



Volume 46 No. 2

Spring 2024

The ABPath EXAMINER

The mission of the American Board of Pathology, a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties, is to serve the public and advance the profession of pathology by setting certification standards and promoting lifelong competency of pathologists.

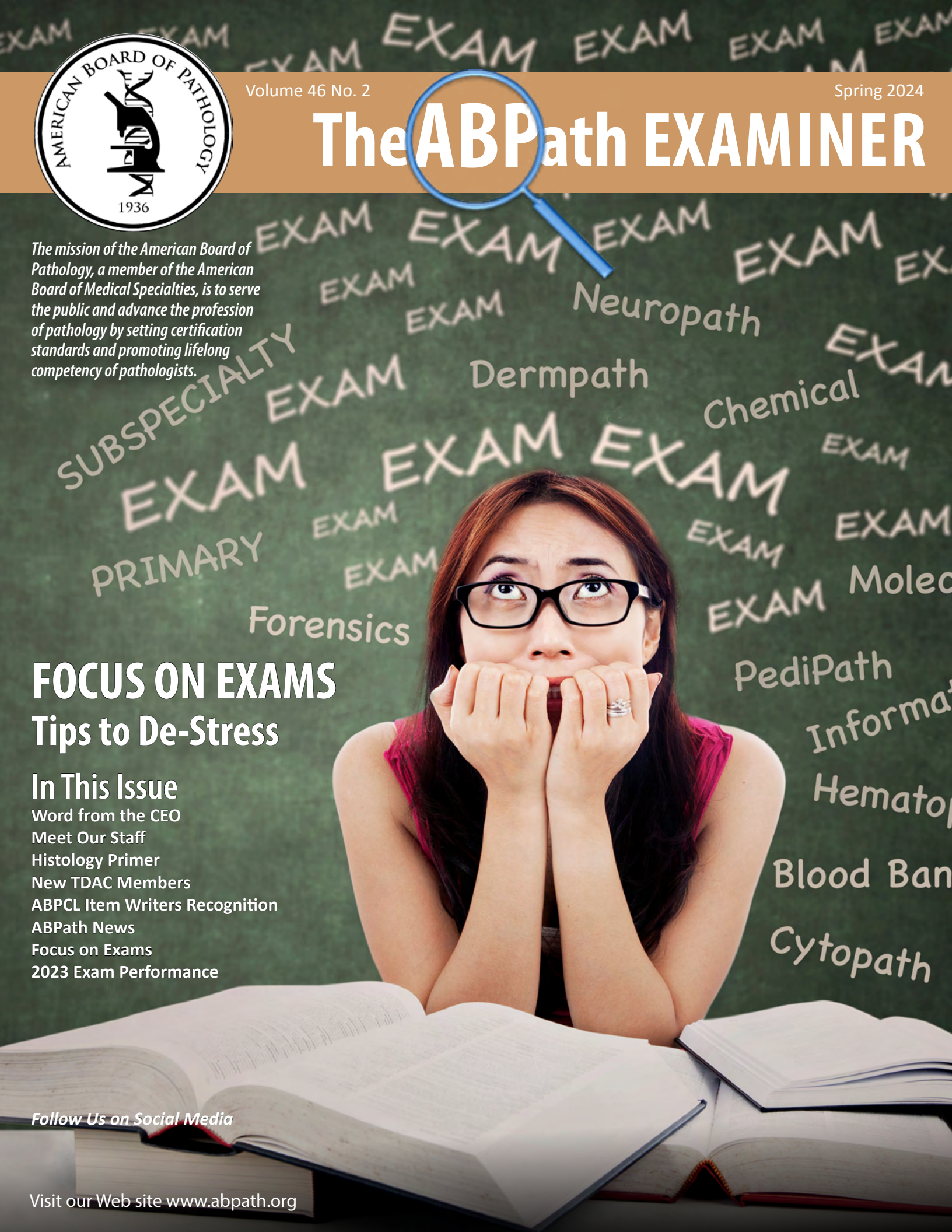
FOCUS ON EXAMS Tips to De-Stress

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LETTER FROM THE CEO



Gary Procop, MD, MS, MEd
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Procop". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Candidate Examination Preparation: Do's and Don'ts

When my Communications Director told me that much of this newsletter was going to be dedicated to exams, I thought it would be a great opportunity to provide thoughts on candidate preparation for high-stakes exams. I will do my best to provide high quality references for my suggestions, but I also reserve the right to put forth some good common sense—which we have all heard a hundred times, but still sometimes fail to follow.

Keep It Simple

I am very proud that, for as long as I've been associated with the ABPath, there has been a sustained and concerted effort to not accept items (i.e., test questions) that concern trivia or minutia. The items that are accepted have been reviewed and edited by groups of subspecialty experts in the various areas of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine with the charge to only include medically important and clinically relevant information. Therefore, study what you need to know and be able to do to succeed as a pathologist in practice as a means to do well on the certification examination.

Use the Guide

Use the blueprints on the ABPath website to help guide your studies. The blueprints show the rough percentage of the examination that is covered by each content area, as well as the distribution of written items, practical items, and items that include virtual microscopy.

Think Big

When studying any one area of pathology (e.g., pulmonary pathology) there will likely be a spread of the type of material in any given category so read broadly. For example, items will likely not solely concentrate on neoplasia, but will likely also include inflammatory and infectious conditions, malformations, etc.

Start Early

Cramming works for short-term recall but does not result in the encoding of long-term memory or true learning. Therefore, start early and really work to learn the need-to-know material throughout your entire residency. When you have truly learned the material, then when you are reviewing it for the examination (i.e., studying for the boards), it will strengthen a memory that you created long ago and it will be there for you during the examination and, more importantly, in future practice (Brown, 2014).

Put Yourself to the Test

Using "remembrances" (i.e., recalled items from previous examinations) is considered cheating and is a violation of the ABPath professionalism standards. However, the use of high-quality item banks that have been created to cover the need-to-know information for success in pathology practice is encouraged (Yang, 2019). The use of item question banks created from a highly reliable source and the use of flashcard type studying promotes retrieval of those memories made

long ago, which strengthens those memories in a manner that has been shown to be superior to simply re-reading study material (Brown, 2014). Flex and strengthen those memory muscles through retrieval practices.

Mix It Up

When we study, we often want to plow through one subject (e.g., cardiovascular) and “drill it in” before we move on to the next subject (e.g., hematopathology). This approach feels right, but studies have shown that mixing up the subject materials, a practice termed interleaving, is another way of increasing long-term memory (Firth, 2021). I promise you it won’t feel right—but it has been shown to work.

De-Stress

I know, it is easier said than done. Turns out that there is good stress and bad stress associated with events like high-stakes exams. Good stress is essentially the “hyping yourself up,” like you would before the big game—Come into the exam with confidence and knock the ball out of the park! Bad stress consists of intrusive thoughts that could interrupt your thought processes during the examination and includes overwhelming feelings of impending failure (Custer, 2018; Bolbolian, 2021). If these types of thoughts have plagued you in the past, it is worth seeking therapeutic means to help control these feelings before and during the exam.

Sleep Well, Eat Well, Live Well

Here is the common-sense portion of the recommendations. You have heard it for years, to get a good night’s sleep prior to the examination—it is important! You really do want to be rested and at your best for the examination. Save the celebration for after the completion of the exam; if you drink alcohol, take a break the night before the exam—you don’t want to take a high-stakes exam with a headache. Also, don’t let your gastrointestinal tract distract you. Can you imagine trying to take a high-stakes exam with your stomach cramping because of excessively spicy food the night before? Maintain a healthy diet, no-to-limited alcohol, and plenty of rest—and you’ll thank me for it.

References

- Bolbolian, M., Asgari, S., Sefidi, F., & Zadeh, A. S. (2021). The relationship between test anxiety and academic procrastination among the dental students. *Journal of education and health promotion, 10*, 67. https://doi.org/10.4103/jehp.jehp_867_20
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- Custer N. (2018). Test Anxiety and Academic Procrastination Among Prelicensure Nursing Students. *Nursing education perspectives, 39*(3), 162–163. <https://doi.org/10.1097/01.NEP.0000000000000291>.
- Firth, J, Rivers, I, and Boyle, J. (2021). A systematic review of interleaving as a concept learning strategy. *Review of Education, 9*(2), 642-684.
- Yang BW, Razo J, Persky AM. (2019). Using testing as a learning tool. *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education, 83*(9), 7324.

2024 AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

The American Board of Pathology (ABPath) is pleased to announce the ABPath Board of Trustees and Executive Committee for 2024.

Board of Trustees



Pictured from left to right: front row—Jennifer Laudadio, MD; Ritu Nayar, MD; Mark K. Fung, MD, PhD; Barbara A. Sampson, MD, PhD; Mohiedean Ghofrani, MD, MBA; Kathleen G. Beavis, MD; Julie D. Kingery, MD.

Back row—James R. Cook, MD, PhD; Eric F. Glassy, MD; Jeffrey D. Goldstein, MD; Matthew J. Wasco, MD; Edward R. Ashwood, MD; ABPath CEO Gary W. Procop, MD, MS, MEd; Javarro Russell, PhD.

Officers



Pictured from left to right: Ritu Nayar, MD, Immediate Past President; Mark K. Fung, MD, PhD, Treasurer; Barbara A. Sampson, MD, PhD, President; Mohiedean Ghofrani, MD, MBA, Vice President; Kathleen G. Beavis, MD, Secretary

MEET OUR STAFF



*Alissa Eagle
ABPath Slide Librarian*

Alissa Eagle Slide Librarian

Meet Alissa Eagle, the new ABPath Slide Librarian. Since joining the Board in 2017 as an Administrative Assistant, Alissa has seamlessly transitioned into her new role, overseeing the important task of managing thousands of microscopic glass slides and Virtual Microscopy (VM) images used for board certification exams.

In her role, Alissa maintains a detailed catalogue system for the glass slides and ensures their quality within the ABPath library. From processing slides submitted by the Test Development and Advisory Committee members to scanning slides and preparing VMs for exams, she plays a vital role in every step involving microscopic slides.

Alissa is a tenth-generation Floridian, born and raised in Tampa. She enjoys learning about Florida's rich history and exploring its natural beauty. She is a proud mom of 2 teenage sons and 2 cats. In her spare time, she enjoys outdoor activities such as biking, kayaking, and gardening. Most of all, she enjoys spending time with her family.

Alissa says she is enjoying her new role with the Board and is proud to be part of such an amazing team.

ABPath Staff



Pictured from left to right:

Front row: Kasey Williamson, Renee Holder, Geri Wills, Ty McCarthy, Dr. Gary W. Procop, Anthony Schlinsog, Josie Santos, Amanda Zombro,

Back row: Colette Earnest, Mary Pyfrom, Clarita Scioscia, Tyler Sandersfeld, Alissa Eagle, Bonnie Woodworth, John Lemke, Mario Levesque

BOARD ACTIONS



ABPath CertLink CME in 2024

For those participating in ABPath CertLink, please note an important change in the CME credits that can be claimed. Starting in 2024 diplomates participating in ABPath CertLink will be eligible for 1 CME credit per quarter. This modification is due to the reduction in the number of CertLink questions assigned per quarter, implemented in 2023 as part of the [ABPCL Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Initiative](#) and aimed at enhancing the overall program experience.

CME credit for participation in ABPCL during 2023 will continue to be honored at 1.25 CME credits per quarter. Participants from 2023 can claim these credits in February 2024 through the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

For more information on claiming CME credits for ABPCL participation visit the [ABPath CertLink program overview](#) page.

ABPATH NEWS



Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) now called Improvement in Health and Health Care (IHHC)

Part IV activities of the Continuing Certification Program entitled “Improvement in Medical Practice” (IMP) will now be known as “Improvement in Health and Health Care” (IHHC).

The name change reflects the ABMS [Standards for Continuing Certification](#) that promote the design of integrated, specialty-specific programs by Member Boards to support an individual physician’s (diplomate’s) continuing professional development.

For more information, see the Continuing Certification Program’s Reporting Requirements for diplomates of the American Board of Pathology and the [CC Booklet of Information](#).

Launch of the Histology Primer: A Free Resource for Pathology Residents and Medical Students

ABPath recently launched our new Histology Primer, an on-line learning platform exploring the basics of histology. The primer is specifically designed to familiarize pathology residents, medical students, and others interested in learning about the histology of human tissue.

ABPath developed the learning platform with pathology residents in mind as they embark on their training journey, offering a solid foundation in understanding human tissue structures before delving into the many disciplines of Pathology. Additionally, medical students exploring the field of pathology will find this tool particularly helpful in gaining insights into the basics of histology.

The primer's easy-to-navigate learning modules are divided into two content sections, basic tissue components and tissue types by body systems. Each module contains written text or users can opt for mini-lectures with slides. At the end of each module, they can test their knowledge by taking a short quiz with the option to share their scores. The Primer also offers an opportunity for pathology residents to become familiar with using Virtual Microscopy, which is the digital viewing of microscopic images, that is used in board certification exams.

The Histology Primer also contains links to other helpful resources from ABPath Cooperating Societies for those looking to pursue a career in Pathology.

The Histology Primer can be accessed for free at <https://histologyprimer.abpath.org>.

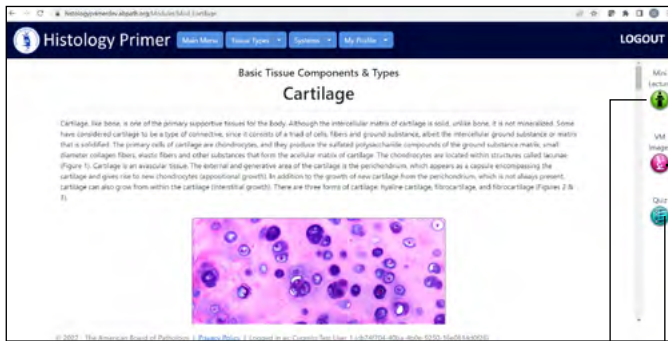
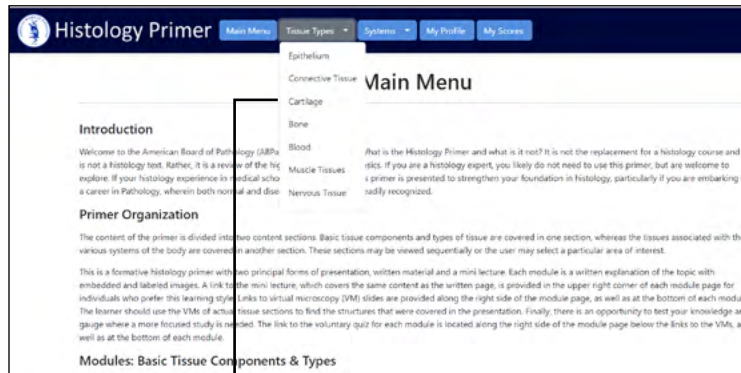
For questions or assistance using the Histology Primer, contact ABPath at Histology.Primer@abpath.org.



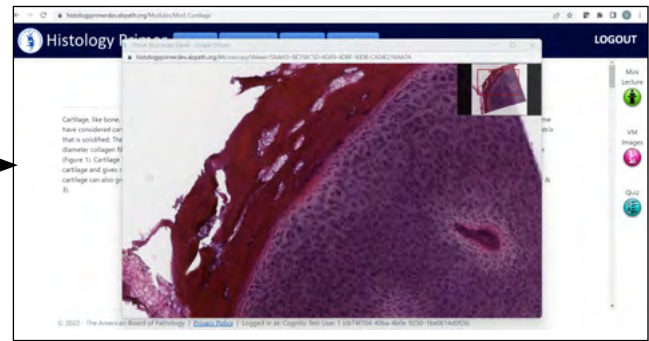
Home Page
Login to access Primer



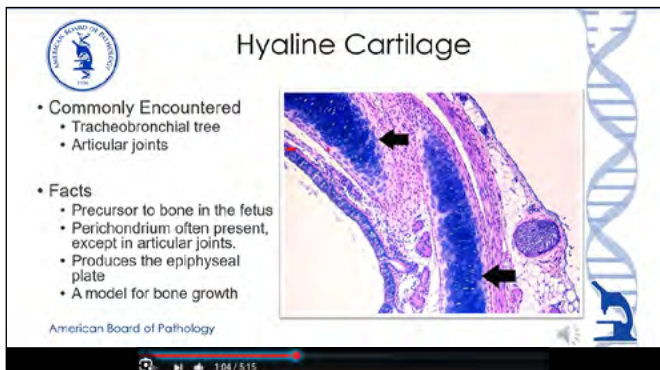
Main Menu
pull-down menus for
tissue and systems



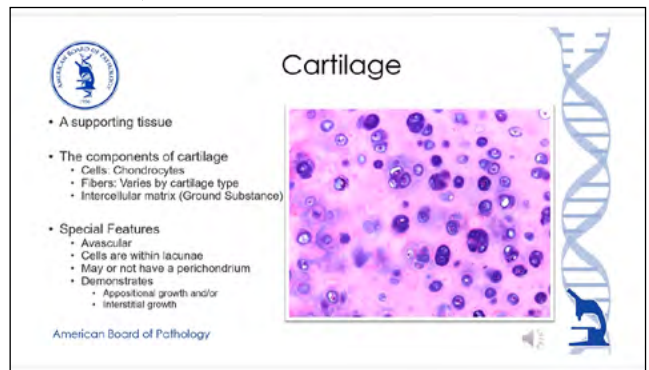
Discussion



Virtual Image



Video Module



Optional Quiz

Appointment of New Members to Test Development and Advisory Committees

ABPath is pleased to announce the appointment of the following new members to the ABPath’s Test Development and Advisory Committees (TDACs) beginning in 2024. The TDACs are responsible for developing and reviewing the ABPath certification exam questions that assess and certify a physician’s education, knowledge, experience, and skills to provide high-quality care in the pathology profession.

Jessica Davis, MD	Anatomic Pathology
Duane Schafer, DDS	Anatomic Pathology
Rebecca Harris, MD	Chemical Pathology
Vanda Torous, MD	Cytopathology
Karl Napekoski, MD	Dermatopathology
Odette Hall, MD	Forensic Pathology
Kristin Hunt Karner, MD	Hematopathology
Bradley Ford, MD	Medical Microbiology
Randall Olsen, MD	Molecular Genetic Pathology
Sophia Yohe, MD	Molecular Genetic Pathology
Sandra Camelo-Piragua, MD	Neuropathology
Bonnie Cole, MD	Pediatric Pathology

[See the full announcement here.](#)

New TDAC Members



FOCUS ON EXAMS

Jung Hotel, New Orleans 1972



Pearson Vue Exam Center 2023

ARE YOU READY?

Everything You Need to Know

All ABPath Primary and Subspecialty exams are administered through Pearson VUE Professional Test Centers.

Before the Exam

Important Dates

Be sure to check out important dates and deadlines for Primary and Subspecialty exams. They can be found on the ABPath website at <https://abpath.org/get-certified/>.

Reminders

- Candidates' first and last names in PATHway must match the first and last names on the two forms of ID they will show to enter the exam on their scheduled day. If they do not match, notify ABPath as soon as possible.
- Candidates need to be sure their primary email address in PATHway is current. This is where they will receive important exam information from ABPath and Pearson VUE.




First & Last Names on 2 IDs must match names in PATHway

Accommodation Requests

All requests for accommodations, including those for nursing mothers, must be made to ABPath. Please make requests before scheduling opens for your particular exam(s). For Primary exams, contact Mary@abpath.org and for Subspecialty exams, contact Renee@abpath.org.

Cancellation Policy

If a candidate chooses to cancel their examinations(s) they must cancel by the cancellation date for the exam(s) for which they are registered. Please refer to the ABPath website, for cancellation dates. The full [cancellation policy](#) can be found on the ABPath website.



ABPath Honor Code

Applicants sign an Honor Code when applying for certification. This is a legally binding contract between the physician and the ABPath. Candidates will be asked to agree to the Honor Code again when beginning their exam. Candidates may want to review the Honor Code [here](#) before the exam to save time on exam day.



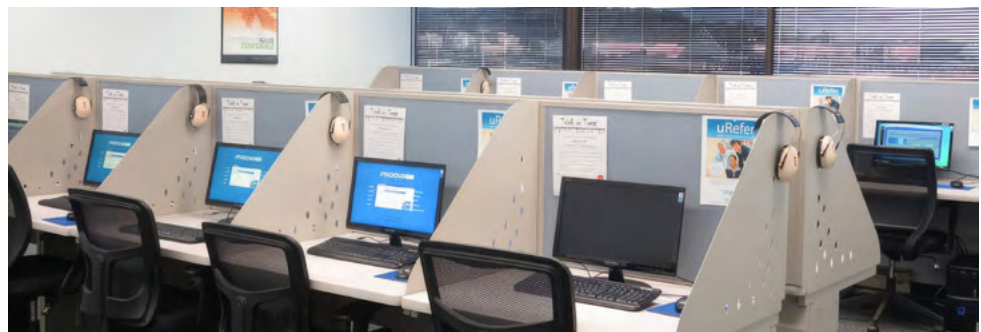
<https://shrtm.nu/vpd>

scan or tap to
download the PDF



Pearson VUE Professional Test Centers

For general information on scheduling an exam appointment and what to expect at Pearson VUE Professional Test Centers visit the [ABPath website](#).



Helpful Resources

Helpful Exam Resources

The following exam resources can be found at <https://abpath.org/exam-preparation/>.

Exam Descriptions

The ABPath provides examination descriptions for each Primary and Sub-specialty exam.

Exam Blueprints

The blueprints give categories of topics covered in the examinations with the approximate percentage of questions for each topic. Be sure to review them if you are preparing for an upcoming exam!

Example of a Primary Certification exam blueprint.

Anatomic Pathology Exam Blueprint	Approximate %	
	Written/Practical	Virtual Microscopy
AP Management & General Pathology Principles	3	0
Breast	8	9
Genitourinary	9	14
Cardiovascular	2	1
Lymph Nodes and Spleen	4	6
Bone Marrow	4	2
Head and Neck	4	7
Alimentary Canal, Pancreas, Liver, Extrahepatic Biliary Tree, Gall Bladder	12	13
Endocrine	5	6
Gynecologic and Placenta	8	7
Medical Kidney	1	2
Respiratory, Pleura, Mediastinum	6	7
Central and Peripheral Nervous System	3	6
Soft Tissue and Bone	5	6
Skin	5	10
Molecular Techniques	1	0
Forensic/Autopsy	3	2
Cytopathology	15	2
Management & Informatics-General	2	0
Total Percentage	100	100
Total Number of Questions in Each Section	205	90
Total Hours Allotted for Each Section	3 Hrs 25 Mins	4 Hrs 30 Mins

Daily Exam Schedules

For a detailed look at the structure of the exam day, see the Daily Exam Schedules.

Virtual Microscopy Practice Site

The ABPath certification exams use Virtual Microscopy (VM) technology for viewing microscopic images to answer select exam questions. Microscopes and glass slides are no longer used in certification exams.

The VM Practice site contains 5 sample Virtual Microscopy questions, similar to what you will find on ABPath exams. Access the VM Practice site [here](#).



American Board of Pathology Virtual Microscopy Sample Exam

Instructions:

When you encounter a question on an exam that utilizes Virtual Microscopy, you will see a blue "Virtual Microscopy Image" button similar to the one below. Clicking this button will open up another window solely for the Virtual Microscopy viewer. Read the question, view the slide, and then select the correct answer on your computer screen.

[Click Here to View Virtual Microscopy Image](#)

For Virtual Microscopy questions the best way to navigate is to use your mouse.

MOVING THE SLIDE: Place the mouse cursor over the image, hold the left mouse button down and drag the image (click, hold and drag) to move up, down, right, or left or navigate quickly using the red square in the small navigation window in the upper right corner of the Virtual Microscopy viewer window.

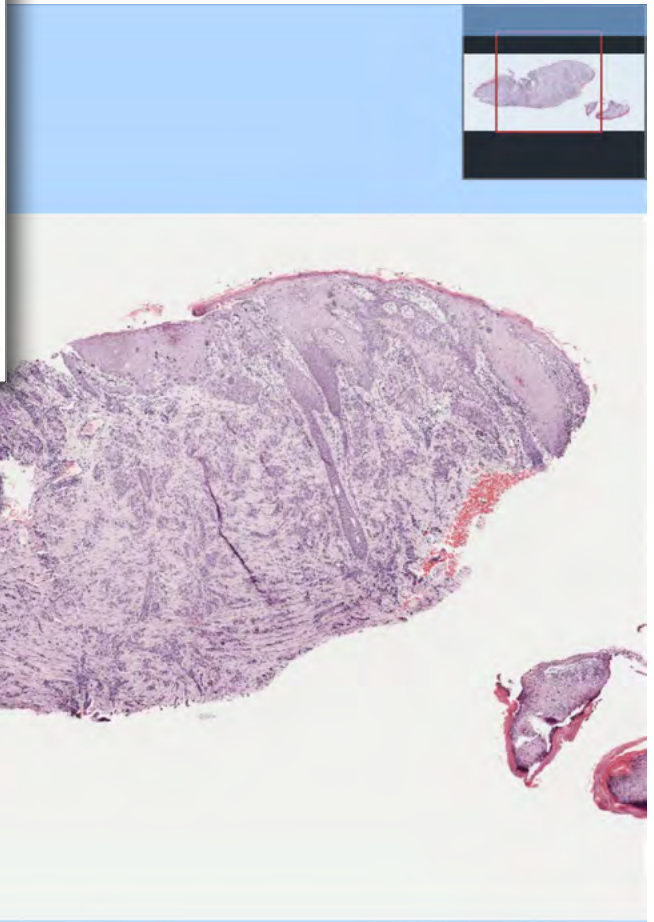
CHANGING MAGNIFICATION: Use the mouse wheel. Roll the mouse wheel forward and backward to zoom in and out.

NOTE: If "white space" appears when you zoom in to high power, you are most likely in space between pieces of tissue.

The following icons in the upper left corner of the Virtual Microscopy viewer window can also be selected to navigate the image; however, we recommend using your mouse for navigation as it is faster and easier. We do recommend using the small navigation windows in the upper right corner to view a thumbnail of the image and use the red square to navigate quickly from one area or piece of tissue to another.

- Zoom In Icon** - Will zoom in on the section of tissue in the middle of the viewer window.
- Zoom Out Icon** - Will zoom out from the section of tissue in the middle of the viewer window.
- Go Home Icon** - Will resize the image so it fully displays within the viewer window.

The viewer window will automatically open up to be 1200 pixels in width. You can move, enlarge, or reduce the size of the viewer window by using your mouse to get an arrow along any edge or corner of the viewer window.



Virtual Microscopy Practice Site

ABPath Certification Exam Practice Tutorial - First Name Last Na... Time Remaining 00:29:13

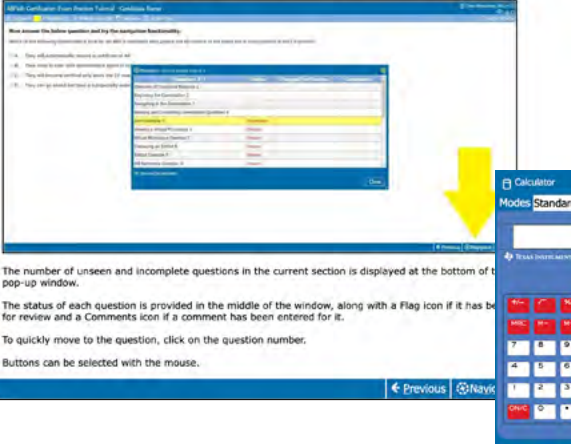
Comment Highlight Searchthrough (W) Calculator Scratch Pad Flag for Review

Navigating in the Examination

Notice the Previous and Next buttons at the bottom of the screen. These buttons are available on most screens in the examination.

Click the Previous button to move back one screen at a time and click the Next button to move forward one screen at a time.

You can also review a specific question within the current section you are working on at any time by clicking the Navigator button at the bottom of the screen.



The number of unseen and incomplete questions in the current section is displayed at the bottom of the pop-up window.

The status of each question is provided in the middle of the window, along with a Flag icon if it has been flagged for review and a Comments icon if a comment has been entered for it.

To quickly move to the question, click on the question number.

Buttons can be selected with the mouse.

Previous Navigator

Practice Tutorial

The Practice Tutorial will help familiarize candidates with the functions and features of taking the exam(s). It should take no more than 30 minutes to complete and candidates may revisit the tutorial as many times as they like. Candidates are strongly encouraged to review the Practice Tutorial [here](#).

Day of the Exam



2 IDs Required

ID Reminder

You will need to show 2 forms of identification for check-in at the test center and when returning from breaks. One must be an original (no photocopies), valid (unexpired) government-issued photo ID (e.g., driver’s license, passport) that includes your name, photograph and signature. Both forms of ID must match the first and last name that is listed in your Pearson VUE account.

All IDs must be issued by the country in which you are testing. If you do not have the qualifying ID issued from the country you are testing in, an International Travel Passport from your country of citizenship is required.

Candidate Rules Agreement

When candidates arrive at Pearson VUE they will read and agree to the [Candidate Rules Agreement](#) prior to entry into the exam room. We recommend candidates review them on the [ABPath website](#) before the day of the exam.



What You Can Bring into the Test Center

No items are permitted in the exam room except for your ID, face mask and locker key if you are using a locker for personal belongings, food, and beverages. Whiteboards and markers will be provided for use during the exam.

Food and Beverages

We encourage candidates to bring their own food, drink and snacks. Storage lockers are provided. Pearson VUE test centers do not provide food and beverages and they may not be easily available in the surrounding area.

Get There Early

We suggest you get to the test center 30 minutes prior to your exam appointment.

After the Exam

Results

Exam results will be available 4-6 weeks after the last day of the exam window.

Candidates will receive an email when the results are available. Results will be posted on their Board Correspondence page in PATHway.

Please note, to receive your results, ensure a current, valid, full and unrestricted medical license showing the expiration date has been uploaded to PATHway.

Certificates

Engraved certificates will be mailed to successful candidates approximately 3-4 months after the exam results are released. Before receiving the certificate, candidates will receive an email from the engraver Jim Henry to confirm certificate details.



**Exam Results in
PATHway
4-6 weeks after close of
exam window.**



**Certified by the
American Board of Pathology**
*Promoting Excellence in the
Practice of Pathology*

Program Directors and Coordinators



Instructions/Information for Primary (AP and/or CP) Program Directors and Coordinators



<https://shrtm.nu/oKJ>

Information for Program Directors and Coordinators

PATHway Login

As a reminder, Program Directors and Coordinators share the same login to PATHway for their program. Program Directors have a separate login for their personal accounts.

Program Performance Reports

Program performance reports will be released in January 2025 for residents and fellows taking exams in 2024.

ABPath Booklet of Information

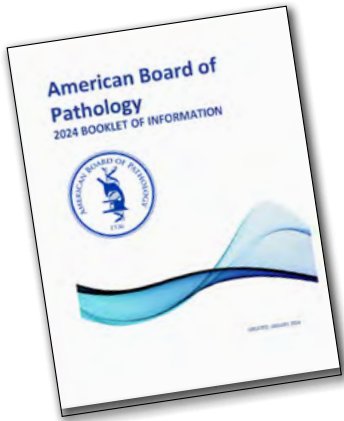
The updated Booklet of Information should be reviewed by program directors, program coordinators and residents at least annually to ensure that certification requirements are met and ABPath policies and procedures are followed. The 2024 Booklet is available [here](#).

Honor Code and Professionalism

Program Directors are encouraged to talk with their residents about the honor code, professionalism, and ethical behavior.

ABPath Ambassador Program/Speakers Bureau

The Trustee Speakers Bureau was developed to directly engage with pathology training programs. ABPath Trustees will visit the program either in person or virtually to provide an overview of the Board, updates on Board initiatives, and answer questions about board certification. Each program will be visited once every four years in an effort to connect with each post-graduate year before the residents complete training. Programs will be contacted by the Board to schedule presentations.



Ritu Nayar, MD at Northwestern University



Barbara Sampson, MD, PhD at Zucker School of Medicine



Eric Glassy, MD takes a selfie at Harbor UCLA Medical Center.

CONTINUING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (CC)

The CC Program has two primary requirements for maintaining certification: quarterly participation in ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL) and submission of biennial reporting forms. These requirements allow diplomates to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the field of pathology and demonstrate their commitment to ongoing learning and professional growth.

CC Program Reminders

CME for ABPCL Participation

If you are participating in ABPath CertLink® (ABPCL), you can claim up to 5 CME credits for successful participation in 2023. The credits may be claimed from February to December during the year following your participation through the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) in collaboration with ABPath. You do not have to be a member of ASCP to claim these credits. For more information on claiming CME, click [here](#).


Text Reminders

Diplomates may choose to receive text reminders at the end of each quarter for ABPCL. Once logged into [ABPCL](#) select the Profile tab in the heading to make the change.

Contact Information

Keep your email up to date in both [ABPCL](#) and [PATHway](#) to ensure you are receiving important information and updates from ABPath.



	<h3>Continuing Certification Program Overview</h3>
<p>New Diplomates</p>	<p>The American Board of Pathology (ABPath), as one of the 24 member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), is committed to continuous professional development through its Continuing Certification (CC) Program. CC assists physicians in maintaining standards necessary for them to provide quality care throughout their careers. CC assures that the physician is committed to lifelong learning and competency in pathology. It requires ongoing measurement of the six competencies adopted by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the ABMS to ensure that all aspects of practice are evaluated and outcomes are measured.</p>
<p>Reporting</p>	<p>ABMS has incorporated assessment of these six competencies into the CC program. The six competencies are:</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient care • Medical knowledge • Practice-based learning and improvement • Interpersonal and communication skills • Professionalism • Systems-based practice
<p>CME</p>	<p>Diplomates issued certificates after 1/1/2006 are automatically enrolled in the program. Diplomates with non-time limited (lifetime) certificates issued prior to 1/1/2006 may voluntarily enroll in the CC Program at any time. All Trustees and Chief Executive Officer of</p>
<p>CC Booklet of Information</p>	
<p>Meeting CC Requirements Late</p>	
<p>Certificates</p>	



**ABPath CertLink
Quality Assurance/Improvement Plan**

In 2023, ABPath launched a two-year quality assurance/quality improvement initiative for ABPCL. The initiative is designed to enhance the user experience and ensure that the program continues to support the highest standards of continuous learning and professional development of board-certified pathologists.

During this two-year process, ABPath is working to update terminology, improve image quality and the content of questions, and more rapidly introduce new content from leading journals. Meanwhile, we are continually reviewing all of the feedback we receive on questions and the platform overall. Read [here](#) for more information on the Quality Assurance/Improvement Plan.

Question Reduction

In July 2023, the new ABPCL questions a diplomate receives per quarter were reduced from 15 to 10 new questions and up to 5 clones as a part of the ABPCL improvement plan. Performance and participation requirements must be met.

For complete information on the CC Program and policies, see the [CC Booklet of Information](#).



Important Reminder

ABPath CertLink is not approved for use on smartphones. Questions should only be completed on a desktop or laptop computer. Smartphone use is not supported by the platform and may result in errors that could affect your participation and performance.

COOPERATING SOCIETIES

LIST OF SOCIETIES

- Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists
- American Association of Neuropathologists
- American Medical Association Pathology Section Council
- American Society for Clinical Pathology
- American Society of Dermatopathology
- American Society for Investigative Pathology
- American Society of Cytopathology
- Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies
- Association for Molecular Pathology
- Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology
- Association of Pathology Chairs
- College of American Pathologists
- National Association of Medical Examiners
- Society for Hematopathology
- Society for Pediatric Pathology
- United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology

Our Cooperating Societies

ABPath has 16 Cooperating Societies that we collaborate with to identify and address issues of importance to the profession of pathology. Through these valuable relationships, our [Cooperating Societies](#) support diplomates in their life-long learning and improvement in practice, their participation in Continuing Certification, and documenting their participation in educational and quality assessment activities.

The ABPath would like to thank the APC/PRODS, ASCP, CAP, and USCAP for their support of ABPath exhibit booths at their annual meetings. It is always a great opportunity to engage with residents and diplomates and other stakeholders.





OUR VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the many ABPath volunteers who contribute their time and expertise in support of our mission and who promote excellence in the practice of pathology. View a list of all current ABPath committee members [here](#).

TDAC Test Development and Advisory Committees

Test Development and Advisory Committees

The TDACs are responsible for developing and reviewing the ABPath certification exam questions that assess a physician's knowledge, judgment, and skills in order to provide high-quality care to patients. Each committee is chaired by an ABPath Trustee and consists of recognized subject matter experts who are leaders in their field. They spend many hours throughout the year in service to our profession and certification programs.

CC Advisory Committee Continuing Certification

Continuing Certification (CC) Advisory Committee

The Continuing Certification (CC) Advisory Committee is made up of 13 volunteer diplomates with diverse backgrounds, specialties, and experience and is chaired by an ABPath Trustee, currently Dr. Julie Kingery. It is responsible for advising the ABPath Board of Trustees for continuous evaluation and improvement of Continuing Certification from a diplomate's perspective. Each member serves three years on the Committee.

Resident & Fellow Advisory Committee Board Certification

Resident and Fellow Advisory Committee

This Committee is made up of Pathology Residents and Fellows with the purpose of providing feedback and suggestions for improvement to ABPath about the board certification process and ways to best support pathology residents and fellows in the certification journey. The committee is chaired by ABPath CEO, Dr. Gary Procop.



ABPCL Item Writers

The ABPCL Item Writers share their expertise by writing questions (items) for the ABPath CertLink longitudinal assessment. Their contributions have helped to enrich and refine the program.



OUR BEST CONTRIBUTORS

We would like to acknowledge the following Item Writers for providing exceptional support to ABPCL by contributing questions for ABPath CertLink in 2023. Visit the ABPath website for more information on the [Volunteer Item Writer Recognition Program](#).

Platinum Level Contributor

David Alter, MD
Gulisa Turashvili, MD

Gold Level Contributor

Barina Aqil, MD
Robyn C Reed, MD
Nick Lintel, MD
Douglas Billingsley Walton, MD
Changlee Pang, MD
Borislav Alexiev, MD
Jatin Gandhi, MD
Haider Mejbhel, MD
Abha Goyal, MD
Jordan Colson, MD

Silver Level Contributor

Anthony K Leung, MD
Majed Refaai, MD
Arash Lahoutiharahdashti, MD
Oana Elena Vele, MD
Ozlen Saglam, MD
Kevin Krauland, MD
Jonathan Wilcock, MD
Brian Castillo, MD
Stephanie Richards, MD
Melissa Austin, MD
Zaid Mahdi, MD
Christine Roth, MD
Stacy Beal, MD
Sophia Yohe, MD
Saloni Walia, MD
Mireille Bitar, MD
Michelle K Zimmerman, MD
James Joseph Woytash, MD
David Grier, MD
Joshua Akers, MD

Bronze Level Contributor

Veena Rajaram, MD
Swikrity U Baskota, MD
Shreeram Akilesh, MD
Sean R Williamson, MD
Richard Godby, MD
Jeanne Hendrickson, MD
David Daniel, MD
Daniel Hagen, MD
Bonnie Choy, MD





The Pathologist Educator

ABPath would like to thank the Pathologist Educator for supplying questions to be used in ABPCL. The Pathologist Educator is an on-line resource reporting on the research, innovations, personalities, and policies that shape pathology. We appreciate their support in lifelong learning for pathologists through ABPCL, ABPath's on-line longitudinal assessment platform.

You can find The Pathologist and The Pathologist Educator at:
The Pathologist: <https://thepathologist.com/>

ABMS NEWS



American Board
of Medical Specialties

Higher standards. Better care.®

American Board of Medical Specialties Conference 2024

The ABPath is one of 24 member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). ABMS represents nearly one million active board-certified physicians who are aiming higher to better serve their patients, families, and communities.

The upcoming ABMS Conference 2024 is the premier health care conference on board certification with a focus on assessment, lifelong learning, improvement, and professionalism.

For more information visit <https://www.abms.org/event/abms-conference-2024/>



2023 EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE



The ABPath uses criterion-referenced scoring for its certification examinations. Setting the criterion standard for each exam is performed every 3-5 years.

The number of candidates passing the examinations may not match the number of candidates certified for several reasons:

1. Some AP/CP candidates, both first-time takers and repeaters, take only one portion (either AP or CP) of the examination. These candidates are not certified until both AP and CP are passed.
2. Certified candidates include AP/CP candidates who passed either the AP or CP examination previously and requested single certification during the reporting year.
3. Certified candidates also include candidates who passed the examinations in a previous year but did not provide documentation of licensure or other required information until the reporting year.

See the ABPath Website for examination information.

Primary Certification Examinations

2023 Primary Examination

	Total Candidates			First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass
AP	703	549	78%	567	488	86%	136	61	45%
CP	586	542	92%	544	520	96%	42	22	52%

5-Year Certified Report

Primary	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
APCP	451	397	533	490	479
AP only	58	73	105	98	76
CP only	40	25	55	54	55
APNP	10	8	17	7	5

Primary Exam Pass Rates (% Pass = Spring exam pass rate)

Primary	2019 % Pass	2020 % Pass	2021 % Pass	2022 % Pass	2023 % Pass
AP only	82*	85	82	84*	82
CP only	85*	88	94	94*	94

*New criterion standard applied

Subspecialty Certification Examinations

2023 Subspecialty Examinations

	Total Candidates			First-Time Takers			Repeaters		
	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass	#	# Pass	% Pass
BB/TM	60	58	97	49	49	100	11	9	82
CH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CI	22	17	77	19	16	84	3	1	33
CY	131	116	89	119	108	91	12	8	67
DP	52	46	88	49	43	88	3	3	100
FP	61	52	85	60	52	87	1	0	0
HP	143	134	94	134	129	96	9	5	56
MB	12	10	83	12	10	83	-	-	-
MG	62	59	95	57	55	96	5	4	80
NP	27	25	93	25	23	92	2	2	100
PP	24	21	88	20	19	95	4	2	50
FPclinMB*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*FPclinMB = Focus Practice Designation-Clinical Microbiology

5-Year Certified Report

Subspecialty	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
BB/TM	47	39	39	29	58
CH	1	2	-	-	-
CI	18	17	27	25	17
CY	137	104	109	115	117
DP	45	34	41	41	46
FP	38	47	38	53	52
HP	119	116	108	110	133
MB	14	6	18	8	10
MG	59	48	49	51	59
NP	12	17	11	14	22
PP	23	16	20	18	21
FPclinMB*	-	1	-	-	-

*FPclinMB = Focus Practice Designation-Clinical Microbiology

Subspecialty Examinations Pass Rates

Subspecialty	2019 % Pass	2020 % Pass	2021 % Pass	2022 % Pass	2023 % Pass
BB/TM	96	89*	81	62	97
CH	100	100	-	-	-
CI	78	89	77	66	77
CY	96	86*	86	83	89
DP	98	95	87	89*	88
FP	93	89*	95	98	85*
HP	97	94*	94	90	94
MB	100	100	100	69*	83*
MG	98	98*	94	84	95*
NP	96	100	90	83*	93*
PP	96	89	91	82*	88
FPclinMB**	-	100	-	-	-

*New criterion standard applied

**FPclinMB = Focus Practice Designation-Clinical Microbiology

Continuing Certification Examinations

Total Number of Diplomates Enrolled = 11,124

Continuing Certification Participation Statistics

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Certificates Enrolled	1087	961	1091	1120	1164
Certificates Lapsed/ Revoked	90	97	64	46	47
Diplomates Enrolled	585	525	736	659	639
Diplomates Lapsed/ Revoked	64	70	52	34	34

EXAMINATION DATES FOR 2024



Exams (Pearson VUE)	2024 Dates
Anatomic / Clinical Pathology	
Spring	May 13 - June 8
Fall	October 7-21
Subspecialty	
Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine	September 9-28
Chemical Pathology	September 9-28
Cytopathology	September 9-28
Dermatopathology	September 9-28
Hematopathology	September 9-28
Forensic Pathology	September 9-28
Medical Microbiology	September 9-28
Molecular Genetic Pathology	September 9-28
Neuropathology	September 9-28
Pediatric Pathology	September 9-28
Clinical Informatics (Pearson VUE)	Oct 14-Nov 3

FEEDBACK WELCOME



Have an idea for the Newsletter? Want to contribute to improving ABPath CertLink®?

We welcome your feedback and ideas.

Make your certification—and your voice—count!

Contact Chief Operating Officer Ty McCarthy

coo@abpath.org

CONTACT ABPATH

**Main office:**

One Urban Centre, Suite 690
4830 West Kennedy Boulevard
Tampa, Florida 33609
Telephone: (813) 286-2444
Fax: (813) 289-5279
www.abpath.org

Questions may be addressed to:

questions@abpath.org

Ty McCarthy

Chief Operating Officer

coo@abpath.org

Gary Procop, M.D.

Chief Executive Officer

About the American Board of Pathology

The mission of the American Board of Pathology, as a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties, is to serve the public and advance the profession of pathology by setting certification standards and promoting lifelong competency of pathologists. Founded in 1936, the ABPath accomplishes this mission by establishing certification and continuing certification standards and assessing the qualifications of those seeking to obtain voluntary certification in the specialty of pathology.

Stay up to date with important news and information from ABPath. Visit abpath.org and follow us on social media.

