient care, overseeing medical laboratories, or supervising/teaching in a medical field.
- Not performing any function for which board certification or medical licensure is required.
- Being a current diplomate of ABPath in good standing. Good standing for the purpose of the Retired status means the following:
 - No medical license restrictions or disciplinary issues, pending or otherwise, in any jurisdiction where the diplomate holds a license.
 - No disciplinary actions, pending or otherwise, by the ABPath.
 - Current participation in the Continuing Certification (CC) Program if applicable.

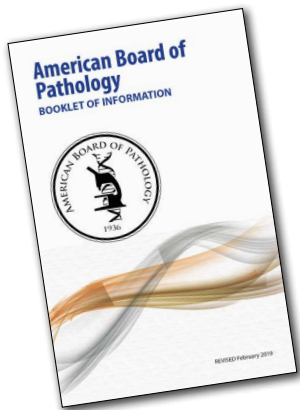
Opting into the Retired status publicly lists the physician as Retired. Physicians listed as Retired no longer need to hold a medical license or participate in ABPath's CC Program to remain a diplomate of ABPath.

In 2019, diplomates retiring from active practice will be able to apply for Retired status by submitting the Request for Retired Status Application that will soon be posted on the ABPath website. An announcement will be made when the application is available.



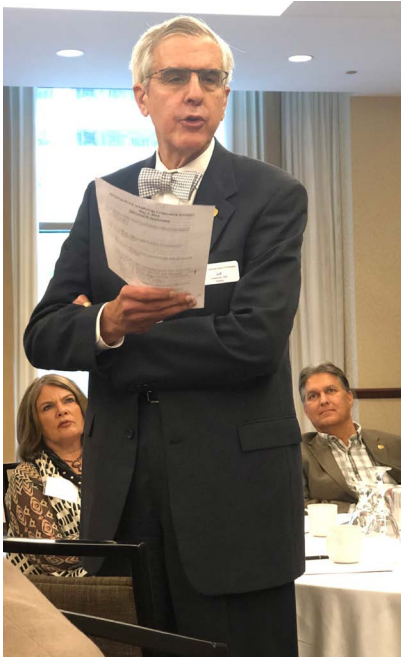
CME Credit For ABPath Certlink®

ASCP and ABPath are establishing a joint providership agreement to award diplomates AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ for participating in the ABPath CertLink® program. ABPath CertLink meets ACCME requirements for continuing medical education with assessment. In response to feedback from our diplomates, ABPath wanted participating physicians to have the opportunity to receive CME credits. Beginning in 2019, ASCP will award 5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ each year (1.25 credits/quarter) to diplomates participating in ABPath CertLink. These credits will begin populating a diplomate's respective CC reporting form in 2020.



ABPath Booklet Of Information

The updated Booklet of Information is available on the ABPath Website, www.abpath.org. 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.



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) if you would like to schedule a speaking engagement.





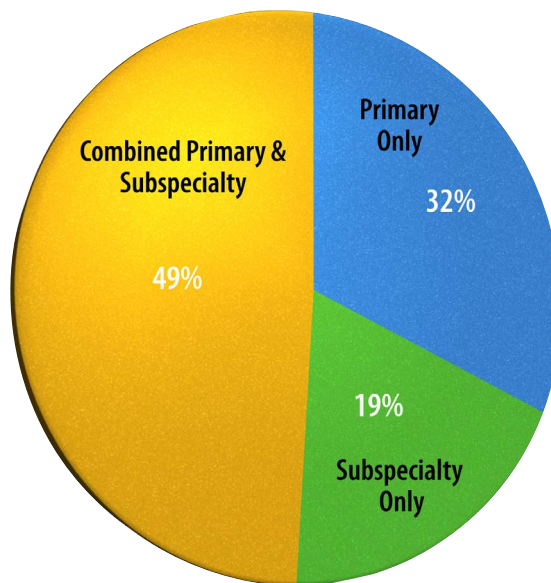
CONTINUING CERTIFICATION

Interesting Facts At-A-Glance

ABPath receives many inquiries concerning the ABPath Continuing Certification (CC) Program, most of which can be answered in the ABPath Continuing Certification Booklet of Information. Some interesting facts about CC are included below:

Continuing Certification Assessment

Forty-eight percent of all Continuing Certification (CC) examinations taken are combined examinations, meaning the examination covers both a primary and subspecialty (SS) certification. CY and HP continue to be the most frequent subspecialty examinations. The two certifications account for sixty-two percent of all combined examinations and fifty-two percent of all subspecialty only examinations.

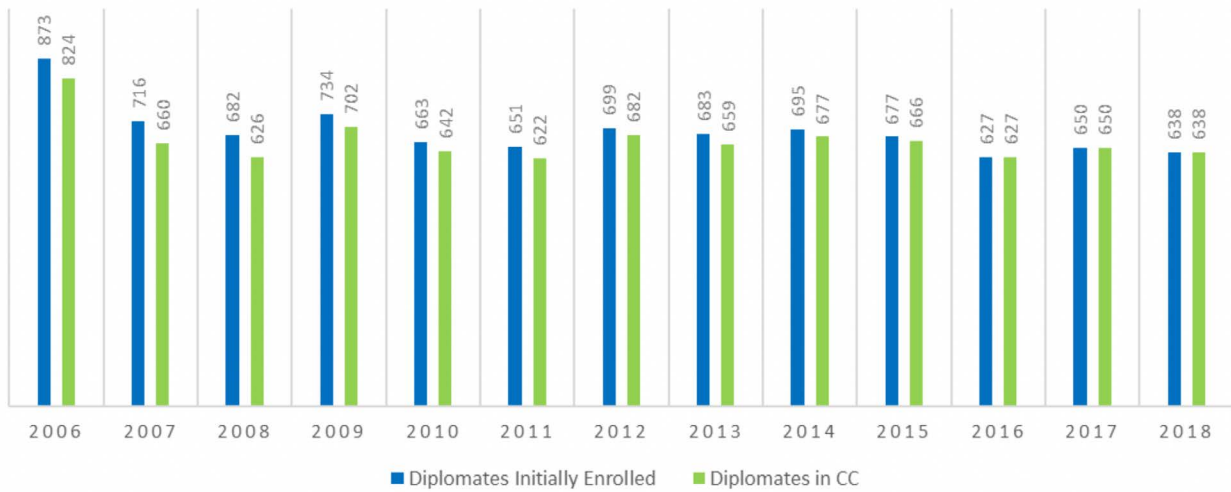


The top four most selected CC examination modules (2014-2019):

Module Name	Total
Anatomic Pathology and Clinical Pathology (AP/CP) with AP emphasis	925
Anatomic Pathology and Clinical Pathology (AP/CP)	763
Cytopathology	654
Hematopathology	572

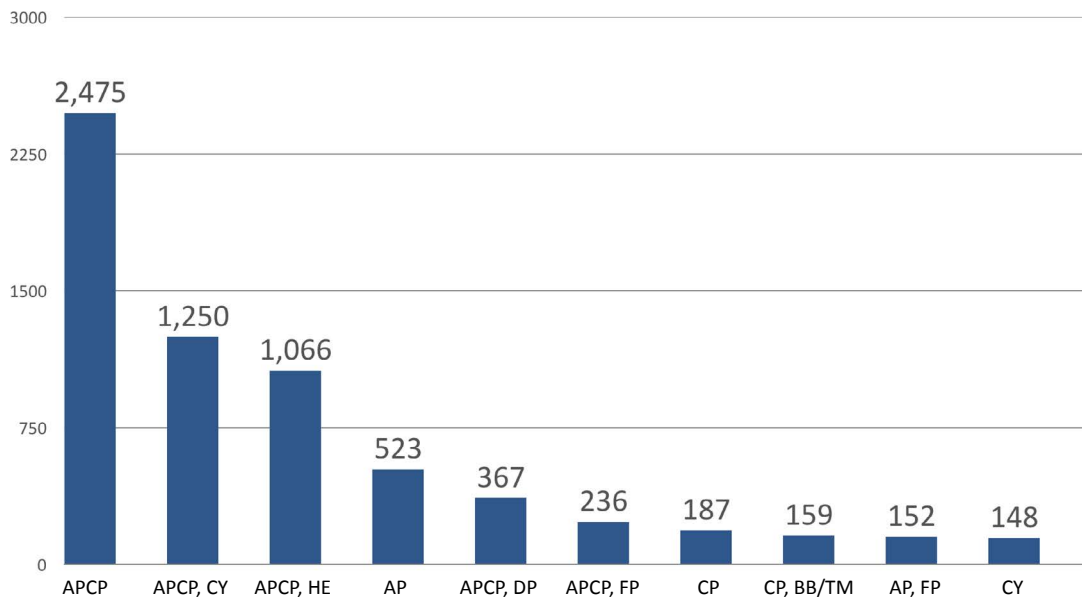
CC Diplomate Retention

“The following chart illustrates diplomate retention in the CC Program by year of enrollment, which is typically the year of initial certification. ABPath has one of the highest retention rates of all ABMS member boards.”



CC Program Certificate Combinations

There are currently 143 unique combinations of certificates held by diplomates in the CC Program. The top ten combinations are shown.



Diplomates Who Use ABMS Member Boards Reciprocity

This chart details the number of diplomates who report participation in a Continuing Certification (CC or MOC) program with another ABMS Member Board. A certified physician who holds their primary certification with another ABMS board and successfully participates in that board's CC program may report that participation to ABPath. This meets most requirements for continuing certification in their subspecialty with ABPath.

The following chart covers 2017 and 2018 CC Reporting Cycles YTD of the diplomates who report doing another board's CC program, over half do so through the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM).

Dual ABMS Member Board Diplomates Summary	
Reporting Period	# of Diplomates
2017	34
2018	19
Reporting Period	# of Diplomates
Year 2	13
Year 4	9
Year 6	15
Year 8	5
Year 10	11
Diplomates Certified by another ABMS board (2016-2018)	
Internal Medicine	30
Medical Genetics	4
Pediatrics	8
Anesthesiology	1
Dermatology	4
Psychiatry and Neurology	1
Family Medicine	2
Obstetrics and Gynecology	2
Radiology	1

ABPath CertLink®

ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL), our online longitudinal assessment pilot program, assesses medical knowledge and judgment using a convenient and dynamic program that incorporates learning in pathology. For time-limited diplomates, we anticipate that participation will be an alternative to the 10-year CC exam beginning in 2021.

If you are a non-time-limited diplomate you can enjoy special benefits when you participate!

- Free Enrollment for One Year
- Earn CME Credits
- No Impact on Lifetime Certification Status
- No Requirement to Participate in Continuing Certification
- Test Your Knowledge on Current Topics
- Keep Current with New Information
- Get Immediate Feedback
- Identify Gaps in Medical Knowledge

Here is what some participants have to say:

"I think the format of periodic question with immediate feedback is the best way to fulfill the objective of lifelong learning and staying current with practices and knowledge. It is also much more manageable with the busy lives of most of who at this point are working full time and balancing family and work demands." -Dr. Katie O'Reilly

"I just want to express how grateful I am that this CertLink program exists. I think it is the 'right' answer encouraging continuous learning with feedback and so much better than putting pathologists through the stress of an exam every 10 years. Thank you!" – Dr. Theresa Boyle

CertLink®

Survey results of ABPath CertLink® Participants Show a High Degree of Satisfaction

End-of-Year survey results of Overall ABPath CertLink® Experience for both Soft Launch survey completed in February 2018 (91 participants; October 2017 – January 2018) and Hard Launch survey completed in February 2019 (2674 participants; July – December 2018):

Certlink is an adequate assessment of the fundamental knowledge used in everyday practice.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Totals
Soft Launch 2018	4%	10%	49%	35%	91
Hard Launch 2019	3%	10%	58%	26%	2674
Total	3%	10%	58%	26%	2765

The CertLink Model integrates into daily life better than the secure MOC Part III exam for maintaining certification.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Totals
Soft Launch 2018	1%	4%	24%	70%	91
Hard Launch 2019	0%	1%	30%	66%	2674
Total	0%	2%	29%	66%	2765

I would prefer taking a certain number of CertLink questions each year compared with taking a secure MOC Part III exam administered once every 10 years.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Totals
Soft Launch 2018	2%	3%	19%	76%	91
Hard Launch 2019	0%	1%	18%	77%	2674
Total	1%	1%	18%	77%	2765

Participation in CertLink is a feasible method to keep up-to-date with developments.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Totals
Soft Launch 2018	2%	3%	38%	55%	91
Hard Launch 2019	1%	5%	40%	50%	2674
Total	1%	5%	40%	50%	2765

If fully implemented, I expect CertLink will offer sufficient flexibility to incorporate work and life events.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Totals
Soft Launch 2018	1%	1%	36%	60%	91
Hard Launch 2019	0%	1%	34%	60%	2674
Total	0%	1%	34%	60%	2765

Reflecting on the pilot so far, I am less anxious about taking a longitudinal assessment using the online CertLink system compared to taking a proctored exam.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Totals
Soft Launch 2018	2%	5%	29%	62%	91
Hard Launch 2019	1%	4%	31%	59%	2674
Total	1%	4%	31%	59%	2765

Reflecting on the pilot so far, my level of stress about maintaining certification through CertLink has decreased.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Totals
Soft Launch 2018	3%	8%	32%	56%	91
Hard Launch 2019	1%	6%	37%	50%	2674
Total	1%	6%	37%	50%	2765

I'm finding CertLink to be a valuable learning experience.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Totals
Soft Launch 2018	3%	3%	44%	47%	91
Hard Launch 2019	2%	8%	42%	42%	2674
Total	2%	8%	42%	42%	2765

I prefer to take a continuous assessment like CertLink over the secure MOC Part III exam.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Totals
Soft Launch 2018	2%	3%	18%	76%	91
Hard Launch 2019	1%	1%	18%	73%	2674
Total	1%	1%	18%	73%	2765

I am likely to recommend CertLink to a friend or colleague.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Totals
Soft Launch 2018	3%	4%	27%	63%	91
Hard Launch 2019	1%	3%	29%	59%	2674
Total	1%	3%	29%	59%	2765

I am, overall, satisfied with CertLink as an alternative for the secure MOC part III exam.	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Totals
Soft Launch 2018	2%	2%	26%	66%	91
Hard Launch 2019	1%	2%	24%	65%	2674
Total	1%	2%	24%	65%	2765



Responses to Common ABPath CertLink® Participant Feedback

ABPath has received a tremendous amount of valuable feedback from ABPath CertLink® participants. This has included comments on question and image quality, technical issues, user interface suggestions, and accuracy of item content. Each submission has proven very beneficial to improve the ABPath CertLink program. ABPath does not have the capacity to respond to all the feedback individually, but participants should know that you are being heard. Below are the most common issues identified and how ABPath is addressing each:

- Participants see results on their dashboard from Practice Areas that they did not choose during their assessment design. The reason for this is that many items are relevant to multiple Practice Areas and can be assigned to as many as four. The CertLink platform currently displays all Practice Areas associated with a question. Addressing this issue is now included in the CertLink functionality development plan.
- Image quality is poor or the image is blurry when zoomed in. ABPath will require higher resolution images to be provided with new questions. Virtual microscopy is included in the CertLink functionality development plan.
- Participants have asked what topics are covered in each Practice Area. ABPath has added a link on the ABPath CertLink Resources tab in CertLink that provides content by Practice Area and they are also posted on the ABPath website. <https://www.abpath.org/index.php/abpath-certlink/abpath-certlink-practice-areas-and-topics>
- An ABPath CertLink application has not been approved for smartphones. This is due to the image-rich nature of our questions with poor image quality when viewed on a smartphone.
- Content-related item/question feedback provided by participants. At the end of each quarter, ABPath downloads an item feedback report and uses it to edit questions, critique content and images or to delete substandard questions. We appreciate item-specific feedback that can be given on the Critique screen following each individual question.
- Item quality needs improvement. Writing high-quality ABPath CertLink items is a process. Many of the ABPath CertLink items in circulation now were written at the beginning of the pilot program; as the pilot progresses, item quality is expected to improve as item writers develop their skills and item feedback is addressed. If you would like to submit items for use in ABPath CertLink, please contact Kasey Davis at kasey@abpath.org.
- The ability to adjust an individual's assessment design more fre-

quently is preferred. Currently ABPath CertLink allows assessment design every two quarters; this is based on the creation and submission cycle of new items and is planned to be scheduled once a year after the pilot phase. As the item pool increases, ABPath could consider allowing more frequent assessment redesign.

- Additional Note: Beginning in 2020, the assessment will include a minimum percentage of questions based on a diplomate's certification(s). The remainder of their syllabus is customizable with elective content from any of the Practice Areas.

ABMS NEWS



**American Board
of Medical Specialties**

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CONTINUING BOARD CERTIFICATION

VISION
for the
FUTURE

American Board of Medical Specialties Announces Action Plan on Vision for the Future Commission's Recommendations to Make Continuing Certification Programs More Meaningful, Relevant and of Value to Key Stakeholders

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Board of Directors (BOD) has announced its plans to address the recommendations shared in the Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission's (Commission) final report. Presented to the ABMS BOD in mid-February, the Commission's final report is the culmination of research, testimony and public feedback from stakeholders throughout the Boards and greater health care communities. The Commission took all of this input into consideration, developing a set of recommendations to help continuing certification evolve into a meaningful and relevant program that brings both value to a physician's practice and meets the highest standard of quality patient care.

For details on how ABMS will address and implement the Commission's recommendations, visit <https://www.abms.org/news-events/abms-plan-to-implement-vision-initiative-commission-recommendations/>



The Commission members held meetings from February 2018 through January 2019 and invited public comment at key stages. Meetings and milestones are shown above.

American Board of Pathology Statement on Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission Recommendations

The Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission released its final report to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Board of Directors on February 12, 2019. The report included a set of recommendations to help continuing certification evolve into a more meaningful and relevant program that brings value to a physician's practice and meets the highest standard for quality patient care. The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is proud to share that, with input and the ongoing support from our stakeholders, we have already met or are well on our way to complying with each of the recommendations. In keeping with our mission to serve the public and advance the profession of pathology, we are dedicated to designing a program that best serves patients and others who rely on the meaningful credential of board certification.

One of the principal recommendations, with subsequent agreement by all 24 ABMS Member Boards, was to commit to longitudinal or other formative assessment strategies and offer an alternative to the high-stakes, point-in-time examinations of knowledge. Prior to the report, ABPath launched the ABPath CertLink® pilot in July of 2018, in partnership with ABMS, as an anticipated replacement for the Continuing Certification (CC) Part III exam. While the scientific and medical landscape quickly advances, this online program for longitudinal assessment supports continuous professional development that is flexible and relevant to the needs of busy physicians while meeting the public interest belief that assessment of a physician's knowledge should be ongoing. ABPath CertLink has been met with an overwhelmingly positive response from our diplomates and is developing into a thorough and valid assessment for making summative decisions about medical knowledge, judgment, and skills. Much of this success is due to the feedback and participation from our diplomates together with the hard work of our volunteers.

Another key recommendation was to develop an infrastructure to support learning activities that produce data-driven advances in clinical practice. The continued commitment of ABPath to collaborate with specialty societies, the CME provider community, and other expert stakeholders meets this objective. ABPath hosts annual meetings with our Cooperating Societies to identify and address issues of importance to our profession. Through the relationship with these fine organizations, our Continuing Certification Program recognizes and documents participation in a wide range of educational and quality assessment activities in which diplomates already engage. ABPath has a CC Advisory Committee that meets monthly. Composed of diplomates from a variety of practice settings, it

has allowed ABPath to receive feedback and improve our CC program. Additional feedback is obtained using focus groups and surveys to draw on our diplomates' experience to continually make our program relevant and valuable. We will continue to have open communication channels and provide opportunities for diplomates to be a part of the process of continuous improvement.

The Commission's full report can be read [here](#).

ABPath's complete response to the Commission recommendations can be read [here](#).



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June 4, 2019

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), we are writing to let you know about new and exciting changes that ABMS and its 24 Member Boards are making to shape the next generation of continuing certification. Supporting the recommendations released in a report earlier this year by the independent, multi-stakeholder Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission (Commission), these changes to the process of continuing certification will better assist physicians in staying up to date with advances in their fields for the benefit of the patients you serve.

In its report, the Commission encouraged ABMS Member Boards to develop programs of assessment and learning that are ongoing, provide practical feedback, and help certified physicians to improve their clinical skills. The ABMS Member Boards are fully committed to developing such programs. By the end of 2019, all ABMS Member Boards will have established or will be implementing continuing certification programs that base decisions on frequent, formative, and practice-relevant assessments that promote recent advances in the specialty. To support the Commission's vision, ABMS will adopt new continuing certification standards by 2020. In addition, ABMS is establishing collaborative task forces, which will include external stakeholders, to address the practice improvement and professionalism components of continuing certification programs that need to be better integrated with the practice environment of physicians.

You may be aware of the controversy that ABMS Maintenance of Certification programs have engendered, including legislative efforts in some states to prevent hospitals from considering recertification as a criterion for staff privileges. ABMS believes strongly that hospitals and health systems should be free, without any legal restraint, to consider certification status when rendering a decision about hospital privileges, and trusts that you will make those decisions based on your system's quality and safety needs. However, we also recognize that certification status is not the only indicator of a physician's quality, and it has been our policy for decades that it is not appropriate to grant or deny privileges solely based on certification status.

For more than 80 years, health systems like yours have trusted that a physician certified by one of the 24 ABMS Member Boards has demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and professionalism to provide safe, high-quality patient care. The changes we are working on will result in a continuing certification program that is designed to better address the rapidly advancing standards of specialty practice, and to assist you in fulfilling your mission to provide the highest quality care to patients – the ultimate beneficiaries. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Schleiter, Vice President, Policy, Government Affairs & Strategic Engagement, at kschleiter@abms.org.

Sincerely,



Barry S. Smith, MD
Chair, ABMS Board of Directors



Richard E. Hawkins, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer

ABMS Sends Letter to Hospital CMOS in Support of Vision For the Future Commission Recommendations and Next Steps

On June 5, 2019, ABMS Board Chair Barry S. Smith, MD, and ABMS President and CEO Richard E. Hawkins, MD, wrote a letter to chief medical officers and executive leaders at hospitals and health systems throughout the country. The letter communicated the ABMS policy on the appropriate use of board certification in privileging and credentialing decisions by hospitals, and invited hospitals and physician leaders to engage in a conversation about new approaches to assessment that are transforming continuing board certification.

See the full letter here:

<https://www.abms.org/news-events/abms-letter-to-hospitals/>



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 Spring Primary Examination

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass
AP*	584	82%	541	469	87%	43	10	23%
CP*	519	85%	506	437	86%	13	4	31%

**2019 Spring Primary Exam Results Only*

5-Year Certified Report

Primary	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*
APCP	495	504	484	498	485	377
AP only	105	90	79	72	78	39
CP only	65	48	36	50	43	26
APNP	6	17	7	14	11	NA

**2019 Spring Primary Exam Results Only*

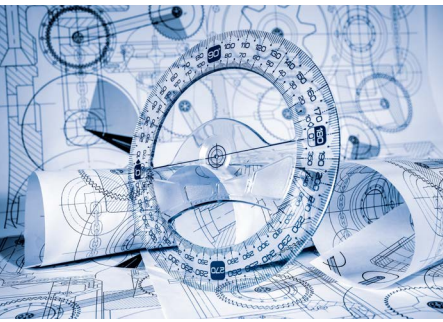
Continuing Certification Examinations

Continuing Certification

MOC	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

2019 ABPath Examination Dates

Exams	2019 Dates
Anatomic / Clinical Pathology	
Fall	Starts October 14
Continuing Certification	
Fall	Starts August 12
Subspecialty	
Cytopathology	Starts August 26
Neuropathology	August 29
Forensic Pathology	September 4
Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine	September 5
Chemical Pathology	September 9
Medical Microbiology	September 9
Dermatopathology	Starts September 10
Pediatric Pathology	September 12
Molecular Genetic Pathology	Starts September 16
Hematopathology	Starts September 18
Clinical Informatics (Prometric)	October



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.



Honor Code

The Board 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 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.

Input Welcome

Have an idea for the Newsletter? Want to contribute to improving CertLink®? LET US KNOW! Comments on FaceBook, LinkedIn, Twitter are all welcome. Make your licensure—and your voice—count! Contact Rebecca Johnson, MD (rjohnson@abpath.org) or the Chief Operating Officer Ty McCarthy (coo@abpath.org).





The American Board of Pathology

The American Board of Pathology congratulates these diplomates for ten years of successful participation in Continuing Certification completed in 2018.

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 Fouad M. Abdelhalim, M.D.
 Patricia V. Adem, M.D.
 Kelly Marie Adkins, M.D.
 Lalarukh Khan Aftab, M.D.
 Irene Aguilera-Barrantes, M.D.
 Ejaz Ahmad, M.D.
 Dara L. Aisner, M.D.
 Daisy Varunni Alapat, M.D.
 Ameera Jeannie Ali, M.D.
 Ahmad Al-Sabbagh, M.D.
 Amy Elizabeth Alspach, M.D.
 Zane Dja Amenhotep, M.D.
 Bijal Dilip Amin, M.D.
 Cesar Augusto Angeletti, M.D.
 Darius A. Arabadjief, M.D.
 Elise Francoise Arbefeville, M.D.
 Sophie Suzanne Arbefeville, M.D.
 Farzana Arif, M.D.
 Ramy A. Arnaout, M.D.
 Ryan Wayne Askeland, M.D.
 Steven Pepper Atkinson, M.D.
 Gregory Gerald Ausmus, M.D.
 M. Tayyeb Ayyoubi, M.D.
 Michael Abbott Bachman, M.D.
 Armita Bahrami, M.D.
 Jonathan Adam Baker, M.D.
 Ila Bansal, M.D.
 Shipping Bao, M.D.
 Archana Amol Bargaje, M.D.
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 Charles John Bechert, M.D.
 John Allen Bechinski, D.O.
 Jiri Biorn Bedrnicek, M.D.
 Diana Bell Matesoi, M.D.
 Manali S. Bendre, M.D.
 Michael Joseph Berger, M.D.
 Joan Ellen Bernard, M.D.
 Lourdes Pingol Bernardino, M.D.
 Ami Rameshkumar Bhalodia, M.D.
 Mallika Manoj Bhandary, M.D.
 Rhea Jeannine Birusingh, M.D.
 Eric Michael Bixby, M.D.
 Michelle Janette Bleile, M.D.
 Evan Martin Bloch, M.D.
 Ahna Marisa Blutreich, M.D.
 Thomas David Bourne, M.D.
 Jeffery Todd Boyd, D.O.
 Kyle Thomas Bradley, M.D.
 Kristina Renee Brannock, M.D.
 Julia Michelle Braza, M.D.
 Manfred Brigl, M.D.
 Angela Suzanne Brooks, M.D.
 Jennifer Nicole Broussard, M.D.
 Keith Andrew Brown, M.D.
 Susan Lucille Brown, M.D.
 Lawrence Walden Browne II, M.D.
 Patricia Ann Ramaley Brunker, M.D.
 Cynthia Marie Bruzzi, M.D.
 Aileen Gretchen Buckler, M.D.
 Carl Louis Buckner, M.D.
 Predrag Bulic, M.D.
 Jeffrey Todd Bunning, M.D.
 Kathleen Helen Burns, M.D.
 Samantha Lyn Butler-Garcia, M.D.
 Robert Homer Byrd, M.D.
 Robert John Cabay, M.D.
 Derin Caglar, M.D.
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 Anastasia Marie Canacci, M.D.
 Rania A. Cannaday, M.D.
 Kelley Elizabeth Capocelli, M.D.
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 Maren Marie Chan, M.D.
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 Mona Charara, M.D.
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 Rebecca Lyn Christensen, M.D.
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 Jillian Rachel Grau, M.D.
 Isaac Ruben Grindeland, M.D.
 Miriam Natalie Grunkemeier, M.D.
 Shelly Gunn, M.D.
 Moutaz Haiba, M.D.
 Anirudha Halder, M.D.
 Jordan Manuel Hall, M.D.
 Marianne Hamel, M.D.
 Lesley Elizabeth Hamilton-Fox, M.D.
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 Linda Coren Hanley, M.D.
 Farah Naz Haque, M.D.
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 Steven Han Kang, M.D.
 Rujuta A. Kanher, M.D.
 Moneta Jaykumar Kapadia, M.D.
 Umesh Kapur, M.D.
 Zarir Eruch Karanjawala, M.D.
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 Annette Sunhi Kim, M.D.
 Patricia Mitori Kim, M.D.
 Seung Lae Kim, M.D.
 Youn Chull Kim, M.D.
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 James Stacey Klutts, M.D.
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 Stefan Georgiev Kostadinov, M.D.
 Petio Vladimirov Kotov, M.D.
 Igor Kozlov, M.D.
 Clarissa Sunshine Krinsky, M.D.
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