



Education for specialists in clinical laboratory medicine in Japan: Toward a new certification system

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A new system certifying medical specialists will start in 2018 in Japan. In the past and at present, each special society independently certifies specialists. From the next year, a nationwide, but not governmental, organization (Japan Medical Specialty Board) will supervise all the process including special trainings and title renewals, and will finally give a certification. Consequently, the training system should be run under uniformed rules regardless of special areas. There are 19 areas as fundamental specialties; Laboratory Medicine is one of them. Therefore, JSLM is now preparing the training systems by brushing the present one up.

Trainees have to learn special areas as below spending 3 years in total and then take a certification examination. Gene testing is newly added. Throughout the period, they have to collect records of diagnostic reports or comments responded to consultations. Also, they have to participate or organize CPC (clinic-pathological conference). Especially, we strongly ask them to have RCPC (reversed CPC), in which they have to understand the pathological condition of the patient only by laboratory data.

After certificated, they are required to keep their abilities as mentors. The certification is renewed every 5 years.

Training course (term) for Clinical Laboratory Specialists.

Clinical laboratory medicine general including management and informatics

Clinical hematology

Clinical chemistry

Clinical microbiology

Clinical immunology including transfusion medicine

Clinical physiology

Gene testing and diagnosis