



Contact:
Jody DeVoll, Director of
Strategic Communications, APHL
240.485.2753, jody.devoll@aphl.org

Mark Birenbaum, PhD
Administrator, ABB
314.241.1445, abb@abbcert.org

For Immediate Release
December 2, 2008

American Board of Bioanalysis and Association of Public Health Laboratories To Offer Board Certification in Public Health Microbiology

Silver Spring, MD—To address the chronic shortage of laboratory scientists certified to direct a high complexity public health laboratory, the American Board of Bioanalysis (ABB) and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) have agreed to offer a board certification in public health microbiology beginning in the fall of 2009. The certification will afford doctoral-level scientists in public health laboratories a new means to qualify for certification under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA), which establishes the qualifications for non-physician laboratory directors in medical and public health laboratories that conduct high complexity testing on human specimens.

The certification will be the first to examine specifically for the training and experience required to direct a state or large municipal public health laboratory. Currently public health laboratory scientists must pursue certification in one of several laboratory specialties pertinent to careers in hospital or forensic laboratories.

A task force comprised of ABB and APHL members will write and review questions for the certifying examination. David L. Smalley, PhD, BCLD(ABB), public health laboratory director for the Tennessee Department of Health, will lead the effort. The tentative date for the first examination is October 16, 2009, in Atlanta, Georgia, with a second examination to follow at the APHL Annual Meeting in the spring of 2010.

For more information on the certification program, please contact David L. Smalley, PhD, BCLD(ABB), 615.262.6300, David.Smalley@state.tn.us.

The Association of Public Health Laboratories is a national nonprofit dedicated to working with its members to strengthen governmental laboratories with a public health mandate. By promoting effective programs and public policy, APHL strives to provide public health laboratories with the resources and infrastructure needed to protect the health of US residents and to prevent and control disease globally.

Page 2, ABB and APHL to Offer New Board Certification

The American Board of Bioanalysis (ABB) evaluates, through the certification process, individuals who wish to enter, continue or advance in the clinical laboratory profession. Since 1968, ABB has been recognized as a certifying board for laboratory directors and clinical consultants under the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act (CLIA). ABB's certification is also recognized by most regulatory programs. ABB identifies, on a non discriminatory basis, individuals who meet ABB's requirements for clinical laboratory directors, consultants and supervisors. ABB certification is based on an individual's education, experience and knowledge of the laboratory field in which certification is granted.

###