

Resident Newsletter

May 2014



LIFE AFTER RESIDENCY: AN INTRODUCTION TO MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

Once you successfully complete your residency and pass the certifying examination of the American Board of Dermatology, becoming a diplomate of the Board, you will automatically enter into Maintenance of Certification (MOC). Maintenance of Certification is a program of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) in which all 24 member Boards of the ABMS participate. The intent of MOC is to assure the public that Board-certified physicians keep current in their specialties.

The certificate you are awarded for passing the certifying examination is valid for ten years. During this ten-year cycle of MOC there are certain yearly requirements to fulfill. The ABD website (www.abderm.org) has more information about the components of MOC.

Below are answers to some questions about your first year of MOC.

If I pass the certifying examination this year (2014), when do I enter MOC?

If you pass the 2014 certifying examination, you will enter MOC January 1, 2015, beginning your 10-year cycle. You will be awarded a certificate that will expire December 31, 2024.

What are the requirements for the first year of MOC, and when are those requirements due?

If you become certified in 2014, there are no MOC requirements until January 2015. The January requirement is to attest that you have a valid, full, and unrestricted medical license and indicate whether or not you are clinically active. The license attestation is accomplished by logging in to your personal MOC table at the ABD website. It takes approximately 5 minutes to complete and is due by January 31.

The other MOC requirement in 2015 is payment of the \$150 annual fee, due by December 31, 2015. Payment may be accomplished online at the ABD website. The ABD office will send you email reminders about these two requirements. Please be sure to update your email address in your ABD personal profile so that the email reminders are sent to the correct address.

There is an annual requirement for a minimum of 25 Category I Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits. However, the ABD awards 60 CME credits for passing the certifying examination. Thus, you will have fulfilled the CME requirement for 2015 by passing the 2014 certifying examination.

Why are there so few requirements in the first year?

ABD realizes you have just completed an intense period of residency training and preparation for the certifying examination, and may appreciate having some time to focus on your new practice. We do encourage you, though, to retain your habits of reading about your patients and keeping up with the literature. These habits of continuous learning will serve you well in subsequent years of MOC. We also encourage you to spend some time during your first year learning about MOC. There are MOC components due in subsequent years that you may opt to begin during your first year.

How will my certification status be reported to the public?

On the website of the American Board of Medical Specialties (www.certificationmatters.org) the public will see Certification, American Board of Dermatology, and Meeting Maintenance of Certification Requirements Yes or No when they search for your name.

I've been accepted into a fellowship program beginning in 2014. When will I enter MOC and what are the requirements for my first year of MOC?

You will enter MOC January 1, 2015 but your annual fee and license attestation requirements will be waived for 2015, and your 2015 CME requirement will be fulfilled through the 60 CME credits awarded from the AMA for having passed the certifying examination. Your first MOC requirement not automatically waived or fulfilled is the license attestation due in January 2016. Please refer to the ABD website for other MOC requirements in 2016.

If I hold two certificates from ABD (for example, Dermatology and Dermatopathology), will I need to participate in two MOC programs?

No. Subspecialty MOC sub-certification will be linked to primary (dermatology) MOC. •

Getting Ready for the July 2014 Certifying Examination Tampa, Florida

The 2014 ABD certifying examination will be held July 14-17 and July 21-24 at the American Board of Pathology (ABP) testing center in Tampa, FL.

The ABP testing center is located in the same group of buildings as the Intercontinental Hotel (4860 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33609; 800-235-4670 or 813-286-4050). Another hotel option (approximately 6-8 blocks away) is the Embassy Suites Tampa – Airport/Westshore (813-875-1555).

The Tampa International Airport is located approximately 3 miles (10-12 min.) from the ABP testing site. Taxi service is readily available and there is a complimentary airport shuttle to both hotels. When arriving at the Tampa airport, to call for the Intercontinental shuttle, dial 813-286-4400.

The American Board of Dermatology wants to reassure you that if weather causes a problem in Tampa, we will do our best to allow you to take the examination later in the month. We don't want to alarm you and we assume that everything will go as planned during the two weeks of test administration in July. However, we feel it's important to think ahead and make emergency contingency plans. In the event of an inclement weather threat, please check the ABD website (www.abderm.org) or the ABD Facebook page to learn of alternative arrangements. **In general, if the airport is open and planes are flying, the testing center will be open.**

Below is information to help you get ready for the examination. •

Registration

Registration will begin at **7:15 am Eastern Time**. The examination will begin at 7:35 am and end at approximately 4:50 pm. You will need to present a photo ID at registration.

Candidates are **not** permitted to bring any personal items in to the exam center. The only personal items permitted at the workstations are jackets or sweaters and eyeglasses. Luggage, purses, food, water, books, papers, pens, pencils, pagers, cell phones, calculators, personal organizers, and watches of any type are prohibited. A pen will be provided at each workstation. Secure space is available outside of the examination room for storage of personal items. There is a clock in the exam room and there will be a timer on the computer monitors.

Professional proctors are provided by the American Board of Pathology and will be present throughout the examination. A representative from ABD will be present to give instructions for each section of the examination. •



Examination Schedule

Section I

7:15 – 7:35 am Candidate seating, instructions, and practice tutorial. Each candidate will be assigned to a carrel with a computer and a microscope (4x, 10x, and 40x objectives). There will be lens paper, a scratch sheet for notes and a pen at each carrel.

7:35 – 9:15 am The first section of the certifying examination consists of 100 image and non-image questions in clinical, laboratory, and surgical dermatology displayed on the computer. Most of the items are of the one-best-answer-of-five-options type. There may be a few matching items at the end of the section. Your answers will be submitted on the computer.

If you complete the section prior to the time limit, you may leave the testing center.

9:15 – 9:25 am Break

Examination Schedule

Section 2

9:25 – 9:38 am Check in and instructions.

9:38 – 11:10 am **Examination in Dermatopathology**

This portion of the examination consists of 36 microscopic slides in dermatopathology with associated multiple-choice questions.

The slides will be arranged in two cardboard slide trays, each containing 18 glass slides (1-18 in tray A and 19-36 in tray B). You will have only one of these trays at your desk. Half of the examinees will begin with tray A, and the other half with tray B. You will have 45 minutes to complete the 18 slides in the tray at your desk. At the end of 45 minutes you will exchange the tray you have completed, as directed by the proctor, and will then have forty-five minutes to complete the other tray.

11:10 am – 12:00 pm **Examination in Virtual Dermatopathology**

This portion of the examination consists of 10 digitalized images of whole-mount microscopic slides. You will have 50 minutes to examine the images on the computer screen and match the diagnosis with associated multiple-choice 5-foil questions. This section will be graded and will contribute to your final examination score.

You may leave the room when you have completed the questions.

12:00 – 1:00 pm **Lunch**

Section 3

1:00 – 1:10 pm Check in and instructions.

1:10 – 2:50 pm The third section of the certifying examination consists of 100 image and non-image multiple-choice questions in clinical, laboratory, and surgical dermatology displayed on the computer, similar to Section 1 on the previous page.

2:50 – 3:00 pm **Break**

Section 4

3:00 – 3:10 pm Check in and instructions.

3:10 – 4:50 pm The fourth section of the certifying examination consists of 100 image and non-image multiple-choice questions in clinical, laboratory, and surgical dermatology displayed on the computer. See information for Sections 1 & 3.

You may leave the room when you have completed the examination and turned in your scratch sheet and pen.

4:50 pm Collect scratch sheets and dismiss.

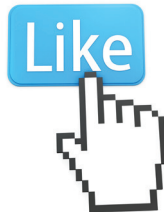
The results of the certifying examination will be placed in your Profile on the ABD website (www.abderm.org) 8-10 weeks after the examination. An email will notify you when the results are posted.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

The American Board of Dermatology is proud to announce that we are now on Facebook. We launched an ABD Facebook page to remain up-to-date and relevant to you our residents, as well as to our diplomates. The world moves fast and we turned to Facebook, in part, to keep pace. Facebook provides a perfect format to communicate reminders and provide updates, without inundating you with e-mail messages. Furthermore, it creates an open forum in which you can provide feedback or ask questions that could be useful to a broad audience, primarily consisting of residents, diplomates, and residency directors and coordinators.

On our Facebook page, we post reminders about application deadlines, updates about the availability of exam results, announcements concerning new developments at the ABD, and pictures from Board events, among other useful and interesting content for our followers.

Later this year, we will use Facebook to promote a "Question of the Week" program, as well as a "Meet the Directors" feature to profile each Director on our Board. To be the first to learn about these exciting new features, as well as to remain up-to-date on all ABD news, "like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ABDermatology.



DIPLOMATE CERTIFICATION MARK

The American Board of Dermatology is pleased to announce that diplomates may now use the special certification mark (shown above) to identify themselves as certified by the ABD. The use of this mark will inform the public that a diplomate meets the certification requirements established by the ABD, including education, training, and experience. You may use this certification mark on letterhead, signage, in the phone book, and other forms of advertising. The mark may be used to identify only you, the certified diplomate, and not colleagues in your practice who are not certified by ABD.

In order to request permission to use the certification mark, send a letter or email to the ABD office outlining how you intend to use the certification mark. We will then send you the certification mark personalized with your name on it at no charge.

Please note that the certification mark is not the ABD's official seal. The ABD seal (shown below) is reserved for use by ABD only.

PASS RATES FOR ABD CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION 2009 - 2013

	Number of Candidates	% Pass Rate
2009	421	91.4%
2010	412	91.9%
2011	419	89.7%
2012	457	94.7%
2013	446	97.5



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Virtual pathology is here to stay!

The ABD continues to examine the feasibility of using scanned slides in its certifying examination. Statistical analysis of the percent correct scores between glass slides and virtual pathology cases revealed no statistically significant difference between the two groups in the 2013 administration. The percent correct for the scanned slides was slightly higher. We will make every attempt to employ the best imaging technology as we move forward.

American Board of Dermatology

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