

ABMLI Q & A

COSTS

1. What is the cost of developing and maintaining the exam and certification process broken down into its sub-divisions of credentialing, development, testing etc.?

ASM records costs by type of expense (e.g. telephone, travel) and not activity.

2. How much would it cost to start a new certification exam?

The ABMLI was a sub-specialty of the ABMM before it became a stand-alone board in 1975. There are no records as to how much it cost to establish the ABMLI. The NRCM did establish a new exam in 2005 but the costs were absorbed by the American Biological Safety Association. Since ASM did not “pay” these bills, the start-up costs for this exam are also unknown.

3. What is the cost of sustaining the certification process, both granting certification as well as re-certification?

\$10,000.

CREATING A NEW EXAM

1. If another organization is willing to initiate a medical laboratory certification exam, will ASM give them the ABMLI pool of questions?

No. The ABMLI pool of questions will remain at ASM. The reason is if CMS ever requires mandatory recertification by examination, the ABMLI would need the pool of questions.

2. Can the ABMLI be shared with another organization?

No. The ABMLI will continue to serve its certified Diplomates and the exam content will reside at ASM.

3. What kind of partnership with ASM can be anticipated if a new ‘home’ for the examination is found?

None. ASM will continue to support the ABMLI so it can serve its certified Diplomates.

LEADERSHIP

1. What will happen to the ABMLI since the exam is being phased out?

The ABMLI will continue to serve those who are certified by maintaining a list of certified ABMLI Diplomates, facilitating recertification and verification of Diplomate status for employers.

2. Define anticipated role of the ABMLI Board after the phase out.

The ABMLI Board will be phased out. An ABMLI Diplomate will be asked to serve on the Board of the American College of Microbiology and will be the staff resource for recertification questions.

3. Will the ABMLI Board be disbanded?

Yes. The Chair and Vice Chair will serve their terms until they are completed on June 30, 2018. The Credentials Committee Chair will conclude her serve on June 30, 2016 after the last application deadline. The Exam Development Chair will complete her term on December 31, 2017 after the last exam has been scored. Other Board members serving can choose to rotate off early or when their term expire.

The Validation and Exam Development Committees will also be phased out. The timing of this is being reviewed by the Exam Development Chair but it is anticipated both will be phased out by December 31, 2016.

APPLICANTS, APPLICATION AND EXAMINATIONS

1. What is the history of number of ABMLI applicants?

ABMLI Application Statistics			
Year	Total # of New Applicants	Approved	Denied
2014	19	11	8
2013	12	9	3
2012	9	8	1
2011	11*	10	1
2010	3	2	1
2009	1	1	---

2008	6	5	1
2007**	14	11	3
2005	2	2	---
2004	5	4	1
2003	5	5	---
2002	5	5	---
2001	4	4	---
TOTAL	85	77	19

*Two applicants were previous examinees whose applications had expired. They were required to reapply to sit for the 2011 exam.

*Note: Applicants who applied after September 2, 2005 were considered applicants for the 2007 exam, since new applicants could not elect to sit for the 2006 written-only exam.

2. What is the success of examinees?

2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
12	11	12	12	4
7	8	6	6	1
58%	73%	50%	50%	25%

The number of examinees does not match the number of applicants since the examinee number includes reexaminees.

3. Where are the Diplomates placed in terms of professional status?

The ABMLI does not maintain this information.

4. When is the last application deadline?

June 1, 2016.

5. When will the last ABMLI exam be administered?

August 31, 2017.

IMMUNOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING PROGRAM

1. How will new Immunology training programs be accredited and standards established?

The Committee on Postdoctoral Educational Programs (CPEP) will continue to accredit the medical laboratory immunology training programs. Standards are reviewed every three years by medical laboratory immunologists and this practice will remain intact. Phasing out the ABMLI examination process has no impact on CPEP or its accredited training programs.

2. Will CPEP continue to reaccredit existing programs?

Yes.

3. Is this sustainable and how will standards be maintained?

CPEP has accredited training programs since the 1960s and their function will continue. There is always a medical laboratory immunologist who serves on CPEP and this member will work with two-to-three graduates of the medical laboratory immunology training programs to thoroughly review training standards.

OTHER CERTIFICATION BOARDS

4. Are there other certification programs that also provide some structure towards Immunology that we have capabilities of integrating?

American Board of Bioanalysts