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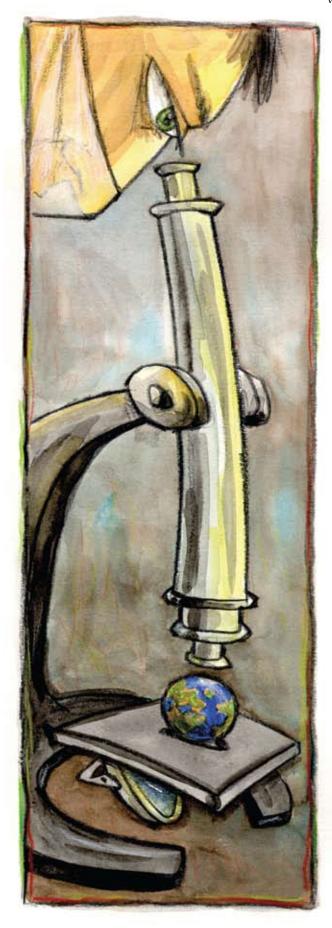


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ASCP Board of Certification Makes the Transition

he new ASCP Board of Certification (BOC) opened for business on October 23, 2009, a result of the unification of the ASCP Board of Registry (BOR) and the former National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Professionals (NCA). The first BOC examinations were administered on October 24.

"Transitions can be challenging, but the BOR and NCA worked hard to make it go as smoothly as possible for all laboratory professionals—those who are certified and those who are seeking certification," said Kathleen Becan-McBride, EdD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, chair of the ASCP BOC Board of Governors.

Under the BOR, Dr. McBride's credential, MT(ASCP)^{CM}, reflected the fact that she was a certified medical technologist who had completed certification maintenance. Under the BOC, her new credential is MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, reflecting the new designation of medical laboratory scientist (MLS) and her completion of the certification maintenance program. Individuals previously holding the CLS(NCA) certification will also hold the MLS(ASCP)^{CM} designation.

The designation for individuals certified as clinical laboratory technicians or medical laboratory technicians is MLT(ASCP). The BOC also offers a Technologist in Cytogenetics, or CG(ASCP), credential and a Molecular Biologist, or MB(ASCP), credential. Most other credential designations will remain the same.

All BOR and NCA credentials that were active and current as of October 23, 2009, will be transferred to the ASCP BOC. These individuals do not have to take an examination. "Active and current" refers to anyone who has documented continuing education activities in medical laboratory science over the past three years and has submitted those activities for certification maintenance through the ASCP BOC or previously with the NCA.

Medical technologists certified by the ASCP BOR before 2004 are not required to participate in certification maintenance. However, if they do not, their credential will remain MT(ASCP). If and when they complete a certification maintenance program, their credential will change to MLS(ASCP)^{CM}. Approved continuing education credits from any organization can be used to fulfill the BOC recertification.

Previous NCA certificants due to recertify in February 2010 may submit recertification documentation on schedule to the BOC. The BOC will honor all contact hours earned by previous NCA certificants.

Questions? Go to www.ascp.org or call BOC Customer Service at (800) 267-2727, option 2.