

Contact: [president@ascp.org](mailto:president@ascp.org)

# ASCP Fact Sheet

## February 2010

***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.***

### **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 leaders will visit lawmakers in Washington, DC, to advocate for pathology and laboratory medicine during the Society's Hill Day activities April 18-20. On March 15-16, ASCP, CLMA and AMT will participate in ASCLS's Legislative Symposium, to present a unified front on behalf of the laboratory profession.
- Although the health reform legislation has stalled, ASCP continues to advocate for and against specific provisions in the House and Senate versions of the legislation. ASCP supports a permanent fix to the Sustainable Growth Rate Formula under Medicare. Congress will revisit the issue over the next 60 days because the 21.2% cut to physicians originally scheduled for Jan. 1 will go into effect March 1.
- ASCP continues its focus on implementing strong prohibitions on physician self-referral and the implementation of an improved anti-markup rule on diagnostic services. CMS failed to make changes to close the loopholes in the rule in the Physician Fee Schedule that went into effect on Jan. 1.
- The University of Las Vegas (UNLV) is the latest university whose clinical laboratory science program has been threatened with closure.

### **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*The 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.*

- A Weekend of Pathology is scheduled for Feb. 18-21 in Las Vegas. A Diagnostic Hematopathology course will be held in Palm Springs, CA, March 9-12.
- ASCP's Resident Review Course for pathology residents is April 8-14, 2010, in Chicago.
- During 2009, 12 Workshops for Laboratory Professionals offered a total of 582 CME credits and drew 3,115 attendees. Also this year, 17 Educational Courses offering 425 CME credits attracted 1,069 participants. ASCP offered a total of 335 SAM credits in 2009, including 54 *AJCP* articles designated for CME credit ([www.ascp.org/ajcpcme](http://www.ascp.org/ajcpcme)). ASCP continues to offer a variety of assessment programs to meet Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV and tools for tracking MOC credits.
- CheckPath Anatomic Pathology, Hematopathology, and Clinical Pathology meet the American Board of Pathology's Part II (CME and SAMs) and Part IV (Interlaboratory Improvement and QA) MOC requirements.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

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

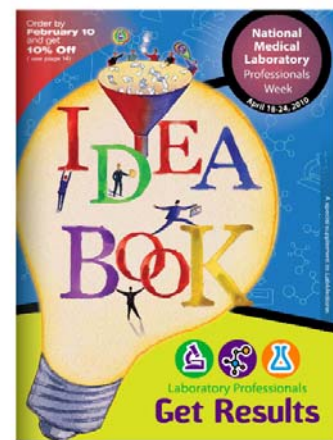
- The *AJCP* Poster Sessions and Resident Research Symposium will take place at the 2010 ASCP Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA, October 27-31. The deadline to submit abstracts is April 30, 2010.
- In the February issue of *AJCP*, Alex Katayev, MD, and his coauthors address the challenges of establishing reference intervals for the clinical laboratory, as does an accompanying editorial by Gary L. Horowitz, MD.

- A one-year study evaluating the leading causes of preanalytical errors in a clinical chemistry laboratory in Delhi, India, found that the laboratory rejected 1.52% of samples received. Primary reasons were hemolysis, improper requisition slips, and insufficient sample quantity. The study appears in the February issue of *LabMedicine*.
- In March, ASCP will debut its first set of flashcards for general study and exam preparation. *HistoDeck*<sup>™</sup> was prepared by Freida Carson, PhD, as a follow-up to her successful edition of *Histotechnology: A Self-Instructional Text*. The *HistoDeck*<sup>™</sup> comprises 354 questions, some 106 of which are based on photomicrographs.
- The *Board of Certification Study Guide* 5th Ed (formerly the *BOR Study Guide*), edited by E. Blair Holladay, PhD, SCT(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> and Pat Tanabe, MPA, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>, goes to press for a third reprinting since its 2009 release.

## MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS

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

- National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week will be April 18-24, 2010. This year's "Idea Book" is available on the ASCP's website.
- Medical laboratory technologists and technicians are on the list of top careers for 2010, according to *U.S. News & World Report* and the *Wall Street Journal*.
- The January issue of ASCP's *Critical Values* explores federal funding of comparative effectiveness research and ways to identify best practices in laboratory medicine.
- ASCP has produced a comic book featuring colorful vignettes about the work of laboratory professionals. The book, sponsored by Roche, raises awareness of lab careers among middle and high school students. It is available in bundles of 25 for \$5.



## 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.*

- The ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) examination in Histotechnician was approved by the state of New York for licensure effective Oct. 1, 2009. With the Medical Laboratory Scientist, MLS(ASCP), and the Medical Laboratory Technician, MLT(ASCP), examinations, the BOC examinations are the only ones approved by New York for licensure in these three categories.
- All computer records of NCA certificants have been transferred to the Board of Certification.
- The MT(ASCP) and CLS(NCA) credentials are now MLS(ASCP), to reflect the new term "medical laboratory scientist" under the BOC. For a more details, visit the certification section of the ASCP website.
- BOC international certification is available to qualified applicants worldwide. In fall 2009, the International examination for the MT(ASCP<sup>®</sup>) credential was translated to Spanish [Tecnólogo Médico Internacional, MT(ASCP<sup>®</sup>)] and is available in a CAT testing format administered by Pearson VUE.

## 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.*

- ASCP's Global Outreach program seeks members who are fluent in French or Creole to continue ASCP's support of the national laboratory in Haiti in the wake of the January 2010 earthquake. Contact [global.outreach@ascp.org](mailto:global.outreach@ascp.org). ASCP encourages all members to donate to relief efforts through the organization of their choice.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention this fall awarded ASCP \$5.5 million to continue the Society's collaborative work with the agency in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.
- In December, ASCP conducted a one-week teaching methodologies workshop in Côte d'Ivoire and assisted Kenya's Ministry of Health in the deployment of an HIV Rapid Test proficiency program. In January, ASCP consultants will conduct a pre-service laboratory assessment in Cambodia and a Strengthening Laboratory Management Towards Accreditation laboratory assessment in Rwanda. ASCP recently helped facilitate a Quality Assurance Operational Plan in Maputo, Mozambique.