

Resident Newsletter

June 2011



Getting Ready for the July 2011 Certifying Examination Tampa, Florida

The 2011 ABD certifying examination will be held July 18 through July 21 and July 25 through July 28 at the American Board of Pathology (ABP) testing center in Tampa, FL (4830 W. Kennedy Blvd, Ste 690, Tampa, FL 33609).

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.

Following is information to help you get ready for the examination.

Registration

Registration will begin at **7:00 am** (local time). The examination will begin at 7:30 am and end at approximately 4:30 pm. You will need to present a photo ID at registration.

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

ABD and ABP staff will be present throughout the examination and will function as proctors.

Examination Schedule

Session I

7:20 – 7:30 am

Candidate seating and instructions. Each candidate will be assigned to a carrel with a microscope and a computer for the examination. There will be a scratch sheet of paper at each carrel along with a pen.

7:30 – 9:15 am

Examination in Clinical, Laboratory, and Surgical Dermatology

The first portion of the certifying examination consists of 103 digital images displayed on the computer, with multiple-choice questions in clinical, laboratory, and surgical dermatology.

You will work at your own pace for this session. The questions and images will be on the computer. The proctor will notify you when 30, 60 and 95 minutes have elapsed. If you finish early, you may leave the room, except that no one may leave the room during the last 10 minutes.

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Examination Schedule *(continued)*

9:15 - 9:30 am Break

Session II

9:30 - 9:40 am Check in and instructions.

9:40 - 11:10 am



Examination in Dermatopathology

The second portion consists of 36 microscopic slides in dermatopathology with associated multiple-choice 5-foil or best-of-26-foil questions.

The slides will be arranged in three cardboard slide trays, each containing twelve slides and labeled A, B and C. You will have 30 minutes to examine each set of twelve slides. The proctor will inform you when there are two minutes left. At the end of 30 minutes you will exchange the tray you have completed with the next lettered slide tray. You will not be allowed to review a slide tray that you have already seen.

11:10 - 11:30 am

Examination in Virtual Dermatopathology (4 images)

This portion of the examination consists of 4 digitalized images of whole mount microscopic slides. You will have 20 minutes to examine the images 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.

11:30 am - 12:45 pm **Lunch** (a list of several fast food and restaurant options available in the immediate vicinity will be provided).

Session III

12:45 -12:55 pm Check-in and instructions.

12:55 - 2:25 pm

Comprehensive Multiple-Choice Examination in Dermatology

The third portion of the examination contains 85 multiple choice questions. In this portion, you will work at your own pace. You will have 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete this portion of the examination. The proctors will announce when 30 minutes, 60 minutes, and 80 minutes have elapsed.

If you finish early, you may leave the room, except that no one may leave the room during the last 10 minutes.

2:25 - 2:40 pm Break

Session IV

2:40 - 2:45 pm Check in and instructions.

2:45 - 4:30 pm

Examination in Clinical, Laboratory, and Surgical Dermatology (104 images)

See information for Session I above. You may leave the room when you have completed the questions, except that no one may leave the room during the final 10 minutes.

4:30 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) approximately 8 weeks after the examination. An email will notify you when the results are posted.

2011 IN-TRAINING EXAMINATION QUESTIONS DELETED FROM FINAL SCORING

Last year's ABD Resident Newsletter reviewed examples of questions on the In-Training Examination that were eliminated from final scoring. Of the 224 questions on the 2011 examination, seven items were flagged for poor performance. Following review and discussion by Chairs of the ITE and test committee members, four of those seven items were deleted from scoring. Here are two of those questions.

1. A diplomate passes the certifying examination to be eligible to take the Maintenance of Certification-Dermatology (MOC-D). Which of the following represents the number of continuing medical education (CME) hours required?

- A) 100 hours every three years
- B) 25 hours annually
- C) 80 hours annually
- D) 100 hours annually

The correct answer is B - 25 hours annually. The wide range of answers selected by residents at all levels of training indicates a fundamental lack of knowledge of the requirements for participation in Maintenance of Certification. Encouraging training programs to include education about Maintenance of Certification would better prepare future diplomates about what is expected of them professionally during the remainder of their careers. Incidentally, completing 25 hours of category 1 CME annually also fulfills CME requirements for medical licensure in most states.

2. Which of the following is the most likely diagnosis in this 15-year-old boy?



- A) Darier disease
- B) Dermatomyositis
- C) Granuloma annulare
- D) Lichen planus
- E) Pityriasis rubra pilaris

The correct answer is E - Pityriasis rubra pilaris. Answers were split between Darier disease, dermatomyositis, lichen planus, and PRP, indicating that this was a very difficult question, with negative discrimination. The reviewers agreed that the image was not clearly representative of childhood PRP and eliminated the question from final scoring.

Future Newsletters

What would you like to see in future newsletters?

If you have suggestions for articles, please send them to abderm@hfhs.org.

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