



American Society for
Clinical Pathology



Contact: president@ascp.org

ASCP UPDATE
Intersociety Council for Pathology Information
March 25, 2007

ADVOCACY

Stop Pod Labs Now Campaign: ASCP has initiated a grassroots effort to force CMS to implement tough regulations governing pod or condo labs. To date, thousands of letters have gone to the new 110th Congress urging lawmakers to join us in pressuring CMS to take action.

MUE Issue: ASCP advocated for the withdrawal of the CMS “Medically Unbelievable Edits” (now renamed Medically Unlikely Edits) that would harm patients and the field of pathology. We remain vigilant and continue to be proactive in commenting on the CMS plans to implement the next phase of the MUE proposal.

e-Advocacy: The revamped advocacy section of the ASCP Website (www.ascp.org/Advocacy/default.aspx) was used to send more than 35,000 letters to federal and state legislators.

Congressional Visits: ASCP initiated hundreds of educational visits to legislators on Capitol Hill to lobby on issues such as patient safety, health information technology, coding reimbursement, and the laboratory personnel shortage.

Advocacy on Other Critical Issues: Advocated with pathology societies to support direct billing by pathologists of anatomic pathology services. ASCP is opposed to the Bush Administration’s plans to take competitive bidding for laboratory services under Medicare nationwide. We will also advocate for both a “fix” and an update to the Sustainable Growth Rate Formula (SGR) in Medicare.



stoppodlabsnow@ascp.org

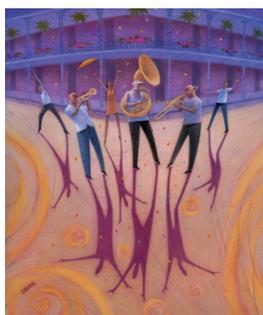
ASCP FINANCES

For the third consecutive year, ASCP has been successful financially. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006 total revenue exceeded \$22.8 million – 6.7 percent greater than budget. Income from operations increased by \$470,000; net gain on investments was in excess of \$500,000. For FY 2007, ASCP is projecting a fourth consecutive year of financial growth. The move to new Chicago Loop headquarters has enabled us to reduce operating expenses by more than \$100,000 annually.

ASCP’s endowment equals 1.2 times the annual budget; thus, ASCP is now well-positioned to support ongoing efforts to promote excellence in education, certification and advocacy on behalf of patients and members.

EDUCATION, ASSESSMENT, AND PUBLICATIONS

Annual Meeting: The 2006 Annual Meeting was a huge success with more than 1,200 attendees, approximately 400 of whom were there for the first time. There were outstanding presentations in all areas of surgical and clinical pathology. One session, about “Pod (condo) labs” and other gray areas of compliance, “Urologists and Gastroenterologists Want Your Money...,” was so well-received, it will be repeated at the USCAP Annual Meeting in March.



We’re proud to be part of the resurgence of the great city of New Orleans and are looking forward to an exciting 2007 Annual Meeting there, October 19-23. In the meantime, the Las Vegas Weekend of Pathology takes place February 8-11, followed by those in Chicago, April 27-29 and San Francisco June 8-10.

Ongoing Educational Programming: ASCP’s Spring 2007 Educational Course topics include liver pathology, breast pathology, pulmonary pathology, hematopathology,

gastrointestinal pathology, dermatopathology, gynecologic cytopathology and the annual July Pathology Update, in Montreal this year. The highly regarded ASCP Resident Review Course had more than 180 attendees last year and will take place again this year in Chicago April 19-24, 2007.

Timely, high-quality education includes 100 audio teleconferences each year – one-hour live presentations, on specific topics in all areas of laboratory medicine and pathology. For one flat fee, a laboratory can have an unlimited number of participants. Remaining sessions focus on molecular diagnostics, cytopathology, laboratory management, and informatics.

Two new eCourses on dermatopathology have been launched and will be presented by Steven Billings, MD, FASCP. Course content is delivered completely online thus allowing flexibility in scheduling and self-pacing. We now offer six eCourses with a seventh, on red cell morphology, due out later this month.

Assessment:

ASCP's interlaboratory and individual competency assessment programs, CheckPath, ASCP GYN Assessment, and ASCP Non-GYN Assessment, are again available in 2007. Virtual cytology technology is an enhancement to the ASCP GYN and Non-GYN Assessment products in 2007. We are accepting 2007 enrollments for ASCP GYN PT™, a CMS-approved gynecological cytology proficiency testing program. ASCP continues to work with CMS to improve cytology proficiency testing.

The 2006 Resident In-Service Examination (RISE) was the largest to date with 2,568 residents participating; the next RISE is scheduled for April 28-May 11, 2007.

Maintenance of Certification: ASCP continues to monitor developments in the ABP's Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program and updates members through our publications, electronic communications and website. ASCP's Commissions on Education and Assessment are developing new programs to help members meet and track the completion of their MOC requirements for continuing medical education (CME) credits.

While the development of standards for self-assessment, cognitive expertise and evaluation of performance in practice are underway, for ASCP members it's easy to get a leg up on meeting the life-long learning requirement which specifies that every two years, pathologists must complete 50 CME credits and two self-assessment units. For complete information about ASCP CME offerings, check the educational offerings calendar at <http://www.ascp.org/education/default.aspx>

ASCP Publications: The fourth edition of *Practical Diagnosis of Hematological Disorders* was published this year. Edited by Dr. Carl Kjeldsberg, it is an excellent reference for pathologists, residents, fellows, and those preparing for board exams in pathology and internal medicine. The fourth edition is dramatically expanded, including hundreds of high-quality color images and has grown into a two-volume set.

Mehrdad Nadji's text on *Efficient Tumor Immunohistochemistry: A Differential Diagnosis-Driven Approach* is now available. This text provides a comprehensive guide to the efficient and cost-effective selection of antibodies for IHC panels based on the determination of a "working differential diagnosis." Both common and uncommon diagnostic problems are addressed and illustrated with full-color images.

ASCP OUTREACH & INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

International Scope: The ASCP Institute provides training in laboratory medicine to a global audience through the continuation of a cooperative agreement from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supporting the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). During the first year of the three-year commitment, ASCP has supported laboratory training and quality improvement initiatives in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Lesotho, Swaziland, South Africa and Zambia.

Additional countries requesting support during the program's second year include: Haiti, Guyana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria and Rwanda. ASCP members are committed to supporting this humanitarian effort by sharing their knowledge and expertise of quality laboratory practices with laboratory professionals in Africa. Building laboratory capacity is essential for reliable diagnostic tests enabling healthcare workers to deliver effective treatment and reduce mortality.

BOARD OF REGISTRY

The ASCP Board of Registry (BOR) now offers international examinations including the new international certification designation ASCPⁱ. Domestically, the BOR certified 5,914 new laboratory professionals during the past year.

New certification examinations are being administered for Pathologists' Assistants in conjunction with the American Association for Pathologists' Assistants, now a participating member of the BOR.