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ASCP Update

February 2011

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.

MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS

ASCP is the largest association of pathologists and laboratory professionals with more than 100,000 members worldwide. ASCP members are pathologists, medical laboratory scientists and technicians, pathologists' assistants, cytotechnologists, histotechnologists, histotechnicians, phlebotomists, clinical scientists, and other laboratory medicine professionals.

- ASCP, the College of American Pathologists and the American Society of Clinical Oncology have joined forces to provide financial and expertise support for the provision of telepathology equipment to a hospital in Karatu, Tanzania, built by the Foundation for African Medicine and Education (FAME). Visit www.ascp.org/FAME.
- ASCP's Take Center Stage Online Video Contest is designed to encourage lab teams across the country to showcase the important role they play in patient care every day. Visit www.ascp.org/labweek.
- The ASCP Fellow Council invites all pathologists to share their top concerns about pathology. Send your thoughts to fellowchair@ascp.org. The top five issues will be discussed during the Fellow Council Forum Breakfast at the ASCP 2011 Annual Meeting.
- The January 2011 issue of *Critical Values* focuses on ASCP's global activities to date.
- ASCP now offers a new "comic-style" classroom poster, reminding middle and high school science students that "You don't have to be a doctor or nurse to work in a hospital." Download a PDF, or order sets of five at www.ascp.org/CareerLinks.
- To encourage and support individuals interested in laboratory professions, ASCP offers the National Student Honor Awards to laboratory students in their fourth or final clinical years of study. Application deadline is March 2, 2011. Visit www.ascp.org/nsha.
- ASCP's unique membership tool for laboratory professionals, re.member, includes access to unlimited online CE.



Frank Artress, MD, co-founded FAME.

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION

The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) prepares relevant standards and develops procedures to assure the competence of laboratory personnel. The ASCP BOC offers examinations to certify medical laboratory scientists, technologists, technicians, cytotechnologists, histotechnicians, and other medical laboratory personnel.

- Joseph Brendan Baker is the newly appointed Manager of International Certification Activities for the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC). He will provide support for International Advisory Board members, Ambassadors, and Regional Representatives, and conduct international market research. He was formerly the Assistant Director of International and Cultural Affairs with the Indianapolis Mayor's Office.
- The Specialist in Laboratory Safety (SLS) certification will be changed to a qualification, effective Jan. 1, 2012. Eligibility requirements will be revised and posted later in the year on the BOC Web page.
- International certificants (ASCPⁱ) certified beginning Jan. 1, 2012, will be required to participate in the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP).
- A new international certification, International Technologist in Gynecologic Cytology, CTgyn, is now available. This examination will be 1.5 hours with 50 questions. Detailed information regarding this certification will be available later this month at www.ascp.org/international.
- More than 150 applications have been submitted for the BOC and Institute for Global Outreach's new International Qualification in Laboratory Operations in developing countries.

ASCP INSTITUTE: GLOBAL OUTREACH

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

- In February, ASCP plans to conduct a Strengthening Laboratory Management Toward Accreditation (SLMTA) 3 workshop in Tanzania and a follow-up laboratory assessment in Namibia. In Mozambique, ASCP staff and consultants will support SLMTA baseline assessments and the first workshop as well as a mentor training for SLMTA laboratory mentors.
- In January, ASCP staff and consultants conducted an Advanced Hematology Training of Trainers in Kigali, Rwanda; a SLMTA 3 workshop in Kenya; and a Teaching Methodologies workshop in Maputo, Mozambique.

ADVOCACY

The ASCP Washington office advocates for pathology and laboratory medicine before Congress, federal regulatory agencies, and state governments. It also collaborates with organizations representing patients, allied health professionals, and others in pathology and laboratory medicine to meet the goals of ASCP.

- ASCP in partnership with the American Society for Cytopathology scored an important victory for Florida's cytotechnologists. On Dec. 3, the Florida Board of Clinical Laboratory Personnel followed ASCP's recommendations and unanimously ruled that licensed cytotechnologists may perform HPV and fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) testing.
- More than 1,100 advocates reached out to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to express opposition to a recently adopted rule requiring a physician's signature on requisitions for clinical diagnostic laboratory tests. CMS has indicated that it is considering the possibility of eliminating its recent rule or extending further its implementation date. ASCP is launching a new advocacy campaign to encourage its members to write Congress to urge them to reverse the physician signature requirement on laboratory requisitions. www.ascp.org/ActionAlerts

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ASCP offers a broad range of outstanding continuing medical education programs in surgical pathology, cytopathology, and all areas of laboratory medicine for pathologists, residents, and laboratory professionals. ASCP is also the resource for pathologists' MOC needs and laboratory professionals' CMP.

- Registration for the 2011 ASCP Annual Meeting/WASPaLM XXVI World Congress is open. For more information, including a preliminary list of education sessions and hotel information, visit www.ascp.org/2011annualmeeting.
- The 2011 ASCP Annual Meeting Call for Abstracts is now open. In addition to traditional scientific abstracts, ASCP will accept for the first time laboratory practice abstracts, which present a summary or case study of a problem and its resolution. Submission deadline is midnight (GMT-6) April 29, 2011. Go to www.ascp.org/2011annualmeeting and click on Abstracts.
- ASCP has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the American Pathology Foundation to collaborate in the development and delivery of pathology laboratory management educational programs. For details, visit www.ascp.org/APF.
- ASCP will conduct 83 Workshops for Laboratory Professionals at 11 meetings in 2011, plus two companion workshops at the Atlanta ASCLS annual meeting in July.
- The Spring 2011 Teleconferences and Live webcasts season includes 46 new programs and many interactive case studies. Registered sites will now receive post-program access to the archived webcast file.
- The Educational Course "Gynecologic Pathology" is Feb. 1-5 in Naples, Fla.
- The spring 2011 Resident Review Course is Feb. 3-9 in Hoffman Estates, Ill.
- The Resident In-Service Examination (RISE) will be held March 19-April 1, 2011. The registration deadline is March 1.
- The Spring 2011 Fellow In-Service Hematopathology Examination (FISHE), Fellow Forensic In-Service Examination (FISE) and Fellow Transfusion Medicine In-Service Examination will be May 2-13, 2011. The registration deadline is April 8.

PUBLICATIONS

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

- Read about pathology subspecialty fellowship application reform from the perspectives of the Council of the Association of Pathology Chairs and the Council of the Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology in a special article and related editorial that appear in the March 2011 issue of *AJCP*.
- Doody's Medical Text Rating Service gave a five-star rating to the ASCP Press two-volume, third edition of the classic *Foucar Bone Marrow Pathology*. The text is structured around the new World Health Organization classification scheme and features more than 2,000 high-quality color images.