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ASCP acquires complete cytology product line of the Midwest Institute for Medical Education (MIME) and ensures that ASCP proficiency testing (PT) will be valid, fair and overseen by cytopathologist and cytotechnologist experts.

CHICAGO, IL (February 27, 2006) – The American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), a non-profit organization for pathologists, cytotechnologists and laboratory professionals with 140,000 members, has acquired the complete cytology product line of the Midwest Institute for Medical Education (MIME) and will immediately offer CMS-approved gynecological cytology proficiency testing and education.

ASCP believes that patients have a right to be assured that the results of their laboratory tests are accurate; that assurance is a professional responsibility. In addition, ASCP believes that proficiency testing must be scientifically valid and fair.

“ASCP supports methods that would advance the science and practice of cytology and help ensure the highest quality of laboratory testing,” said ASCP president Fred H. Rodriguez, Jr., MD, FASCP. “We remain committed to protecting the public’s health and safety and providing the pathology community with the services they require to comply with existing regulations.”

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has mandated that each cytotechnologist and pathologist examining gynecologic preparations achieve a passing score in an approved proficiency testing (PT) program by the end of 2006. With this acquisition, ASCP will offer gynecological cytology proficiency testing that will serve its members needs to meet that requirement by offering a PT program that will be scientifically valid and fair.

“As long as PT is required by law, ASCP will support our members by providing the best available testing solutions,” said Rodriguez. “We still have concerns about these regulations, however, and will continue to work with professional coalitions in urging CMS to modernize PT testing to better reflect current science and actual laboratory conditions.”

The comprehensive cytology product line now available from ASCP includes:

- **ASCP GYN PT™**, a proven CMS-approved gynecological cytology proficiency testing program leveraging the experience gained from 13,000 tests as well as the collective knowledge of ASCP leadership
- **ASCP GYN PT and Lab Comparison™**, a solution that fulfills all gynecological cytology proficiency testing and laboratory accreditation requirements*

All slides to be used by ASCP were field validated by the end of 2005. The ASCP GYN PT™ Committee will oversee the ongoing field validation process and serve as peer reviewers for each new slide.

The new ASCP products are available for enrollment immediately. To enroll, or for further product information, click here (link) or contact ASCP Customer Service at 800-267-ASCP (2727), option 2.

*Meets CAP accreditation requirements for interlaboratory comparison.

About ASCP

The American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) is the largest association of pathologists and laboratory professionals with more than 140,000 members. Based in Chicago, ASCP's mission is to provide excellence in education, certification, and advocacy on behalf of patients, pathologists, and laboratory professionals.

ASCP is the leading provider of continuing medical education in pathology and laboratory medicine. Annually, ASCP programs include close to 400 workshops, symposia, teleconferences and self-study programs covering the entire range of topics and specialties in anatomic (surgical and cytopathology) and clinical pathology.

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