



ASCP BOARD OF
CERTIFICATION

Newsletter

March 2026

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Our mission is to provide **excellence in certification** of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide.

Our vision is to be the **gold standard in global certification** for all laboratory professionals.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Joan Polancic, MEd, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

I am honored to step into the role of Chair of the Board of Governors (BOG). I have been on the BOG for the last seven years and am privileged to serve with laboratory professionals from all disciplines and representatives from many laboratory science and pathology organizations. It has been a wonderful experience to work with such a diverse group of laboratory experts and get to see a broader perspective of the laboratory community.

As some of you may know, I have been involved in Medical Laboratory Sciences education for most of my career. I've been a Program Director at two hospital-based programs, faculty at a 2+2 university-based program, and served on an advisory committee for a Medical Laboratory Technician program. In addition, I had a brief experience working in a molecular research laboratory and served as Director of Education at the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) for 11 years. I also worked as part of a laboratory consulting group. I am now "mostly" retired from my Program Director duties at the Denver Health School of Medical Laboratory Science and now teach part-time.

I always tell students that your career will take you places you may have never imagined. Some of the most enriching experiences in my career have come from volunteering in a professional organization; for me that was ASCLS. I am grateful for my career path, all that I have learned along the way, and especially all the wonderful colleagues I have met. I look forward to learning as I continue my service on the BOG.

The BOG met November 21 - 22, 2025, in Atlanta and was led by Vicki Freeman, PhD, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, SC^{CM}, FADLM. Vicki transitions to Past-Chair, and we thank her for her leadership. We said farewell to the BOG Public Member, Elaine Francis, EDd, who served for nine years and welcomed Christin (Coco) O'Shaughnessy, MSW, PEL, as the new public member. You can read about Ms. O'Shaughnessy elsewhere in this newsletter. The BOG also recognized the ultimate service of past BOG members with Distinguished Service Awards. This year's recipients were Tom Alexander, PhD, D(ABMLI), and Sue Graham, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}. Both played significant roles which you can read about elsewhere in the newsletter.

Finally, amidst many enlightening parts of the November BOG meeting, I would like to highlight a few significant actions.

Nomenclature

The BOG approved a motion to change the credential title of Technologist to Scientist. For example, Technologist in Chemistry is now Scientist in Chemistry for the C(ASCP) or C(ASCP)¹ credentials. You can see all the updates on the BOC website. This is another significant milestone in the journey of updating what we call ourselves. The BOC Nomenclature Task Force, along with other organizations, has worked hard to standardize the nomenclature of laboratory professionals. We all must help educate our colleagues, other healthcare professionals, and the public to help create our accurate, unified, and visible identity.

Eligibility routes

Changes to three certification examination routes were approved.

- **DMLI(ASCP) examination** – addition of MBBS or MBChB degrees as acceptable for eligibility. These are acceptable medical degrees from outside the U.S.
- **Microbiology examination M(ASCP)/M(ASCP)¹** – addition of a new eligibility route for graduation from a NAACLS-accredited stand-alone Microbiology program (new Route 6).
- **Phlebotomy examination PBT(ASCP)/PBT(ASCP)¹** - revision of Route 2 eligibility by removing the requirement for 100 clinical hours but maintaining requirements for 40 clock hours of classroom training, a minimum of 100 successful unaided venipunctures, as well as clinical training.

See the ASCP BOC website for specific information about these updates. Feel free to contact the ASCP BOC team at ASCPBOC@ascp.org with any questions or ideas.

Executive Director Perspective

AT THE INTERSECTION OF EXCELLENCE & STRATEGY: CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT & DATA

**Amy Spiczka, DHSc, MS,
HTL(ASCP)^{CM}, SCT^{CM}, MB^{CM}, CPHQ**



Consultative practices and healthy diversity of perspectives benefit patients and professional. This is proven in patient outcomes, evidence-based research, and is a core tenet for ASCP BOC-credentialed experts as well as for the ASCP BOC as an organization. Whether you are contributing to patient care and professional excellence in laboratory medicine, anatomic pathology, or adjacent laboratory-related domains, our collective commitment to patient-centric quality and advancement also assures that ASCP BOC credential holders are recognized, relevant, and valued.

Dedication to continuous quality improvement (CQI) is a very personal journey requiring diligence and focus. Exhibiting CQI best practices is evident and thriving in the organizations we collectively work with. This is likewise true of your ASCP BOC, as well as our professional partners and federated organizations. The ASCP BOC's CQI advancements are led by the Board of Governors (BOG) and the BOC team, including leaders at all levels. We choose to frame CQI as a proactive commitment rather than a reactive approach.

Another foundational element of organizational excellence focuses on elevating strategy. Recently, the BOG Executive Committee met to assess and advance strategic goals and objectives for 2026. As is true of your organizations, the ASCP BOC is defined by culture. A culture of safety and accountability with detailed key performance indicators (KPIs) and milestones assures that strategies become tactics to

implement, while ultimately being realized as positive outcomes and/or CQI opportunities. This culture and dedication are likewise vibrant in our BOG contributors who lead thirty-five committees, work groups and task forces, while thirty international advisory boards extend our reach.

The ASCP BOC remains patient-centric, professional-forward, and data-driven in our decision-making, recognizing that our improved workflows and operations excellence (OpEx) contribute to your professional journey as you likewise care for patients and professionals. One point of supportive evidence is recognized through ASCP BOC 2025 examinations and credentials data being made publicly available (active links follow).

[ASCP Examinations & Credentials
Insights & Analytics 2025](#)

[ASCPi Examinations & Credentials
Insights & Analytics 2025](#)

[Qualification Examinations & Credentials
Insights & Analytics 2025](#)

Further, at the intersection of patient-centric professional credentialing and CQI, the ASCP BOC exemplifies quality for professionals through a vibrant culture of safety with the underpinnings of accountability to elevate our workflows to drive enhanced experiences. In mid-January, we hosted an ASCP BOC "Best Practices Workshop" illuminating and

engaging with the full BOC team to evidence and support their CQI commitments and contributions.

As an ongoing commitment to you, since 2023, ASCP BOC's OpEx has contributed to nearly thirty thousand examination applicants (applying through accredited laboratory training program eligibility routes) who have been able to benefit from auto-eligibility – able to schedule their examination date, time, and location in under 48 hours! Similarly, the BOC team has come together to significantly decrease our credential maintenance program (CMP) turn-around time. As of mid-February 2026, all CMP declarations for February and March 2026 have been assessed, with April 2026 CMP submissions prepared for audit. In comparison, at this point last year, over 1,000 CMP declarations would have remained in the queue for manual evaluation for the current month! We hope it's evident we are CQI-committed and dedicated to enhancing credential holders' experiences.

Please stay connected with us in 2026 - through ASCP BOC newsletters, the 2025 Year in Review: Highlights

report, emails, our new [website](#), social media channels, and experience and engagement activities - where you'll learn more about our strong commitment to and strategic investments for:

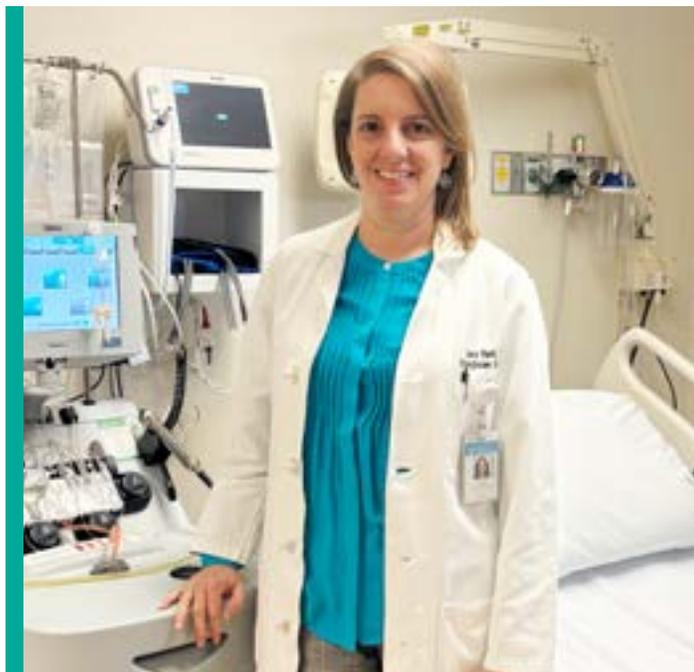
- Regulatory readiness through our ANAB accreditation (ISO/IEC 17024)
- Dedicated quality systems essentials
- Quality Improvement Council
- Data Governance Council and data science advancements
- Professional development
- Innovative professional credentialing advancements

As ASCP BOC-credentialed professionals, we recognize the value of OpEx-focused continuous quality improvement, as well as strategic advancements and data transparency, to advance professional visibility and value. Thank you for the opportunity to elevate the ASCP BOC's value in support of you!



WHY DOES THE ASCP BOC QUALIFICATION IN APHERESIS (QIA) MATTER?

Yara Park, MD, QIA^{CM}



Yara Park, MD, QIA^{CM} is the Chief Graduate Medical Education Officer, Designated Institutional Official and Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine.

In January 2016, the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC), in collaboration with the American Society for Apheresis (ASFA), introduced the Qualification in Apheresis (QIA) to formally recognize expertise in apheresis medicine. This credential evolved from the Hemapheresis Practitioner certification, HP(ASCP), which was discontinued in 2010, prior to the launch of the QIA.

Apheresis is a specialized procedure that separates blood components—typically via centrifugation or filtration—for therapeutic purposes or to collect components for transfusion or cellular therapy. It plays a critical role in treating autoimmune and hematologic conditions and is foundational to advanced therapies such as CAR-T cell and gene therapy products.

Despite its complexity, apheresis lacks a standardized training pathway. Physicians from various specialties — including hematology, nephrology, and pathology — oversee procedures, while nurses and other healthcare professionals perform them. This variability underscores the need for a credential that validates competence and experience.

The QIA credential addresses this gap. Open to physicians, nurses, and other eligible professionals, this qualification offers seven distinct eligibility pathways, ranging from formal education to clinical experience. It is time-limited, requiring ongoing continuing education to maintain certification and stay current with evolving practices.

Having a provider with the QIA credential assures patients, donors, and institutions that the individual has demonstrated a high level of expertise and commitment to safe, effective apheresis practice. While not yet required by regulatory agencies or commercial cellular therapy companies, the QIA credential may become increasingly essential as gene and cellular therapies expand.

As a practitioner with the QIA credential, I pursued the QIA to deepen my understanding of this broad and evolving field. It affirms my commitment to excellence and provides reassurance to both my patients and my institution of my qualifications in apheresis medicine.

As of January 1, 2026, there are 289 individuals who have earned the QIA, and we hope that number continues to grow!

REVISED EXAMINATION TOPIC OUTLINES

The Qualification in Immunohistochemistry (QIHC) and Qualification in Laboratory Safety (QLS) Examination Topic Outlines have been revised for examinations administered beginning February 1, 2026. The revised [QIHC](#) and [QLS](#) Topic Outlines are currently available on the ASCP BOC website.

DIGITAL BADGING IS HERE!

The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) recently launched digital badges through [Credly](#), and has issued almost 2,800 digital badges to active credential holders to date. Digital badges represent a secure, instant, and shareable verification of ASCP BOC credentials with key information captured in its protected metadata. Eighty-three percent of the badges claimed went to those who successfully fulfilled the Credential Maintenance Program (CMP), while 17 percent represented new credentials earned in 2026. ASCP BOC credential holders renewing CMP on or after January 1, 2026, will now be issued an ASCP BOC Digital Badge through Credly.

Credly data analytics indicates that the digital badges issued to date are most commonly shared via email and LinkedIn, leveraging the benefits of the immediate, shareable, protected nature of ASCP BOC digital badges. These badges may also be [purchased](#) by credential holders who are in a current CMP cycle and do not want to wait for CMP renewal to be issued one. Individuals credentialed prior to mandatory CMP, who do not participate in voluntary CMP, may also [purchase](#) a badge.

Help us spread the word about digital badging by sharing our [website](#) with your professional network!

NEW ASCP BOC WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) is pleased to share that our new patient-centric and value-affirming website officially launched early November! This milestone reflects extensive planning and collaboration, and visitors will benefit from improved navigation, expanded resources, and an updated visual experience that supports clearer, more efficient access to information and ASCP BOC offerings.

New ASCP BOC website features:

1. [Celebrating credential value](#) – Dedicated section that spotlights the value of ASCP BOC credentials, showcases credential holder achievements, and highlights the organization's data-driven, positive contributions to laboratory professionals and patients.
2. [Showcasing partners within the laboratory](#) – Our trusted partners and constituents can be easily found on the new website.
3. [Highlighting volunteers](#) – Our volunteers are at the heart of what we do, and the new Volunteer section provides resources for participation and gratitude to our current volunteers.
4. [Credentials available](#) – See how you can demonstrate your expertise through the wide variety of credentials offered by the ASCP BOC.
5. [Streamlined application experience](#) – A clarified, intuitive process for applying and maintaining credentials makes it easier than ever for users to navigate their professional credential journey.
6. [Credential maintenance excellence](#) – Credential holders can seamlessly navigate through the Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) section to understand the requirements to maintain a valid credential.
7. [Digital badging](#) – A safe and efficient digital badge allows credential holders to securely store and share their ASCP BOC credentials.
8. [Educators](#) – Comprehensive resources are provided for program directors, educators, or other contributors to guide and support their students.

We are committed to regularly updating and enhancing the website, so let us know your thoughts. Please check out the [new website](#), and if you have anything to share about your experience, email us at BOCFacebook@ascp.org.

ASCP BOC ADVANCES PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION THROUGH UNIFIED NOMENCLATURE AND NEW TOOLKIT RESOURCES

The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) has announced an important step forward in strengthening professional recognition across the medical laboratory profession: the continued alignment of professional credential nomenclature from “technologist” to “scientist.”

This update reflects years of engagement with credential holders, educators, employers, and professional stakeholders who consistently emphasized the importance of titles that accurately represent the scientific expertise, education, and responsibilities of today’s medical laboratory professionals.

A complete list of credentials reflecting this update is available on the new ASCP BOC website:

[ascp.org/boc/explore-credentials/view-all-credentials](https://www.ascp.org/boc/explore-credentials/view-all-credentials)

Why Nomenclature Matters

Professional titles are more than labels; they shape how laboratory professionals are understood by employers, healthcare teams, policymakers, and the public. Aligning nomenclature to “scientist” better reflects:

- The advanced education and competencies required for these roles
- The scientific decision-making and analytical expertise involved in practice
- Greater consistency across education pathways, workforce structures, and regulatory environments

Importantly, this change is nomenclature only. There are no changes to credential status, eligibility requirements, scope of practice, or maintenance expectations for affected credentials.

Coming soon: Unified Nomenclature Toolkit

To support laboratories, organizations, and institutions in adopting and reinforcing accurate credential usage, the ASCP BOC will be releasing the Unified Nomenclature Toolkit in late March. Make sure to watch the [website](#) for this valuable resource.

The toolkit will serve as a practical, action-oriented resource designed to help teams:

- Identify and correct outdated or inaccurate credential terminology
- Promote consistent, professional titles across communications, HR materials, and social media
- Strengthen professional identity and credibility within healthcare systems
- Support clearer communication that benefits both healthcare teams and patients

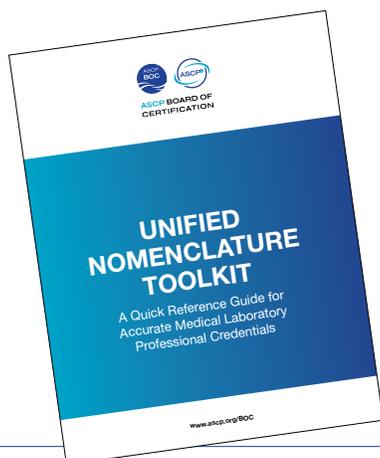
Resources within the toolkit will include guidance on preferred credential titles, formatting standards, sample communications, social media language, and strategies for addressing outdated terminology respectfully and effectively.

A Call to Action for the Laboratory Community

Upon release of the Nomenclature Toolkit, the ASCP BOC will encourage laboratories, healthcare organizations, academic institutions, and professional leaders to review and update their internal and external materials, job descriptions, websites, email signatures, policies, and educational content, to reflect unified, accurate credential nomenclature.

By adopting consistent language, organizations help elevate the visibility, respect, and understanding of the medical laboratory profession while reinforcing its essential role in patient care and public health.

Together, accurate nomenclature strengthens professional identity, supports workforce advancement, and ensures the scientific contributions of laboratory professionals are clearly recognized, today and into the future!



GLOBAL IMPACT AT THE 2025 ASCP ANNUAL MEETING

The global reach of the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) took center stage at the recent ASCP Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, where international collaboration, workforce mobility, and credentialing excellence were featured through a dynamic panel presentation, interactive roundtables, and the popular Global Café experience.

Global Voices in Credentialing

A featured virtual panel brought together leaders representing ASCP BOC International Advisory Boards and ASCP advocacy. Matthew Schulze, Senior Director of ASCP's Center for Public Policy, highlighted advocacy efforts addressing immigration issues that affect the laboratory workforce. He was joined by Tedla M. Kelecha, MS, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, Chair of the ASCP BOC Ethiopia Advisory Board, and Maher A. Sughayer, MD, FCAP, Chair of the ASCP BOC Jordan Advisory Board. Together, they shared regional perspectives on the evolving state of laboratory medicine and the growing global impact of ASCP BOC credentialing.

Presenters emphasized how ASCP BOC credentials and participation in the Credential Maintenance Program (CMP) support career growth, workforce quality, and improved patient care worldwide.

Roundtable Discussions Foster Global Collaboration

Attendees also participated in facilitated roundtable discussions focused on global credentialing, workforce mobility, and international partnerships facilitated by the ASCP BOC International Credentialing Committee and International Advisory Board Chairs from India and Ethiopia. Topics included:

- Recognition and adoption of ASCP and ASCPⁱ credentials across regions
- Workforce pathways and migration trends in low- and middle-income countries
- Barriers and solutions for internationally trained professionals seeking employment in the United States
- Resources and engagement strategies to support credentialing and professional transitions worldwide

These conversations underscored the importance of cross-border collaboration and highlighted the essential role ASCP BOC credentials play in building a confident, competent global laboratory workforce.

Global Café Celebrates International Community

Located in the Centennial Ballroom Foyer, the ASCP BOC Global Café served as a vibrant hub for international attendees. Laboratory professionals connected with the ASCP BOC team and global representatives, explored credentialing resources, and engaged in conversations about the worldwide value of ASCP and ASCPⁱ credentials.

The Global Café continues to be a cornerstone of ASCP BOC's commitment to supporting international laboratory professionals, fostering professional connections, and advancing patient-centered advocacy through global credentialing.

Together, these events reflected a shared vision: strengthening the global laboratory community through collaboration, advocacy, and internationally recognized standards of excellence.



Global Roundtables bring international themes into focus



Fostering connections at the ASCP BOC Global Café

2025 ASCP BOC AWARDS PRESENTED IN ATLANTA

BOC Distinguished Service Awards

The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) recognized two volunteers at an awards ceremony in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 21, 2025. The Board of Governors (BOG) Chair, Vicki Freeman, PhD, MASCP, MLS (ASCP)^{CM} SC^{CM}, FADLM, presented the BOC Distinguished Service Award (DSA) to Thomas Alexander, PhD, D(ABMLI), and Susan Graham, MS, MLS(ASCP)SH^{CM}, at a luncheon in their honor. The DSA is presented to volunteers who have served the ASCP BOC for a minimum of six years and made significant contributions involving extra time and effort toward the mission to provide excellence in certification of laboratory professionals on behalf of patients worldwide.

Both Dr. Alexander and Ms. Graham served on the BOG as laboratory professional representatives for the ASCP.

Dr. Alexander served on the BOG from 2018 to 2024 where he was elected as BOC Financial Officer beginning in 2021 and chaired the ASCP BOC Finance Committee. During his tenure he also served on various other committees including the Ethics Review Committee (2015 – 2018), the Policy and Procedure Committee (2016 – 2018), the Council of Committee Chairs (2019 – 2024), and the Examination Oversight Committee (2018 – 2024). Dr. Alexander was appointed as the BOG Liaison to the Cytometry Examination Committee, and he was instrumental in getting the Diplomate in Medical Laboratory Immunology examination off the ground. He served as both the committee chair and liaison for the DMLI Examination Committee since its inception. In June 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the DMLI certification as a qualifier for directors of high-complexity laboratories under CLIA regulations. At the conclusion of his final term on the BOG, Dr. Alexander was asked to stay on the DMLI Examination Committee where he continues to serve today. Citing his experience with the DMLI, he was recently appointed to the Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Science (DCLS) Examination Committee.

Dr. Alexander's contribution has not been limited to recent years. Prior to his service on the BOG, he volunteered on the Immunology Examination Committee (1997 – 2002), the Cytometry Quali-



Susan Graham, MS, MLS(ASCP)SH^{CM} and Thomas Alexander, PhD, D(ABMLI) receive the 2026 BOC Distinguished Service Award (DSA).

fication Work Group (2004 – 2017) and the retired Qualification in Laboratory Operations (QLO) Work Group (2010 – 2015).

Ms. Graham served on the BOG from 2014 to 2024 where she was Chair-Elect in 2020 and became BOG Chair 2021 – 2023. In 2024 she served as Past BOG Chair. During her tenure she also served on various committees including the Examination Oversight Committee (2014 – 2019, 2023 – 2024), the Policy and Procedure Committee (2015 – 2019, 2023 – 2024), the Editorial Committee (2019 – 2020) the Program Directors Advisory Committee (2018 – 2020), the ASCP BOC Nominating Committee (2016 – 2019, 2024) and the Website Task Force (2022 – present). Ms. Graham was appointed to the Hematology Examination Committee as BOG Liaison from 2014 – 2023, but prior to her time on the BOG she served as a member of the examination committee beginning in 2005. She served as the committee chair from 2010 – 2012 and stayed on as a consultant to the committee in 2013. Her work on the Hematology Examination Committee coincides with her appointment to the Joint Generalist Examination Committee for which she served from 2003 – 2005 and 2007 – 2010. During her time as an ASCP BOC volunteer, she was awarded the 2014 Distinguished Service Award. Ms. Graham's contributions to laboratory professionals, stakeholders, and patients were again recognized in 2025 with a second DSA.

2025 ASCP BOC AWARDS PRESENTED IN ATLANTA (CONTINUED)

2025 BOG Service Awards

Earlier in the year, several ASCP BOC volunteers were awarded the BOC Board of Governors Service Award (BOGSA). Six volunteers were recognized for having made noteworthy contributions during their tenure as a committee or Board member and received an engraved rosewood clock. The 2025 recipients of the BOGSA included:

Jessica Back, PhD, SCYM(ASCP)^{CM}, was honored for her service on the Cytometry Examination Committee (2016 – 2024). She served as vice-chair 2016 – 2020 and as committee chair 2020 – 2023. She also represented the committee on the Council of Committee Chairs (CCC) 2019 – 2023.

Kjerstin Buboltz, PA(ASCP)^{CM}, was honored for her service on the Pathologists' Assistants Examination Committee (2016 – 2024). She served as vice-chair 2019 – 2022 and as committee chair 2022 – 2023. She also represented the committee on the CCC 2022 – 2023.

J.R. Constance, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, was honored for his service to the BOG. He served as one of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) Representatives on the BOG from 2018 – 2024. Mr. Constance served on several BOG standing committees including the Editorial Committee (2019 – 2024), the Ethics Review Committee (2021-2024), the Social Media Committee (2023 – 2024), and he was the BOG Liaison to the Laboratory Safety Qualification Work Group (2023 – 2024). Mr. Constance rotated off the Board early to assist ASCLS with staggering the terms of the four representatives.

Kathleen Finnegan, MS, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)SH^{CM}, was honored for her service to the Medical Laboratory Assistant

Examination Committee from 2014 – 2024. She served as the committee vice chair from 2018 – 2022 and as chair 2022 – 2024. She represented the examination committee on the CCC (2022 – 2024) and was actively involved in the Program Directors Advisory Committee (2018 – 2024). Ms. Finnegan was previously the recipient of the 2022 BOC Distinguished Service Award for her work as a Board of Governors volunteer (2012 – 2021).

Paul Mann, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}MB^{CM}, served on the Molecular Biology Examination Committee from 2018 – 2024. Dr. Mann served as vice-chair 2022 – 2023 and as chair 2023 – 2024. He represented the committee on the CCC (2022 – 2024) and participated as a member of the Joint Generalist Examination Committee (2019- 2022).

Walter Oliveira, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}SI, was honored for his work on the Medical Laboratory Assistant Examination Committee from 2014 – 2024. He served as the committee vice chair from 2015 – 2018 and as chair 2018 – 2024. He represented the examination committee on the CCC (2018 – 2022). Mr. Oliveira continues to serve on the Cytometry Examination Committee (2016 – present). He has been an ASCP BOC volunteer since 1997, starting with his service on the Immunology Examination Committee (1997- 2003). As a BOG member (2005 – 2014) he has held numerous positions including BOG Chair (2010 – 2012) for which he was awarded the BOC Distinguished Service Award in 2014.

The 2025 awards reflect the sustained commitment of ASCP BOC volunteers, who year after year, share their time and expertise, to create a lasting impact on the laboratory professionals and patients they serve. ASCP BOC volunteers are the cornerstone of the credentialing body. It is only through their dedication that the mission and vision of the ASCP BOC is fulfilled.



ASCP BOC THANKS EDUCATORS AND ATTENDEES FOR A SUCCESSFUL CLEC

The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) extends its sincere thanks to all attendees, educators, and partners who helped make its presence at the 2026 American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC) a success.

Throughout the conference, the ASCP BOC connected with program directors, faculty, and educators from across the country, engaging in meaningful conversations centered on student success, workforce readiness, and the future of the medical laboratory profession. Attendees visited the ASCP BOC booth to explore credentialing pathways, workforce data, and educator-focused resources designed to support recruitment, retention, and long-term career growth.

Conference programming further highlighted the value of professional credentials in education and practice. The ASCP BOC poster presentation, *Recruitment and Retention through ASCP BOC Professional Credentials*, generated thoughtful discussion on how credentials contribute to student engagement, workforce stability, and patient safety. The Credentials Symposium and virtual session on the value of credentialing reinforced the critical

role educators play as workforce advocates and partners in preparing practice-ready graduates.

“The engagement and dialogue throughout CLEC reaffirms the importance of collaboration between educators and credentialing bodies,” said Amy Spiczka, DHSc, MS, HTL(ASCP)^{CM}, SCT^{CM}, MB^{CM}, CPHQ, Executive Director of the ASCP BOC. “We are grateful for the opportunity to listen, learn, and engage in dialogue that supports educational excellence and the next generation of medical laboratory professionals.”

ASCP BOC also thanks all who connected during sessions, stopped by the booth, and participated in conversations, both in person and virtually. These interactions continue to inform ASCP BOC’s efforts to provide data-driven insights, educator resources, and credentialing pathways that align with workforce development efforts.

The ASCP BOC looks forward to continuing these partnerships beyond CLEC and to supporting educators in advancing quality, trust, and patient safety across the medical laboratory profession.



Kassi Erickson, EdD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}PBT^{CM} of South Dakota was selected as one of three winners of a Lab Week gift pack at the 2026 CLEC meeting.

LIVE EVENT SCHEDULE FOR PROGRAM DIRECTORS & EDUCATORS

Program directors have many resources available through the ASCP BOC [website](#). Along with the program directors' guide on the website, the ASCP BOC hosts live events presented by program directors. The monthly live events connect, educate, and collaboratively brainstorm solutions that best support medical laboratory education. These conversations are intentionally focused on identifying practical strategies that help programs succeed and ensure students are well prepared for their professional journeys. A few of the 2025 live event topics include best practices across clinical disciplines, student recruitment and retention strategies, artificial intelligence (AI) in higher education, and the value of ASCP BOC credentials.

**Stay up to date with program director updates by joining the [Program Directors Facebook Page](#).
If you have any questions, email PDInfo@ascp.org.**

LABORATORY SUPERSTAR CAMPAIGN

The ASCP BOC's annual Laboratory Superstar Awards are complete. The 2025 Laboratory Superstar recipients and runners-up have been recognized and rewarded for their hard work. This year's theme was the Laboratory Professionals Choice Awards, where the people voted on the applicant that they thought deserved the award. Ten recipients and 10 runners-up were announced on the ASCP BOC social media channels – [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#). There were so many amazing submissions this year, and the ASCP BOC applauds all applicants. Congratulations to all our 2025 Laboratory Superstars. We appreciate your dedication to the laboratory.

Missed out on nominating your hardworking colleague? Remember to nominate them in our 2026 campaign in the Fall. Information will be posted on the ASCP BOC social media channels as we get closer.



MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS' WEEK EXCITEMENT

Medical Laboratory Professional's Week starts April 19 and runs through April 25, 2026. This year, the ASCP BOC is following ASCP's 'Lab Story' theme by asking laboratory professionals to submit their laboratory story. This story could be a heartfelt laboratory story, a funny story, or a story from preparing for the ASCP BOC examination.

Submissions are due April 6, 2026 so don't miss out on telling your story!

The ASCP BOC team will pick a few stories to highlight on the BOC's social media pages during Medical Laboratory Professionals' Week.



COMING SOON!

2025 ASCP BOC YEAR IN REVIEW – A SNEAK PEEK

This spring, we'll be sharing the 2025 ASCP BOC Year in Review Highlights Report, our second annual snapshot of the impact, progress, and people behind ASCP BOC credentials.

The 2025 report will spotlight key themes from the year, including:

- The evolving value of ASCP BOC credentials and credentialing research
- Expanded professional partnerships and workforce engagement
- Data-driven credentialing and Continuing Maintenance Program (CMP) insights
- Growing digital engagement, advocacy, and global impact
- Highlights from the ASCP BOC Board of Governors Fall 2025 Meeting, global advocacy, research, and publications

Watch for the 2025 Highlights Report—delivered to your inbox in April.

In the meantime, explore the inaugural [2024 Year in Review](#) anytime on our website.

BOG WELCOMES NEW PUBLIC MEMBER

At the November ASCP BOC Board of Governors (BOG) meeting in Atlanta, the BOG said farewell to Elaine Francis, EdD, who served as the Public Member on the BOG for nine years. As Public Member Dr. Francis represented the “voice of the patient,” providing a non-professional consumer-focused perspective to Board discussions. She ensured that the patient’s needs and safety were prioritized during all decision making. Dr. Francis did an excellent job in her role, and she will be missed.

At the same time, the BOG welcomed Christin (Coco) O’Shaughnessy, MSW, PEL, as the new Public Member. Ms. O’Shaughnessy works as a licensed social worker in the suburbs of Chicago, providing services to elementary school students and their families. She creates and manages Individualized Education Program (IEP) and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) to help students foster positive relationships, providing them with the ability to learn. Ms. O’Shaughnessy is also a Certified End of Life Specialist, who also works as a consultant to develop and deliver interactive online courses for hospice, palliative care and other end-of-life professionals for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) Manager Development Program (MDP). She joins the BOG with over 25 years of experience in advocacy and community outreach.



Christin (Coco) O’Shaughnessy

NSH HONORS LENA SPENCER WITH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The National Society for Histotechnology (NSH) desires to empower the next generation of histotechnologists and has established the [Lena Spencer Scholarship Fund](#). The awards will assist histology professionals achieve certification by covering examination application fees for HT(ASCP), HT(ASCP), HTL(ASCP), or HTL(ASCP). Lena Spencer, HTL(ASCP)QIHC^{CM} served on the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification (ASCP BOC) Board of Governors (BOG) from 2011 - 2020 as the NSH Representative. Prior to being elected to the BOG, Ms. Spencer served on the Histotechnology Examination Committee from 2007 - 2011. Before her passing, she received the Histotechnologist of the Decade Award from NSH and was posthumously awarded the BOC Distinguished Service Awards (DSA) in 2021.

“We are especially grateful for these laudable luminaries, including Lena Spencer, Dr. Garza, Dr. Becan McBride, and Dr. Ring, who exemplify how to pave the way forward for patient-centric professionals aiming to elevate their careers and advance laboratory science.”

Amy Spiczka, DHSc, MS, HTL(ASCP)^{CM}, SCT^{CM}, MB^{CM}, CPHQ

ASCP SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

The American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) offers a variety of scholarships and grants for students as well.

Garza & Becan-McBride Phlebotomy Student Scholarships

The Garza & Becan-McBride Phlebotomy Student Scholarships are awarded to support students aspiring to become phlebotomists. The scholarships were established by Diana “Didi” Garza, EdD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM} and Kathleen Becan McBride, EdD, MASCP, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, authors of the *Phlebotomy Handbook: Blood Specimen Collection from Basic to Advanced*.

Dr. McBride served on the BOG from 2001 – 2011, where she was elected as chair in 2010. She was awarded the ASCP BOC Distinguished Service Award in 2012. As the first chair of the BOG Globalization Task Force, Dr. McBride was pivotal in implementing the ASCP BOC’s international certification program.

Dr. Alvin Ring Empowerment Scholarship for Laboratory Professionals

Dr. Alvin Ring, MD, FASCP established this scholarship to provide financial aid to those pursuing higher education in the medical laboratory sciences. Scholarship aid may be used toward certification fees, direct academic tuition, or needs-based expenses to support the student’s academic career. Dr. Ring served on the Board of Registry (now the BOC) on the Committee of Medical Directors of CAHEA-accredited Education Programs in the Laboratory Sciences prior to 1980.

Applications for the 2026 ASCP Scholarship Program are open from April 1st to May 31st, 2026.

Click [here](#) to learn more about available scholarships and how to apply!

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2025 – 2026 ASCP BOC BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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BOC PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS MEETING DATES

APRIL

21 – 23	ISBER Global Biobanking Congress	Shenzhen, China
22 – 24	2026 ASFA Annual Meeting	Denver, CA

MAY

4 – 7	APHL 2026 Annual Conference	Baltimore, MD
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JUNE

4 – 6	ASM Microbe	Washington, DC
5 – 9	CYTO 2027	
29 – July 1	2026 Joint Annual Meeting (ASCL/AGT)	St. Louis, MO

JULY

26 – 30	ADLM Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo	Anaheim, CA
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SEPTEMBER

13 – 17	AAPA 51st Annual Conference	Phoenix, AZ
25 – 29	NSH Histotechnology Convention	San Antonio, TX

OCTOBER

17 – 20	2026 AABB Annual Meeting	Atlanta, GA
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NOVEMBER

4 – 8	ASC 74th Annual Scientific Meeting	Seattle, WA
17 – 20	ASCP/CAP-ACP 2026 Annual Meeting	Montreal, Canada

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Our vision is to be the **gold standard in global certification** for all laboratory professionals.

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