

Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties

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BPS SETS NEW CANDIDATE AND SITE RECORDS IN 2005

(Washington, DC) -- The Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS), an agency whose purpose is to recognize pharmacy specialties and certify pharmacists' knowledge and skills, administered its written specialty certification and recertification examinations to a total of 1197 candidates at 38 sites world-wide, setting new records for largest number of candidates and sites in its 29-year history. Approximately 300 additional candidates are expected to recertify using approved continuing education programs prior to the end of 2005.

A major contributor to the record numbers was an increase of 17% in the number of pharmacists taking the Pharmacotherapy specialty examination over the previous high of 638 in 2004. Kevin Sowinski, PharmD, BCPS, Chair of the Pharmacotherapy Specialty Council, stated: "This is another significant milestone for Pharmacotherapy and indicates its growing recognition in the profession. We are gratified that so many pharmacists are taking advantage of this opportunity to demonstrate their advanced clinical knowledge and skill by earning the Board Certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist credential."

News Release

The 2005 examinations were administered at 26 domestic sites as well as 12 locations outside the continental United States, including Anchorage, Beirut, Hong Kong, London, Madrid, Montreal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, two sites in Saudi Arabia, and two military sites in Germany and Japan. This was the third consecutive year that a group of more than 20 pharmacists sat for the BPS Oncology Specialty Examination in Madrid. They were joined this year by a large group of oncology pharmacists in Korea. BPS has been providing local test sites for several years with the goal of making the specialty certification process accessible to more pharmacist specialists. "The Board is pleased to be able to respond to candidates' requests for alternate sites," says BPS Chairman Ray E. Marcrom, PharmD. "Bringing BPS examinations to the candidates reduces travel costs and time away from home and work for the candidates. Additional sites also help raise awareness of the broad interest in the BPS certification process."

The **Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS)** was founded by the American Pharmaceutical Association (now the American Pharmacists Association, APhA) in January 1976 to recognize specialties and certify pharmacists in specialized areas of pharmacy practice. Five specialties are currently recognized by BPS: 1) nuclear pharmacy, since 1978; 2) nutrition support pharmacy, since 1988; 3) pharmacotherapy, since 1988; 4) psychiatric pharmacy, since 1992; and 5) oncology pharmacy, since 1996. Currently, there are more than 5000 pharmacist specialists certified by BPS.
