

NTP scientists achieve coveted toxicology certification

By Eddy Ball

This winter, two NTP contract scientists and two NTP postdoctoral fellows took an important step along toxicology's professional track, by satisfying requirements for Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology (DABT) certification. DABT certification often offers an advantage in the job market and career advancement, and has been associated with higher levels of compensation.

The [American Board of Toxicology](http://www.abtox.org/AboutABT.aspx)

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was established in 1979 to advance standards in the field of toxicology and confer recognition upon those members of the profession who, measured against such standards, demonstrate competence. Certification requirements include a combination of education and experience, as well as a three-part examination.

Several toxicologists at NIEHS and NTP have qualified for the coveted DABT, among them NIEHS and NTP Director Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., who is the first toxicologist to head the Institute. Birnbaum offered the new diplomates her sincere congratulations.

"This marks a very important milestone in your careers," Birnbaum said. "Achieving the DABT involves a lot of hard work on your part. It also reflects the quality of the science conducted by NTP and the excellent training you've received from our senior scientists here."

The new recipients of the DABT are: [Mamta Behl, Ph.D.](#), [Michael Boyle, D.V.M.](#), [Arun Pandiri, Ph.D.](#), and [Sheetal Thakur, Ph.D.](#)

Diplomats hold initial DABT certification for 5 years, and must demonstrate that they actively practice toxicology, engage in continuing education, and maintain expert knowledge in their field prior to receiving recertification.



Behl is a former NTP fellow and current contract toxicologist in the NTP Systems Toxicology Group, a part of the Toxicology Branch, which oversees rodent studies. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



An Intramural Research Training Award (IRTA) fellow in the NTP Pathology Group, Boyle is also a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (DACVP) and a Ph.D. candidate at North Carolina State University. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



A contract pathologist in the NTP Investigative Pathology Group, Pandiri also holds DACVP certification. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



Thakur is an IRTA fellow in the NTP Systems Toxicology Group. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)

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