

Contact: president@ascp.org

ASCP Fact Sheet

February/March 2008

The mission of the American Society for Clinical Pathology is to provide excellence in education, certification, and advocacy on behalf of patients, pathologists, and laboratory professionals.

EDUCATION

The ASCP offers a broad range of outstanding continuing medical education in surgical pathology, cytopathology, and all areas of laboratory medicine for pathologists, residents and laboratory professionals.

- In 2007, ASCP earned the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) accreditation for 6 years. “Accreditation with Commendation” reaffirms ASCP as the premier professional continuing education provider in pathology and laboratory medicine.
- ASCP offers a variety of activities designed to help pathologists meet Part II and Part IV Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requirements. ASCP assists pathologists in tracking their progress toward meeting MOC requirements with our on-line CME transcript system.
- The ASCP Pathology Resident In-Service Examination (RISE) will be March 22 – April 4, 2008. The registration deadline is March 1. The ASCP Fellow In-Service Hematopathology Examination, will be May 5 - May 16, 2008.
- Upcoming Meetings and Conferences:
 - ASCP Companion Society Program at the USCAP meeting, March 2 from 7:30 – 9:30 pm
 - ASCP Resident Review Course, April 10-15, 2008 in Hoffman Estates, IL
 - ASCP Educational Course, Update in Pulmonary Pathology: Contemporary Classification and Diagnosis (Co-sponsored by the Pulmonary Pathology Society), April 10-12, 2008 in Kiawah Island, SC
 - ASCP Annual Meeting, October 16-19, 2008 in Baltimore, Maryland.

ADVOCACY

The ASCP Washington Office represents the interests of pathology and laboratory medicine before Congress, federal regulatory agencies, and state governments through its advocacy efforts. The Washington Office also interacts with patient, allied health, lab and medical organizations to build coalitions to further the goals of ASCP.

- ASCP has recently urged its members to tell Members of Congress to support H.R. 3453, the “Community Clinical Laboratory Fairness Act of 2007,” and S. 2099, the “Preserving Access to Laboratory Services Act of 2007.” The bills seek to repeal the competitive bidding demonstration project.
- ASCP and the Connecticut Society of Pathology co-sponsored a forum in November on the medical laboratory workforce shortage. The event, held on the campus of Yale University, brought together a variety of stakeholders, including pathologists, laboratory directors and managers of acute-care hospital laboratories as well as reference and public health laboratories, hospital administrators, and state legislators. ASCP President, Lee H. Hilborne, MD, MPH, DLM(ASCP)^{CM}, FASCP, FCAP told attendees that the laboratory workforce shortage continues to be a high priority issue for ASCP and collaboration, on both local and national levels, will be key to solving such a complex problem.

INSTITUTE OUTREACH

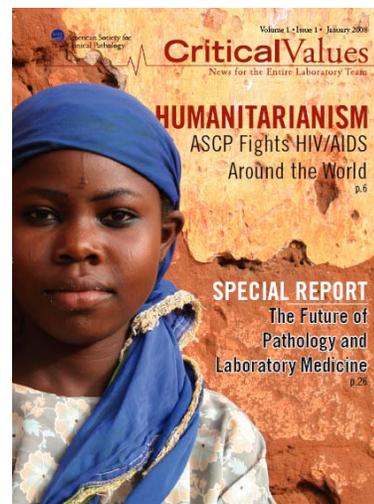
The ASCP Institute focuses on grants and contracts to develop a portfolio of self-sustaining projects that are altruistic and enhance laboratory services through education and training in the United States and international communities of need.

- The ASCP continues to expand its program to fight AIDS in Africa. The Society learned in October that another \$2,841,902 will be granted to support programming through its cooperative partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This is an increase of more than \$1.6 million from the previous year.
- ASCP representatives attended a CDC and World Health Organization-AFRO-sponsored consensus conference on Clinical Laboratory Testing Harmonization and Standardization, "Helping to Expand Quality Testing to Improve the Care and Treatment of People Infected with and Affected by HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria," in Maputo, Mozambique, January 22-24, 2008.

MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS

ASCP is the largest association of pathologists and laboratory professionals with 130,000 members worldwide. ASCP members are pathologists, pathologists' assistants, medical technologists and technicians, cytotechnologists, histotechnologists, histologic technicians, phlebotomists, clinical scientists, and other laboratory medicine professionals.

- ASCP will launch an all-new website in late March. The newly designed site will be more dynamic, efficient and user-friendly. To make the transition, the current ASCP website will accept online transactions through 5 p.m. March 5. From March 6-19, all orders normally made online must be made through ASCP Customer Service. (BOR applicants will be able to apply online for exams during this time.)
- In January 2008 ASCP launched a quarterly print publication for members called *Critical Values*, with news and feature stories for the entire laboratory team.
- ASCP is part of a consortium lobbying higher education and hospital administrators to keep cytotechnology programs open. A letter signed by the consortium in early January 2008 about the importance of keeping their programs active went to specific higher education administrators at the schools under threat.
- National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week is April 20-26, 2008. This year's theme is "Laboratory Professionals: Delivering Today's Results for a Healthier Tomorrow."



BOARD OF REGISTRY

The ASCP Board of Registry prepares relevant standards and develops procedures to assure the competence of laboratory personnel. The ASCP BOR offers examinations to certify medical technologists, technicians, cytotechnologists, histologic technicians, and other medical laboratory personnel.

- Over 56% of certificants participated in ASCP's Certification Maintenance Program in 2007, including 81% of Medical Technologists. Participation rates for Cytotechnologists, Histotechnicians and Histotechnologists exceeded 70%, and 55% of Medical Laboratory Technicians participated. Individuals who achieved time-limited certification (as opposed to those certified prior to mandatory certification) use the initials "CM" in their credentials.
- The ASCP Board of Registry celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2008.
- A new handbook for directors of clinical laboratory training programs will be available in February. This handbook will include detailed information to help program directors assist their students through the certification process.
- The first ASCP "International Certification Report" is available at ascp.org/Certification/CertifyingExaminations/international/default.aspx. As of February 2008, 741 individuals have applied for international certification.

PUBLICATIONS

The ASCP Press is a full-scale medical publisher of award-winning textbooks, reference manuals, and journals.

- ASCP recently introduced the next generation of encyclopedic pathology resources – the Quick Compendia Series – covering clinical pathology, surgical pathology and molecular pathology. In addition to comprehensive coverage of key pathology areas in print, these new volumes offer dramatic new online interactivity and instant updates.