

Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties

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BPS SETS NEW CANDIDATE AND SITE RECORDS IN 2006

(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 1319 candidates at 37 sites world-wide, setting new records for largest number of candidates in its 30-year history. Approximately 300 additional candidates are expected to recertify using approved continuing education programs prior to the end of 2006.

Major contributors to the record numbers were increases of 10% in the number of pharmacists taking the Pharmacotherapy specialty examination and nearly 20% for the Oncology Pharmacy examination over the previous high registrations in 2005. Andrea Ann Iannucci, PharmD, BCOP, Chair of the Oncology Pharmacy Specialty Council, stated: "This is another significant milestone for Oncology Pharmacy 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 Oncology Pharmacist credential."

News Release

The 2006 examinations were administered at 26 domestic sites as well as 11 locations outside the continental United States, including Anchorage, Alaska; Beirut, Lebanon; Madrid, Spain; Oxford, England; Seoul, Republic of Korea; Singapore; Victoria, Australia; and four sites in Saudi Arabia. This was the fourth consecutive year that a group of more than 20 pharmacists sat for the BPS examinations in Madrid. They were joined this year by a large group of oncology and nutrition support pharmacists in Seoul, South Korea. BPS has been providing additional local test sites in foreign and domestic locations 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 Bruce D. McWhinney, 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.
