

**Workshop #11: The ABCs of ABFT Certification – Part I: General Information**

**Date: Tuesday, October 29**

**Time: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Rates:**

<b>MEMBER RATES</b>		
Early Bird Registration June 26 – September 11 \$150	Late Registration Begins September 12 \$175	On-site Registration Begins October 10 \$200
<b>NON – MEMBER RATES</b>		
Early Bird Registration June 26 – September 11 \$200	Late Registration Begins September 12 \$225	On-site Registration Begins October 10 \$250

**Chairs**

Marissa Finkelstein, M.S., D-ABFT-FT  
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**Abstract**

The American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) was formed in 1975 “to provide, in the interest of the public and the advancement of the sciences, a professional certification program in forensic toxicology”. The mission of ABFT is “to establish and enhance voluntary standards for the practice of forensic toxicology and for the examination and recognition of scientists and laboratories providing forensic toxicology services”. Certification by the ABFT offers many benefits, including opportunities for career advancement, enhanced credibility when called to testify in deposition and court, and continuing education that is assessed by an accredited certification organization. The ABFT offers five certification categories: Fellow, Diplomate – Forensic Toxicology, Diplomate – Forensic Alcohol, Diplomate – Forensic Drug, and Analyst. Certification by the ABFT is achieved through the completion of an application with professional references and a written examination that is offered at professional meetings throughout the calendar year or upon request at the ABFT Administrative Office. Although applying for a professional certification may be intimidating, this workshop presented by the SOFT Young Forensic Toxicologists (YFT) Committee will elucidate the process by discussing the qualifications required to apply for certification, documents needed for the application process, the process of scheduling an examination, and ABFT testing procedures. Achievement of individual certification has benefits such as possible ABFT committee involvement, but the process for the assessment of continuing education and recertification can be daunting and will be discussed during the workshop. A section on generalized study techniques, the creation of a study plan, and test taking tips will be presented; along with appropriate resource materials that applicants can utilize while preparing to take their ABFT certification examination.

## **Learning Objectives**

1. To explain the application and examination processes for the ABFT certification examination.
2. To elucidate the benefits and next steps of becoming certified by ABFT including service on ABFT committees, continuing education submission, and the recertification process.
3. To inform applicants for the ABFT examination of appropriate resources, study techniques, and test taking tips.

## **Faculty**

Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D., F-ABFT  
ABFT President  
Professor and Director  
Department of Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine  
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## **Audience Knowledge Level**

Basic

**Workshop Agenda**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
8:00 – 8:10 AM	Welcome and Introduction	Marissa Finkelstein and Erika Phung
8:10 – 8:40 AM	Overview of ABFT and Certification	Bruce Goldberger
8:40 – 9:10 AM	ABFT Application Process	Robert Sears
9:10 – 9:40 AM	ABFT Examination Scheduling and Testing Procedures	Kenneth Ferslew
9:40 – 10:00 AM	ABFT Continuing Education and Recertification	Dan Anderson
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Break	
10:30 – 10:55 AM	ABFT Committees and After Certification	Dan Anderson
10:55 – 11:20 AM	Creating a Study Plan	Marissa Finkelstein
11:20 – 11:45 AM	Study Techniques, Resources, and Test Taking Tips	Kayla Neuman
11:45 – 12:00 PM	Q&A	Marissa Finkelstein and Erika Phung