



Volume 44 No. 1

Spring 2022

# 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.*

are

you

ready

for

exams?

## Focus on Exams

### In This Issue

Word from the New CEO  
Trustees in the News  
Meet Our ABPath Staff  
ABPath News  
Before, During & After the Exam  
CC Program Updates in 2022  
ABMS News  
Exam Performance

*Follow Us on Social Media*

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

## IN THIS ISSUE

A WORD FROM OUR CEO .....	3
2022 AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES .....	4
TRUSTEES IN THE NEWS .....	5
MEET OUR STAFF .....	6
ABPATH NEWS.....	8
Three-Year Extension of the Practice Pathway for Certification in Clinical Informatics.....	8
Updating Profile Information in PATHway .....	8
Improvement in Health and Healthcare (IHHC) Credit .....	9
FOCUS ON EXAMS.....	10
Before the exam.....	10
Day of Exam.....	14
After the Exam .....	15
PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS .....	16
PATHway Login .....	16
Program Performance Reports .....	16
ABPath Booklet of Information .....	16
ABPath Ambassador Program/Speakers Bureau .....	16
CONTINUING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (CC) .....	17
New Diplomates.....	17
CC Program Updates in 2022.....	17
Coming Soon in PATHway! .....	18
CME for ABPCL Participation .....	18
THANK YOU TO COOPERATING SOCIETIES .....	19
OUR VOLUNTEERS .....	20
2021 Test Development and Advisory Committees (TDACs) .....	20
Continuing Certification (CC) Advisory Committee .....	20
Resident and Fellow Advisory Committee.....	20
ABPath CertLink® Item Writers .....	21
The Pathologist Educator.....	21
ABMS NEWS.....	22
ABMS Releases 2020-2021 Board Certification Report .....	22
EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE .....	23
EXAMINATION DATES FOR 2022 .....	27
FEEDBACK WELCOME .....	27
CONTACT ABPATH .....	28



**Gary Procop, MD, MS**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## A WORD FROM OUR CEO

Greetings Diplomates and Colleagues,

The new year at the American Board of Pathology has brought many changes, including a new CEO. It is with great pleasure that I take the helm of this amazing organization. Foremost, I would like to thank our former CEO, Dr. Rebecca Johnson, for her many years of service, countless incredible accomplishments, and leaving the Board in excellent condition. I appreciate all the Trustees, who represent the breadth of our amazing profession, and thank them for giving me this opportunity. The Board office Staff, who I am coming to know well, are consummate professionals; they keep this operation running smoothly through challenges that have ranged from hurricanes to a global pandemic. I am so pleased that both Trustees and members of the Staff are featured in this newsletter so that diplomates and candidates can get to know them. They are the heart and soul of this operation.

The migration of testing (initiated by the COVID-19 pandemic) to commercial testing centers is another substantial change for which the Board has received near unanimous accolades from our candidates. This change affords candidates the opportunity to take their certification exams closer to their home, which decreases burden and travel-associated costs. As challenges arise in this process, the ABPath team works tirelessly behind the scenes to optimize this experience.

The complete replacement of the ten-year high-stakes Continuing Certification exam with a Continuing Certification process that is largely formative has been another advance that has received accolades. The implementation of a user-friendly, longitudinal assessment program that is designed to be formative and is tailored to the participant's practice represents nearly a decade of effort from the Board and the Continuous Certification Committee. We will continue to seek feedback from participants and work to refine and improve this offering for the participants.

Much has already been done to assure that our certification examinations assess content that is important and relevant to practice. The days of assessing minutia are long gone. I am extremely proud that the Board consistently produces current, relevant, valid, and psychometrically sound certification examinations. The amount of work that goes into producing these, from gathering content experts to writing exam questions to the construction and administration of the examination, is substantial. So what does the future hold?

The Board of Trustees, in 2021, has approved the development of more refined content specifications for the primary and subspecialty certification examinations, which will be developed in conjunction with the broader pathology community and made transparent to candidates and program directors. Trainees should not have to guess what knowledge, judgment, and skills are necessary to become a competent practicing pathologist or subspecialist. We (the large community "we") should define that content, update it regularly, and construct assessments that measure this content. This is a path forward, but it is just a beginning...

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

# 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, PhD, New York, NY  
 Treasurer .....Mohiedean Ghofrani, MD, MBA, 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 began 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.



## TRUSTEES IN THE NEWS

ABPath Trustee Barbara Sampson, MD, PhD, has joined the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai as Vice Chair of Pathology for Laboratory Strategic Initiatives and Academic Affairs, and Professor of Pathology, Molecular, and Cell-Based Medicine after an impressive tenure as New York City's Chief Medical Examiner.

Dr. Sampson was the first woman appointed Chief Medical Examiner of New York City and served at the Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) for more than 20 years in various leadership roles, from the 2001 World Trade Center disaster through the onset of the pandemic and the city's ongoing recovery. Dr. Sampson is currently serving as Secretary for the AB-Path and has been a Trustee of the ABPath since 2017. Her current responsibilities include Chairperson, Test Development and Advisory Committee for Forensic Pathology; Chairperson, Ethics and Professionalism Committee; and Chairperson, Nominating Committee



## MEET OUR STAFF



### Renee Holder

#### Subspecialty Certification Coordinator

We are pleased to introduce you to Renee Holder, ABPath's Subspecialty Certification Coordinator. Renee is responsible for processing all Subspecialty exam applications and coordinating activities related to each of the 11 Subspecialty exams administered or supported by ABPath.

Renee joined the Board in 1997 and was originally hired as an assistant and moved to processing Voluntary Recertification applications before becoming the Subspecialty Certification Coordinator. In her role, Renee is also responsible for researching and managing information for the Ethics and Professionalism Committee and processing verification letters.

Renee says she had the privilege of meeting and working with past ABPath CEOs Dr. William Hartmann, Dr. Betsy Bennett, and Dr. Rebecca Johnson. They were all very generous with their time and knowledge and have had a positive impact on her. She now looks forward to seeing the growth of the Board with CEO Dr. Gary Procop.

*"I can honestly say that it has been a joy to work at the ABPath. The office staff is extended family and not just friendly coworkers. I'm extremely thankful to the Trustees who take an interest in the staff as individuals."*

Renee prides herself in helping fellows and diplomates navigate through the subspecialty certification process. She tells them that she can't help with the examination, but she can make the process of getting there as stress-free as possible. You may have had the chance to meet Renee at some of the Cooperating Society meetings.

Before coming to ABPath, Renee worked at Moffitt Cancer Center and the University of South Florida/ Tampa General Urology department.

Renee and her husband Alvin have been together for over 40 years. They met while attending college in Nebraska and moved to Tampa in 1982. They enjoy spending time together playing pickleball, spoiling their two grandsons and going to college football games. They have two grown daughters, LaShondra and Courtney. Renee is very proud of them and the lives that they lead and the amazing individuals they have become.



## Geris Wills

### ABPath Accountant

We would also like to introduce Geri Wills, ABPath's Accountant. Geri joined the ABPath staff as an Accountant in October of 2005. She is responsible for the overall accounting matters for the ABPath including accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and all bookkeeping entries for the financial statements and budget. Geri also keeps the office running in top shape by maintaining supplies and office equipment.

Geris was born and raised in Conneaut, Ohio, and graduated from Conneaut High school in 1987. She attended Edinboro University where she worked to put herself through school to earn a B.A. in Accounting in 1995.

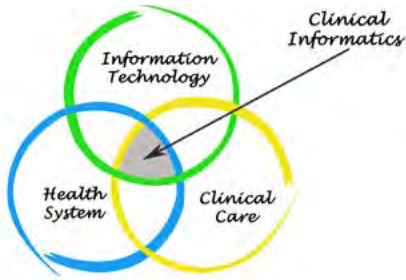
Geris moved to Tampa, Florida in 1997 and after getting settled in, she met her husband Ken and his daughter, Nichole. In November 1999, they welcomed their first child, Nathan, and a few years later they welcomed their second child Allison in April 2003.

Over the years Geris has had a very happy career working at ABPath where she says she has had the opportunity to work with wonderful people.

*"Much has changed over the years, technology, procedures, and operations. It has offered some challenges but it has been a positive experience to learn and succeed alongside my co-workers."*

During her free time, she enjoys sewing, general crafting and spending time with family. She also enjoys spending time outdoors walking her dog. The warm climate and sunshine are what attracted Geris to move to Florida.

# ABPATH NEWS



## American Board of Pathology Announces a Three-Year Extension of the Practice Pathway for Certification in Clinical Informatics

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is pleased to announce the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) recently approved the ABPath’s request to extend the time-limited Practice Pathway for the Clinical Informatics subspecialty. The extension is for three years through the 2025 exam cycle.

The Clinical Informatics certification exam is a joint and equal function of the ABPath and the American Board of Preventative Medicine. The Practice Pathway allows physicians with substantial experience in the practice of Clinical Informatics, but who have not completed an ACGME-accredited fellowship in Clinical Informatics, the opportunity to apply for the Clinical Informatics certification exam.

For more information on the Extension of the Practice Pathway in Clinical Informatics, click this [link](#).



## Updating Profile Information in PATHway

ABPath is collecting and updating profile information when users log into PATHway, the online portal for pathology residents and diplomates. When users log into PATHway they will be prompted to update their profile and confirm their contact information and privacy selection.

The ABPath and ABMS member boards are gathering demographic data to better understand the diversity of our diplomates. All personally identifiable information will be kept private and confidential, and the option to not respond is available. We may analyze de-identified aggregate data to understand the diversity of the pathology workforce and to inform and improve our programs.



## Improvement in Health and Healthcare (IHHC) Credit

Volunteer Item Writers can now receive credit for Improvement in Health and Healthcare activity.

The ABPath Board of Trustees recently approved the option to receive credit for Improvement in Health and Healthcare activity to Volunteer Item Writers for ABPath CertLink, the online longitudinal assessment program for Continuing Certification. Volunteers who submit 36 or more questions in a calendar year can receive credit for one required activity. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer item writer for ABPath CertLink, contact [kasey@abpath.org](mailto:kasey@abpath.org) to learn more.



## FOCUS ON EXAMS

Are you ready  
for exams?



### Before the Exam

#### Reminders

- Your first and last name in PATHway must match your first and last name on the two forms of ID you will show to enter the exam on your scheduled day. If they do not match, notify ABPath as soon as possible.
- Be sure your primary email address in PATHway is current. This is where you will receive important exam information from ABPath and Pearson VUE

#### Important Dates

Important dates and deadlines for Primary and Subspecialty exams can be found here on the ABPath website [HERE](#).



### Accommodation Requests

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

### Cancellation Policy for Primary and Subspecialty Exams

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

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

### Helpful Exam Resources

- **Blueprints and Exam Descriptions**

The ABPath provides examination descriptions and blueprints for each Primary and Subspecialty exam. The blueprints give categories of topics covered in the examinations with the approximate percentage of questions for each topic. The links below will take you to the exam blueprints for 2022. Be sure to check them out if you are preparing for an upcoming exam!

[Primary Exam Blueprints and Exam Descriptions link](#)

[Subspecialty Exam Blueprints and Exam Descriptions link](#)

*This is an example of a Primary Certification exam blueprint.*

Anatomic Pathology Exam Blueprint	Approximate %	
	Written/Practical	Virtual Microscopy
AP Management & General Pathology Principles	2	0
Breast	7	10
Male Genital	4	8
Cardiovascular	2	1
Lymph Nodes and Spleen	4	6
Bone Marrow	4	3
Head and Neck	4	8
Alimentary Canal, Pancreas, Liver, Extrahepatic Biliary Tree, Gall Bladder	10	13
Endocrine	5	6
Female Genital, Placenta, Peritoneum	8	8
Urinary/Renal	7	6
Respiratory, Pleura, Mediastinum	6	8
Central and Peripheral Nervous System	3	6
Soft Tissue and Bone	5	6
Skin	6	8
Molecular	1	0
Forensic	2	0
Cytopathology	18	3
Laboratory Management-General	2	0
<b>Total Percentage</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total Number of Questions in Each Section</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Total Hours Allotted for Each Section</b>	<b>3 Hrs 35 Mins</b>	<b>4 Hrs</b>

- **Primary Exam Daily Schedules**

For a detailed look at the structure of the exam day, see the Daily Exam Schedules. Subspecialty exams schedules will be available soon.

[Primary Daily Exam Schedule AP link](#)

[Primary Daily Exam Schedule CP link](#)

*This is an example of an exam schedule for a Primary Certification exam.*

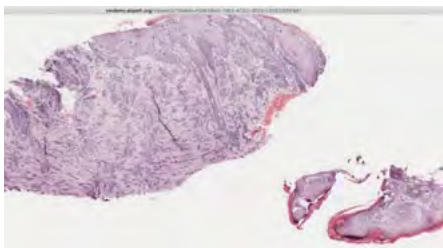
2022 Anatomic Pathology (AP) Exam Schedule			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breaks include: four 15-minute breaks and one 60-minute break; breaks are optional.</li> <li>• You <i>are not</i> required to take a break or you may return early from a break, so your exam day can be shorter than the allotted time.</li> <li>• If you wish to continue your exam <i>without</i> a break, select Next to begin the next section.</li> <li>• If you decide to take the break, <i>raise your hand</i> and the proctor will log you out of the exam. You <i>MUST LEAVE</i> your testing station during all breaks; breaks cannot be taken at the testing station.</li> <li>• At the completion of your break, you will be accompanied back to your testing station and the proctor will log you in to continue your exam.</li> <li>• If you return late from a break, the excess time will be subtracted from the next section's allotted time.</li> </ul>			
One Day (10.1 hours)			
Time	Section	Number of Items	Comments
(20 min)	Tutorial/Honor Code		
(72 min)	Combined Section A	72	1 min per item
(15 min)	Break		
(81 min)	Virtual Microscopy I	27	3 min per item
(15 min)	Break		
(72 min)	Combined Section B	72	1 min per item
(60 min)	Long Break		
(81 min)	Virtual Microscopy II	27	3 min per item
(15 min)	Break		
(71 min)	Combined Section C	71	1 min per item
(15 min)	Break		
(78 min)	Virtual Microscopy III	26	3 min per item
(10 min)	Exam Survey		

Note: Combined Sections = Written and Practical questions

- **Virtual Microscopy Practice Site**

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

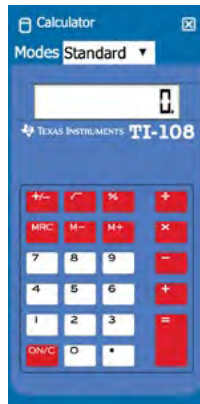
The [VM Practice site](#) contains 5 sample Virtual Microscopy questions, similar to what you will find on ABPath exams.





- **Practice Tutorial**

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



ABPath Certification Exam Practice Tutorial - First Name Last Na... Time Remaining 00:29:13 5 of 27

Comment Highlight (H) Strikethrough (W) Calculator Scratch Pad Flag for Review

**Navigating in the Examination**

Notice the **Previous** and **Next** buttons at the bottom of the screen. These buttons are available on most screens in the examination.

Click the **Previous** button to move back one screen at a time and click the **Next** button to move forward one screen at a time.

You can also review a specific question within the current section you are working on at any time by clicking the **Navigator** button at the bottom of the screen.

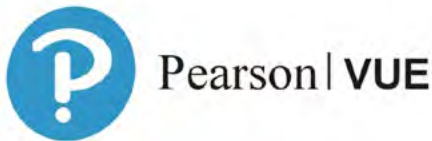
The number of unseen and incomplete questions in the current section is displayed at the bottom of the Navigator pop-up window.

The status of each question is provided in the middle of the window, along with a Flag icon if it has been flagged for review and a Comments icon if a comment has been entered for it.

To quickly move to the question, click on the question number.

Buttons can be selected with the mouse.

← Previous Navigator Next →



- **Pearson VUE Professional Test Centers**

For general information on scheduling an exam appointment and what to expect at Pearson VUE Professional Test Centers visit the [ABPath website](#).

- **ABPath Honor Code**

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

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



## Day of the Exam



**2 IDs Required**

### Identification

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

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

### What You Can Bring into the Test Center

No items are permitted in the exam room except for your ID, face mask and locker key if you are using a locker for personal belongings, food, and beverages. Whiteboards and markers will be provided for use during the exam.

### Food and Beverages

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

### Get There Early

We suggest you get to the test center 30 minutes prior to your exam appointment.



## After the Exam

### Results

Exam results will be available 4-6 weeks after the last day of the exam window. Candidates will receive an email when results are available. Results will be posted on the Board Correspondence page in PATHway.

Please note, to receive your results, ensure a current, valid, full, unrestricted medical license to practice medicine or osteopathy has been uploaded to PATHway.

### Certificates

Engraved certificates will be mailed to successful candidates approximately 3-4 months after the exam results are released.



Results in PATHway



## PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS



### PATHway Login

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



### Program Performance Reports

Program performance reports are released in January 2023 for residents and fellows taking exams in 2022.



### ABPath Booklet of Information

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



### ABPath Ambassador Program/Speakers Bureau

The ABPath Trustees and CEO are available to speak to pathology departments with residency training programs and national, state and local pathology societies on topics such as ABPath Updates, Certification Examinations, and Continuing Certification. Please contact Ty McCarthy, COO at [coo@abpath.org](mailto:coo@abpath.org), if you would like to schedule a speaking engagement.



# CONTINUING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (CC)

## New Diplomates

ABPath has information just for you and what you need to know about the Continuing Certification Program. Visit the ABPath website under [Newly Certified](#).

### Continuing Certification (CC) Program

To Maintain Your ABPath Certification

**1**

**Participate in  
ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL)**

- ➔ Answer 15-25 questions every quarter.
- ➔ Maintain a satisfactory performance of 60% correct or higher over a four-year time period.

ABPath CertLink is an online longitudinal assessment program that facilitates learning.

You will receive a welcome email in December of the year you are certified and begin answering questions in January of the year following your certification.

[abpath.mycertlink.org](http://abpath.mycertlink.org)

**2**

**Complete Reporting Forms**

- ➔ Reporting forms are due every two years.

You will provide:

- Licensure information
- CME
- Improvement in Health and Healthcare activities

If you are certified in an odd year the reporting form will be due in December of the next odd year. Even year will be due in the December of the next even year.

*For example, if you are certified in 2024, the reporting form will be due in December 2026.*

Available in your  
PATHway account

Participation in the CC program will begin in January of the year following your initial certification.

## CC Program Updates in 2022

ABPath's commitment to the continuous professional development of board-certified pathologists is to provide a flexible CC 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.

Here are the important changes that became effective 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.
- ABPath will no longer administer a 10-year Continuing Certification exam.

- The expected performance standard for ABPCL is 60% correct or greater, cumulative over four years.
- Two quality 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.

### **Coming Soon to PATHway!**

ABPath has been working to streamline the Continuing Certification information and resources diplomates need in PATHway. We are looking forward to introducing a more user-friendly experience in the coming months.

### **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. For more information on claiming CME, click [HERE](#).

### **Reminders**

- We ask that diplomates keep their email up to date in both ABPCL and PATHway to ensure you are receiving important information and updates from ABPath.
- For complete information on the CC Program and policies, see the [CC Booklet of Information](#).



# THANK YOU TO 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 the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies
- Association for Molecular Pathology
- Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology
- Association of Pathology Chairs
- College of American Pathologists
- National Association of Medical Examiners
- Society for Hematopathology
- Society for Pediatric Pathology
- United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology

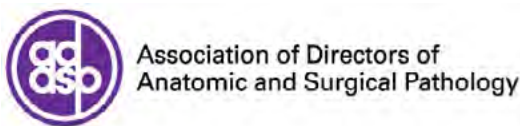
## Our Cooperating Societies

ABPath has 14 Cooperating Societies that we collaborate with to identify and address issues of importance to the profession of pathology. Through these valuable relationships, our Cooperating Societies support diplomates in their life-long learning and improvement in practice, their participation in Continuing Certification, and documenting their participation in educational and quality assessment activities.

ABPath recently welcomed the AABB (Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies) as a new Cooperating Society. The AABB is an international, not-for-profit organization representing individuals and institutions involved in the fields of transfusion medicine and biotherapies. The AABB works collaboratively to advance the field through the development and delivery of standards, accreditation and education programs.



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>



### 2022 Test Development and Advisory Committees

The TDACs are responsible for developing and reviewing the ABPath certification exam questions that assess a physician’s knowledge, judgment, and skills in order to provide high-quality care to patients. Each committee is 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.



### Resident and Fellow Advisory Committee

The 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.



2022 Microbiology TDAC in Action





### ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL) Item Writers

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

We would like to acknowledge the following ABPCL Item Writers for providing exceptional support to ABPCL by contributing ten or more items for ABPath CertLink in 2021

Thank you for your all you do to support professional development in pathology.

- Dr. Joshua Akers
- Dr. Nicholas Lintel
- Dr. Rachel Mariani
- Dr. Snehalkumar Patel
- Dr. Mary Ann Sens
- Dr. Saloni Walia

### The Pathologist Educator

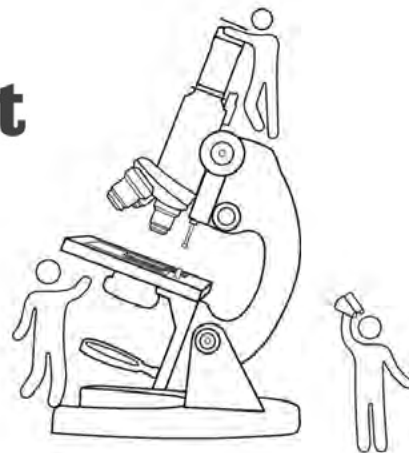
ABPath would like to thank the Pathologist Educator for supplying questions to be used in ABPCL. The Pathologist Educator is an online resource reporting on the research, innovations, personalities, and policies that shape pathology. We appreciate their support in lifelong learning for pathologists through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

You can find The Pathologist and The Pathologist Educator at:

- The Pathologist: <https://thepathologist.com/>
- The Pathologist Educator: <https://www.texereneletters.com/pathologist-educator>

the  
**Pathologist**

the  
**Pathologist  
Educator**



# ABMS NEWS



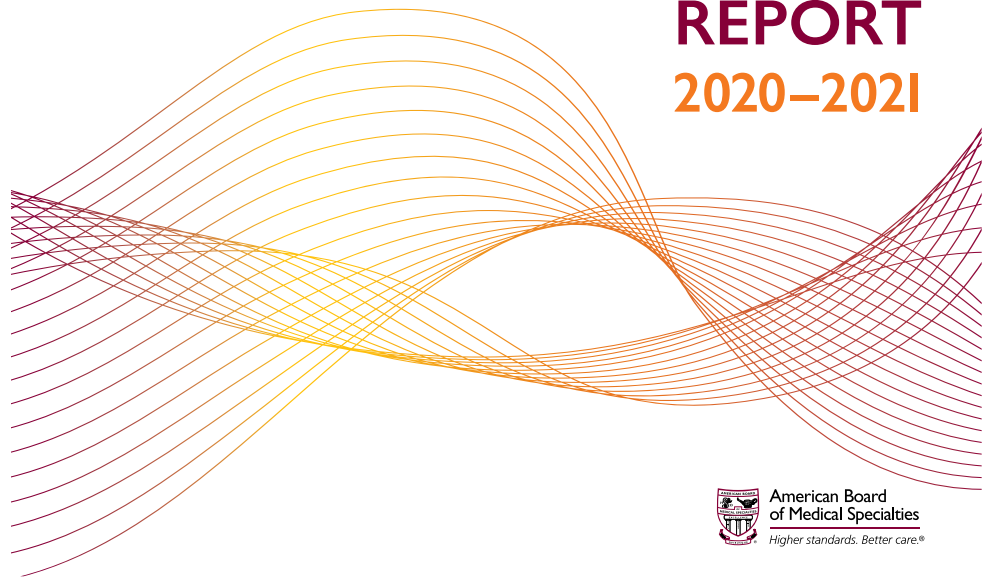
## American Board of Medical Specialties Releases 2020-2021 Board Certification Report

The ABMS recently released The ABMS Board Certification Report for 2020–2021, a compilation of demographic information about ABMS Member Board-certified physicians and medical specialists (known as diplomates). The report includes the specialty and subspecialty certificates approved by ABMS, the basic requirements for initial certification and continuing certification, and the number of certificates issued.

You can view the report at [HERE](#).



# ABMS BOARD CERTIFICATION REPORT 2020–2021



## 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	55
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	35	77	30	25	83	5	2	40
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	27
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	18
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



## 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	77
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

As of 2022, the 10 year CC exams will no longer be used to fulfill the Assessment requirement to maintain certification. ABPath CertLink (ABPCL) is now the official assessment for the CC Program. Statistics on ABPCL participation and performance will be provided in future publications.

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

### 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 (Pearson VUE)	2022 Dates
<b>Anatomic / Clinical Pathology</b>	
Spring	Starts May 16
Fall	Starts October 11
<b>Subspecialty</b>	
Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine	Starts September 12
Chemical Pathology	Starts September 12
Cytopathology	Starts September 12
Dermatopathology	Starts September 12
Hematopathology	Starts September 12
Forensic Pathology	Starts September 12
Medical Microbiology	Starts September 12
Molecular Genetic Pathology	Starts September 12
Neuropathology	Starts September 12
Pediatric Pathology	Starts September 12
Clinical Informatics (Pearson VUE)	Starts October 10

## FEEDBACK WELCOME



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

We welcome your feedback and ideas.

Make your certification—and your voice—count!  
Contact Chief Operating Officer Ty McCarthy [coo@abpath.org](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  
[www.abpath.org](http://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

**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.*