CPRC News

A Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee Publication for Cytotechnology Programs

May 2013

Did you know…..?

- **2013 CPRC Annual Reports**: By the time this newsletter is circulated, all Program Directors have received login information and instructions for completing the Annual Report, which is **due by June 15, 2013**.

- **CPRC Presentation – ASC Annual Scientific Meeting, Friday, November 8, 2013**
  
  **The First Steps Forward: Moving Our Cytotechnology Training Programs towards A More Modern Practice Model**

  In this important session for all cytotechnology program educators, Mr. Schnitzler and CPRC members will identify the immediate impact of the CAAHEP-approved **Standards and Guidelines, Appendix B, the Entry-level Competencies for Cytotechnologists** (ELC) on cytotechnology program curriculum. Resources provided by CPRC Sponsors and others to support implementation of the new ELC will be introduced, with explanation of utilization and the importance of individual/program participation and contribution to building these shared resources. Finally, the implementation plan and timeline for modifications to the ELC of future practice models will be identified.

- Please encourage your cytotechnology students to apply for the **Geraldine Colby Zeiler Award**. Candidates for the awards must have completed the first six months of training. Applications for the awards and recommendations must be submitted on the **ASC Web site** no later than **June 1, 2013**.

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**National Cytotechnology Day is May 13, 2013!**

To commemorate Dr. George Papanicolaou’s contribution to the field of medicine, his birthday, May 13th, is designated National Cytotechnology Day. The ASC is proud of its Cytotechnologist members – please share any activities and/or photos with Debby MacIntyre who will post them on the Cytotechnology Educators’ Listserv or include in the next issue of The ASC Bulletin.
CONGRATULATIONS!

Cytotechnology Programs granted Continuing Accreditation for Seven Years!

Central Piedmont Community College, September 2012
University of Alabama at Birmingham, March 2013
Cabell Huntington Hospital, March 2013
University of Puerto Rico, March 2013

A Whirlwind of Activities keeps the CPRC Busy

Donald Schnitzler, BS, CT(ASCP), CPRC Chair

Since the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting last November 2013, a whirlwind of activities has kept CPRC members busy moving the entry-level competencies revision process forward. Most recently that included closing the on-line survey about the proposed revisions and preparing a summary of the 414 comments provided by nearly 200 participants. If you were one of those participants, THANK YOU! Thank you for your time, your advice, your suggestions and even your criticisms. These will all be reviewed and considered by the CPRC later this month as final changes to the proposed competencies are made and the final document integrated into the Standards and Guidelines as Appendix B, “The Curriculum in Cytotechnology for Entry-level Competencies.”

After the CPRC completes this final revision, the Standards and Guidelines will be sent to the CAAHEP Standards Committee for their review and approval. We anticipate receiving their feedback in late June. Then during July, the CPRC will review the comments provided by the CAAHEP Standards Committee and share the finalized Standards and Guidelines document with our sponsoring organizations along with a request for their endorsement. Once that endorsement is received, the CPRC will request a CAAHEP Open Hearing. CAAHEP will then post the final documents on line for review during August and schedule an Open Hearing for some time in September. CAAHEP approval is expected when their Board of Directors meets in October.

While CPRC activities the past few months might be described as a whirlwind - fast-paced, rapid and quick, it is important to emphasize that they have also been the deliberate and orderly steps needed to keep the review and approval process on schedule. Keeping pace with the CPRC, and working just as deliberate and orderly, is the CPRC Resource Subcommittee.

The committee recently surveyed Cytotechnology Program Directors to identify resources that programs will need in order to meet the requirements of the revised entry level competencies. With responses from almost every program, the committee has ranked those topics where programs saw a perceived need for additional resources, and began the process of identifying resources to meet those needs. Focused and committed, the committee expects to have the first resources loaded and available to programs by the time CAAHEP approval is announced at the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting this November in Orlando.
Between now and the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting, the CPRC and the CPRC Resource Subcommittee will stay on task to see CAAHEP approval of the Standards and Guidelines, and that the necessary resources are available for program use to ensure successful implementation of the revised competencies. Please join us during the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting, Strategies in Cytotechnology Education Session #1, The Next Steps Forward, Moving Our Cytotechnology Training Programs towards a More Modern Practice Model, for the latest information on this effort.

Status of Programs (as of May 1, 2013)

31 Accredited Programs  
31 Active Programs  
0 Inactive Programs  
0 Discontinued Programs  
1 Developing Program, with plans to begin first class in fall 2014

****News from CPRC Sponsoring Organizations****

American Society of Cytopathology
Nancy J. Smith, MS, SCT(ASCP), CPRC-ASC Sponsor Representative

Plan to attend the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting in Orlando, Florida!

What a warm venue for the ASC 61st Annual Scientific Meeting, which kicks off on Friday, November 8th with Strategies in Cytotechnology Education, moderated by Shirley Greening, JD, SCT(ASCP)CFIAC. The day begins at 8:00 am with The First Steps Forward, Moving Our Cytotechnology Training Programs towards Future Practice Models, co-directed by Don Schnitzler, BS, CT(ASCP) and Stephanie Hamilton, EdD, MB, SCT(ASCP) and assisted by CPRC members. The second session for cytotechnology educators, Self-Assessment and a Review in GYN Cytology, presented by Marilee Means, PhD, SCT(ASCP) and Walid Khalbuss, MD, includes a comprehensive high-yield review of a large number of GYN cytology cases that illustrate common and uncommon entities, in addition to diagnostic challenges.

Since we are in a warm climate, wouldn’t it make sense to begin your Saturday with a run or walk, which will be offered again this year? The route won’t be quite the same as “Sin City” but it will be a scenic route around the Hilton Bonnet Creek property. More information about this FUN RUN will be on the ASC Meeting site by July 2013.
Once again, **Career Planning and Growth: Valuable for Today, Tomorrow and Beyond** will be offered gratis to all attendees on Sunday, November 10th from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Topics are customized especially for cytotechnology program graduates (or program educators) - contract questions, the interview process, preparation of resume, job search, and long-range career planning.

Speaking of graduates, the ASC Foundation is accepting applications (online only) for the **ASC Foundation Annual Scientific Meeting Cytotechnologist Travel Scholarships**, with a deadline of **August 1, 2013**. The Foundation awards $2,000 each to five qualified cytotechnologists who are ASC Members and in their first two years of practice to attend the ASC Annual Scientific Meeting in 2014 in Dallas, Texas. Please alert your recent graduates to apply for this scholarship.

For more information about the **61st Annual Scientific Meeting**, please visit the [ASC Annual Meeting Web site](https://www.ascp.org/meeting). 

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**American Society for Clinical Pathology**

*Amber Donnelly, PhD, MPH, SCT(ASCP) and Karen Nauschuetz, MD, CPRC-ASCP*

Sponsor Representatives

The ASCP Annual Meeting will be held on September 18-21, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago, Illinois. **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, former Secretary of State and former US Senator from New York, will be the keynote speaker on Wednesday, September 18, 2013. “Former Secretary Clinton's keynote presentation will set the stage for a global scientific conference,” says Joel Shilling, MD, FASCP, ASCP President.

A few other highlights of the meeting are listed below:

**Building Blocks of Cytopathology**, presented by Richard Mac DeMay, MD, FASCP, addresses 10 basic types of cells, the building blocks of cytodiagnosis and what common things to look to assist with making a diagnosis. Learn the 10 building blocks of cytopathology, formulate a differential diagnosis based on the 10 building blocks and arrive at a final diagnosis based on the 10 building blocks.

**Common Consultation Conundrums in Breast Pathology** - Sandra J. Shin, MD will help attendees navigate to the correct breast-lesion diagnosis with the right tools to approach certain stumbling blocks, develop a practical diagnostic approach when encountering problematic breast lesions, correctly classify and diagnose problematic breast lesions, and understand the uses and limitations of immunostatins in resolving diagnostic dilemmas in breast pathology.

**Molecular Diagnostics and Personalized Medicine for the General Pathologist and Medical Technologist**, presented by Kirk Heriot, MD, PhD, FASCP, this tightly constructed and targeted compendium will help attendees understand and participate in this evolving and crucial discipline; understand the three major concepts in molecular biology that have medical applications: DNA replication, transcription, and translation; and understand diagnostic information derived from the five most commonly used techniques in molecular diagnostics.

For more information about the **ASCP Annual Meeting**, please visit the [ASCP Web site](https://www.ascp.org).
American Society for Cytotechnology  
Stephanie Hamilton EdD, SCT(ASCP) and Maria Friedlander, MPA, CT(ASCP)  
CPRC-ASCT Sponsor Representatives

ELC Revision and CPRC Resources Sub-Committee Participation

The American Society for Cytotechnology (ASCT) supported the participation of its two CPRC members (Stephanie Hamilton, ASCT CPRC Representative and Mary Ann Friedlander, ASCT Commissioner to CAAHEP) at a 2-day CPRC meeting in February in which feedback from sponsor organizations resulted in a review of the Entry-Level Competencies for Cytotechnologists (ELC) and its latest revision. All communities of interest including ASCT members have been encouraged to provide feedback via an online survey by May 3, 2013. In addition to the ELC revision, a new CPRC Resources Sub-Committee was formulated to assist cytotechnology programs in meeting the newly revised ELC. The CPRC Resources Sub-Committee includes representatives from all CPRC sponsor organizations including ASCT appointed members Sandra Giroux and Sonya Griffin.

2013 ASCT Warren R. Lang Student Awards

The ASCT held its Annual Scientific Conference April 19-21, 2013 in Scottsdale, Arizona and once again sponsored its annual Student Interesting Case Competition under the leadership of ASCT Education Committee Chair, Catherine Smith, CT(ASCP)CM. This year a total of 18 student case submissions were received from the following six cytotechnology training programs:

1.  Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences  
2.  UCLA School of Cytotechnology  
3.  METC, Fort Sam Houston, TX  
4.  University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
5.  UW Milwaukee  
6.  Detroit Medical Center, University Laboratories Cytotechnology Program

This year, for the very first time, two students presented their cases via voice-over presentations, which allowed students who were unable to attend the Meeting to participate and present their cases. This year one of the voice-over presenters was awarded 2nd place. The ASCT is encouraged that through voice-over presentations, it will be able to support the participation of more students who are unable to travel and attend its annual conference.

The ASCT/Warren R. Lang Student Awards are presented to the students with the best interesting case based on content and presentation. The Award was established in 1989 in memory of Dr. Warren R. Lang, a professor of Cytotechnology and Medical Director of the School of Cytotechnology in the College of Allied Health Sciences of the Thomas Jefferson University in the 1970’s. Dr. Lang was an advocate for cytotechnologists and supportive of the ASCT. The Warren Lang Awards are funded by the ASCT Foundation - $150 for first place, $100 for second place and $50 for third place. The ASCT Foundation also funds student contest participants’ registration fees at the Annual Meeting. All student participants receive a "Certificate of Recognition" and acknowledgement in the ASCT Voice publication and ASCT Web site.
Congratulations to this year’s ASCT/Warren R. Lang Student Awards/Winners!

1st place: Donald Hughes, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas
It’s Rare, It’s Scary, It’s Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma

2nd place: Jennifer Albert, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (voice-over presentation)
Lung Cancer in a young patient accompanied by FISH for diagnosis

3rd place: Elaine Smith, UCLA School of Cytotechnology, Los Angeles, California
Hide in Plain Sight; Metastatic Cancer in a Lymph Node

Front Row Left to Right: Catherine Smith (ASCT Education Chair), Shawana Washington, Jazmin Culpepper, Elaine Smith (3rd place), Kristen Ball
Back Row Left to Right: Donald Hughes (1st place), Adrian Robles, Matthew Tarin

Donald Hughes, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
The College of American Pathologists
David C. Wilbur, MD, CPRC-CAP Sponsor Representative

The College of American Pathologists Annual Meeting (CAP ’13) will be held from October 13 to 16, 2013 at the Gaylord Palms in Orlando, Florida. Although this Meeting is specifically geared toward the educational needs of pathologists, there will be much content applicable to technologists as well, particularly those interested in advanced educational sessions in molecular pathology, immunopathology, and a broad offering of associated pathology and technology-related fields. In addition, the Meeting offers many sessions related to the practice of pathology including quality assurance, laboratory management, and regulatory and government-related issues. Access to the official program and to registration and hotel information can be found at CAP ’13. The CAP hopes to see many technologists at the Meeting!

2013 CAAHEP Leadership Workshop and Annual Meeting

CAAHEP Leadership Workshop, January 25-26, 2013
CPRC Chair, Don Schnitzler and CPRC Coordinator, Debby MaIntyre Sheldon attended the CAAHEP Leadership Workshop in Tampa, Florida, which focused on “How to Lead a Successful Committee on Accreditation (CoA) – Five Steps.” Excellent presentations focused on the five steps.

- **Step One, People are the Key**: Bridgette Nevils-Taylor, CEO of Open for Discussion in Miami, talked about optimizing volunteer involvement, working with different personalities and strategies for grooming future leaders.
- **Step Two, Know the Rules**: Carolyn O’Daniel, EdD, RRT, CAAHEP Board member, provided a primer to Robert’s Rules, the key to running a successful meeting, and reviewed some critical CAAHEP Rules/Policies.
- **Step Three, Principles of Good Governance**: Attorney Elise Scanlon from Washington, DC explained Governance versus Management, and the fiduciary responsibilities of Board members.
- **Step Four, What you Need to Know about Current Developments in Washington**: Updates shared by Elise Scanlon
- **Step Five, Marketing for CoAs**: Ann Marie Mecera, a Communications expert, shared how to get the right message to the right people via marketing strategies to include social marketing, advertising, web site development and public relations.

CAAHEP Annual Meeting, April 14-15, 2013 – Using the Past the Shape the Future
This year, the CPRC had the best representation ever for the CAAHEP Annual Meeting, held in Charleston, South Carolina, with Don Schnitzler, Debby MaIntyre Sheldon being joined by sponsoring Commissioners Kalyani Naik (CPRC), Amber Donnelly (ASCP), and Mary Ann Friedlander (ASCT).

An excellent and timely presentation, *Using Past Experience to Shape the Future of Disaster Preparedness*, by Ralph M. Shealy, MD, FACEP, FAAEM, Chief Medical Officer of Southeastern Medical International, Inc., brought to mind the recent disaster at Sandy Hook School in Newtown, Connecticut and another shortly thereafter, the Boston Marathon bombings that occurred the last day of the conference.
Dr. Roy Swift from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) shared important information in his presentation, *Certification: You Can’t Tell the Players without a Scorecard! A Report on Efforts to Validate Certification Programs.*

This year, attendees enjoyed the Spotlight on Professions, Cardiovascular Technology, Blood Banking Technology and Clinical Research Professionals, and the Spotlight on Sponsors, American Society of Echocardiography, Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Society for Vascular Ultrasound.

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**CAAHEP in Focus**

*Kalyani Naik, MS, SCT(ASCP), CAAHEP Board of Directors Member*

In January, the CAAHEP Board of Directors approved implementation of a pilot to establish the Recommendations Review Committee. The committee consists of five Board of Directors (BoD) members and focuses on reviewing recommendations submitted by Committees on Accreditation. While the full Board is still ultimately responsible for taking actions on the recommendations, this group was formed to develop and apply standardized processes for evaluating accreditation actions in an effort to improve upon our organizational effectiveness. The committee has performed one cycle of reviews since its formation, and is getting ready to review recommendations for the upcoming May Board meeting.

Amongst recent policy changes implemented by CAAHEP, is a policy that is timely for our profession as we are in the process of reviewing current and potential future entry-level competencies. Submitted by the Standards Committee, the Board approved an abbreviated process for reviewing Standards that have only revisions to Appendix B (entry level competencies section) with no changes to the Standards and Guidelines themselves:

1. If after completion of the CoA review (see Section 401, B), incorporating changes to the curriculum document referenced in Standard III.C (Appendix B) are the only changes:
   a) The Committee on Accreditation (CoA) submits revised draft of Appendix B to the Standards Committee for review, along with description of CoA's process by which consideration was obtained from all applicable communities of interest and from CoA's sponsoring organization(s).
   b) CAAHEP does not require endorsement by the CoA's sponsoring organization(s), provided there has been sufficient consultation with the organization(s) by the CoA.
   c) The Standards Committee reviews the Appendix B document and CoA's consideration process to assure consistency with CAAHEP policy and adherence to due process, language is consistent with the state of the profession, and due consideration was given by the CoA to all comments received from its communities of interest.
   d) Once the Standards Committee has approved the final draft, it will be posted to the CAAHEP Web site for a minimum of 30 days.
   e) The Standards Committee will forward the comments received to the CoA for response.
   f) After reviewing the comments received during the minimum 30-day posting and the CoA's response, the Standards Committee will determine whether or not an Open Hearing is desirable. If an Open Hearing is to be conducted, Section 401B, 7-8 is followed.

2. If an Open Hearing is not conducted, the Standards Committee formulates a recommendation and forwards it to the Board of Directors (BoD).
3. BoD takes action on the Standards and Guidelines, and notifies the CoA of its decision. Upon approval by the BoD, CAAHEP adds Appendix A and B to the Standards and Guidelines, and adds the year in which the approval occurs to the beginning of the document as “revised yyyy.”