



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE THOMAS D. HORN, MD, PRESIDENT

Background

Maintenance of Certification-Dermatology (MOC-D) provides many opportunities for diplomates of the American Board of Dermatology (ABD). Through this program, physicians can document their commitment to continuing medical education and the superb quality of care delivered to their patients. As part of MOC-D, we must remain in good standing in terms of state licensure, but also as good citizens within our communities. Certification by the ABD clearly documents the initial and continued mastery of a certain body of knowledge. It is also intended to reflect the good standing of the diplomate vis-à-vis the legal system and generally accepted standards of conduct.



The evolution of MOC-D has necessitated amendments to the ABD bylaws with regard to

1. revocation of certificates, and
2. participation of diplomates in MOC-D.

Bylaws Amendments Regarding Revocation of Certificates

To this end, the bylaws of the ABD were amended to codify procedures relating to revocation or suspension of certificates, voluntary discontinuation of practice, reinstatement of certification and reporting functions relating to these actions. Article VII of the bylaws details the particular circumstances which might initiate revocation proceedings. Among these is revocation, suspension or restriction of a license to practice medicine in any state. The ABD receives notification of adverse actions taken against individuals' medical licenses via a DANS (disciplinary action notification system) report. This is a major, but not the sole trigger for investigation by the ABD of individual diplomates. Any decision to revoke or suspend certification is only made after the ABD conducts its own investigation of the allegations.

A License Review Committee has been established to deal with revocation and reinstatement of certificates.

Role of License Review Committee

The investigatory responsibility lies with the newly established License Review Committee which is composed of three Directors who are not members of the Executive Committee. Upon receipt of a DANS report, the diplomate is contacted to obtain his/her perspective and may be offered the option of making a presentation to the committee. After review of the information at hand, the committee will make one of four determinations: 1) no action necessary, 2) revocation, 3) suspension, 4) inactive

status. The written decision will be communicated to the individual who then has 30 days to appeal. The appeal must include a rationale for why the decision was in error, all supporting materials, and any request for a hearing. The appeal will be reviewed by three members of the Executive Committee who will decide to affirm, reverse or modify the decision, or grant a hearing. Failure to communicate the desire for an appeal within the 30 day period will result in the enforcement of the decision and subsequent reporting to the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Reinstatement of Certification

Reinstatement of certification after any adverse action is possible if the individual believes that the earlier circumstances have resolved or that significant change has occurred. Upon application to the ABD, the entire Board of Directors will then make a determination regarding possible reinstatement of certification. Any new certificate will be subject to the current bylaws, including time-limited certification and participation in MOC-D.

Request for Inactive Status

Provision now exists for diplomates to request inactive status. The request, in writing, should occur if the diplomate retires from active medical practice and/or surrenders state licensure. In this category, the diplomate is certified, but on inactive status. Certification will be forfeited should the diplomate again engage in clinical practice without prior application to the ABD for reinstatement of active certification. Such a request will be considered by the License Review Committee. Any new certificate will be subject to the current bylaws, including the time-limited nature and requirement for participation in MOC-D. Refusal by the committee to reinstate active certification may be appealed.

Bylaws Amendment Regarding Requirement to Participate in MOC-D

The last significant change to the ABD bylaws involves who must enter MOC-D. The circumstances described above are exceptional. Any diplomate certifying in 2006 or later must enter MOC-D. Any diplomate subject to recertification who initially certified before 2006 will also be required to enter MOC-D at the time of recertification. Any diplomate voluntarily recertifying will be required to enter MOC-D upon recertification, while still maintaining their lifetime certification. We encourage all diplomates to avail themselves of this program.

75th Anniversary Celebration



American Board of Dermatology 1932 – 2007

2007 marked the 75th anniversary of the American Board of Dermatology which was celebrated with a dinner in Washington, DC on February 2, 2007. The photograph above shows current and former Directors and staff who attended.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: ABD EXAMINATIONS

Dermatology Certifying Examination Format Change

On August 13, 2007 the Dermatology certifying examination was administered at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois. This was the first time that the examination was given in a single day instead of over a two day period. The total number of questions on the examination was proportionately reduced. This one-day format will be repeated for the 2008 examination which will also be held in Rosemont. Negotiations are underway to have the 2009 one-day examination administered in testing centers in Tampa, Florida (American Board of Pathology) and Tucson, Arizona (American Board of Radiology).

2008 Pediatric Dermatology Certifying Examination to be Given at Multiple Locations

The certifying examination in Pediatric Dermatology will be administered on Monday, October 20, 2008 at Thomson Prometric testing centers available in locations throughout the United States, the U.S. territories, and Canada. Candidates are expected to be able to take the examination at a site near their home.

2008 In Training Examination (ITE) to be Divided into 2 Sections

To improve the administration of the Virtual Dermatopathology Section of the ITE, virtual slides will be available to residents on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday (April 18, 19 & 20) following the traditional in-training examination date. In contrast to the examination on Thursday,

April 17, the Virtual Dermatopathology portion of the examination may be taken any time during those three days between the hours of 8:00 am EST and 11:00 pm EST, at a site convenient to the resident (home or office), and will be non-proctored. This will mimic the self-assessment exercises required for maintenance of certification.

Recertification Examination Format Change

2009 marks the last time that the Dermatology recertification examination will be administered as an online, open book, non-proctored examination. The American Board of Medical Specialties has required that all examinations associated with maintenance of certification be administered in a proctored environment without access to resources.

Subspecialty Maintenance of Certification

The Board of Directors of the ABD has decided to link renewal of time-limited subspecialty certificates in pediatric dermatology and dermatopathology with primary certification/recertification in dermatology. Renewal of a subspecialty certificate will require successful completion of a General Dermatology module of 100 questions and a subspecialty specific module of 100 questions (in either pediatric dermatology or dermatopathology). Diplomates who pass this examination will be recertified in both dermatology and their subspecialty.

NEW ASSESSMENT FEE FOR MOC-D PARTICIPANTS

Maintenance of Certification is a program, adapted by the 24 member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), which replaces recertification and documents the ongoing quality of care that ABMS diplomates provide for their patients. The ABD has modeled the Maintenance of Certification-Dermatology (MOC-D) Program on its successful recertification program, making changes in the area of CME requirements and adding Self-Assessment and Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement exercises. The Board has worked hard to develop this program and anticipates that there may be additional modifications over the years.

This past November diplomates who successfully completed the certification and recertification examinations in 2006 and 2007 were sent a letter informing them about the initiation of **an annual assessment fee of \$150** for individuals participating in the voluntary MOC-D Program. Diplomates who have paid this yearly assessment fee will not be charged an additional fee when they apply to take the examination towards the end of the 10-year cycle. Several ABMS boards have applied an annual assessment fee for MOC with excellent acceptance by their diplomates.

The workload and costs associated with the MOC-D program will increase in the ABD office. Following a thoughtful cost analysis, it was determined that 10 payments of \$150 would be less onerous to the diplomates than a single fee for an examination. However, if diplomates prefer to pay the entire fee (\$1,500) anytime during the 10-year cycle, that is acceptable.

Registration and payment on line is available at the ABD website, www.abderm.org.

GUIDE TO NEW TAB "EXAM/MOC HISTORY"

Diplomates who are enrolled in Maintenance of Certification can login to their ABD profile at www.abderm.org and click on the Tab (A on page 4), "Exam/MOC History" to check certification/recertification dates and to self-report CME credit hours, self-assessment completion, QA/QI completion, and peer and patient survey completion. "Click for More Details" shows a summary of each component online.

- B.** Name and ABD candidate ID number.
- C.** Primary certification dates, recertification dates, and subspecialty certification dates.
- D.** Pay the MOC \$150 annual fee online (due December 31 each year).
- E.** **Component 1:** The ABD office will periodically check licensure status throughout the MOC cycle.

Component 2: Input your CME credit hours each year, keeping in mind that it is your responsibility to retain documentation. You can also record the title and date when you complete a self-assessment program.

Component 3: Apply online for the examination in year 8, 9, or 10 of the 10-year cycle.

Component 4: When these programs are developed, you will be able to record your completion dates.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2007 ABD DIPLOMATES

339 dermatologists were certified by the American Board of Dermatology on August 13, 2007.

320 dermatologists were re-certified by the American Board of Dermatology on June 12, 2007.

26 dermatologists were certified in the subspecialty of Dermatopathology on September 17, 2007.

A list of these names is available on the ABD website at www.abderm.org.

2007 ABD EXAMINATIONS		
	# CANDIDATES	% PASSING RATE
Certifying	396	86.4%
Recertification	346	90.8%
Dermatopathology	29 dermatologists	90%
	59 pathologists	85%
	88 total	86%
Pediatric Dermatology	No exam in 2007	

2008 ABD EXAMINATIONS		
	DATE	SITE
Certifying	August 11	Rosemont, IL
Recertification	May 1 to June 12	Online
Dermatopathology	September 15	Tampa, FL
Pediatric Dermatology	October 20	Prometric testing centers

NEW DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD

The American Board of Dermatology is pleased to announce the election of **James W. Patterson, MD**, **Marta J. Petersen, MD** and **Robert A. Silverman, MD** to its Board of Directors. They will replace Evan R. Farmer, MD, Ilona J. Frieden, MD and Clifton R. White, Jr., MD whose tenure as Directors ended December 31, 2007. Drs. Patterson, Petersen and Silverman began their term as Directors on January 1, 2008.

Dr. James W. Patterson completed medical school, an internship in medicine and his dermatology residency at Virginia Commonwealth University, Medical College of Virginia. He served as a dermatologist in the Army for 6 years, during which time he also completed a Fellowship in Dermatopathology at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, DC. He has served on the faculty in the Departments of Pathology and Dermatology at the Medical College of Virginia, spent time in private practice, and currently serves as Professor of Pathology and Dermatology at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.



Dr. Patterson is board certified in Dermatology and Dermatopathology, with voluntary recertification in Dermatology in 1999. He has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Society of Dermatopathology and is the immediate Past-President of that organization. He also serves as Editor of the *Journal of Cutaneous Pathology*.

Dr. Patterson was a member of the Dermatopathology module of the ABD Recertification test committee from 2003-2007.

Dr. Marta Petersen is currently a Professor and Vice-Chair of the Department of Dermatology at the University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City. She attended undergraduate school at the University of Minnesota, obtained her medical degree at the University of Utah, and finished a residency in internal medicine at the University of Utah. After completing her dermatology residency at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill she stayed on the faculty at UNC for two years before moving back to Salt Lake City.



Dr. Petersen is board certified in Internal Medicine and Dermatology. Her current academic interest is in the area of telemedicine, and the provision of dermatologic care to rural communities. She is also the program director for the residency program at the University of Utah.

She was a member of the ABD Part I test committee from 2000-2003.

Dr. Robert A. Silverman obtained his medical degree from the University of Virginia, completed a residency in Pediatrics at the Children's Hospital in SUNY Buffalo and a research fellowship in Pediatric Dermatology at the Children's Hospital in Boston. Following a residency in Dermatology at University Hospitals of Cleveland, Dr. Silverman remained on faculty and directed both the Pigmented Lesion Group and the Pediatric Dermatology section.



Triple boarded in Pediatrics, Dermatology and Pediatric Dermatology, he is currently in private practice in Fairfax, Virginia and holds appointments at both the University of Virginia and Georgetown University. He also served as Chief of the Section of Dermatology at the Fairfax Hospital.

Very active in regional and national dermatologic communities Dr. Silverman has served as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President and President of the Washington, DC Dermatological Society, and President of the Society for Pediatric Dermatology.

Dr. Silverman has been an active member of the ABD Pediatric Dermatology test committees for several years.

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF DERMATOLOGY, INC.

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Antoinette F. Hood, M.D., *Executive Director*
Stephen B. Webster, M.D., *Associate Executive Director*
John S. Strauss, M.D., *Executive Consultant*
Harry J. Hurley, M.D., *Emeritus Executive Director*
Margaret M. Aguiar, *Administrator*
Jean Modaffare, *Assistant Administrator*
Cynthia Campbell, *Staff Assistant*

2008 DIRECTORS and OFFICERS:

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Marta J. Petersen, M.D.
Paul I. Schneiderman, M.D.
Elaine C. Siegfried, M.D.
Robert A. Silverman, M.D.

2008 DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, AND STAFF OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF DERMATOLOGY, INC.



BACK ROW: (Left to right) Robert A. Silverman, MD; Elaine C. Siegfried, MD; Randall K. Roenigk, MD, *President-Elect*; James W. Patterson, MD; Christopher J. Arpey, MD; Jean Modaffare, *Assistant Administrator*; Margaret M. Aguiar, *Administrator*.
THIRD ROW: (Left to right) Marta J. Petersen, MD; Terry L. Barrett, MD; Jeffrey P. Callen, MD; Jean L. Bologna, MD; Amy S. Paller, MD; Paul I. Schneiderman, MD.

SECOND ROW: (Left to right) Lela A. Lee, MD; Henry W. Lim, MD; Robert T. Brodell, MD.

FRONT ROW: (Left to right) Stephen B. Webster, MD, *Associate Executive Director*; Antoinette F. Hood, MD, *Executive Director*; Thomas D. Horn, MD, *President*; Leonard M. Dzubow, MD, *Vice President*; John S. Strauss, MD, *Executive Consultant*.

Not pictured: Cynthia Campbell, *Staff Assistant*.

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF DERMATOLOGY, INC.
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Staff and Directors will be available to answer questions personally in February at the AAD Meeting in San Antonio, TX at the ABD Booth (#3829) in the Technical Exhibit Hall of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, Feb. 2-4, 2008.

IMPORTANT REMINDER
TO UPDATE YOUR PROFILE ON THE ABD WEBSITE

www.abderm.org

The American Board of Dermatology database is available online to residents, fellows and diplomates. Please review and modify your personal information periodically, especially to verify that we have your current email address. Help us keep the lines of communication open.

Here is how to do your part:

1. Go to the home page of the ABD website (www.abderm.org) and click on the red "Login" on the left side of the screen.
2. Your Username is the first initial of your first name plus your last name (example: the username for Jane Smith is JSmith). It is not case sensitive.
3. Your Password is your 6-digit candidate ID number found above your name on the mailing label on this newsletter. After logging in, you can change your password if you wish (click on "UserID" and then click on "Edit"). If your ID number does not contain 6-digits, add zeros to the beginning of your number.
4. Once you have successfully logged in, click on "Profile" to verify your personal information and then click on "Edit" to supply any missing information. Also, verify and/or provide your email address. Because the ABD plans to increase the use of email for primary communication to diplomates in the future it is vitally important to keep all information up to date.

Candidates can apply online for all ABD examinations – Certification, Recertification, Dermatopathology, and Pediatric Dermatology.

Telephone the Board office at 313-874-1088 if you have questions or need help with your username or password.