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Winter 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.

Don't forget to complete your ABPath CertLink (ABPCL) questions by year end.

ABPath CertLink® Season's Greetings New Trustees

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Gary Procop, MD, MS
Chief Executive Officer

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

Greetings Diplomates and Colleagues,

It has been a busy year at the American Board of Pathology. The year began with my transition to CEO, and although I served as a Trustee for twelve years, there was much to learn and to do. Space precludes me from sharing all of our initiatives, so I've selected a few to highlight. We at the Board have deeply and thoughtfully considered the portion of our mission that addresses "...promoting lifelong competency of pathologists." We believe that this includes our nascent pathologists in training, as well as our diplomates, and I am excited to share initiatives that serve both groups.

Medical school training has changed, and it is rare to find a traditional histology course complete with a laboratory session with microscopes and glass slides. Although this medical school curricular change may not be detrimental to the student matching in Pediatrics or Orthopedic Surgery, it significantly limits exposure to important foundational knowledge and skills for students entering Pathology. The Board, therefore, has undertaken an initiative to build a Histology Primer for trainees entering Pathology residency. We encourage Pathology Residency Program Directors to incorporate this into their onboarding experience in whatever manner best suits their program. This primer will be available free of charge, and it is our hope that medical students will use it, too. Should they use it, we will not miss the opportunity to introduce those students to the field of Pathology as a career choice.

This year Dr. Ritu Nayar, our incoming President, and I were pleased to participate in a joint ABMS/ACGME symposium concerning competency-based medical education (CBME). The Board has long supported a multidisciplinary group investigating (and promoting) the use of entrustable professional activities (EPA) for CBME. We are excited to read the manuscript(s) that are currently being generated from their pilot feasibility studies. As you know, the COVID pandemic compelled the Board to use remote assessment options that included virtual microscopy. This transition to virtual microscopy and the Board's interest in CBME has stimulated a pilot initiative. The Board is building a voluntary, formative, competency-based, in-training assessment pilot for residents. In short, this will be a virtual sign-out experience, wherein the trainee can log into the Board website and test their skills in virtual sign-out. This experience will give the trainee the opportunity to test their own ability to "do" (See Miller's Pyramid) in a completely safe (i.e. formative) space.

We have not forgotten our diplomates! The ABPath CertLink portion of the Continuing Certification Program has been a great success, but we are working hard to make it better. Foremost, we are working hard to streamline our overall Continuing Certification processes to make participation easier than ever. Additionally, we are expanding our ABPath CertLink Test Development and Advisory Committees with more content experts to enhance the items delivered. Our goal is to make Continuing Certification an experience that is highly valued and important for our diplomates.

Yes, we've been busy, and now it is time to deliver. I've been asked several times, "How do I get more involved with the Board?" There are many ways and help is needed with these and other initiatives. Read further in this newsletter to discover how you can contribute.

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

2023 AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is pleased to announce the ABPath Board of Trustees and Executive Committee for 2023.



Pictured from left to right: front row—Jennifer Laudadio, MD; Mark K. Fung, MD, PhD; Ritu Nayar, MD; Constance M. Filling, EdD; Mohiedean Ghofrani, MD, MBA; Barbara A. Sampson, MD, PhD; Kathleen G. Beavis, MD; Julie D. Kingery, MD. Back row – ABPath CEO Gary W. Procop, MD, MS; Edward R. Ashwood, MD; Matthew J. Wasco, MD; Jeffrey D. Goldstein, MD; Eric F. Glassy, MD; James R. Cook, MD, PhD.

PresidentRitu Nayar, MD, Chicago, IL
 Vice President.....Barbara Sampson, MD, PhD, New York, NY
 SecretaryKathleen G. Beavis, MD, Chicago, IL
 TreasurerMohiedean Ghofrani, MD, MBA, Vancouver, WA
 Immediate Past PresidentJeffrey Goldstein, MD, Los Angeles, CA

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

- Edward R. Ashwood, MD elected to a 4th term
- Mohiedean Ghofrani, MD, MBA elected to 3rd term
- Barbara A. Sampson, MD, PhD elected to a 3rd term

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

- Edward R. Ashwood, MD, Aurora, CO
- James R. Cook, MD, PhD, Cleveland, OH
- Constance M. Filling, EdD, Washington, DC
- Mark K. Fung, MD, PhD, Burlington, VT
- Eric F. Glassy, MD, San Pedro, CA
- Julie D. Kingery, MD, Gainesville, FL
- Jennifer Laudadio, MD, Little Rock, AR
- Matthew J. Wasco, MD, Ann Arbor, MI

Thank you to the Trustees that completed the last year of their term on the Board in 2022. The many years of sharing their time and expertise have greatly impacted the evolution of board certification in pathology.

- Susan A. Fuhrman, MD, Columbus, OH
- Karen L. Kaul, MD, PhD, Evanston, IL
- Steven H. Swerdlow, MD, Pittsburgh, PA

MEET OUR NEW TRUSTEES

The Trustees of the American Board of Pathology are pleased to announce the election of three new members to the Board of Trustees with terms beginning on January 1, 2023. The new Trustees have expertise in Molecular Genetic Pathology, Hematopathology, and Clinical Pathology in community/private practice.



James R. Cook, MD, PhD

Dr. James Cook is the Hematopathology Section Head at Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio, and Professor of Pathology at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. Dr. Cook is a recent President of the Society for Hematopathology and has served on multiple committees for the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology and the Association for Molecular Pathology. He has also previously served on the ABPath's Hematopathology Test Development and Advisory Committee (TDAC).

Dr. Cook is a graduate of the MD/PhD program at Washington University in St. Louis. He completed his residency training at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri and fellowship training in Hematopathology at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Cook is board certified in Anatomic Pathology and Hematopathology.



Julie D. Kingery, MD

Until recently, Dr. Julie Kingery was a clinical pathologist and Associate Medical Director of a high-volume reference laboratory for Kaiser Permanente in Northern California. Prior to joining Kaiser, she was a staff pathologist at the Portland (OR) Veteran's Administration Hospital. Recently, Dr. Kingery accepted a position as Director of Clinical Pathology in the Department of Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Florida College of Medicine. She has been involved in national professional societies throughout her career serving on committees for the College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Clinical Pathology. She also served on the ABPath's Continuing Certification Advisory Committee.

Dr. Kingery earned a B.S. in Biology at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA; graduated medical school and completed residency training in clinical pathology at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. Following residency, Dr. Kingery completed a molecular genetic pathology fellowship at the Oregon Health & Sciences University and a medical microbiology fellowship at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Kingery is board certified in Clinical Pathology, Medical Microbiology, and Molecular Genetic Pathology.



Jennifer Laudadio, MD

Dr. Jennifer Laudadio is Professor and Chair in the Department of Pathology at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in Little Rock, AR. She is a recipient of the Aubrey J. Hough Jr, MD, Distinguished Chair in Pathology. She serves as Director of the Laboratory and Pathology Service Line for UAMS Health. Dr. Laudadio has experience as a Pathology Residency Program Director and is a member of the UAMS Graduate Medical Education Committee. She is a Molecular Pathology Section Editor for Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and served on the ABPath Molecular Genetic Pathology and the ABPath CertLink Clinical Pathology TDACs. She has served on numerous committees for the College of American Pathologists and the Association for Molecular Pathology and is a former President of the College of American Pathologists Foundation and served as ex-officio on the CAP Board of Governors.

Dr. Laudadio earned a B.A. in Chemistry from Wake Forest University and her M.D. from the Medical College of Georgia. She completed an Anatomic and Clinical Pathology Residency at the Medical University of South Carolina and Molecular Genetic Pathology Fellowship at Oregon Health and Sciences University. Dr. Laudadio is board certified in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and Molecular Genetics.



TRUSTEES IN THE NEWS



Edward Ashwood, MD

Dr. Edward Ashwood, ABPath Immediate Past President, received the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions and service to the CAP Laboratory Improvement Programs at the 2022 CAP Annual Meeting.



CAP President, Dr. Emily Volk presents Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Ashwood

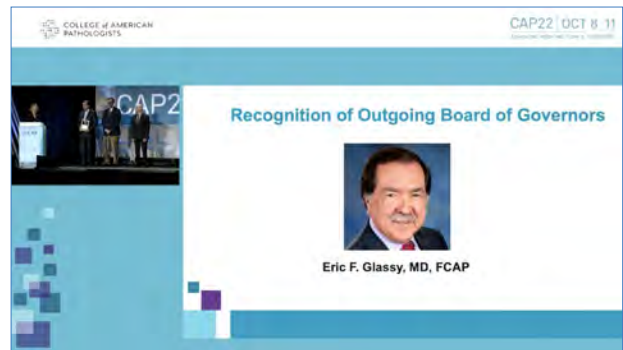


Dr. Ashwood and his wife Candice



Eric F. Glassy, MD

Dr. Eric Glassy was recognized at the 2022 CAP Annual Meeting for his service on the CAP Board of Governors.



Gary Procop, MD, MS
Their Presentations:

ABPath CEO Dr. Gary Procop and Trustee Dr. Eric Glassy presented at the International Academy of Pathology World Congress IAP2022. The World Congress is one of the world's largest exchanges of educational advancements.



IAP2022
Virtual dates: 11-12 October 2022
In-person dates: 13-15 October 2022
Sydney, Australia
Bridge to a Cure

American Board of Pathology Certification: Past, Present and a Bold & Bright Future?
—Gary Procop, USA

Digital Alchemy: AI Apps that are Indistinguishable From Magic
—Eric F. Glassy, USA

MEET OUR STAFF



Mario Levesque Senior Software Developer

We would like to introduce Mario Levesque, ABPath's Senior Software Developer. Mario joined the ABPath staff as a Software Developer in February 2019. He is responsible for IT support matters for the ABPath including software updates, server maintenance, website and software development for the different applications related to our ongoing exams throughout the year.

Mario was born and raised in Mont-Joli, Quebec, Canada. He graduated from High school in 1983 and attended the Royal Military College in Kingston Ontario. He graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor's degree in Engineering and received a commission as an officer in the Royal Canadian Air Force as an aerospace engineer. Mario was selected to further his education at the US Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey California while serving on exchange with the US Navy where he graduated with a Master's in Engineering in 1993.

He eventually retired from the Canadian Air Force and began a new career in software engineering when he moved to the US in 1998 and to Tampa, Florida in 2003.

Mario has been very happy working at ABPath where he feels he has the opportunity to work with wonderful people in an ever-changing IT environment since the beginning of COVID-19.

"Much has changed over the last few years in the way we administer exams. It has offered some challenges migrating over our systems to the Internet and many of our applications to the cloud but all in all, it has been a very positive experience to learn and succeed alongside my co-workers."

During his free time, he enjoys working on home improvement projects and spending time with family and his children.

The warm climate and sunshine are what attracted Mario to move to Florida.



Kasey Williamson

ABPath CertLink Coordinator

Kasey Williamson is the ABPath CertLink® Coordinator at the American Board of Pathology. She joined the Board in 2016 as a part-time Administrative Assistant, quickly taking on the new ABPath CertLink (ABPCL) longitudinal assessment initiative. From pre-pilot to the current phase, Kasey has contributed to the design, development, and implementation of the program, which has recently replaced the traditional Continuing Certification (CC) exam.

Because of the overwhelming success of ABPCL, with nearly 11,000 diplomates participating, Kasey's efforts have most recently been focused on the item development process. Along with coordinating the ABPCL Test Development and Advisory Committees, she also manages the ABPCL Volunteer Item Writers team.

Before coming to the Board, Kasey worked primarily in medical marketing, office administration, and event planning. Married in early 2022, she and her husband, Antonio, are both rare second-generation Tampa natives. They are currently enjoying their honeymoon phase while raising their 2-year-old American Bully, Sy. In her spare time, she practices yoga, enjoys cooking for her family and friends, tends to her plant babies, and loves to travel. She is a proud aunt to three sweet nephews and stepmom to a beautiful 15-year-old.



BOARD ACTIONS



Subspecialty Training Requirement for Non-ABPath Diplomates

The ABPath is pleased to announce a change in the training requirement for physicians certified by other ABMS member boards who would like to be certified in Blood Bank Transfusion Medicine, Medical Microbiology, Chemical Pathology, or Hematopathology by the ABPath.

Diplomates certified by an ABMS member board other than ABPath must only complete one year (12 months) of ACGME-accredited training in the subspecialties listed above to be eligible for the subsequent subspecialty exam. This policy supersedes the previous policy that required two years of subspecialty training for non-ABPath diplomates. The requirement for pathologists certified in AP and/or CP by ABPath remains unchanged at 12 months of ACGME-accredited training.

The change was approved at the ABPath Fall 2022 Board of Trustees meeting and will be reflected in the 2023 Booklet of Information.

ABPATH NEWS



New Members of the Resident and Fellow Advisory Committee

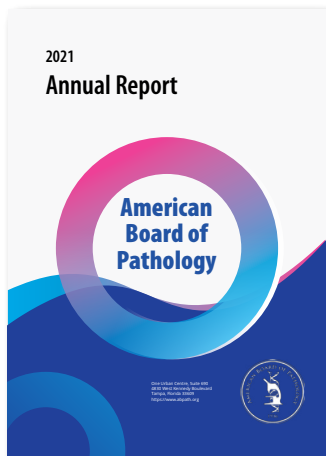
ABPath selected five pathology residents to join the ABPath Resident and Fellow Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee is to provide feedback and suggestions to the ABPath for improving the board certification process. The committee is working on projects that will be used to support future pathology trainees across the country. ABPath CEO Gary W. Procop, MD, MS is the chair of the committee.

The new members joining the committee are:

- Mischa Covington, MD
- Joshua Davis, MD
- Maryam Foroughi, MD
- Savanah Gisriel, MD
- Chukwuemeka Oriala, MD

They will join returning members:

- Brian Cox, MD
- Hanadi El Achi, MD
- Neda Wick, MD



2021 Annual Report

In June 2022, the ABPath Annual Report for 2021 was released. The report includes Board highlights, historical examination results, and a financial report as well as a listing of the newest diplomates certified in 2021.

New ABPath Payment Site

ABPath is now accepting online credit card payments for verification requests and requests for replacement certificates. From the ABPath website, users will be directed to a new secure ABPath payment site to complete the request forms and submit payment.

[Click here for more details.](#)

<https://shrtm.nu/vRVI>



ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL) Test Development and Advisory Committees (TDACs)

ABPath is expanding its membership of the ABPCL TDACs due to the overwhelming success of ABPCL, the online longitudinal assessment program for the Continuing Certification Program.

Committee members are subject matter experts in the various disciplines of pathology who are responsible for reviewing and writing questions to be used in ABPCL.

Individuals interested in an appointment should submit a letter of interest and current curriculum vitae to kasey@abpath.org.

Board-certified pathologists with expertise in the following areas are preferred:

- Neuropathology/Cardiovascular/Forensic Pathology
- Endocrine
- Pulmonary

ABPath CertLink®

CertLink® has More Opportunities for Subject Matter Experts



the Pathologist



Drs. Johnson and Riddle Named to the 2022 Power List of The Pathologist Magazine

Congratulations to ABPath CEO Emeritus Dr. Rebecca Johnson and ABPath Test Development and Advisory Committee (TDAC) member Dr. Nicole Riddle for being named to The Pathologist's Power List for 2022. Congratulations to all on the list!



ABPath Research Publications for 2022

ABPath Psychometrician Tyler Sandersfeld, PhD and ABPath COO Ty McCarthy presented the poster "When to Take the Primary Certification Exam: Sooner or Later?" at the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Annual Meeting. Other contributors were ABPath Trustee Steven H. Swerdlow, MD; Mario Levesque and ABPath CEO Gary W. Procop, MD, MS. The annual meeting was in September 2022 in Chicago, Illinois.

View and Download the Poster

<https://shrtm.nu/L9tb>

When to Take the Primary Certification Exam: Sooner or Later?
Tyler J. Sandersfeld, PhD, Steven H. Swerdlow, MD, Mario Levesque, Ty McCarthy, Bonnie Woodworth, Gary W. Procop, MD, MS
The American Board of Pathology

Background & Objective
The American Board of Pathology offers its Primary certification examinations (Anatomic Pathology (AP) and Clinical Pathology (CP)) twice each year – once in the Spring, and once in the Fall. The Spring examination dates place near the end of candidates' pathology residency training. It has been our impression that candidates taking the Primary certification exam in the Spring tend to perform better than those taking it in the Fall. We sought to determine if candidates taking the Spring Primary certification exams exhibited significantly better performance than those waiting to take the exam in the Fall.

Methods
It was assumed that the cohorts of candidates who had taken their first Primary exam between 2015 and 2021 (including 2020) were a sample of a much larger population of PGY-3s (i.e., initial Primary exam candidates). To determine whether the trend of candidates taking their initial Primary exam in the Spring performed better than candidates taking their initial Primary exam in the Fall is statistically significant, a difference of proportions test (z-test) was conducted. Note that from 2015 to 2021, the same forms were used for each individual exam (Spring and Fall exams, and both forms were required). As this study focused only on initial Primary exam candidates, no repeat candidates (i.e., took the exam before and failed) were included. The null hypothesis for both the AP and CP exams were that the true pass rate of candidates who take their initial Primary exam in the Spring equals the true pass rate of candidates who take their initial Primary exam in the Fall. An alternative hypothesis for each Primary specialty was that the true pass rate for the population of Spring initial candidates would be greater than the true pass rate for the population of Fall initial candidates. Thus:
$$H_0: P_{Spring} = P_{Fall}$$

$$H_a: P_{Spring} > P_{Fall}$$

The following statistics were used to determine whether the difference in pass rates between Spring and Fall initial candidates was significant:
$$Z = \frac{P_{Spring} - P_{Fall}}{\sqrt{P_{Spring} P_{Fall} \left(\frac{1}{n_{Spring}} + \frac{1}{n_{Fall}} \right)}}$$

where $Z_{\alpha/2, df}$ is the standard error of the distribution of differences between sample Spring proportions P_{Spring} and sample Fall proportions P_{Fall} , and n_{Spring} and n_{Fall} are the sample sizes for Spring and Fall administrations, respectively.
The test statistic was then:
$$z = \frac{Z_{\alpha/2, df}}{Z}$$

where z is the standardized difference between the sample Spring proportion and the sample Fall proportion. The p-value of the test statistic was represented as:
$$P(Z > |z|) = 2(1 - \Phi(|z|)) < 0.05$$

where Z represents the distribution of standardized difference to which the sample value z belongs, which has a normal distribution with mean 0 and standard deviation 1.
Our requirement for the test is that there are at least 10 observations in each group that are either successes or failures. Because Fall Primary administrations are traditionally smaller than those of Spring Primary administrations, counts of candidates were compiled from all years between 2015 and 2021 (including 2020), which included one Primary exam administration necessary to the COVID-19 pandemic. Apart from total pass rates over this six-year period, test statistics were calculated for any Primary exam administration with at least ten passes and fails in the Fall.

Results
For Anatomic Pathology, 80.56% of Spring initial candidates and 74.89% of Fall initial candidates passed the AP exam between 2015 and 2021 (including 2020) ($p < 0.0001$). $SE = 0.027$, $95\% CI = (0.99\%, 21.30\%)$. The individual years of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2021 also showed significantly higher pass rates in the Spring than in the Fall.

For Clinical Pathology, 81.68% of Spring initial candidates and 63.42% of Fall initial candidates passed the CP exam between 2015 and 2021 (including 2020) ($p < 0.0001$). $SE = 0.022$, $95\% CI = (0.9\%, 15.53\%)$. There were no pass rates with enough Fall candidates that failed to properly assess reliability.

Conclusion
For both exams, there was enough evidence to conclude that Primary certification candidates who take their initial examination in the Spring have a greater probability of passing than candidates who take their initial examination in the Fall. Of the candidates who took the Spring exam first because the material was fresher in their minds (i.e., more apt to short-term memory)? Did weaker candidates, who did not pass previously, get off being the maximum to take their exam for a third? Did the candidates who took the fall exam fare more poorly because of competing life events that often occur after residency (i.e., moving and starting a new job or fellowship)? These possibilities and other avenues to be investigated, but this study supports a more favorable outcome for candidates who take the examination that is more temporally associated with the end of training (i.e., Spring vs. Fall).

YEAR	Spring		Fall		PASS RATE DIFFERENCE TEST	
	PASS	FAIL	PASS	FAIL	Z	P-VALUE
2015	493	51	42	11	11.6	0.0001
2016	479	49	46	11	7.9	0.0001
2017	518	27	29	10	21.8	0.0001
2018	504	23	29	9	-	-
2019	469	72	17	4	-	-
2021	510	74	24	11	18.1	0.0001
TOTAL	2881	312	171	56	11.7	0.0001

AP Initial Candidates, 2015-2021	Fall AP Initial Candidates, 2015-2021
7995 (50.6%)	167 (74.5%)
312 (9.6%)	56 (25.3%)

YEAR	Spring		Fall		PASS RATE DIFFERENCE TEST	
	PASS	FAIL	PASS	FAIL	Z	P-VALUE
2015	462	32	39	7	-	-
2016	468	28	26	4	-	-
2017	466	27	29	6	-	-
2018	472	28	30	3	-	-
2019	447	68	17	4	-	-
2021	461	33	21	10	-	-
2022	521	30	29	8	-	-
TOTAL	2881	278	183	42	11.7	0.0001

CP Initial Candidates, 2015-2021	Fall CP Initial Candidates, 2015-2021
2864 (93.7%)	161 (83.4%)
171 (5.3%)	32 (16.6%)

THANK YOU TO COOPERATING SOCIETIES

LIST OF SOCIETIES

- Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists
- American Association of Neuropathologists
- 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 fifteen 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 especially thank the APC/PRODS, ASCP, CAP, and USCAP for their support of ABPath exhibit booths at their annual meetings.



COLLEGE of AMERICAN PATHOLOGISTS



Society for Hematopathology



Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF Cytopathology



Association for the Advancement of Blood & Biotherapies





American Association of Neuropathologists (AANP): Newest Cooperating Society Member

ABPath welcomes our newest cooperating society member, the American Association of Neuropathologists, Inc. (AANP). The AANP is a professional society of neuropathologists, composed of physicians and scientists involved in research, training, and the clinical practice of neuropathology whose mission is to advance the study of diseases that affect the nervous system, and to minimize suffering through discovery, education, and the delivery of patient-centered clinical care.

We look forward to working with AANP to support our diplomates.



ASCP 100th Anniversary

ABPath would like to congratulate the ASCP on the momentous occasion of its 100th anniversary. The highly successful ASCP *Choosing Wisely* programs turned 10 years old. We congratulate ASCP and the ASCP Effective Test Utilization Steering Committee on their many recommendations and the impact in advancing appropriate test utilization for improving patient care.

Choosing Wisely is an initiative of the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation designed to promote conversations between clinicians and patients by helping patients choose care that is supported by evidence and is truly necessary. Each year ASCP compiles the most relevant testing recommendations and protocol improvements recommended by leaders in the pathology community and vetted by the ASCP Effective Test Utilization Steering Committee. More information about this program can be found at [here](#).

We congratulate ASCP on these special anniversaries!



<https://shrtm.nu/FbwI>



OUR VOLUNTEERS

ABPath volunteers contribute their time and expertise in support of our mission and promote excellence in the practice of pathology. We thank them for their selfless dedication.

View a complete list of current ABPath committee members [here](#).



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 chaired by an ABPath Trustee and consists 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 eight 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. The committee is chaired by ABPath CEO Dr. Gary W. Procop.



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 thank them for all they do to support professional development in pathology. If you are a board-certified pathologist and would like to find out more email kasey@abpath.org.

CONTINUING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (CC)

Diplomates Certified in 2022—Congratulations on your board certification! An email was sent on November 29 to new diplomates certified in 2022 introducing them to the CC Program including ABPath CertLink (ABPCL). The email was sent to the primary email address we have on file in PATHway.

For more information about the CC Program visit the [Newly Certified page](#) on the ABPath website.

CC Program Reminders:

To be successful in the CC Program you must continuously participate in ABPCL and complete the biennial reporting forms.

- Reporting Forms—The CC Program Reporting Form is due on Dec 31, 2022 for those certified in an even year.
- Annual Fee—The CC Program fee is due annually. Pay your annual fee of \$150 by December 31, 2022. For those certified in 2022, your first annual fee will be due in December 2023.
- CME credits for ABPCL—you may claim credits for ABPCL participation in 2021 until March 31, 2023. For more information, visit the ABPath website and see the [Claiming CME Credits](#) for ABPCL Participation section.

If you have questions or need assistance with ABPCL, contact us at certLink@abpath.org.



<https://shrtm.nu/ejS8>

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

2

Complete Reporting Forms

- ➔ Reporting forms are due every two years.

You will provide:

- Licensure information
- CME
- Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) credit

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.

PROGRAM DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS



Primary Exam Applications

Applications for the Spring 2023 Primary exam are due by Jan 15, 2023. Residents should submit applications as early as possible. Once an application has been submitted by a resident, the Program Director (PD) must approve the application and the PD evaluation must be completed before the application can be submitted for final review/approval by the ABPath Credentials Committee.

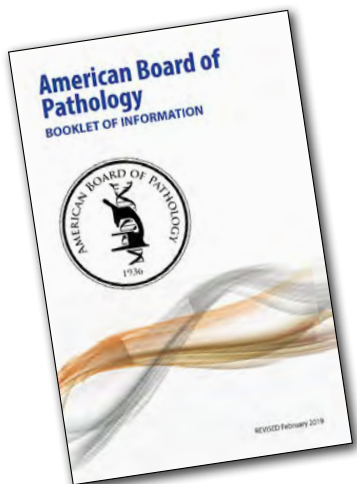
This pdf document has helpful reminders to share with your residents who are submitting applications for the Spring 2023 Primary exam.

<https://shrtm.nu/Mo4W>

Program Performance Reports

The Program Performance Reports are released in January 2023 for residents and fellows who took exams in 2022. The reports include summarized information from the previous seven years. Please review program performance reports and check for inaccuracies. If inaccuracies are noted, please contact mary@abpath.org immediately.

Performance Reports cannot be corrected after Feb. 28.

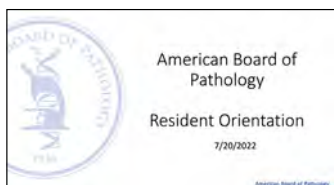


ABPath Booklet of Information

We encourage all program directors, program coordinators and residents to review the Booklet each year for the most up-to-date policies and requirements for board certification.

Resident Orientation Presentation

ABPath created a PowerPoint presentation to provide a basic overview of board certification through ABPath. We encourage Program Directors to present it to their residents during their training. The presentation is available in three formats—PDF, YouTube, and PowerPoint (Please email us to request a PowerPoint version at Mary@abpath.org). Complete certification requirement details can be found in the Booklet of Information.



<https://shrtm.nu/VnmL>



<https://youtu.be/i2V3JAITrHE>



ABMS NEWS



American Board of Medical Specialties Annual Meeting

ABPath recently attended the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Annual Meeting in September in Chicago, IL. The theme was Transforming Certification for Better Care and we were pleased to have Ty McCarthy, ABPath Chief Operating Officer, alongside Ryan Howard and Kyle Miller presenting “Continuing Recertification: A Program Design That Your Members Will Love.” The presentation provided an overview of AB-Path CertLink and how it meets the needs of continuing certification in an evolving medical landscape.

Psychometrician Tyler Sandersfeld, PhD also presented the poster “When to Take the Primary Certification Exam: Sooner or Later?” (see above for the poster).

To see other ABMS news and updates visit the ABMS news site [here](#).

<https://shrtm.nu/Zi6R>



FEATURED NEWS

The American Board of Medical Specialties Affirms Support of Member Boards’ Diplomates Providing Medical Care Based upon the Standards of Their Specialty

November 15, 2022

The medical profession exists to serve patients, and medical care should represent a shared decision between a patient or guardian...

FEATURED NEWS

ABMS Member Boards Promote Professionalism

September 12, 2022

Professionalism is a vital aspect of patient care and a key tenet of ABMS board certification. For ABMS, professionalism represents...

FEATURED NEWS

ABMS Commits to Addressing DEI Across the Organization and Beyond

April 5, 2021

By Richard E. Hawkins, MD, ABMS President and Chief Executive Officer ABMS and its Member Boards have a unique and...

EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE



The ABPath uses criterion-referenced scoring for its certification examinations. Setting the criterion standard for each exam is performed every 3-5 years.

The number of candidates passing the examinations may 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.

See the ABPath Website for examination information.

† Statistics have been updated to reflect the reassessment and rescoring of the 2022-2024 Primary and Subspecialty exams that was conducted in October 2024.

Primary Certification Examinations

2022 Primary Examination

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass
AP	723	84%	618	560	91%	105	46	44%
CP	582	92%	531	509	96%	51	24	47%

5-Year Certified Report

Primary	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
AACP	485	451	397	533	500
AP only	78	58	73	105	100
CP only	43	40	25	55	54
APNP	11	10	8	17	7

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

Primary	2018 % Pass	2019 % Pass	2020 % Pass	2021 % Pass	2022 % Pass
AP only	89	82*	85	82	87*
CP only	92	85*	88	94	94*

*New criterion standard applied

Subspecialty Certification Examinations

2022 Subspecialty Examinations

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass
BB/TM	47	62	41	28	68	6	1	17
CH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CI**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CY	137	83	120	108	90	17	6	35
DP	46	93	41	39	95	5	4	80
FP	54	98	52	51	98	2	2	100
HP	120	90	114	106	93	6	2	33
MB	13	85	13	11	85	-	-	-
MG	61	84	59	51	86	2	0	0
NP	24	92	23	22	96	1	0	0
PP	22	82	22	18	82	-	-	-
FPclinMB*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*FPclinMB = Focus Practice Designation-Clinical Microbiology

**2022 Clinical Informatics exam results have not been released at the time of publishing.

5-Year Certified Report

Subspecialty	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BB/TM	49	47	39	39	29
CH	2	1	2	-	-
CI**	16	18	17	27	-
CY	142	137	104	109	115
DP	52	45	34	41	43
FP	49	38	47	38	53
HP	140	119	116	108	109
MB	12	14	6	18	10
MG	59	59	48	49	51
NP	15	12	17	11	16
PP	20	23	16	20	18
FPclinMB*	-	-	1	-	-

*FPclinMB = Focus Practice Designation-Clinical Microbiology

**2022 Clinical Informatics exam results have not been released at the time of publishing.

Subspecialty Examinations Pass Rates

Subspecialty	2018 % Pass	2019 % Pass	2020 % Pass	2021 % Pass	2022 % Pass
BB/TM	89	96	89*	81	62
CH	100	100	100	-	-
CI	94	78	89	77	-
CY	98	96	86*	86	83
DP	90*	98	95	87	93*
FP	94	93	89*	95	98
HP	98	97	94*	94	90
MB	100	100	100	100	85*
MG	98	98	98*	94	84
NP	100*	96	100	90	92*
PP	81*	96	89	91	82*
FPclinMB**	-	-	100	-	-

*New criterion standard applied

**FPclinMB = Focus Practice Designation-Clinical Microbiology



Continuing Certification Examinations

Continuing Certification Participation Statistics

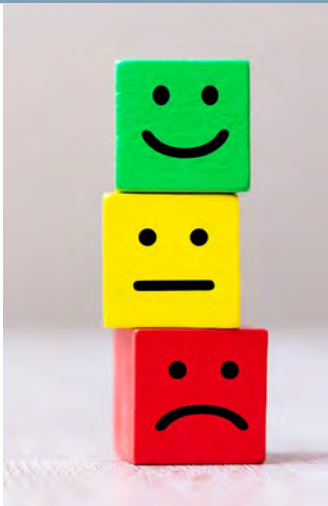
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Certificates Enrolled	1132	1175	1054	933	1140
Certificates Lapsed/ Revoked	75	88	88	64	60
Diplomates Enrolled	650	638	583	519	731
Diplomates Lapsed/ Revoked	64	71	63	52	49



EXAMINATION DATES FOR 2023

Exams (Pearson VUE)	2023 Dates
Anatomic / Clinical Pathology	
Spring	May 15 - June 3
Fall	October 10-22
Subspecialty	
Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine	September 11-24
Chemical Pathology	September 11-24
Cytopathology	September 11-24
Dermatopathology	September 11-24
Hematopathology	September 11-24
Forensic Pathology	September 11-24
Medical Microbiology	September 11-24
Molecular Genetic Pathology	September 11-24
Neuropathology	September 11-24
Pediatric Pathology	September 11-24
Clinical Informatics (Pearson VUE)	October

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

CONTACT ABPATH



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Ty McCarthy
Chief Operating Officer
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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 and follow us on social media.



Happy Holidays!

