



Volume 43 No. 2

Winter 2021

# 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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## A FINAL WORD FROM OUR CEO



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

As my nine-year tenure as Chief Executive Officer of the ABPath comes to an end, I reflect on the many accomplishments, innovations, and improvements we have made. I have deep gratitude for the Trustees who provided leadership and strategic guidance, for our volunteers, without whom we could not be as good as we are, for our amazing staff who make it all work, for our diplomates, the heart and soul of ABPath, and for our residents and fellows, the future of our profession. I could list so many accomplishments, but you can find them archived in prior newsletters and the annual report. That said, there are a few things that I would like to call out that give me great pride.

These past two years presented great challenges for our diplomates and trainees, and you rose to the challenge. In doing so, you elevated the profile of our specialty. We all had to adapt and “let no good crisis go to waste”. Staff worked successfully from home, and now we have a hybrid model for the office. For us and our residents and fellows, certification exams will never again be in ABPath exam centers. Surveys show this is widely preferred by our candidates, although we will miss the interaction we had in the past. The pandemic has changed us all in ways we could never have imagined.

During my tenure, we expanded our staff, and in turn our capabilities, from ten in 2013 to currently eighteen staff members. What a fine group of professionals I have had the privilege to work with. They are always there to serve you. Continuing Certification (CC) evolved from the reviled MOC, with a dreaded 10-year exam, to a program embraced by diplomates as a valuable credential. Now, we have ABPath CertLink®, a program for diplomates’ continuous assessment and improvement. We piloted and successfully implemented remote CC exams, saving our diplomates the time and expense of traveling to our Tampa exam center. This allowed us to pivot rapidly to remote primary and subspecialty exams when COVID 19 hit, and we now use commercial exam centers. We implemented ACCME PARS to reduce the burden of diplomates’ CC reporting of CME. With the feedback from our diplomates, residents and fellows, we improved communications, transparency, customer service, and interactions. We updated our Mission, added a Vision Statement and Values, created a new logo, and adopted a new strategic plan. We kept our fees the same from 2003 until 2020 and could brag that we had the lowest CC fees of all 24 ABMS member boards. We updated and created new policies to reflect the changing times, such as our Parental, Caregiver, and Extended Medical Leave policy. We took a critical look at autopsy requirements for certification and made an evidence-based decision to decrease the number required. And, these are just a few highlights.

Looking forward, there are many challenges and work still to be done. We welcome our new CEO, Dr. Gary Procop, a friend and a visionary who will eagerly carry the mission of the ABPath forward. I leave the ABPath with a sense of accomplishment and gratitude for the support and encouragement received over the years. Thank you

Sincerely,

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

# 2022 AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is pleased to announce the ABPath Executive Committee and Trustees for 2022.



President .....Jeffrey Goldstein, MD, Los Angeles, CA  
 Vice President.....Ritu Nayar, MD, Chicago, IL  
 Secretary .....Barbara Sampson, MD, New York, New York  
 Treasurer .....Mohiedean Ghofrani, MD, Vancouver, WA  
 Immediate Past President .....Edward Ashwood, MD, Aurora, CO

Congratulations to Trustees who were re-elected to additional terms:

- Kathleen Beavis, MD, Chicago, IL to 2nd term
- Eric Glassy, MD, San Pedro, CA to 3rd term
- Jeffrey Goldstein, MD, Los Angeles, CA to 3rd term
- Ritu Nayar, MD, Chicago, IL to 3rd term

In addition to the officers, Trustees of the American Board of Pathology are:

- Kathleen Beavis, MD, Chicago, IL
- Constance Filling, EdD, Washington, DC
- Susan Fuhrman, MD, Columbus, OH
- Mark Fung, MD, PhD, Burlington, VT
- Eric Glassy, MD, San Pedro, CA
- Karen Kaul, MD, PhD, Evanston, IL
- Steven Swerdlow, MD, Pittsburgh, PA
- Matthew Wasco, MD, Ann Arbor, MI

Gary Procop, MD, MS is the Chief Executive Officer and formally begins his position on Jan. 1, 2022.

ABPath extends our sincere appreciation to our Trustees for their continued support and dedication. As leaders in the profession of pathology, their guidance and willingness to serve are critical for the Board to fulfill its mission in serving the public and promoting excellence in the field of pathology.

## MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEE



Matthew Wasco, MD

### ABPath Welcomes New Board Member Matthew Wasco, MD.

The Trustees of the American Board of Pathology (ABPath) elected Dr. Matthew Wasco to serve on the Board of Trustees with a term that began on March 19, 2021. He is serving as Co-Chairperson on ABPath’s Test Development & Advisory Committee (TDAC) for Dermatopathology and chair of the ABPath Certlink® Clinical Pathology TDAC. Dr. Wasco is certified by the American Board of Pathology in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and is participating in the Continuing Certification Program.

Dr. Wasco is an anatomic and clinical pathologist with IHA Pathology and Laboratory Management, serving St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and multiple associated facilities in Ann Arbor, MI and southeast Michigan. Since joining IHA pathology in 2009, Dr. Wasco has been a laboratory director with administrative responsibilities for multiple facilities and a section leader for various clinical laboratories. He has served on committees for the American Society for Clinical Pathology and the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology, and previously served on the ABPath’s Continuing Certification Advisory Committee.

Dr. Wasco earned a B.A. in Chemistry at Carleton College, graduated medical school at the University of Massachusetts, and completed pathology residency and fellowship training in Genitourinary Pathology at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Wasco was originally from Northern Massachusetts, just near the New Hampshire border and he spent a lot of time in the local mountains growing up. His hobbies and interests include travel (back when that was normal), family, music—especially classical and opera, sports including Boston teams and University of Michigan. The pandemic has honed his skills as a chauffeur and cook, and he has gotten more interested in classic movies.

The ABPath’s Board of Trustees is made up of 12 board-certified pathologist members and one public member. Each member is highly esteemed and accomplished in their respective fields and/or subspecialty. Trustees are elected for 3-year terms and may serve up to four terms.



*Wasco family photos starring wife Karen, sons John (12) and Michael (10).*



# TRUSTEES IN THE NEWS

## Dr. Ghofrani Named ASCP Choosing Wisely Champion

Congratulations to ABPath Trustee Mohiedean Ghofrani, MD and PeaceHealth Laboratories for being named an ASCP Choosing Wisely Champion for Reducing Unnecessary Testing and Waste in Health Care. Read the full announcement at <https://bit.ly/3FmCOES>



**Choosing Wisely**  
An initiative of the ABIM Foundation

**PeaceHealth**  
**Representative:** Mohiedean Ghofrani, MD, MBA, FASCP  
[MGhofrani@peacehealth.org](mailto:MGhofrani@peacehealth.org)  
**PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center**

Since 2017, PeaceHealth – a regional healthcare system with 10 hospital laboratories in the Pacific Northwest – has partnered with Quest Diagnostics for clinical laboratory testing, and Quest has shared its expertise to support laboratory stewardship at PeaceHealth. Laboratory leadership convened in-house experts to form a Laboratory Stewardship Committee (LSC) including executives, clinicians, laboratorians, clinical informaticists, IT specialists, and financial experts. After analysts reviewed laboratory data shared by PeaceHealth, the first LSC meeting was held in November 2019. Monthly meetings have continued on a regular basis. During this short period, the LSC has successfully ratified a charter, solicited dozens of projects, analyzed test utilization data, recommended interventions, and measured and reported effectiveness of implemented interventions.

The *Choosing Wisely* recommendations have been a valuable guide for projects. In line with recommendation #25, after system-wide education and with clinical leadership support, the LSC discontinued procalcitonin testing throughout PeaceHealth, leading to over \$2.25 million of savings to patients each year. Inspired by *Choosing Wisely* recommendation #9, the LSC removed CK-MB from PeaceHealth’s in-house test menu to guide providers towards ordering troponin I (and later, high sensitivity troponin) for the diagnosis of acute myocardial infarction. This change led to near elimination of CK-MB testing, more efficient management of patients presenting with chest pain, and gross annual patient savings of over \$1.16 million. Based on recommendation #6, the LSC champion educated PeaceHealth providers to utilize C-reactive protein instead of erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) for the diagnosis of acute inflammation, where possible, and changes were made to the electronic health record system to remove ESR from several ordersets and to add order-entry questions to help ensure ESR is only ordered for certain defined indications.

With these and many other early successes, the LSC hopes to continue promoting more rational stewardship of laboratory resources through initiatives such as utilizing electronic clinical decision support to reduce unnecessary duplicative testing, eliminate outdated tests, and adopting evidence-based testing algorithms.

\*The individuals who have an asterisk by their name were selected to present their work at the ASCP 2021 Annual Meeting Path to Better Patient Care session on October 20.




## MEET OUR STAFF



### Colette Earnest

Colette joined the ABPath staff as the Diplomate Success Specialist in March 2020.

Her central role is to assist our diplomates with ABPath CertLink (AB-PCL) and the Continuing Certification (CC) program. She was brought on board because of her extensive customer service experience; she provides excellent service and support to our diplomates.

Colette is from a military family and has traveled extensively but has been in Tampa for the last 20 years. In 2014, she received her BA from the University of South Florida in English. She and her wife, a mail carrier for the USPS, live in a town-home by the river along with their family of cats. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, reading scary books, and watching Ken Burns documentaries.



### Tyler Sandersfeld, PhD

Dr. Tyler Sandersfeld is the Psychometrician at the ABPath. Tyler joined the Board in early 2021. His role at the ABPath involves item analysis and scoring the certification exams, analytics for exam standard-setting exercises, constructing and analyzing surveys, and research.

Tyler always had a passion for educational assessments, which eventually led him to pursue his Doctorate in Educational Measurement and Statistics from the University of Iowa, earning his degree in August 2020. Before joining the ABPath, Tyler lived his entire life in Iowa and says that he had never ventured outside the Central Time Zone before moving to Tampa, FL. He says he will miss the cold Iowa winters... maybe.

Tyler wants his work to focus on ensuring that no candidate is disadvantaged when taking an exam for any reason.

In his spare time, Tyler is an avid gamer, both tabletop and video games. He hopes to design and publish his own tabletop games in the future. His cat, MoMo, is his dear companion, and can often be seen during Zoom staff meetings.

## ABPATH NEWS



### ABPath CEO, Rebecca L. Johnson, MD, Retires

#### Dr. Rebecca Johnson's Retirement – A Celebration and Reflection on the Transformative Changes at the ABPath

Rebecca L. Johnson, MD, CEO of the American Board of Pathology (ABPath) will retire at the end of this year after her nine-year tenure. Staff, friends, and colleagues gathered in Tampa recently to celebrate Dr. Johnson and the significant impact her leadership has had on board certification programs to serve the profession of pathology.

Dr. Johnson began her time with the ABPath as a member of the Clinical Pathology Test Development and Advisory Committee. She went on to serve the Board for the next 11 years as a Trustee, Treasurer, and President. In 2013, she was appointed as CEO of the ABPath and through her leadership and insight markedly improved the certification and continuing certification programs for practicing pathologists. Through her work engaging with diplomates and residents, she has given them a voice in the evolution of the certification programs and changed the face of the Board.

Dr. Johnson received her medical degree from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, was elected to the AOA honor society, and was named their 2010 Alumna of the Year. She completed residency training at Hartford Hospital, CT and hematology fellowship training at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD. She is certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, Hematology, and Immunopathology and is participating in the Continuing Certification program.

Prior to her position with the ABPath, Dr. Johnson was Chair of Pathology and Clinical Laboratories and Pathology Residency Program Director at Berkshire Health Systems, in Pittsfield, MA from 1992-2012. She is a past member and chair of the ACGME Pathology Residency Review Committee.



*Dr. Johnson, Dr. Procop, and the ABPath Staff*



She has been a delegate to the AMA for over twenty years and Past Chair of the Pathology Section Council. She serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Board of Medical Specialties and on their Board of Directors and Executive Committee. She is an active member of many medical and pathology organizations, including AMA, ASCP, CAP, USCAP, APC/PRODS, FL Med Assoc, and FSP.

Dr. Johnson led the staff with her positive outlook, compassion, and generosity and her dedication to the ABPath mission was steadfast in all she accomplished.

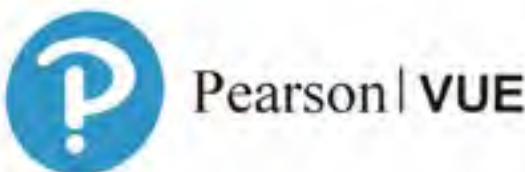
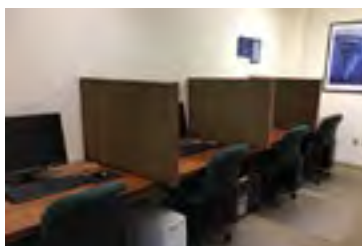
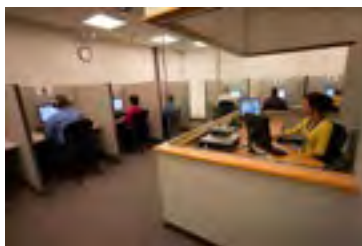
The Trustees and the staff of the ABPath greatly appreciate all Dr. Johnson has done for the ABPath and wish her all the best for her next ventures. She will be greatly missed.

## ABPath to Administer All Future Primary and Subspecialty Exams at Commercial Testing Centers

In August 2021, the American Board of Pathology announced that all future Primary and Subspecialty certification exams will be administered exclusively at Pearson VUE testing centers. The ABPath Tampa exam center will no longer be used for exams.

In 2020, due to COVID-19, ABPath temporarily administered exams remotely so that candidates could take exams in a safe environment and avoid traveling to Tampa, FL or Tucson, AZ during the pandemic. In late 2020, the ABPath decided that all 2021 exams would be administered at Pearson VUE Professional Test Centers for a pilot year. Following successful exam administrations, ABPath conducted surveys of candidates and results indicated they would overwhelmingly prefer to take the exams in commercial testing centers.

After careful consideration, including the increased costs of administering exams at commercial testing centers, the Trustees of the ABPath decided to administer all future Primary and Subspecialty certification exams in commercial testing centers. Using testing centers, such as Pearson VUE, will ensure all candidates have an equitable testing environment while maintaining the security and integrity of the high-stakes exams.





## Changes to the ABPath Continuing Certification Program in 2022

The ABPath will be implementing important changes to the Continuing Certification (CC) Program beginning January 2022. The changes reflect the ABPath's commitment to the continuous professional development of board-certified pathologists with a flexible program to meet the needs of today's busy physicians.

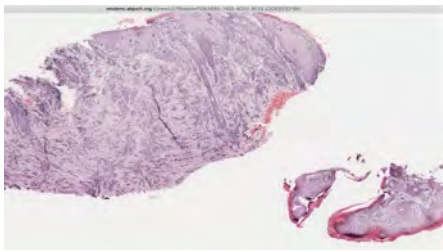
**The CC Program has two main requirements for maintaining certification: quarterly participation in ABPath CertLink® and submission of biennial reporting forms.**

The following changes will be effective beginning January 2022:

- All diplomates enrolled in the CC Program must participate in ABPath CertLink (ABPCL). This will be the only option for meeting the CC Assessment requirement for maintaining certification. ABPCL is the online longitudinal assessment to facilitate learning and identify knowledge gaps that was previously a pilot program.
- ABPath will no longer administer a 10-year Continuing Certification exam.
- The expected performance standard for ABPCL will be 60% correct or greater, cumulative over four years.
- Two quality assurance/improvement activities are required during a two-year reporting period instead of one per year.
- The annual \$150 CC Program fee will be due by December 31st of each year.

The goal of the ABPath's Continuing Certification (CC) Program is to support our diplomates in keeping their skills and knowledge up-to-date and identifying knowledge gaps for improvement. CC is a credential that demonstrates a diplomate's commitment to professionalism, lifelong learning, and improving health and healthcare. The CC Program aligns with our mission to promote the lifelong competency of pathologists. While the CC Program is not required for non-time-limited diplomates, they are welcome and encouraged to participate.





## ABPath Virtual Microscopy Practice Website

A new website hosting practice Virtual Microscopy questions was created so that candidates can familiarize themselves with the Virtual Microscopy (VM) technology used on ABPath exams. The VM technology is used for viewing microscopic images to answer exam questions. Microscopes and glass slides are no longer used in certification exams.

The website contains 5 sample VM questions, similar to what candidates will find on ABPath exams. Candidates can spend as much time there as they like to familiarize themselves with the functionality.

Candidates can visit the site at <https://vmdemo.abpath.org/>

## ABPath Annual Report 2020

In June 2021, the 2020 Annual Report of the ABPath was released. The issue focuses on 2020 as a year of adapting in response to the global pandemic and includes a comprehensive report on the Board's accomplishments and financial information for the year. The full report can be viewed at <https://shrtm.nu/gPic>.



## Election for CAP Board of Governors

Congratulations to our ABPath diplomates who were elected to the College of American Pathologists (CAP) 2021-2024 Board of Governors! The Board of Governors is responsible for ensuring that CAP activities are focused on achieving its mission, strategic plan, and organizational priorities.

**GOVERNORS 2021-2024**

			
<b>Rebecca L. Johnson, MD, FCAP</b> Tampa, Florida	<b>Guillermo G. Martinez-Torres, MD, FCAP</b> Fort Lauderdale, Florida	<b>Richard M. Scanlan, MD, FCAP</b> Portland, Oregon	<b>C. Leilani Valdes, MD, FCAP</b> Victoria, Texas



# Dr. Procop Named to The Pathologist's Power List for 2021

Congratulations to our incoming ABPath CEO Dr. Gary Procop and ABPath Test Development and Advisory Committee (TDAC) member Dr. Nicole Riddle for being named to The Pathologist 's Power List for 2021. The Power List is an annual celebration of the great and inspirational minds that strengthen and support the medical laboratory. Congratulations to all on the list! <https://bit.ly/3j1L6I9>

**The Pathologist's Power List 2021**

Welcome to our annual celebration of the great and inspirational minds that underpin the medical laboratory

**Leading Roles**

**Front(line) and Center**

**Showerstoppers**

**In the Wings**

**Behind the Scenes**

**By the Spotlight**

**Front(line) and Center**

**POWER LIST**

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS



ABPath staff and Trustees authored or contributed to the following publications in 2021. You can see a complete list of the publications from recent years at <https://shrtm.nu/8AEj>

**Harmonization of Training, Training Program Requirements, Board Certification, and the Practice of Cytopathology: Data from the American Board of Pathology Surveys.** *Journal of the American Society of Cytopathology*, September 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jasc.2021.06.002>

**The Value and Institutional Impact of an In-System Laboratory Testing During the COVID-19 Pandemic.** *Academic Pathology*: Volume 8, April 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23742895211010253>

**Women in Academic Pathology: Pathways to Department Chair.** *Academic Pathology*: Volume 8, April 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23742895211010322>

**Evidence-Based Alignment of Pathology Residency With Practice II: Findings and Implications.** *Academic Pathology*: Volume 8, April 2021. <https://shrtm.nu/aHxy>

**A History of Board Certification in Pediatric Pathology on Its 30th Anniversary.** *Pediatric and Developmental Pathology*, January 2021. <https://shrtm.nu/A400>

**The American Board of Pathology's 2020 Continuing Certification Program.** *Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine*, January 2021. <https://shrtm.nu/sCe0>



# COOPERATING SOCIETIES

## LIST OF SOCIETIES

- Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists
- American Medical Association Pathology Section Council
- American Society for Clinical Pathology
- American Society for Investigative Pathology
- American Society of Cytopathology
- Association for Molecular Pathology
- Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology
- Association of Pathology Chairs
- College of American Pathologists
- National Association of Medical Examiners
- Society for Hematopathology
- Society for Pediatric Pathology
- United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology

## Our Cooperating Societies

ABPath has 13 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 like to thank the APC/PRODS, ASCP, CAP, and USCAP for their support of ABPath exhibit booths at their annual meetings.





## OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the many ABPath volunteers who contribute their time and expertise in support of our mission and who promote excellence in the practice of pathology. View a list of all current ABPath committee members here: <https://shrtm.nu/dJXK>



### 2021 Test Development and Advisory Committees (TDACs)

Thank you to our dedicated TDAC volunteers! The TDACs are responsible for developing and reviewing the ABPath certification exam questions that assess a physician's knowledge, judgment, and skills in order to provide high-quality care to patients. Each committee is made up of recognized subject matter experts who are leaders in their field. They spend many hours throughout the year in service to our profession and certification programs.



### Continuing Certification (CC) Advisory Committee

The Continuing Certification (CC) Advisory Committee is made up of 13 volunteer diplomates with diverse backgrounds, specialties, and experience and is chaired by an ABPath Trustee, currently Dr. Eric Glassy. It is responsible for advising the ABPath Board of Trustees for continuous evaluation and improvement of Continuing Certification from a diplomate's perspective. Each member serves three years on the Committee. We have made great strides in developing the CC Program to fit the needs of busy pathologists and the CC Advisory Committee has been an integral part of that evolution.



### Resident and Fellow Advisory Committee

The ABPath Resident and Fellow Advisory Committee is made up of 11 Pathology Residents and Fellows with the purpose of providing feedback and suggestions for improvement to ABPath about the board certification process and ways to best support pathology residents and fellows in the certification journey. Look for more information in 2022 as we bring on new committee members.

## BOARD ACTIONS

### Michael A. Jones, M.D. and James R. Stubbs, M.D. Honored as Life Trustees



The ABPath was very pleased to honor Michael A. Jones, M.D. and James R. Stubbs, M.D. as Life Trustees for their many contributions to the Board. They were awarded the Life Trustee plaques by Dr. Edward Ashwood, President, at the Summer Board of Trustees meeting in August.

Dr. Jones was a Trustee of the ABPath from 2013-2020 and served as Vice President in 2020 and Treasurer in 2018-2019.

Dr. Jones is the former Chief of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Maine Medical Center 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. 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.

His responsibilities at the ABPath included Chairperson, Test Development and Advisory Committee for Anatomic Pathology and Neuropathology, and Chairperson, Maintenance of Certification Committee, Finance and Audit Committee, Investment Task Force, and Strategic Planning Committee.

**Michael A. Jones, M.D.**



*Dr. Jones arrives at his Life Trustee dinner, addresses the Trustees and guests, and speaks with Dr. & Mrs. Stubbs*



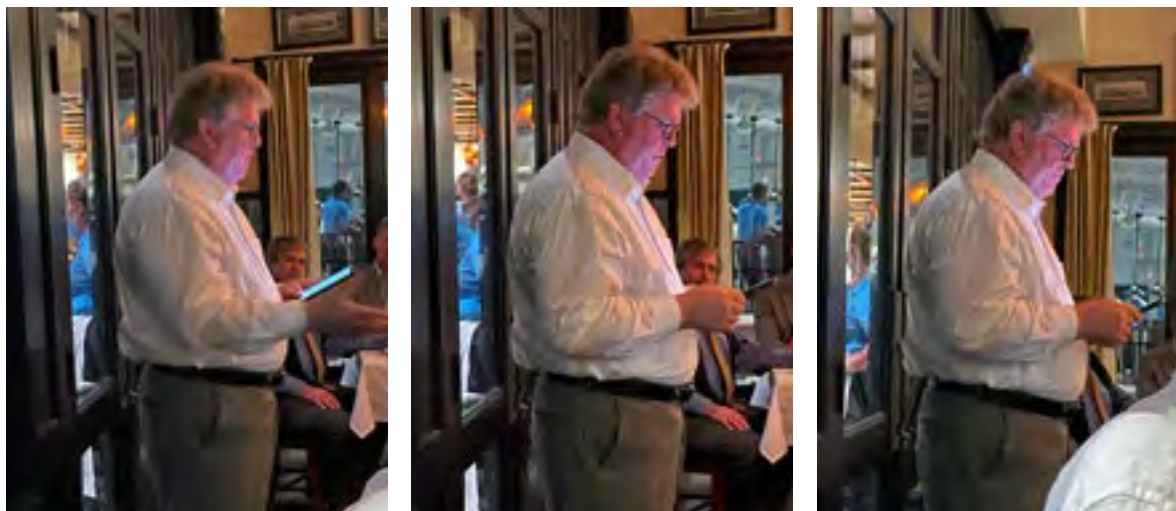


**James R. Stubbs, M.D.**

Dr. Stubbs was a Trustee of the ABPath from 2009-2020 and served as President in 2017, Vice President in 2016 and Treasurer in 2014-2015. Dr. Stubbs is a Consultant in the Division of Transfusion Medicine at Mayo Clinic Rochester (MCR) and has been Chairman of the Division of Transfusion Medicine at MCR since 2005. He also serves as the Medical Director of the Transfusion Laboratory and the Operational Support Unit within the Division of Transfusion Medicine. He is the Medical Director of the Laboratory Compliance and FDA-Regulated Manufacturing Activities Offices for the Mayo Clinic Enterprise and is the Physician Liaison for the Mayo Clinic Infusion Therapy Center at MCR.

Dr. Stubbs earned his medical degree from University of Minnesota School of Medicine, completed his residency in Clinical Pathology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, and received his fellowship training in Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine at the University of Minnesota Hospitals and Clinics. Dr. Stubbs is board certified in Clinical Pathology and Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine and is participating in the Continuing Certification Program.

His responsibilities at the ABPath included Chairperson for the ABPath’s Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine Test Development & Advisory Committee, Finance Committee, Investment Task Force, Communications Task Force. He was also the Chairperson for the ACGME Review Committee.



*Dr. Stubbs addresses Trustees and guests at his Life Trustee dinner*

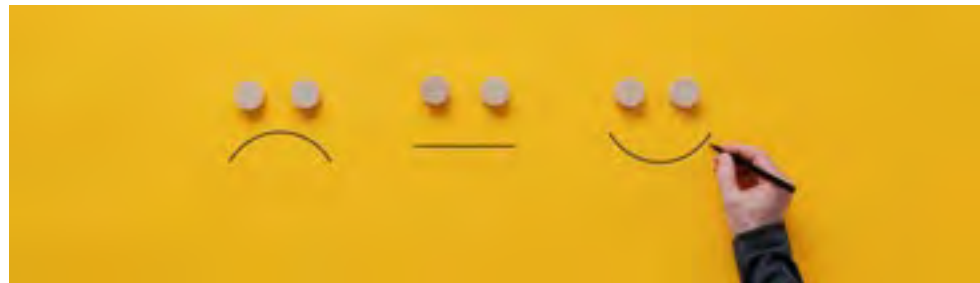
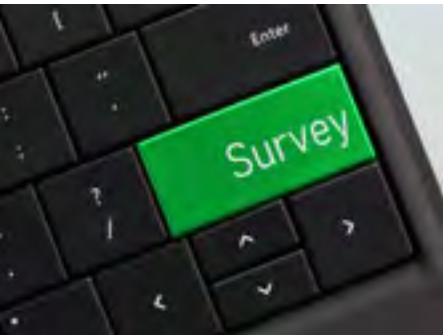


## Continuing Certification Program Survey Preliminary Results

In 2015, the ABPath surveyed diplomates who were enrolled in the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program to gather information about their opinions and perceptions of the program. This year we revised and re-administered the survey in an effort to gather current information about the Continuing Certification (CC) Program and compare the results to those from the original survey.

We were pleased to see that diplomates' opinions about the CC program and exam have greatly improved from 2015 to 2021. The usefulness of the CC exam in maintaining quality of practice increased more than any other aspect of the CC program surveyed. In 2022, the 10-year CC exam has formally been replaced with ABPath CertLink (ABPCL), an online longitudinal assessment platform, and we are currently following diplomates' feedback about the helpfulness, appropriateness, and satisfaction with ABPCL. These surveys are currently being done annually in conjunction with ABMS.

Detailed results and comparisons from the 2015 and 2021 Continuing Certification Program surveys will be shared in future journal publications.



## Updates to Profile Information in PATHway

Beginning in 2022, ABPath will be collecting and updating profile information when users log into PATHway, the online portal for pathology residents and diplomates.

The ABPath and ABMS member boards are gathering demographic data to better understand the diversity of our diplomates. All personally identifiable information is kept private and confidential. We may analyze de-identified aggregate data to inform and improve our programs and to anticipate trends and diversity in the pathology workforce.

## ABPath Statement about Certified Pathologists Promulgating Medical Disinformation

In September, the ABPath made the following statement about pathologists and the spreading of medical disinformation.

As physicians and board-certified pathologists, we have a public trust, a social contract with society. We must be accountable to patients, society, and the profession. Professionalism requires that we adhere to high standards, maintain competence, act with integrity, and provide expert advice to patients and society on matters of health. Intentional spread of health misinformation (including disinformation about COVID-19, vaccines, and treatment), ignoring or subverting science, and making unscientific claims undermine the public trust and jeopardize patient health.

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is committed to the application of evidence-based scientific knowledge and technology, to upholding scientific standards, to promoting research, and to creating new knowledge and ensuring its appropriate use.

We agree with the statement by the Federation of State Medical Boards that physicians “have an ethical and professional responsibility to practice medicine in the best interests of their patients and must share information that is factual, scientifically grounded and consensus-driven for the betterment of public health. Spreading inaccurate COVID-19 vaccine information contradicts that responsibility, threatens to erode public trust in the medical profession, and puts all patients at risk.”

Patients must be able to trust physicians with their lives and health. The ABPath has adopted the AMA and AOA Code of Ethics as standards of conduct that define the essentials of ethical behavior for physicians.

You can find the full disinformation announcement on this web page: <https://shrtm.nu/cMz4>

# FOLLOW THE SCIENCE



# CONTINUING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



## ABPath CertLink® Updated Platform

In July 2021, ABPath unveiled the newest version of ABPath CertLink (ABPCL) for the start of quarter 3 to provide an enhanced user experience. Improvements include a new login page, improved functionality for the assessment design, an updated dashboard and new features for answering questions.

A short video was created to familiarize participants with the updates made to the platform in the recent upgrade. The video and a description of the improvements can be found at: <https://shrtm.nu/nac5>



## New in 2022!

Beginning with quarter 1 of 2022, both participation and performance of diplomates will be measured in ABPCL.

- The expected performance standard for ABPCL will be 60% correct or greater, cumulative over four years.
- The participation requirement remains the same which is defined as attempting all questions assigned for each quarter. Between 15 and 25 questions are assigned per quarter.



## Important!

***When participants log in for quarter 1 of 2022, all past participation and performance data will be wiped clean from your dashboard. Rest assured, all past participation has been recorded and will be counted toward the required participation, but will not be used to assess performance***

For questions regarding ABPCL, email [abpath@mycertlink.org](mailto:abpath@mycertlink.org).

## See What Pathologists are Saying about CertLink!

In this article, written by Dr. Katie O'Reilly, she shares how ABPath CertLink (ABPCL) helps her evaluate her knowledge and stay current as a practicing pathologist.

*"Assessing my knowledge using this platform has improved the patient care and expertise I provide as a practicing pathologist."*

View the full article here: <https://shrtm.nu/YE23>





## CC Program Reminders:

### CME for ABPCL Participation

If you are participating in ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL), you can claim up to 5 CME credits for successful participation. The credits may be claimed from February to December during the year following your participation through the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) in collaboration with the American Board of Pathology (ABPath). You do not have to be a member of ASCP to claim these credits.

**Reporting forms** are due on Dec 31, 2021 for diplomates certified in odd-numbered years. For example, diplomates certified in 2019, 2017, 2015 etc. have reporting forms due this year.

**Reminder:** Diplomates must participate in ABPCL and complete biennial reporting forms to meet the requirements of the CC Program.

## Retired Status for Board-Certified Pathologists

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) offers an exclusive status for retired, formerly board-certified pathologists. Current ABPath policy requires that diplomates must maintain a medical license and participate in Continuing Certification (if required) in order to remain board certified. The status of "Retired" will allow those former diplomates to remain certified. Certification with an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) member board is a significant achievement. ABPath can now continue to recognize physicians as board-certified diplomates even after they have stopped practicing medicine, no longer maintain their medical license, and no longer participate in Continuing Certification.

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 or to apply, visit the ABPath website at

<https://www.abpath.org/index.php/verifying-certification/retired-status>

For questions or assistance on changing diplomate status, please email [john@abpath.org](mailto:john@abpath.org).

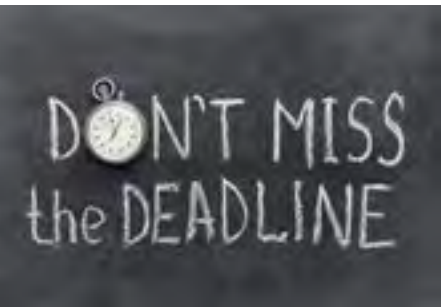


## Accepting Nominations for New CC Advisory Committee Members

The Continuing Certification Advisory Committee is seeking new members. If you are interested in serving, please provide a nomination letter and CV to Dr. Eric Glassy, Chair of the Committee, at [efglassy@affiliatedpath.com](mailto:efglassy@affiliatedpath.com).



## PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS



### Upcoming Important Dates and Reminders

The Spring Primary exam application/registration deadline is January 15, 2022. The late deadline is February 1, 2021. Non-refundable late fees will apply.

All examination dates, deadlines and fees can be found at this web page: <https://shrtm.nu/Sbra>



### ABPath Booklet of Information

The updated Booklet of Information should be reviewed by program directors, program coordinators and residents at least annually to ensure that certification requirements are met and ABPath policies and procedures are followed. [https://www.abpath.org/images/booklets/ABP\\_BOI.pdf](https://www.abpath.org/images/booklets/ABP_BOI.pdf)



### 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 Exams, and Continuing Certification. Please contact Ty McCarthy, COO, at [coo@abpath.org](mailto:coo@abpath.org) if you would like to schedule a speaking engagement.



### Resident Training During COVID-19

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) closely monitors the status of the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19) and provides updates on the ABPath website. For information on the COVID-19 Training Policy of the American Board of Pathology see <https://shrtm.nu/qm vb>.

## ABMS NEWS



### American Board of Medical Specialties Announces New Standards for Continuing Certification

Newly approved Standards for Continuing Certification serve as a framework for Member Boards' programs, represent foundational changes that bring increased value to both Diplomates and the Public

On November 1, 2021, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Board of Directors (BOD) announced new Standards for Continuing Certification (Standards). The new Standards represent the culmination of three years of consultation with physicians, professional and state medical societies, consumers, and other public stakeholders from across the health care spectrum to re-conceive the way specialty physician recertification is conducted. The Standards were developed following recommendations from the Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission which met throughout 2018 to provide strategic guidance to the ABMS BOD and Member Boards.

<https://shrtm.nu/MPwG>

Dr. Rebecca Johnson, ABPath CEO, presented along with the following esteemed presenters at the ABMS annual meeting "Piloting Competency-based, Time-variable GME in the US." The ABMS annual meeting was held virtually in 2021 with informative programs and great attendance.



## EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE



The following tables demonstrate Primary and Subspecialty exam performance statistics with a 5 year comparison, as appropriate. ABPath examinations are graded using the criterion-referenced method. See the ABPath Website for examination information.

### Primary Certification Examinations

#### 2021 Primary Examination

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass
AP	798	77%	639	554	87%	159	64	40%
CP	651	91%	579	551	95%	72	43	60%

#### 5-Year Certified Report

Primary	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
APCP	498	485	451	397	533
AP only	72	78	58	73	105
CP only	50	43	40	25	53
APNP	14	11	10	8	17

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

Primary	2017 % Pass	2018 % Pass	2019 % Pass	2020 % Pass	2021 % Pass
AP only	90	89	82*	85	82
CP only	94	92	85*	88	94

\*New criterion standard applied



## Subspecialty Certification Examinations

### 2021 Subspecialty Examinations

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass
BB/TM	48	81	45	38	84	3	1	33
CH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CI								
CYP	124	86	117	103	88	7	4	57
DP	45	87	43	38	88	2	1	50
FP	38	95	33	31	94	5	5	100
HEM	112	94	108	103	95	4	2	50
MMB	18	100	17	17	100	1	1	100
MGP	52	94	52	49	94	-	-	-
NP	31	90	31	28	90	-	-	-
PP	22	91	21	20	95	1	0	0
FPclinMB*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*FPclinMB = Focus Practice Designation-Clinical Microbiology

### 5-Year Certified Report

Subspecialty	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
BB/TM	49	49	47	39	39
CH	1	2	1	2	-
CI	16	16	18	17	
CYP	141	142	137	104	109
DP	43	52	45	34	41
FP	41	49	38	47	38
HEM	125	140	119	116	108
MMB	9	12	14	6	17
MGP	45	59	59	48	49
NP	17	15	12	17	11
PP	16	20	23	16	20
FPclinMB*	-	-	-	1	-

\*FPclinMB = Focus Practice Designation-Clinical Microbiology

## 2021 Subspecialty Examinations Pass Rates

Subspecialty	2017 % Pass	2018 % Pass	2019 % Pass	2020 % Pass	2021 % Pass
BB/TM	89	89	96	89*	81
CH	100	100	100	100	-
CI	73	94	78	89	
CYP	98	98	96	86*	86
DP	90	90*	98	95	87
FP	91	94	93	89*	95
HEM	98	98	97	94*	94
MMB	90*	100	100	100	100
MGP	92	98	98	98*	94
NP	94	100*	96	100	90
PP	84	81*	96	89	91
FPclinMB**	-	-	-	100	-

\*New criterion standard applied

\*\*FPclinMB = Focus Practice Designation-Clinical Microbiology



## Continuing Certification Examinations

### Continuing Certification Examination

CC EXAMS	Total Candidates	% Pass
Fall 2021	22	100
Spring 2021	25	96
Fall 2020	126	96.8
Spring 2020	283	98.6
Fall 2019	238	96
Spring 2019	362	97.8
Fall 2018	371	96.2
Spring 2018	340	97.1
Fall 2017	333	95.8
Spring 2017	264	97.7

*2020 is the last year the CC exam is required to meet the assessment requirement.*

### Continuing Certification Participation Statistics

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Certificates Enrolled	1132	1175	1054	933	1140
Certificates Lapsed/ Revoked	75	88	88	64	60
Diplomates Enrolled	650	638	583	519	731
Diplomates Lapsed/ Revoked	64	71	63	52	49



## Examination Dates for 2022

Exams	2022 Dates
<b>Anatomic / Clinical Pathology</b>	
<b>Spring (Pearson VUE)</b>	<b>Starts May 16</b>
<b>Fall (Pearson VUE)</b>	<b>Starts October 11</b>
<b>Subspecialty</b>	
<b>Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine</b>	<b>Starts September 12</b>
<b>Chemical Pathology</b>	<b>Starts September 12</b>
<b>Cytopathology</b>	<b>Starts September 12</b>
<b>Dermatopathology</b>	<b>Starts September 12</b>
<b>Hematopathology</b>	<b>Starts September 12</b>
<b>Forensic Pathology</b>	<b>Starts September 12</b>
<b>Medical Microbiology</b>	<b>Starts September 12</b>
<b>Molecular Genetic Pathology</b>	<b>Starts September 12</b>
<b>Neuropathology</b>	<b>Starts September 12</b>
<b>Pediatric Pathology</b>	<b>Starts September 12</b>
<b>Clinical Informatics (Prometric)</b>	<b>October</b>

## FEEDBACK 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 Chief Operating Officer Ty McCarthy [coo@abpath.org](mailto:coo@abpath.org)

## CONTACT ABPATH

**Main office:**

One Urban Centre, Suite 690  
4830 West Kennedy Boulevard  
Tampa, Florida 33609  
Telephone: (813) 286-2444  
Fax: (813) 289-5279  
<https://www.abpath.org>

**Questions may be addressed to:**

[questions@abpath.org](mailto:questions@abpath.org)

**Ty McCarthy**

Chief Operating Officer  
[coo@abpath.org](mailto:coo@abpath.org)

**Gary Procop, M.D.**

Chief Executive Officer

### Diplomates:

**For important alerts, update your contact information in PATHway.**

**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 important news and information from ABPath. Visit [abpath.org](http://abpath.org) and follow us on social media.*

