



The American Board of Pathology
Report to
Intersociety Pathology Council
2007

1) ABP OFFICERS

The following trustees were elected as officers for 2007: James L. Madara, M.D., president; Robert W. McKenna, M.D. vice president; John V. Collin, M.D., secretary; Rebecca Johnson, M.D., treasurer; and Jeffrey McCullough, M.D., immediate past president.

2) TRUSTEES

Stephen D. Allen M.D. and Deborah E. Powell M.D. completed their terms of service on the ABP on December 31, 2006. New trustees elected in 2006 are Gary W. Procop, M.D. of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, Florida and Margaret Grimes, M.D. of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine, Richmond, Virginia.

3) COMPUTER UPDATES AT ABP OFFICE

The ABP continues to upgrade its software to improve the application process and administration of the examinations. A new item banking and test delivery system has been purchased and should be implemented in time for the June 2007 examinations. These updates will result in a slightly different look to the examination interface and in improved virtual microscopy capability. The ABP plans to begin introducing virtual microscopy to subspecialty examinations in 2008.

In addition to changes in testing software, the ABP plans to continue to improve its application process by the implementation of true on-line applications. This process should be available late in 2007 for applications for the 2008 examinations. In addition to the ability to submit the application on-line, applicants will be able to track the progress of their application. The development of individual diplomate portfolios will follow and will be especially helpful to candidates in the MOC program. It is anticipated that many pathology societies will be able to transfer CME information to individual candidate portfolios when these are implemented.



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4) ABP 2007 BOOKLET OF INFORMATION

The revised Booklet of Information for 2007 is now available on the ABP web site. This document should be reviewed at least annually by Program Directors and residents to ensure that appropriate requirements are met and procedures followed.

5) CHANGE IN QUALIFICATION PERIOD

For candidates who complete residency and/or fellowship on or after January 1, 2008, the ABP has changed the policy regarding period of qualification. Each candidate will be limited to one period of qualification (not to exceed 5 years) and may take an examination (AP, CP, subspecialty) no more than 5 times within that period of qualification. Please see the 2007 Booklet of Information under Qualification Period for Examination for details.

6) MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

The Maintenance of Certification (MOC) committee of the ABP continues to work on clarifying and simplifying Parts I-IV of the MOC program. The 2007 version of the Maintenance of Certification Booklet of Information is now on the web site and contains updated information regarding CME and self-assessment requirements as well as modification of the reporting requirements for Part IV activities. All diplomates with time-limited certificates should check the MOC section of the web site frequently for updates.

7) VOLUNTARY RECERTIFICATION

The Voluntary Recertification program is still available for diplomates with lifetime certificates who do not wish to participate in the MOC program. The Voluntary Recertification booklet is available on the ABP Web site.



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8) CERTIFYING EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE REPORTS

Each year in January, primary and subspecialty program directors receive performance reports for candidates in their programs who have taken the certifying examination. As in previous years, the director receives two reports, each covering the last 5 years. One lists candidates and their examination performance histories by year of examination taken. This report goes only to the program director. The second report 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 provided to the Residency Review Committee for Pathology at the time of the program's ACGME accreditation visit. The accuracy of these reports depends on the information that the ABP receives from Program Directors through the Resident Tracking Program. If you have questions about your report, please contact Dr. Bennett.

9) NEW DIPLOMATES

During 2006, 601 pathologists were certified in a primary area of pathology, including 488 in combined anatomic pathology and clinical pathology, 84 in anatomic pathology, 29 in clinical pathology, and 11 in combined primary and subspecialty areas. Nineteen physicians were certified in blood banking/transfusion medicine, 112 in cytopathology, 37 in dermatopathology, 27 in forensic pathology, 85 in hematology, and 1 in medical microbiology. Forty-two pathologists were recertified in 2006.

10) EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

Beginning in June 2006, the AP and CP examinations are graded using the criterion-referenced method. Since this represents a significant change in the way grades are determined, the trustees of the ABP have decided to change the way in which the examination results are reported. Beginning with this newsletter, examination results will be reported as % Pass (rather than % Fail) and will be reported for individual years rather than cumulatively. Since we have only one year's worth of data using this method of grading, only the results for 2006 are reported this year. Cumulative results for previous years are available on previous editions of the Newsletter.



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The number of candidates passing the examinations does not match the number of candidates certified for several reasons. (1) Many 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 those AP/CP candidates who passed either the AP or CP examination previously and requested single certification during 2006. (3) Certified candidates also includes AP/CP candidates who passed the examinations in a previous year but did not provide documentation of licensure until 2006.

**Primary Examination
 2006**

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers		Repeaters	
	#	% Pass	#	% Pass	#	% Pass
AP	775	77	605	87	170	42
CP	724	74	556	81	168	49

Subspecialty examinations for 2006 were still graded using the norm-referenced method. They are reported cumulatively below but are given as % Pass rather than % fail. It is anticipated that all of the subspecialty examinations except for Chemistry, Medical Microbiology, and Medical Genetic Pathology will be changed to the criterion-referenced method in 2007. We will begin reporting individual year's results for these examinations in the 2008 Newsletter.

**Subspecialty Examinations
 2002-2006**

	Total Candidates		First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	%Pass	#	#Pass	%Pass	#	#Pass	%Pass
BB/TM	171	76.61	136	116	85.29	35	15	42.86
ChemP	3	100	2	2	100	1	1	100
CYP	628	80.41	535	443	82.80	93	62	66.67
DP	334	69.46	241	179	74.27	93	53	56.99
FP	219	68.49	160	124	77.50	59	26	44.07
HEM	553	73.06	412	322	78.16	141	82	58.16

