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.

ASCP Annual Meeting

- Laura W. Bush, former First Lady, and Barbara Bush, Founder and CEO of Global Health Corps (pictured above), will be featured at the 2012 ASCP Annual Meeting, Nov. 1, in Boston. Both are proponents for women’s health and are actively engaged in “The Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon Initiative.” http://bit.ly/xRnT69
- If you could not attend the 2011 ASCP Annual Meeting/WASPaLM XXVI World Congress, or if you missed a session, many sessions are now for sale as credit-bearing interactive online courses. www.ascp.org/2011AnnualMeetingBestOfSeries
- You can also download PDF versions of the speakers’ slide presentations for free. www.ascp.org/2011annualmeeting/archive

Knowledge

- ASCP’s Resident In-Service Examination (RISE) will next be administered March 24–April 6. The registration deadline is March 1. www.ascp.org/RISE
- Dates are set for the Spring 2012 Workshops for Laboratory Professionals. Visit “Continuing Education” at www.ascp.org/laboratory-professionals.
- The Spring 2012 Educational Courses dates are set. Visit www.ascp.org/educationalcourses
- The Spring 2012 Teleconferences/Webcasts programs are available. www.ascp.org/Teleconferences
- A reception will be held on Sunday, March 18, for all Residents attending the United States & Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) meeting in Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Community

- ASCP members can now renew their membership for 2012. www.ascp.org/renew
- The ASCP Council of Laboratory Professionals and its network of Local Representatives are the voice of membership. They represent the ASCP and relay its activities to the grassroots members. Local Representatives bring issues and concerns from the membership to the Council. www.ascp.org/laboratory-professionals and select the Volunteer icon.
- The ASCP Fellow Council has a new volunteer opportunity for pathologists, the Fellow Representative Network, to strengthen communications between practicing pathologists and ASCP leadership. www.ascp.org/FellowVolunteer
- Residents interested in volunteer opportunities with ASCP may learn more about the ASCP Resident Representative Network and apply today at www.ascp.org/residents.

Global Outreach

- In December, the Institute held pre-service assessments at universities and teaching method training in Vietnam; and a pre-service stakeholders’ meeting in Mozambique.
- Upcoming activities include basic laboratory operations training and phlebotomy basic training in Namibia; Strengthening Lab Management Towards Accreditation (SLMTA) Training of Trainers (TOT) in Ethiopia; a content development workshop in Tanzania; and baseline assessments at clinical labs in Kazakhstan; and SLMTA TOT in Vietnam.
- ASCP seeks Russian-speaking consultants with laboratory operations and management experience to travel to Central Asian countries. Consultant trips range from five to 12 days. www.ascp.org/OutreachApply
Workforce Shortage

- ASCP has made a Commitment to Action at the 2011 Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) America Meeting in Chicago to alleviate the shortage of laboratory professionals. Expanding the Laboratory Workforce for the 21st Century is a five-year ASCP commitment to expand the capacity of the clinical laboratory workforce in the state of New York, with implications for future similar initiatives across the nation. http://bit.ly/t6ZATs

Recognition

- The deadline for students to apply for the ASCP National Student Honor Award is March 2, 2012. www.ascp.org/NSHA
- ASCP recently honored 24 second-year medical students with the Academic Excellence and Achievement Award. This award is given to those who demonstrate general academic excellence and promise.

Career Advancement

- In 2011, over 123,000 healthcare jobs were posted to the ASCP Career Center. Visit the center for the latest opportunities, to post an opening, and read the latest data on wages and vacancies in the United States at www.ascp.org/careercenter.
- The Resident Council will meet this month to choose recipients of the Resident Subspecialty Grants and Resident Hill Day Grants to be announced in March.

ASCP Board of Certification

- The eligibility requirements for the International Medical Technologist, MT(ASCP) and the International Medical Laboratory Technician, MLT(ASCP) have been revised. Visit the Board of Certification for details. www.ascp.org/BOC
- The Specialist in Laboratory Safety (SLS) certification became the Qualification in Laboratory Safety Jan. 1, 2012.
- International certificants (ASCP) certified beginning Jan. 1, 2012, are required to participate in the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP).
- The ASCP BOC offers the new certification in International Technologist in Gynecologic Cytology, CTgyn.

Publications

- Virginia LiVolsi, MD, MASCP, and Melissa P. Upton, MD, FASCP, launch a new molecular diagnostics series for AJCP in the March 2012 issue. www.ajcp.com
- A new publication, Case Studies in Hematology and Coagulation, a compendium of 173 case studies, is the result of a unique collaboration of leading hematologists, hematopathologists, and oncologists. Order it now at: www.ascp.org/Store/Books/5855.html
- The January issue of Critical Values features an analysis of the ASCP Wage and Vacancy trends over the past 22 years. Among the findings: increases in pay outpaced inflation and demand for laboratory professionals grew, while turnover increased. Suzanne Z. Powell, MD, FASCP, writes about changes to residency training that are shaping the future of the pathology workforce. And Ronald L. Weiss, MD, MBA, FASCP, writes about what it takes to be a successful laboratory director and leader. http://bit.ly/vDG0d9
- Roger Bertholf, PhD, (pictured below, left) Professor in the Department of Pathology at the University of Florida Health Science Center in Jacksonville, Fla., has been named the new Editor-in-Chief for LabMedicine as of Jan. 1. Dr. Bertholf will implement a comprehensive new strategic direction for the journal. Listen to a podcast interview at http://bit.ly/A41FyQ.
- Michelle Hoffman (above, right) is the new ASCP Director, Scientific Journals. Previously, she was the Editorial Director, Pharmaceutical Drug Development and Manufacturing Group at Advanstar Communications, Iselin, N.J.
- ASCP is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief for the American Journal of Clinical Pathology (AJCP). For details, visit http://tinyurl.com/EIC-AJCP
- ASCP Press has published the second edition of The Art & Science of Cytopathology by Richard “Mac” DeMay, MD, FASCP. The first edition has been long recognized as the seminal work in the field. The second edition reflects the many and dramatic new advances in cytopathology—now with 2,076 pages, 6,849 beautiful new images, and expanded to four volumes. www.ascpresources.org/demay

Advocacy

- ASCP sent an Action Alert in January urging its members to tell Congress to repeal Medicare’s flawed sustainable growth rate formula (SGR) and extend Technical Component grandfather provisions. Physician groups and advocates are rallying to fix the SGR prior to a February deadline. Details at www.ascp.org/Advocacy
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on Jan. 5 released its first Global Health Strategy at a global health forum sponsored by the Kaiser Family Foundation. “In a world where the flow of people and goods stretch across the globe, our only chance to keep Americans safe is if the system for preventing, detecting, and containing disease stretches across the globe,” said HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. www.ascp.org/Advocacy
- ASCP is throwing its support behind a recently adopted policy statement from the American Society of Hematology (ASH) regarding the screening of athletes for sickle cell trait. The statement refers to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) policy released in April 2010 that requires Division I institutions to perform sickle cell trait testing for all incoming student athletes.
- ASCP is pleased to announce that it is supporting new workload recommendations from the American Society for Cytopathology (ASC). The recommendations are outlined in an ASC document Workload Recommendations for Automated Pap Test Screening.