

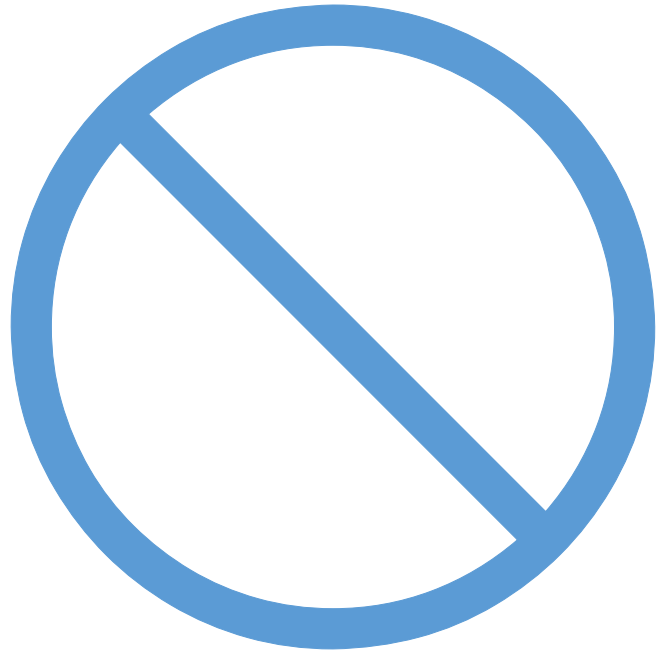


The AACC Certification Process

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Disclosures

I have no relevant financial disclosures.

I am presently serving as the Past President of the AACCC POC Professional Certification Board. I receive no income for this position.



Background

- Point of care market predicted to reach USD 50.6 billion by 2025 up from USD 29.5 billion in 2020
- Demand continues for
 - Small, portable devices
 - Fast results
 - Small specimen volumes
- Outcomes desired
 - Improved health outcomes
 - Increased provider and patient satisfaction
 - Reduced costs

POC Operators

- In US operators are typically healthcare providers not specifically trained in clinical laboratory sciences
 - Medical Assistants
 - Nurses
 - Respiratory therapists
 - Radiology technicians
 - Community pharmacists

Point-of-care testing provides an excellent opportunity for community pharmacies to enhance revenue by expanding patient care services while improving health at the patient and population levels.

The logo for the National Community Pharmacists Association is a large, light gray circle. Inside the circle, the text "National Community Pharmacists Association" is written in a black, sans-serif font. At the bottom right of the circle, there is a green curved line that starts as a small gray circle and then curves upwards and to the right, ending as a thick green bar.

National
Community
Pharmacists
Association

Why POC in Community Pharmacies?

- Alternative to emergency departments for minor issues
- Abundant locations and expanded hours
- Examples of existing POC utilization in community pharmacies
 - Influenza testing
 - Strep testing
 - Lipids
 - HbA1c
 - PT/INR
 - COVID-19 testing
- Collaborative Practice Agreements – pharmacist are allowed to provide drug therapy for conditions as specified in in a written provider protocol.



Training in POC is Variable

- No standardized curriculum in clinical lab science (medical technology) schools
- Zero to little formal POC training in RN programs
- A standardized curriculum has been proposed as part of training public health officials (Professor Kost)
- Take away: educational gaps persist in the USA



AACC POC Certificate Program

2008 - Critical and POCT Division (CPOCT) of the AACC launched a Point-of-Care (POC) Specialist Certificate Program - an assessment-based online course

8 Modules

1. Regulations
2. Quality management
3. Policies/procedures
4. Instrument selection/validation
5. Connectivity/information technology (IT)
6. Education/training
7. Administration
8. Communication

Assessment

Upon completion of the online modules, participants are administered an examination to assess their learning and are provided a certificate of successful completion.

Successful completion provides a certificate as evidence of this professional development

~**1733** individuals, have completed this professional development certificate program

Looking Ahead...

- Future versions of this course may be expanded to include international regulatory standards such ISO 15189 (Medical Laboratories) and ISO 22870 (Point of Care Testing) thus providing professional development course with an even broader worldwide application.

Assessment Based Certificate vs. Professional Certification

Assessment Based Certificate

- Focuses on education/training
- Certificate demonstrates successful attendance and completion of an assessment (quiz, exam)
- Generally open to anyone
 - Register and pay the fee
- Not administered by a board
- Not time limited

Professional Certification

- Individuals are evaluated against predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, or competencies.
- Requires successful passing of a board exam
- Requirements to sit for the exam
 - Education
 - Training Programs
 - Experience
- Administered by a board of recognized professionals
- Generally requires maintenance of certification (continuing education, re-examination)

AACC Strategic Priority

- Given the expected growth and continued expansion of POCT and existing gap in professional certification AACC made as one its strategic priorities to establish a professional certification in POCT
- Task Force established to develop a professional certification exam
- Task Force partnered with psychometricians to ensure standards of administering assessment was maintained

2017

POC Professional Certification Task Force

Table 1 AACC Professional Certification exam development task force		
Name	Title	Institution
T. Scott Isbell PhD, DABCC, FAACC	Medical Director, Clinical Chemistry and POCT	Saint Louis University School of Medicine
Corinne Fantz PhD, DABCC, FAACC	Director, Scientific Affairs POCT	Roche Diagnostic Corporation
Kerstin Halverson, MS	Clinical Applications Manager	Instrumentation Laboratory
Karen Jenkins MT(ASCP)	Point of Care Coordinator	Emory University Hospital – Midtown
Peggy Mann MS, MT(ASCP), CPP	Ambulatory POCC/Program Manager	University of Texas Medical Branch
Elaine Colwell [ex-officio]	Associate Director, Professional Education	American Association for Clinical Chemistry


Item Writers

- 39 item writers
- From academic hospitals, community hospitals, IVD, commercial reference labs
- Complete list of item writers can be found at [*Isbell et al. eJIFCC. 2021*](#)


Establishment of a Board

The AACC POCT Professional Certification Board was established to oversee

application, examination, scoring, and maintenance of the exam item bank.



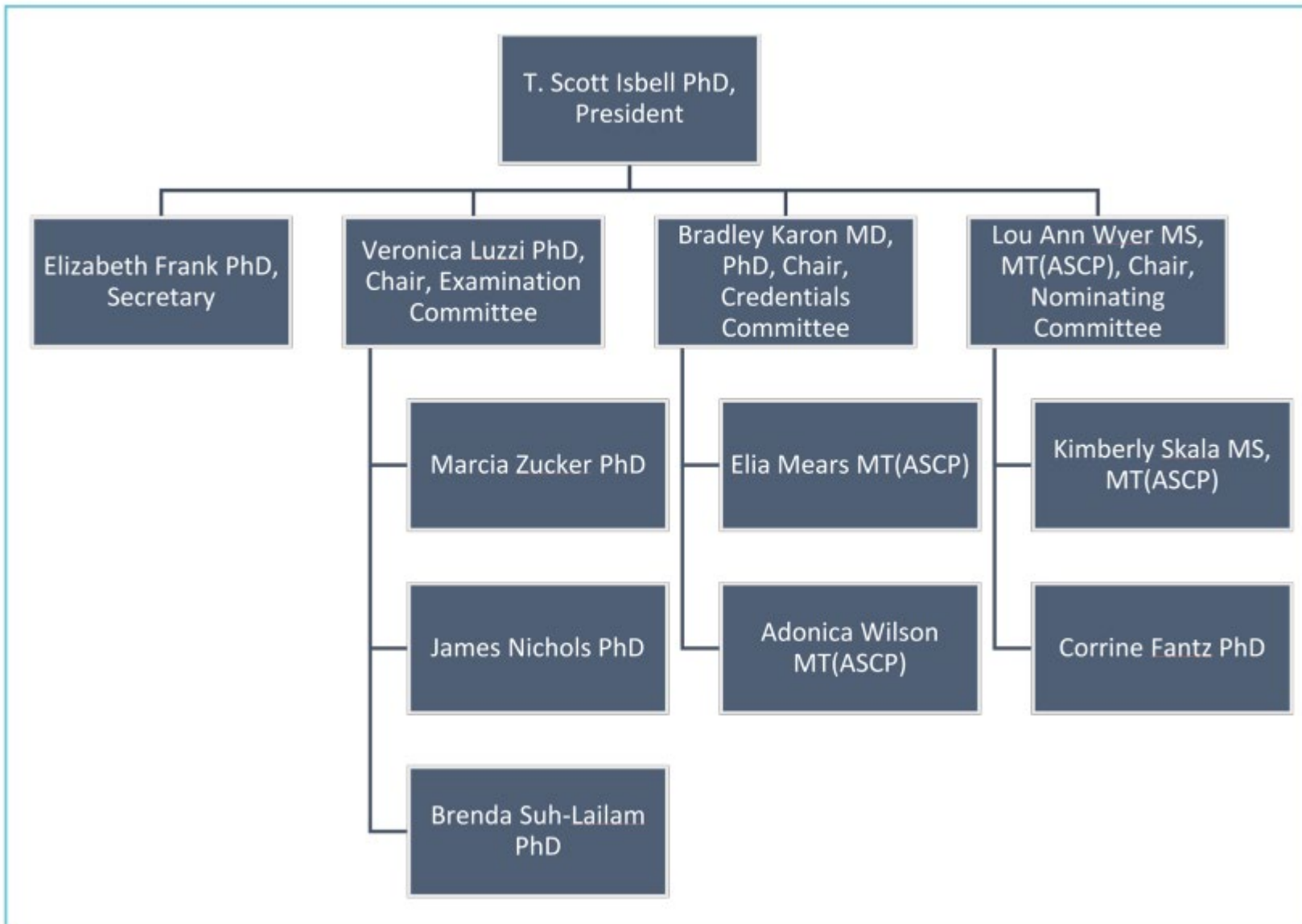
Two of the members of the task force were selected to serve on the inaugural board along with other well-recognized experts



The goal over time is that the AACC POCT Professional Certification Board will eventually be populated by those individuals that it has certified.

Figure 1

Inaugural AACC POCT Professional Certification Board



Current Board

- Elia Mears, MT(ASCP) (President)
- Vinita Thakur, PhD, FAACC (President-Elect)
- T. Scott Isbell, PhD, DABCC (Past-President)
- Elizabeth L. Frank, PhD, DABCC (Secretary)
- Matthew Feldhammer, PhD, DABCC, NRCC (Chair, Credentials Committee)
- Richard Lambert, MS, MT(ASCP), **CPP**
- Christa Williams, MLS(ASCP)CM, **CPP**
- Rita Khoury, MD, DABCC, FAACC, **CPP** (Chair, Examinations Committee)
- Marcia Zucker, PhD, MT(ASCP)
- Jane Tansiongco, MT(ASCP), **CPP**
- Shana Gaug, CLS, MLS(ASCP), **CPP**
- Adonica Wilson, MT(ASCP) (Chair, Nominating Committee)
- Kimberly Skala, MS, MT(ASCP)
- Charlotte Bismark, MT(ASCP), **CPP**

Eligibility to Sit for the Board Exam*

A four-year degree in a biological, chemical, physical, or medical laboratory science or in nursing and at least two years of direct work experience in point-of-care testing.

A two-year degree in medical laboratory science or medical laboratory technology and four years of direct work experience in point-of-care testing will be considered.

Applications to sit for the board exam are reviewed by the POCT Professional Certification Board's Credentials Committee.

Areas Examined

- U.S.A. regulations and compliance
- quality management
- education and training
- instrument selection and validation/verification
- connectivity and information technology
- leadership and communication
- specimen types
- policies and procedures
- clinical applications
- technology and methodology

November
2018

- The first professional certification exam in POCT was administered by the board
- The exam has been administered twice a year in the spring and the fall since 2019.
- At the close of 2021, **69** individuals have met the requirements of the board, successfully passed the certification exam

Certified Point of Care Testing Professional (CPP)

- Individuals that successfully meet eligibility requirements and pass the certification exam are credentialed as CPP, and are encouraged to use this credential as a suffix following their educational degree
- For example:
 - Peggy Mann MS, MT(ASCP), CPP



Goals of Professional Certification Program

- Greater leadership opportunities
- Greater job security
- Higher pay
- Recognition



What does success look like?

Increased numbers of CPPs

- providing technical and quality direction for POCT programs
- writing practice guidelines
- advancing the field through research
- serving on national and international boards and committees concerned with best practice in POCT

Federal recognition of this professional certification

Next Exam
(November
14-18,
2022)

Applications Open:
Jun 6, 2022 – August
31, 2022

[POC Professional
Certification
Candidate Handbook](#)

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