

Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties

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BPS SETS NEW CANDIDATE AND SITE RECORDS IN 2008

(Washington, DC) -- The Board of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS), an organization whose purpose is to recognize pharmacy specialties and certify pharmacists' knowledge and skills, will administer its written specialty certification and re-certification examinations to a total of approximately 2,000 candidates at 47 sites world-wide on the first weekend in October 2008. These numbers set new records for the largest number of candidates and exam sites in the 32-year history of BPS. Over 300 additional candidates are expected to re-certify using approved continuing education programs prior to the end of 2008.

Major contributors to the record numbers were increases of nearly 40% in the number of pharmacists applying to take the Pharmacotherapy specialty examination and more modest increases for all the other BPS specialties over the previous high registrations in 2007. "These increases are highly significant," reported Jannet M. Carmichael, PharmD, BCPS, and BPS Chairman. "The numbers suggest that BPS specialty certification is becoming widely recognized and valued as a credential for specialty-level pharmacy clinicians."

News Release

The 2008 BPS examinations will be administered at 36 sites across the United States (including sites in Alaska and Hawaii) as well as 11 foreign locations, including Al Ain, United Arab Emirates; Beirut, Lebanon; Collingwood (Victoria), Australia; Halifax (Nova Scotia) Canada; Cairo, Egypt; Madrid, Spain; Laval (Quebec) Canada; Seoul, South Korea; Singapore; and two sites in Saudi Arabia. Another record high number of 183 candidates have applied to take BPS exams in these foreign locations. "The expansion of our foreign exams indicates the growing recognition of BPS specialty certification worldwide," notes Richard J. Bertin, PhD, BPS Executive Director. "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 of Pharmaceutical Specialties (BPS)** is an autonomous Division of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), founded 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. Nearly 7,000 pharmacist specialists are currently certified by BPS.
