

# Announcements

(Requests for announcements must be received at least 3 months before publication.)

## THE MAINTENANCE OF BOARD CERTIFICATION IN PATHOLOGY

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) announced that its member Boards have a responsibility to set standards for, and assess, the continuing competence of their diplomats. As a result, specialty board *recertification* programs are evolving into programs of *maintenance of certification* (MOC) based on these *four components*:

- 1.) Evidence of professional standing
- 2.) Evidence of commitment to lifelong learning and periodic self-assessment
- 3.) Evidence of knowledge
- 4.) Evidence of evaluation of performance in practice

In response to this ABMS initiative, the American Board of Pathology (ABP) established a Maintenance of Certification steering committee to initiate a discussion and planning process with its cooperating specialty societies (AMA, APC, ADASP, ASCP, ASIP, CAP, and USCAP). An early outgrowth of these discussions was the recognition that an effective program of maintenance of certification in pathology requires that initial Board certification be for a limited period of time—as it currently is for every other medical specialty.

Therefore, beginning in 2006, the American Board of Pathology will issue *time-limited* primary and subspecialty certificates of 10 years duration. Time-limited certification will apply to all residents entering pathology training programs in 2001. While the maintenance of certification process must be completed no later than 10 years after the initial *time-limited* certification, it may be completed as soon as the 8th year if desired. Thus the earliest MOC exam is planned for 2014. Pathologists holding current certificates which are *not* time-limited are encouraged to participate in the Board's voluntary Maintenance of Certification (Recertification) program.

The Maintenance of Certification Steering Committee is in agreement that:

- The ABP MOC program will be undertaken as part of an ABMS-wide MOC process involving *all* specialty boards.
- Much of the MOC program can be accomplished by: *expanding* and *refocusing* existing specialty society CME activities; making the

current ABP voluntary MOC program *mandatory*, and requiring a *secure* MOC examination.

- The focus of MOC will be on the important *new* post-certification knowledge required to maintain practice competence. To accomplish this, pathology *content specifications* will be developed by working groups of expert and practicing pathologists. These will be published in order to direct pathologists in their choice of CME and self-assessment programs and to direct study when preparing for the MOC examination.
- Specialty society CME educational curricula will focus on these content specifications. Self-assessment/self-study modules will be developed and will include both web-based and home study modules. Performance feedback will direct pathologists in their ongoing CME and self-learning.
- ABP will use both the content specifications and the learning objectives from CME programs and self-assessment modules to direct question generation. The focus will be on practical “need to know” information used in daily practice and required for practice competence.
- Modular exams relevant to different practice settings will be developed: AP/CP, AP only, CP only, cytology, transfusion medicine, etc.
- While a mandatory secure exam will be required, this does not preclude the possibility of an “open book” examination administered in an appropriate setting.
- Evaluation of Performance in Practice will build upon programs developed by our specialty societies.

**David B. Troxel, MD**

*Chair, MOC Committee*

*December 10, 2001*

## WILLIAM BEAUMONT HOSPITAL BEAUMONT DNA SYMPOSIUM

*DNA Technology in the Clinical Laboratory*, the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Beaumont Symposium on Molecular Pathology will be held September 12–14, 2002, at Somerset Inn, Troy, Michigan. This three-day symposium will include two pre-meeting workshops: “Introduction to Molecular Diagnostics” and “Flow Cytometry” on Thursday, September 12. Corporate

Workshops and the "New Technology in Molecular Pathology" session will be on Friday, September 13, and Molecular Hematology-Oncology and Molecular Microbiology sessions will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2002. Lunch Breakout Sessions and Vendor exhibits on September 13 and 14, 2002. CME credit available. For more information, contact Domnita Crisan, MD, PhD, Phone: 248-551-7261, Fax: 248-551-3694, email: dcrisan@beaumont.edu or visit our Website at [www.beaumont.edu/dnasymposium](http://www.beaumont.edu/dnasymposium).

For registration materials, contact Bassima Georgis at phone: 248-551-8023, e-mail: [bgeorgis@beaumont.edu](mailto:bgeorgis@beaumont.edu) or register at [www.beaumont.edu/dnasymposium](http://www.beaumont.edu/dnasymposium).

### **THE 16TH COMBINED SKIN PATHOLOGY COURSE**

**September 27–October 2, 2002**

*Directed by*

**Waine C. Johnson, MD**

**Thomas D. Griffin, MD**

**Alan R. Silverman, MD**

**to be held at**

**Philadelphia Airport Marriott,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

The course is a rigorous, comprehensive, and practical review of dermatopathology. Microscopes and an extensive syllabus will be provided. There will be 35 lectures, 5 supervised workshop sessions for the study of more than 500 outstanding microscopic slides, and 10 hours of lecture which cover the unknown microscopic slides. The course is sponsored by the Department of Dermatology, MCP Hahnemann University, Philadelphia, PA and Delaware Valley Dermatopathology (a division of The Institute for Dermatopathology, a division of DermPath Diagnostics), and directed by Waine C. Johnson, MD, Thomas D. Griffin, MD, and Alan R. Silverman, MD. The

course fee is \$650.00. A reduced fee of \$450.00 will be charged for residents and fellows.

For further information, please contact: Pat Benedict, DVD Division of The Institute for Dermatopathology, Millennium 1, 20 Ash St., Ste 310, Conshohocken, PA 19428-2056 (Phone# 610-260-0555; FAX# 610-276-1697; E-mail: [pbenedict@ameripath.com](mailto:pbenedict@ameripath.com)).

### **ROYAL BROMPTON HOSPITAL IMPERIAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE NHLI**

**Practical Adult Cardiovascular Pathology Course  
Wednesday–Friday November 6–8, 2002**

**Course Organizer**

**DR. M. N. SHEPPARD/DR. YEN HO**

This particular "Hands On" course approaches in detail the problems that face the diagnostic pathologist when dealing with cardiovascular pathology both congenital and adult. The approach to a cardiac autopsy and sudden death will be emphasized. Cardiac specimens will be made available for analysis and practical demonstrations as well as video demonstrations will be highlighted. Organ retention will also be covered and minimal database for reporting cardiovascular specimens. A slide seminar with slides is included. The course is aimed at trainees studying for the MRCPATH and also senior pathologists who wish to update their knowledge.

**Course fee:** £360.00 (includes daily coffee, tea and lunch).

**A SPECIAL FEE OF £250.00 FOR JUNIORS IN TRAINING.**

Contact: Short Course Office, National Heart and Lung Institute, Dovehouse Street, London SW3 6LY, Tel: +44(0)20 7351 8172, (Fax: +44(0)20 7351 8246, Email: [shortcourse.NHLI@IC.AC.UK](mailto:shortcourse.NHLI@IC.AC.UK)).

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