



The American Board of Pathology
Report to
Intersociety Pathology Council
American Society for Clinical Pathology
2005

1) **BOOKLET OF INFORMATION:**

Beginning this year, the ABP will not mail copies of the *Booklet of Information*. The ABP Web site, <http://www.abpath.org> contains downloadable copies of the booklet.

Also included on the ABP Web site are downloadable copies of the *Instructions and Information for Candidates for Certifying Examinations* booklet and the *Voluntary Recertification* booklet as well as other important information. To download these booklets, choose Booklet of Information Index, Instructions for Candidates Index, or Voluntary Recertification Contents on the ABP home page.

2) **NEWSLETTER:**

This issue of the newsletter will be the last one that will be mailed. The newsletters are included on the ABP Web site, <http://www.abpath.org>. The current newsletter has been added to the Web site. Please check the Web site in late January of each year for the most recent newsletter.

3) **REQUEST FROM ABMS:**

The American Board of Medical Specialties requests that diplomates provide the ABP with notification and legal documentation of any name changes. The ABP will, in turn, authorize ABMS to make the name change in its database. Problems related to having incorrect names in the ABMS database include:

Name search issues can cause diplomates to lose patient referrals.
Credentialing agencies cannot identify board certified physicians.
Patients cannot verify certification of their physicians.

4) **ABP OFFICERS:**

The following trustees were elected as officers for 2005: M. Desmond Burke, M.D., president; Jeffrey McCullough, M.D., vice president; James L. Madara, M.D., secretary; Rebecca L. Johnson, M.D., treasurer; and Deborah E. Powell, M.D., immediate past president.

5) **TRUSTEES:**

David F. Keren, M.D., Patrick E. Lantz, M.D., and Sharon W. Weiss, M.D. became trustees of the ABP on 1/1/2005. Dr. Keren is medical director at Warde Medical Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan; Dr. Lantz is associate professor of pathology at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and Dr. Weiss is professor and vice chair of the pathology department at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia. Dwight K. Oxley, M.D. and Ross E. Zumwalt, M.D. completed their terms of service as trustees on 12/31/2004.



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6) ON-LINE APPLICATIONS:

Application forms will no longer be mailed to applicants. Applications for all certifications (primary, subspecialty, recertification, and single certification) are available on ABP Web site, <http://www.abpath.org>. These applications are to be downloaded, filled in on the computer, printed, and mailed to the ABP with the necessary accompanying information by the application deadlines. Applications completed by hand will not be accepted.

7) VOLUNTARY RECERTIFICATION:

Beginning in 2005, the ABP will require that at least 50 of the 75 Category I CME hours be spent in continuing medical education relevant to the applicant's practice setting.

8) CERTIFYING EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE REPORTS:

Certifying examination performance reports are sent out in January. The program director receives reports only for the program he or she directs. Each program director receives two reports regarding candidate certifying examination performance. One lists candidates and their examination performance histories by year of examination taken. This report goes only to the program director. The second report, covering the same five-year interval, separates results of first-time candidates from results of those who have repeated an examination. It also reports performance for candidates who completed all of their training in a given program versus those who did only part of their training in that program. This second report is also given to the Residency Review Committee for Pathology at the time of the accreditation visit of the program. These reports were recently mailed to program directors who had trainees who took the 2004 examinations. Program directors should review these reports carefully and report any questions or problems to Dr. Bennett at the ABP.

9) NEW DIPLOMATES:

During 2004, 440 pathologists were certified in a primary area of pathology, including 327 in combined anatomic pathology and clinical pathology, 73 in anatomic pathology, 33 in clinical pathology, and 7 in combined primary and subspecialty areas. Twenty-eight physicians were certified in blood banking/transfusion medicine, 104 in cytopathology, 45 in dermatopathology, 25 in forensic pathology, 67 in hematology, 2 in medical microbiology, and 1 in pediatric pathology. Thirty-seven pathologists were recertified in 2004.

10) CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS:

Beginning in 2005, all examinations will be given in Tampa, Florida, at the ABP Examination Center.



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11) **MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION.** The ABP continues to work on development of plans for implementation of maintenance of certification requirements for diplomates who will receive time-limited certificates beginning in 2006. The process of maintenance of certification will require diplomates to fulfill requirements in the areas of professional standing, lifelong learning and self-assessment, cognitive expertise, and performance in practice. These requirements will involve maintenance of licensure, references from professionals familiar with the diplomate's practice, participation in CME and self-assessments, successful completion of an examination, and successful participation in a variety of programs designed to reflect situations encountered in the diplomates' practices.

The ABP is working with its test development and advisory committees to develop content outlines for areas of each primary and subspecialty certification. These outlines will reflect the knowledge required for the practice of each area. It is anticipated that this outline will be useful to diplomates in choosing CME courses and self-assessment tools and will be reflective of material that will be assessed on the cognitive examination. Evaluation will be designed to determine whether the practicing pathologist has kept up with changes and advances that have become accepted into clinical practice since the practitioner was last evaluated. Although some basic principles of the specialty may be covered as part of this determination, this evaluation will not have the depth of the initial examination for certification.

**THE AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY
EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Cumulative Examination Performance

2000-2004 Primary Examinations

	<u>Total Candidates</u>		<u>First-Time Takers</u>			<u>Repeaters</u>		
	#	%Fail	#	#Fail	%Fail	#	#Fail	%Fail
AP	3367	35.4	2343	567	24.1	1024	627	61.2
CP	2858	32.4	2136	483	22.6	722	445	61.6

2000-2004 Subspecialty Examinations

	<u>Total Candidates</u>		<u>First-Time Takers</u>			<u>Repeaters</u>		
	#	%Fail	#	#Fail	%Fail	#	#Fail	%Fail
BB/TM	175	32.0	129	27	20.9	46	29	63.0
CYP	621	20.2	520	84	16.1	101	42	41.5
DP	309	29.4	233	60	25.7	76	31	40.7
FP	267	34.4	176	45	25.5	91	47	51.6
HEM	537	36.4	376	102	27.1	161	94	58.3

**THE AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY
2005 SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATIONS**

Anatomic Pathology and Clinical Pathology Examinations

The Spring 2005 primary examinations will begin on Monday, June 6, 2005, and will continue until all qualified, registered candidates have been examined. Candidates applying for the Spring primary certification examinations must complete their training by July 1 of the year of application.

The Fall 2005 primary examinations will begin on Monday, October 24, 2005, and will continue until all qualified, registered candidates have been examined. Candidates applying for the Fall primary certification examinations must complete their training by November 1 of the year of application.

Subspecialty Examinations

The subspecialty examinations in chemical pathology, medical microbiology, molecular genetic pathology, neuropathology, and pediatric pathology are given every two years.

Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine – September 9, 2005
Chemical Pathology – September 7, 2005
Cytopathology – September 12, 2005
Dermatopathology – September 15, 2005
Forensic Pathology – September 19, 2005
Hematology – September 21, 2005
Medical Microbiology – September 7, 2005
Molecular Genetic Pathology – September 26, 2005
Neuropathology – September 28, 2005
Pediatric Pathology – September 30, 2005

Depending on the number of candidates, it may be necessary to give certain subspecialty examinations on multiple days. In that case, each candidate will be notified of his or her examination date at least 6 weeks prior to the examination date listed.

FINAL FILING AND CUTOFF DATES

The final filing dates for receipt of applications or registrations are as follows:

Primary examinations

January 15 for Spring primary examinations
May 1 for initial applicants for Fall primary examinations
August 15 for applicants retaking the primary examinations

Subspecialty examinations

May 1 for all subspecialty examinations

