

Diplomate News



JANUARY 2012

Board of Dermatology President's Message:

Henry W. Lim, M.D.



As we start the new year, I would like to extend a warm New Year's greeting to all of you, diplomates of the American Board of Dermatology.

Having served the ABD as a test writing committee member, and for the past 8 years, as a Director, it is an honor for me to serve as the President. I would like to take this opportunity to address several of the frequently asked questions about the ABD.

What is the relationship between the ABD and the American Academy of Dermatology?

The ABD and the AAD are two separate organizations. The ABD is the certifying body for dermatology, while the AAD and the AAD Association (AADA), familiar to all of us, have a broader role of providing continuing medical education for dermatologists, and addressing socio-economic issues facing our specialty. While the individuals who serve as leaders of these organizations may overlap, each has a distinct role in the respective organizations.

What is the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)?

The ABMS is the umbrella organization for specialty certifying Boards in the US; it has an important role in the House of Medicine and in the public forum. The ABMS has 24 specialty Boards as members, including the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), American Board of Surgery (ABS), American Board of Pediatrics (ABP), and American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM). The ABD is a founding member of ABMS; it has a seat in the Board of Directors of the ABMS. Over the years, a number of ABD directors have served as members or chairs of ABMS committees. In fact, several of our ABD leaders (who were also leaders in the AAD) were recognized with the ABMS Lifetime Achievement Award; these include Drs. Clarence Livingood, Peyton Weary, Harry Hurley, and John Strauss. To continue to have an effective voice in organized medicine and in the public forum, it is clearly essential for the ABD to continue to be an active member of ABMS.

A major initiative of the ABMS in the past few years has been the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program.

This was initiated by several of the Boards with large numbers of diplomates (ABIM, ABP, ABFM) that wanted to have the ability to assess the quality of diplomates in clinical practice on a continuous basis. This initiative was also consistent with the Public Trust initiative of the ABMS, which aims to establish an increased awareness among the public on the importance and the value of the ABMS (ie, ABD) certification.

What is the strategic direction of the ABD?

Over the past year, our immediate past President, Robert Brodell, MD, organized a strategic retreat to chart the course of the ABD for the next few years. With the input and participation of ABD Directors and staff, three strategic committees were established:

1. Examination Innovation Committee chaired by Dirk Elston, MD (New York, NY). This committee is charged to assess the methods that we use to evaluate candidates taking ABD administered examinations (in-training, certifying and recertifying), taking full advantage of the development in computer-based examination technology that has occurred in the past few years.
2. MOC Design Committee chaired by Stanley Miller, MD (Baltimore, Maryland), this committee will work closely with the Examination Innovation Committee, and with the ABMS and the AAD. The charge of the committee is to ensure that our diplomates can participate in the MOC program in a manner that is not intrusive to their clinical practice, yet at the same time, can fulfill the requirements of the MOC. MOC will most likely be a component of the Maintenance of Licensure (MOL) program in many states, therefore, the importance of this committee is obvious.
3. Communications Committee chaired by our Vice President, Paul Schneiderman, MD (New York, NY) is charged with enhancing the communications to our diplomates, trainees and the public on the role and function of the ABD.

How does the ABD create its examinations?

The process starts with test questions being

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written by the test writing committee members. The questions are then reviewed, usually by two other committee members. This is followed by the entire committee reviewing all submitted questions in a two day in-person meeting. All questions are reviewed rigorously to make sure that each question is concise and clearly written, and that the correct answer is supported by published, indisputable evidence. The incorrect choices are also reviewed to validate that they are clearly incorrect. An important consideration in this review process is the importance and relevance of the questions to the clinical practice of dermatology. When all questions have been reviewed, they will then be available to be used for ABD examinations. Of note, all test writing committee members, and the ABD Directors, serve as volunteers.

Summary

The ABD is an integral part of our professional career: from the in-training and certifying examinations, to the MOC program. ABD certification and participation in MOC give assurance to the public that we have fulfilled a rigorous set of requirements in obtaining and maintaining the necessary knowledge and expertise to deliver high quality patient care. As dermatologists, there is no higher professional satisfaction than knowing that our training and expertise have made it possible for us to help our patients' skin conditions!

Lastly, I would like to make a personal note. I have been fortunate in my career to have been trained by Drs. Rudolf Baer and Alfred Kopf at NYU, have worked at the NYU Department of Dermatology chaired by Irwin Freedberg, MD, and have succeeded Drs. Clarence Livingood and Edward Krull as the chair at Henry Ford Health System. It is an honor for me to be able to follow in their footsteps in serving as the president of this organization. Working with our Vice President Paul Schneiderman, the ABD Directors, our superb Executive Director Antoinette Hood, Associate Executive Director Thomas Horn, and the administrative staff under the leadership of Margaret Aguiar, I look forward to a productive 2012. •

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF DERMATOLOGY WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW DIRECTORS



Dirk M. Elston, MD

The American Board of Dermatology welcomed Dirk M. Elston, MD, as a new Director in 2011. Dr. Elston is currently the Director of the Ackerman Academy of

Dermatopathology in New York. After attending Jefferson Medical College he completed an internship and dermatology residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. A dermatopathology fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation was followed by a staff position in dermatology and dermatopathology at Brooke Army Medical Center where he subsequently became Chairman of the combined Dermatology Department, Brooke Army Medical Center and Wilford Hall Medical Center. Prior to assuming his position with the Ackerman Academy, he served as Chair of the Department of Dermatology, Geisinger Medical Center.

Dr. Elston is Board certified in Dermatology and Dermatopathology.

His career has been highlighted by outstanding service to the American Academy of Dermatology particularly in areas of government affairs, health policy and practice quality measures, patient safety, performance measures and practice management. In 2009 he was elected to the Board of Directors of the AAD and is the incoming president-elect of the American Academy of Dermatology. Dr. Elston also served in leadership roles at the American Society of Dermatopathology and has been on test development committees for both the American Board of Dermatology and American Board of Pathology.

Currently the deputy editor of the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* and the co-editor-in-chief of eMedicine—Dermatology, he has authored 10 textbooks, 33 chapters and over 270 peer reviewed articles.

As a new Director of the ABD, Dr. Elston will serve on the General Dermatology Content Development Committee and the Certification Examination Committee.



Julie V. Schaffer, MD

Dr. Julie Schaffer joins the Board of Directors in 2012. Born and raised in North Dakota, she moved to New Haven, Connecticut for her undergraduate studies at Yale University, and

stayed there for medical school, an internship in pediatrics, and residency training in dermatology. She then completed a fellowship in pediatric dermatology at New York University School of Medicine, where she has remained on faculty since 2005. She is board certified in Dermatology and Pediatric Dermatology.

An Associate Professor of Dermatology and Pediatrics, Dr. Schaffer is the Director of Dermatology Residency Education and Director of Pediatric and Adolescent Dermatology. Her research interests include genodermatoses, mosaic skin conditions, pigmented lesions, atopic dermatitis and autoimmune connective tissue disease. She has lectured extensively on these subjects and has authored over 70 articles in peer-reviewed journals and 35 chapters. Dr. Schaffer is a lead editor of the popular textbook *Dermatology*, third edition. She is a member of the Society for Pediatric Dermatology, Society of Investigative Dermatology, American Academy of Dermatology, Women's Dermatologic Society, Dermatologic Society of Greater New York, and the Dermatology Foundation, and she has served on multiple committees with a focus on education and mentorship in these organizations.

Dr. Schaffer has been a test committee member of the American Board of Dermatology since 2007, serving on the Pediatric test committee and General Dermatology test committee. She will continue on these committees as a Director as well as joining the Examination Innovation Committee.



Erik J. Stratman, MD

Dr. Erik Stratman joins the American Board of Dermatology as a Director in 2011. He received his undergraduate and medical school education at the University of Missouri and

completed residency training at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A clinical dermatologist at Marshfield Clinic, he is the Chairman and Dermatology Residency Program Director in the Department of Dermatology. Dr. Stratman has a strong commitment to and expertise in medical education, particularly resident medical education and he has published and presented extensively on this subject. He is the former Director for the Division of Education for Marshfield Clinic and Associate Dean of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. He is board certified in Dermatology.

Dr. Stratman is a member of the American Academy of Dermatology (immediate Past Chair, Council of Education), Dermatology Teachers Exchange Group, Association of Professors of Dermatology (Board of Directors), and Wisconsin Dermatological Society. He has been a section editor of the *Archives of Dermatology* since 2009. He is the 2012 recipient of the Thomas G. Pearson, EdD Memorial Education Award, which recognizes an American Academy of Dermatology member who has made great contributions to the Academy's educational mission in terms of significant donation of time, contribution to the development of educational programs and coordination of educational activities.

Dr. Stratman has served on test committees of the American Board of Dermatology since 2005. As a new Director, he will serve on the General Dermatology test committee and the Certification Examination committee. •

ABD Mission:

The American Board of Dermatology is a voluntary, non-profit organization whose mission is to assure safe, high-quality dermatologic care for the public by setting, promoting and assuring standards of excellence in the practice of our specialty.

What is the Disciplinary Action Notification System (DANS)?

A goal of the ABD is to serve the public by monitoring adverse actions taken by state medical boards against the license of a diplomate. DANS reports inform the Board of such actions. Upon receipt, the diplomate is contacted to learn of his/her description of events. Each case is then discussed by our License Review Committee. The large majority of cases require no action relating to the diplomate's certification. Rarely, when a state license is suspended or revoked, the committee will act in parallel fashion, suspending or revoking certification by the ABD. Over the past six years, 8 certificates have been revoked. We have processed 143 notifications over that same time span. It is important that physicians take responsibility for reviewing the professional actions of their colleagues to help assure that patients are safe and receive the best possible care. •

New Five Year Eligibility Policy

Beginning January 1, 2012, residents who complete an approved dermatology residency will not be permitted to take the certifying examination later than five years following the completion of their training. Physicians who completed dermatology residency training prior to 2012 will not be permitted to take the certifying examination after December 31, 2016. A dermatologist who has not met these requirements may not claim to be "board eligible" unless the American Board of Dermatology determines that that physician has been prevented from taking the examination within the applicable five year period by military deployment or by catastrophic illness. If either of these situations exists, a dermatologist wishing to claim to be "board eligible" or wishing to take the examination after the expiration of the five year period may be granted a one or two year deferral by making application to the Board. The decision to grant or deny a deferral will be at the sole discretion of the Board. This policy also applies to diplomates completing subspecialty fellowships with certification examinations. •

Maintenance of Certification Testimonial on Dermchat

As some of you may know, I'm 58 y/o and I'm one of the grandfathered board certified dermatologists who took the recertification exam the last year that it was offered as an open book test in the spring of 2009. Even though it was open book, I "prepared" for it and I found this refresher to be beneficial to me. After passing it, I started with the MOC program for reasons that I discussed previously on Dermchat. This year I needed to complete component 2, the patient safety module (\$25), but for \$55 (and worth 20 Cat 1 credits) I could add component 4 and be done with that, too. If you're interested in what these are, please go to the ABD site, http://www.abderm.org/moc/moc_tools.pdf, and check them out. I chose the simplest thing to do, which was the hand washing exercise which I just completed. In short, what good came out of it was the installation of more hand sanitizers around the office in more convenient places for the staff, the doctors, and the patients. Since MOC always gets slammed around on Dermchat, I thought that I would mention one positive outcome, at least for me, of participating in it.

*John O. Barton, MD
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania
December 16, 2011 •*

2011 Examination Pass Rates

	# CANDIDATES	PASS RATE
Certifying	419	89.7%
Recertification	188 (Feb. exam)	97.3%
	239 (Sept. exam)	98.3%
Dermatopathology	34 dermatologists	100%
	57 pathologists	84.2%
	91 total	90.1%

2012 ABD Examinations Dates

	APPLIC. DEADLINE	DATE	SITE
Certifying	March 1	July 16-19	Tampa, FL
		July 23-26	Tampa, FL
MOC/Recertification	March 14	March 22-31 (excl. Sunday)	Pearson VUE testing centers
Pediatric Dermatology	April 1	October 19	Pearson VUE testing centers
Dermatopathology	May 1	September 11	Tampa, FL

VISIT THE ABD BOOTH (#2155)

AT THE AAD ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN DIEGO,
MARCH 17-19 2012,
to learn more about Maintenance of Certification.

MOC:PQRS PROGRAM INCENTIVE

The American Board of Dermatology is one of five ABMS boards that are qualified to provide the 0.5% MOC participation incentive in addition to the existing 1.0% available through the Physicians Quality Reporting System (PQRS). Congratulations to the 43 ABD diplomates who enrolled in the MOC:PQRS incentive program in 2011. •

Report from the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Board of Directors

Randall K. Roenigk, MD

The ABMS had a busy 2011 that began with a strategic planning process, a change in leadership and a number of important initiatives. Below are summarized some items of interest to the diplomates of the American Board of Dermatology.

Board Eligibility

The ABMS BOD approved that a period of "board eligibility" be defined as the first five years post-completion of accredited training, plus time (if any) in practice required by the ABMS Member Board for admissibility to the certifying examination. Following the expiration of the period of board eligibility, the individual:

- 1) Must cease and desist from making any representations of board eligibility.
- 2) Is no longer eligible for certification in that specialty without completing additional training sufficient to satisfy the requirements for re-entry into the board certification process established by the ABMS Member Board.

The ABD has adapted specialty-specific criteria and created this status as well.

ABMS Display of MOC Participation

The ABMS BOD approved of publically displaying the status of individual diplomate's participation in MOC. Currently the following information will be available on the ABMS website:

John Doe
American Board of XXXX
Meeting Requirements of Maintenance of Certification (MOC)
Yes/No

ABMS-I (International)

In 2010, a planning grant agreement was formally signed between ABMS and the Singapore Ministry of Health. ABMS has done a feasibility assessment with an associated business plan to determine whether a certification model for medical specialists in Singapore can be developed. The certification model could potentially be replicated in other regions. The structure for ABMS-I is as a separate, wholly owned subsidiary of ABMS with one division thus far (ABMS-Singapore), for which others could be planned in the future. Ten boards have agreed to participate. Dermatology is not yet involved. The Board of Directors approved an agreement that will allow three boards (Internal Medicine, Pathology, and Pediatrics) to give the examinations through 2013 with the opportunity for renewal.

Strategic Plan

After approximately one year of work by the BOD, member board executive directors and senior staff participating in a strategic planning process, the following five strategic initiatives were approved by the BOD:

- Initiative 1: Develop the robust evidence proving that MOC does correlate with improved quality of care.
- Initiative 2: Enhance the quality of all MOC activities.
- Initiative 3: Match the investment of diplomate effort and resources in MOC with the resulting value.
- Initiative 4: Integrate MOC with current practice environment and the requirements of healthcare organizations.
- Initiative 5: Connect MOC with MOL (maintenance of licensure).

This plan is impressive for its focus on the success of MOC by 2015.

ABMS CEO Search

Dr. Weiss will be stepping down from his position of CEO. He has been instrumental for implementing many significant changes in the ABMS enterprise during his tenure. The Search Committee hopes to identify a replacement in 2012.

Subspecialty Certification in Medical Informatics

The ABMS recently approved the creation of a subspecialty certification in clinical informatics. The new subspecialty is co-sponsored by the American Board of Preventive Medicine and the American Board of Pathology, and certification in the subspecialty will be available to diplomates of all ABMS member boards.

The preventive medicine and pathology boards have begun the process of creating a certification examination in clinical informatics, but the precise timing of the first offering of that examination has not yet been determined. However, the goal is to have the inaugural board examination available in fall 2012, with the first certificates awarded early in 2013.

Dr. Roenigk represents the ABD on the Board of Directors of the ABMS.

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FRONT ROW: (Left to Right) John S. Strauss, MD, Executive Consultant; Antoinette F. Hood, MD, Executive Director; Terry L. Barrett, MD, President-Elect; Paul I. Schneiderman, MD, Vice President; Henry W. Lim, MD, President; Jean L. Bologna, MD, Vice President-Elect; Thomas D. Horn, MD MBA, Associate Executive Director.

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BACK ROW: (Left to Right) Clark C. Otley, MD; Erik J. Stratman, MD; James W. Patterson, MD; Janet A. Fairley, MD; Dirk M. Elston, MD; Robert A. Silverman, MD.