

PRELIMINARY

Accreditation as "IFSTP/IATP Accredited Toxicologic Pathologist"

This paper provides additional thoughts regarding accreditation of toxicologic pathologists and as such is complementary to the publication "Global Recognition of Qualified Toxicologic Pathologists: Where We Are Now and Where We Need to Go" by Robert A. Ettl, Brad Bolon, Ian Pyrah, Yoichi Konishi, and Hugh E. Black (to be published in the following journals: *Experimental and Toxicologic Pathology*, *Toxicologic Pathology*, and *Journal of Toxicologic Pathology*). As explained there, the current proposal is conceived as a globally recognized accreditation for bench pathologists. It does not replace the IATP Fellowship or existing regional and national accreditations in (toxicologic) pathology.

Accreditation criteria

The criteria are listed in *Attachment 1*.

An Applicant for accreditation as "IFSTP/IATP Accredited Toxicologic Pathologist"

- has to be an **individual member of an IFSTP Member Society**
- is still **actively involved in toxicologic pathology in the region**, where the Applicant submits this documentation for obtaining the title of "IFSTP/IATP Accredited Toxicologic Pathologist".
- has earned the necessary number of points based on the following **professional criteria**

- **Education:** *points needed for accreditation: 12*

- **Degree in relevant field:** basic academic training generally as human or veterinary medical doctor in recognized academic institutions

- D.V.M, MD or equivalent degree: 6 points or:*

- Master of Science or equivalent degree: 2 points (not to be added to the points earned with a D.V.M or MD or equivalent degree of above)*

- PhD in pathology: 6 points or*

- PhD or equivalent doctoral degree in an other area: 3 points*

- **Additional postgraduate training** in pathology (human or veterinary) in professionally recognized institutions
Mandatory residency in a recognized academic center or in the practice of a recognized senior toxicopathologist:

- 1 point/year up to a total of 3 points*

- Post-doctoral research training* in a recognized academic center: *1 point/year up to a total of 3 points*

- **Board certification** in pathology (human or veterinarian) by recognized institution:

5 points

Other academic training curricula, particularly if in biological sciences, can be considered too, provided the additional training and experience are sufficient.

- **Active involvement as toxicologic pathologist:** *needed for accreditation: 15*

Has **practical experience** of not less than 5 years as toxicologic pathologist including

- making observations and recording signs in animals
- being familiar with the principles of humane dosing of animals
- being familiar with sampling procedures to obtain clinical specimens
- interpretation of laboratory data
- being familiar with methods of euthanasia of animals
- being able to conduct and supervise post-mortem examinations and diagnosing gross pathology
- experienced in histologic diagnostics

In addition, the Applicant must have experience in

- toxicologic methods
- interpretation of general toxicological data
- risk evaluation
- risk management

*Working as toxicological pathologist (without mandatory residency and/or post-doctoral research training): 3 points/year up to a maximum of 15 points (5 years)
plus one point/year for the next 5 years of professional activity (total maximum of 20 points)*

- **Professional experience related to toxicologic pathology:** *needed for accreditation: 20*

- Demonstrated a high standard of **critical scientific judgment and communication skills**, e.g. through authorship of
 - published scientific papers; copies of the relevant papers used for obtaining points need to be submitted

*As first or last author: 2 points per paper
As not leading co-author: 1 point per paper
In total at the most 6 points*

- scientific reviews and book chapters; copies of the relevant reviews or book chapters used for obtaining points need to be submitted

*2 points per review or book chapter
In total at the most 4 points*

- scientific company-internal reports; as far as possible, copies of the relevant reports, which can generate up to 15 points, should be submitted. If this is not possible in view of the company-internal confidentiality rules, at least number and type of studies and reports must be provided. The list of company-internal reports must be validated in writing by the supervisor

subchronic, chronic and special studies with pathology: 1 point/study; carcinogenicity studies: 3 points/study; no points for acute studies

In total at the most 15 points

- **Career** progression pattern, e.g.
 - increase in job grade
 - assignment of additional management responsibilities, i.e. overseeing a laboratory
 - participation on development project teams

1-2 points/criterion, in total at the most 5 points

- **Outside professional activities** e.g.
 - participation on committees of scientific professional societies
*officer or equivalent position in a toxicopathology society: 2 points
officer or equivalent position in a toxicology society: 1 point*
 - presentations (*1 point/ presentation*) and posters (*0.5 points/poster*) at scientific meetings

In total at the most 5 points

- **Continuing education related to toxicologic pathology**

- *One point per year, if on average at least 5 days (at least 6 hours) of continuing education/year*

In total at the most 5 points

Documentation needed for accreditation (re-accreditation)

An Applicant for accreditation or re-accreditation as “IFSTP/IATP Accredited Toxicologic Pathologist” must submit the necessary documentation in English.

The documentation must provide evidence that the Applicant fulfills the (re-) accreditation criteria and may consist of the following

- **Cover letter** including
 - overview over submitted documents
 - statement regarding good standing in his/her country
 - statement regarding willingness to act in a professional manner, in accordance to the best current practice and to observe ethical norms in the profession, in particular the animal right laws as approved in advanced industrial nations
 - statement regarding individual membership in one member society of IFSTP
- Current/updated **curriculum vitae** covering the requested accreditation criteria
- **Copies of documents** regarding basic academic training (only for application), supplementary training (only for application), (update of) activities as toxicologic pathologist, membership in professional societies, (update of) titles awarded in professional societies, (update of) publications, teaching and editorial activities, etc. Documents, which are not in English, must be validated by a member of the Regional Accreditation Committee (see below). If this is not possible, then a certified translation must be provided by the Applicant.
- **Confirmation letter from** relevant current and – if possible and meaningful – past **supervisors** of the Applicant regarding correctness of the (updated) list of activities at the various workplaces
 - for applications: at least over the past five years
 - for re-applications: over the past five years
- Only for applications: **Letters of recommendation** by two toxicologic pathologists, who are themselves “IFSTP/IATP Accredited Toxicologic Pathologists” or IATP Fellows (in a transition period of 5 years after establishing this accreditation, also letters of recommendation of recognized senior toxicologic pathologists without accreditations mentioned are accepted).
- Proof of continuous professional education of at least 5 days/year on average, among them 3 days/year on average externally

Regional Accreditation Committees

The Regional Accreditation Committees of the Americas, Asia and Europe/India award the title of "IFSTP/IATP Accredited Toxicologic Pathologist" on behalf of IFSTP/IATP.

Each Regional Accreditation Committee consists of at least three senior toxicologic pathologists of the region. Committee members are themselves "IFSTP/IATP Accredited Toxicologic Pathologists" or IATP Fellows (in a transition period of 5 years after establishing this accreditation, also recognized senior toxicologic pathologists without accreditation can provide a recommendation).

Committee members are elected for three years by the IFSTP Member Societies in the region and acknowledged by the IFSTP Executive Committee and the IATP Board. They are re-electable once. The rotation in the Regional Accreditation Committee should be such that continuity of the accreditation process is guaranteed (not all members in the Regional Accreditation Committee should be replaced simultaneously).

IFSTP/IATP Accreditation Supervisory Group

In order to assure a high and consistent quality of accreditation as "IFSTP/IATP Accredited Toxicologic Pathologist", the IFSTP/IATP Accreditation Supervisory Group supervises the accreditation process of the Regional Accreditation Committees. The Supervisory Group consists of at least 3 members from the Americas, Asia and Europe, who are senior toxicologic pathologists and themselves "IFSTP/IATP Accredited Toxicologic Pathologists" or IATP Fellows (in a transition period of 5 years needed for establishing this accreditation, also recognized senior toxicologic pathologists without accreditation are electable).

Supervisory Group members are elected for three years by the IFSTP Executive Committee and acknowledged by the IATP Board. They are re-electable once. The rotation in the Accreditation Supervisory Committee should be such that continuity of the supervision is guaranteed (not all members in the Accreditation Supervisory Group should be replaced simultaneously).

The Supervisory Group reviews at least 10% of the decisions of the Regional Accreditation Committees based on the documentation submitted by the candidates.

Attachment 1

ASSIGNMENT OF POINTS FORM		
(Total points required for accreditation = 52)		
Preamble: Must be Member of STP belonging to IFSTP and actively involved in toxicologic pathology		
		Maximum Allowable Points
Section 1. EDUCATION		
(Points required for accreditation = 12)		
1.1	Degree in relevant field	
1.1.1	D.V.M., M.D. or equivalent degree	6
	Ph.D. in pathology	6
	OR Ph.D. OR equivalent doctoral degree in other area	3
1.1.2	OR: Masters of Science or equivalent degree (not to be added to 1.1.1)	2
1.2	Postgraduate Training in relevant field of pathology	
	Residency (1 point per year)	3
	Post-doctoral research training (1 point per year)	3
1.3	Pathology board certification	5
Section 2. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN TOXICOLOGIC PATHOLOGY (without 1,2)		
(Points required for accreditation = 15)		
	5 years active participation in toxicologic pathology: 15 points; + 1 point for each additional year	20
Section 3. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE RELATED TO TOXICOLOGIC PATHOLOGY (Points required for accreditation = 20)		
3.1	Reports/Publications	
	Best articles in relevant peer-reviewed journals (2 points/article as first or last author; otherwise 1 point/article)	6
	Major relevant reviews and book chapters (2 points/review or book chapter)	4
	Authorship of relevant internal reports* (subchronic, chronic and special studies with pathology: 1 point/study; carcinogenicity studies: 3 points/study; no points for acute studies)	15
3.2	Career progress pattern , e.g. management tasks, project team member	5
3.3	Outside professional activities	
	Participation on committees of scientific professional societies; activities in scientific meetings incl. presentations, posters, etc.	5
Section 4. CONTINUOUS EDUCATION RELATED TO TOXICOLOGIC PATHOLOGY : (Points required for accreditation (re-accreditation) = 5)		
	On average at least 5 days/year, among them 3 days/year externally	5
* must be validated in writing by supervisor [prospectively, pathologist should keep track of the numbers and types of studies that they have been involved with]		
Re-accreditation every five years		