FROM THE PRESIDENT

“It’s only after you’ve stepped outside your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow, and transform.”

– Roy T. Bennett

ABEM has embraced change more in the last few years than it has in a long time. From streamlining application and registration processes (including integrating online applications), to implementing the eOral format as part of the Oral Certification Examination, to eliminating redundant requirements to stay certified, to developing an alternative recertification assessment (MyEMCert), we have strived to change in ways that will efficiently help physicians become better doctors without being burdensome, while at the same time maintaining or strengthening the value of certification. While some changes shifted ABEM out of its comfort zone, the new developments will result in better, more relevant activities to help physicians stay certified.

A key reason for the changes was input from ABEM-certified physicians. You told us what you felt would be appropriate characteristics for a new assessment that would also

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Robert L. Muelleman, M.D.
From the President continued

maintain the value of ABEM certification. There was also movement among other medical specialty boards to develop new assessments to replace their high-stakes exams. In 2018, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) convened the Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission. The Commission, made up of representatives of multiple stakeholder groups, was charged with envisioning a system of continuing board certification “that is meaningful, relevant and of value, while remaining responsive to the patients, hospitals and others who expect that physician specialists are maintaining their knowledge and skills to provide quality specialty care.” The Commission issued its final report in February 2019.

One outcome was a commitment by the ABMS to develop new, integrated standards for continuing certification programs by 2020 that are flexible in the manner in which they assess knowledge and advance medical practice, and provide feedback to diplomates.

ABEM’s plans for MyEMCert are congruous with the Commission’s findings. MyEMCert modules will assess a physician’s knowledge of specific content areas and will also include content from new advances in Emergency Medicine. If a module is not passed, the physician will know right away and can opt to study that particular content area before taking the module again. Modules can be taken in any order, and because they are taken remotely, physicians will have great flexibility for when and where they are assessed. In these ways, ABEM intends that MyEMCert will help ABEM-certified physicians become better doctors.

The other requirements to stay certified were also evaluated. We found other components that appeared redundant. For example, LLSA tests are approved CME activities (by ACEP and AAEM), so when physicians pass a test, they are completing...
a CME activity. Requiring physicians to attest to CME was a duplication of effort. ABEM requested from the ABMS that one of these redundant activities be removed as a requirement to maintaining certification. Other such activities include:

- No longer having to attest to completing self-assessment CME.

- No longer having to attest to a patient experience of care survey (PECS), the former communications/professionalism requirement. This change was based on the idea that communication is covered in other facets of the certification process.

- Discontinuation of the Patient Safety LLSA. Current LLSAs include patient safety related content. Did you know that 30 percent of LLSA readings target conditions that are the highest risk for medical malpractice cases?

We also realize that terminology about certification requirements has at times been confusing and laden with acronyms. We will aim to explain the process as clearly and concisely as possible.

We could not have undertaken so many challenges without the hard work of ABEM physician volunteers, including the experienced team of writers called into service to develop MyEMCert modules. As ABEM moves forward developing MyEMCert, we will continue to seek ways to make staying certified more focused on learning, easier to understand, and streamlined. We welcome your feedback.
Staying Certified

Your individual requirements are available on your Personal Page. Go to www.abem.org and sign in to the portal using your User ID and Password. If you have any questions, email moc@abem.org, or call 517-332-4800, ext. 383.

MyEMCert Is Coming!

ABEM-certified physicians with certificates that expire in 2022 or later will have the option to participate in MyEMCert, the alternative to the ConCert Exam. Many MyEMCert modules will be available in 2021. Initially, physicians who elect to participate in MyEMCert will need to pass eight topic-specific, presentation-based modules by the date their current certification expires. So, for example, a physician whose certification expires in 2025 will need to complete eight MyEMCert modules between 2021 and December 31, 2025, along with Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP) requirements.

In 2020, ABEM will pilot MyEMCert. Approximately 1,200 physicians in the first five years of certification will be randomly selected to participate. The selection process details have not yet been determined. Participants will need to successfully complete three modules, and will have three attempts to pass each one.

Additional information, including FAQs, is available at www.abem.org/MyEMCert. As more details are confirmed, they will be posted on the website. Please check back to obtain the most recent information. If you have questions, please call 517-332-4800, extension 383, or email moc@abem.org.

Options for Staying Certified Once MyEMCert Is Available

MyEMCert Track
- 4 MyEMCert modules every 5 years
- 1 IMP activity every 5 years
- Medical licenses meet ABEM policy

ConCert Track
- 4 LLSAs every 5 years
- 1 IMP activity every 5 years
- ConCert Exam during last 5 years
- Medical licenses meet ABEM policy
Reducing Burden, Adding Value

ABEM is working hard to add value and reduce the burden on physicians to stay certified. ABEM has made several changes to the process, including dropping the CME requirement and providing no-cost CME for passing the Oral and ConCert examinations. These changes were the result of feedback from ABEM-certified physicians.

No-cost CME for Passing the Oral or ConCert Exams

Beginning in 2018, physicians who became certified (passed the ABEM Oral Certification Examination) or completed all requirements to recertify can receive 60 AMA PRA Category 1™ Credits at no cost. (Physicians who passed the exams in previous years must apply directly to the AMA and pay the required fee). ABEM has reached an agreement with the AMA to provide the credits as a benefit to ABEM-certified physicians. To receive the credits, you need to agree to ABEM sharing your contact information with the AMA. You can sign up to receive the credits via your ABEM Personal Page.

CME Requirement Dropped

The requirement that ABEM-certified physicians attest to completing an average of 25 CME credits every year has been removed. The ABMS (the umbrella organization for specialty boards) approved this change for ABEM because LLSA activities are essentially CME activities for which CME credit can be claimed. Eliminating this requirement is one way that ABEM is working to lessen the burden for physicians while maintaining the value of certification. The requirement was dropped effective in 2019.

Other Recent Changes

Other revisions to the process to stay certified include:

- No longer having to attest to completing self-assessment CME. This was another change ABEM requested from the ABMS based on LLSAs being a self-assessment activity.
- No longer having to attest to a patient experience of care survey (PECS), the former communications/professionalism requirement. This change, also approved by the ABMS, was based on the idea that a PECS is not an appropriate measure of patient care in the ED, and that communication is covered in other facets of the certification process (e.g., LLSAs).
- Discontinuation of the Patient Safety-LLSA.

Does Your Certification Expire in 2019?

Complete your requirements by December 31, 2019, to renew your certification. In addition to passing the ConCert Exam, all LLSA and IMP requirements must be completed by the end of the year.

Does Your Certification Expire in 2024?

If your certification expires in 2024, you have LLSA and IMP activity requirements due by December 31, 2019. If you have unmet requirements by this date, you will not lose your ABEM certification. However, ABEM is required to designate and publicly report that you are “not participating in MOC.”

Your individual requirements are available on your Personal Page. Go to www.abem.org and sign in to the portal.
Updates and Activities

EM Is Growing!

Emergency Medicine now ranks fourth among specialties for the number of active physicians. Each year, ABEM sets records for the number of new physicians it certifies; in 2018, over 2,000 physicians attained initial certification.

Specialties with the Largest Number of Active Physicians (AAMC: 2018 Data)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Number of Physicians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal Medicine</td>
<td>115,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Medicine</td>
<td>113,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatrics</td>
<td>58,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medicine</td>
<td>42,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anesthesiology</td>
<td>41,762</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obstetrics and Gynecology</td>
<td>41,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatry</td>
<td>38,205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radiology</td>
<td>27,719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Surgery</td>
<td>25,042</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Recognizing 30 Years of Board Certification

In recognition of their dedication to the specialty of Emergency Medicine, commitment to continuous professional development, and the provision of compassionate, quality care to all patients, ABEM acknowledges physicians who have marked 30 years of being ABEM board certified with a special certificate. The 2019 recipients are physicians who were board certified for 30 years as of December 31, 2018. ABEM congratulates the 697 ABEM-certified physicians who recently accomplished this milestone! A list of the recipients is included on pages 13-15, and is also available on the ABEM website. Special certificates are awarded annually to diplomates who reach this milestone.
ABEM strives to have its examinations and testing processes meet the highest standards in assessment as set forth in the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing. Whenever a new multiple choice question is used on an examination it is subject to statistical analyses to determine how well it assessed a physician’s cognitive skill and medical knowledge. In addition, before being used as a scored item, every test taker comment is reviewed by the exam editors. Before it is used to determine certification, every question will have been reviewed by clinically active emergency physicians, staff editors, psychometricians, and the physicians taking the examination.

Another practice added by ABEM to gauge the fairness of test questions is a bias investigation process, considered a best practice in testing. Using this process, historically disadvantaged groups that have been identified by the Board are statistically compared to their peers to determine if new items may be biased. These groups can include physicians of different genders, ethnicities, or from different geographic regions.

After each ABEM multiple choice question examination:

- A Bias Panel composed of ABEM-certified physicians (not ABEM Directors) representing the group(s) being examined is convened.
- The Panel reviews exam questions for potential bias.
- The Panel then evaluates whether different outcomes on the test questions are due to knowledge or experience not relevant to the practice of EM.
- If the source is not related to EM content, the Panel recommends that the question be either revised or deleted.

While this new process requires staff and volunteer effort, it does not affect the time it takes to deliver scores. The Board does, however, feel that this process is an enhancement to its quality control procedures designed to increase the fairness of its examinations.
Emergency Medical Services Examination Committee

The EMS Exam Committee met November 13-14, 2018. Among the decisions made by the Committee were approving the 2020 EMS Reading List, and a slate of candidates to forward to ABEM to replace members whose terms will end in 2019. The Committee also worked on item development. Recognition was given to Committee members whose terms ended December 31, 2018: Debra G. Perina, M.D., and Ritu Sahni, M.D. New members, whose terms started January 1, 2019, are K. Sophia Dyer, M.D., and Jeffrey M. Goodloe, M.D.

Medical Toxicology Subboard

The MedTox Subboard met November 28-29, 2018. In addition to item development, the Subboard considered the recommendations of the Cognitive Expertise Examination Standard Setting Panel and set a passing score of 70 for the Exam; agreed to a review of the Core Content of Medical Toxicology and a task force to conduct that review; and recognized Theodore C. Bania, M.D., on becoming the Subboard Chair.

The Subboard also recognized Sean M. Bryant, M.D. (ABEM appointee), whose term on the Subboard ended December 31, 2018. Also in attendance as an observer was Andrew I. Stolbach, M.D. (ABEM representative), whose term started January 1, 2019.
Meet the New Directors!

At its winter 2019 meeting, the ABEM Board of Directors elected two new directors: Yvette Calderon, M.D., and John L. Kendall, M.D. They will begin their terms as ABEM directors at the close of the summer 2019 Board of Directors meeting.

Yvette Calderon, M.D.
Bronx, NY

John L. Kendall, M.D.
Denver, CO

College: Brown University, B.S.
Medical School: Albert Einstein College of Medicine, M.D.
Additional Education: Albert Einstein College of Medicine, M.S., Clinical Research Methods
Residency: Jacobi Medical Center, Emergency Medicine
Clinical Position(s): Mount Sinai Beth Israel, New York, NY
Academic Appointments: Professor of Emergency Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; System Vice Chair of Diversity and Inclusion for Emergency Medicine Service Line, Mount Sinai
Research/Clinical Interests: HIV/AIDS
ABEM Activities: Oral Certification Examination: Examiner (2011-present), Item Writer, Qualifying Examination (2014-present)
Certification: Emergency Medicine, continuous since 1996

College: Pepperdine University, B.S.
Medical School: University of Washington, M.D.
Residency: Los Angeles County and University of Southern California Medical Center, Emergency Medicine
Clinical Position(s): Denver Health Medical Center, Denver, CO
Academic Appointments: Professor of Emergency Medicine and Vice Chair of Education, Department of Emergency Medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Research/Clinical Interests: Ultrasonography
ABEM Activities: Oral Certification Examination: Examiner (2014-present), Senior Case Reviewer (2016-present), Case Development Panel (2017-present), Modified Singles Advisory Panel (2017-present), MyEMCert Writing Panel (2018-present)
Item Writer, Qualifying Examination (2007-2018)
Certification: Emergency Medicine, continuous since 1997
EMS Practice Pathway Closure

The practice pathway for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will close July 1, 2019. To be eligible under this pathway, all training and practice must be completed by June 30, 2019. If you have any questions, please contact subspecialties@abem.org, or 517-332-4800, ext. 387.

Emergency Medicine Board Eligibility

Board eligibility is a five-year period that starts on the date a physician graduates from an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education– or Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada–accredited EM residency program, or an ABEM-approved combined residency program. Physicians do not have any additional eligibility requirements under the Policy on Board Eligibility if they apply for certification, take and pass the first Qualifying Examination available to them, and take and pass the first Oral Certification Examination assigned to them. Details are available in the Become Certified section of the ABEM website (www.abem.org).

Note that physicians should not rely solely on ABEM reminders, and are subject to all requirements and policies. If you have questions, please email BoardElig@abem.org or call 517-332-4800, ext. 384.

Subspecialty Board Eligibility

Board eligibility for subspecialty certification starts when a physician completes his or her training or practice required to meet the ABEM subspecialty eligibility criteria and ends when the physician achieves subspecialty certification. If a physician does not become subspecialty certified, board eligibility ends seven years after it started, or through four administrations of the subspecialty initial certification examination, whichever is longer.

To be considered subspecialty board eligible, a physician must be certified by an ABMS Member Board and designated as participating in MOC for their primary ABMS certification. If you have questions, please email subspecialties@abem.org, or call 517-332-4800, ext. 387.
Oral Examiner Awards, Fall 2018

During the opening General Session at each Oral Certification Examination (OCE) administration, ABEM presents awards to oral examiners based on the number of examinations in which they have participated. In acknowledgement of their generous service to the Board’s examination process, ABEM recognized 23 examiners at the fall 2018 OCE. The Board of Directors sincerely appreciates the many contributions these individuals have made over their years of service to ABEM’s OCE program. The awards were presented by Robert L. Muellem, M.D., President, and Jill M. Baren, M.D., Chair of the Test Administration Committee, on behalf of the Board.

CLOCK – 8 Exams
Dr. Muellem (right) and Dr. Baren (second from left) present the award to Jordan C. Foster, M.D.; Michael A. Manka, M.D.; Fiona Gallahue, M.D.; Marcia A. Perry, M.D.; Jeffrey P. Caporossi, M.D.; Christina L. Bourne, M.D.; Douglas M. Char, M.D.; Derek R. Linklater, M.D.; William A. Conrad, M.D.; Kenneth S. Bishop, D.O.; Usmah Mossallam, M.D.; and James A. Richardson, M.D.

PLAQUE – 16 Exams
Dr. Muellem (right) and Dr. Baren (third from left) present the award to Patricia L. VanDevander, M.D.; William M. Maguire, M.D.; Robert P. Wahl, M.D.; and Andrew S. Ulrich, M.D.

HOURGLASS – 24 Exams
Dr. Muellem (right) and Dr. Baren (left) present the award to Terry Kowalenko, M.D.; and Robert E. O’Connor, M.D.

PEN AND PENCIL SET – 32 Exams
Dr. Muellem (right) and Dr. Baren (center) present the award to Debra G. Perina, M.D.; Marc S. Nelson, M.D.; Jane McCall, M.D.; James D. Thomas, M.D.; and David T. Overton, M.D.
Examination Dates 2019-2020

Visit www.abem.org for the most current information.

**EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

Qualifying
November 11-16, 2019

Oral Certification
SPRING
May 4-7, 2019

FALL
October 5-8, 2019

ConCert™
FALL
September 16-21, 2019

SPRING
March 28 – April 3, 2020

LLSA Tests
Continuous on the ABEM website

**PAIN MEDICINE**

Certification
September 14, 2019

Recertification
TBD 2019

**PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE**

Certification
TBD 2021

MOC Cognitive Expertise Examination
March 1 – September 30, 2019

**ANESTHESIOLOGY-CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE**

Certification
October 12, 2019

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Certification and Maintenance of Certification
September 12, 2019

**HOSPICE and PALLIATIVE MEDICINE**

Certification and Maintenance of Certification
TBD 2020

**INTERNAL MEDICINE – CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE**

Certification
November 20, 2019

**MEDICAL TOXICOLOGY**

Certification
October 22, 2020

Cognitive Expertise Examination
October 16, 2020

**SPORTS MEDICINE**

Certification and Recertification
SUMMER
July 15-20, 2019

FALL
November 11-16, 2019

**UNDERSEA and HYPERBARIC MEDICINE**

Certification
October 14 – November 3, 2019

Recertification
Remote Proctored Exam
Last week of each month, April – December 2019*

* Excluding Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2019
and Christmas Day, December 25, 2019

In-person Exam
June 7, 2019

October TBD
2019 30-Year Certificate Recipients

Cynthia Kurke Aaron, M.D.
Jeffrey Paul Abrahams, M.D.
Robert Bair Abrahamsen, M.D.
John Louis Abt, D.O.
Ahmad Aburashed, M.D.
Michael Samuel Agron, M.D.
Michael Vincent Aigner, M.D.
James B. Aiken, M.D.
Donavon Albertson, M.D.
Solomon V. Alcantara, M.D.
Dennis Allin, M.D.
Stephen H. Andersen, M.D.
Donavon Albertson, M.D.
Dennis Allin, M.D.
Stephen H. Andersen, M.D.
Donavon Albertson, M.D.
Dennis Allin, M.D.
Stephen H. Andersen, M.D.
Donavon Albertson, M.D.
Dennis Allin, M.D.
Stephen H. Andersen, M.D.
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Dennis Allin, M.D.
Stephen H. Andersen, M.D.
Donavon Albertson, M.D.
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Dennis Allin, M.D.
Stephen H. Andersen, M.D.
KEEP YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION ACCURATE AT www.abem.org

ABEM needs your current email, mailing address, and other contact information to help you keep your certification current.

ABEM sends reminder letters by email only to candidates and ABEM-certified physicians for whom we have valid email addresses. Update your personal information by signing into the ABEM website and selecting Personal Information.

You may also update your contact information using the form below. Email the form to AddressUpdate@abem.org, fax it to 517-332-4853, or mail it to ABEM at 3000 Coolidge Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823-6319.

PLEASE PRINT

Effective Date_________________________ Date of Birth_________________________

Name____________________________________

Address____________________________________

City_________________________ State/Province_________________________ Zip/Postal_________________________

Home Phone_________________________ Work Phone_________________________

Email____________________________________

Signature____________________________________