



# TRACERS

The American Board of Nuclear Medicine

2016 Issue 2

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties

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## Chair's Message



**Munir V. Ghesani, M.D.**  
*Chair, ABNM*

I am privileged to write this letter as the chairman of ABNM. As stated by previous chairs of ABNM I would like to begin by recounting the primary purpose of the ABNM board, which is the advancement of the health of the public through the establishment and maintenance of standards of training and education, and the qualification of physicians rendering nuclear medicine services in the United States. The board has 12 directors - 4 of whom serve in positions as chair, vice-chair, secretary-treasurer and past chair. On a yearly basis, as Board members complete terms of service, replacement members are nominated from the nuclear medicine community and are selected to ensure balanced representation of subspecialty interests and the diversity of practice in our community. Directors give their time freely for a term of up to 6 years, with the work of the Board being organized and supported by the Executive Director, Assistant Executive director (non-voting officers), the Administrator and the staff at the ABNM office. All directors are required to take the recertification examination prior to serving. Current members come from 9 states and one is from Canada. There is representation from private and academic centers, with a mix of ABNM only and dual certified directors, seven women and five men. Board members have one thing in common – we are all motivated by the desire to see nuclear medicine thrive, and our belief

in high quality practice standards.

ABNM is one of the 24 specialty Member Boards of American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). ABMS works in collaboration the Member Boards to maintain the standards for physician certification, with the focus on improving the quality of health care to patients, families, and communities by supporting the continuous professional development of physician specialists.

Maintenance of certification (MOC), a critical element of board certification, is currently undergoing dramatic changes. ABNM is part of an American Board of Medical ABMS pilot program called CertLink, the purpose of which is to replace the every 10 year high stakes secure exam with periodic online questions (averaging about one question per week, but with ample flexibility to allow each diplomate to work within his/her schedule). Each question will include immediate feedback on the correct answer with an explanation and a reference. Topics, particularly those initially answered incorrectly, may be reassessed on future questions, thus promoting lifelong learning. Thus, the program will simultaneously fill two critical elements of MOC, learning and assessment. We are very excited about the program and hope you will find it a useful evolution in the MOC process. In the near future, we will provide additional details on CertLink and welcome your feedback as we continue on this journey by working together.

As you may be aware, on November 6, 2015, the ABNM announced that the ABNM and ABR have mutually agreed not to move forward with the proposals in the joint ABR-ABNM Task Force Statement to Stakeholders sent July 16, 2015 (for further details please refer to ABR-ABNM Task Force tab under “communications” on ABNM website, [abnm.org](http://abnm.org)). Following this announcement, SNMMI formed the Pathways to the Future of Nuclear Medicine Task Force to address the challenges, including decreasing number of nuclear medicine training programs, job opportunities and increasing need for dual certification in Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine. This task force was designed as a two-phase process. In the first phase, various organizations in nuclear medicine community, including ABNM, met face-to-face and via conference calls to brainstorm and emerge with solid proposals/practical action plans. The task force recognized that the majority of the future high-quality practitioners of nuclear medicine will likely be dual certified by both the ABR and the ABNM. However, given the multidisciplinary nature of nuclear medicine strengthened through its innate diversity, there will be need



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for a small number of nonradiologists who will benefit from and contribute to the field of nuclear medicine and molecular imaging. The next phase of the task force, which will begin soon, will focus on further alignments with the radiology leadership and community. For further information please refer to the “Pathways to the Future of Nuclear Medicine Task Force: Phase 1 Report” by Dr. Jadvar in the September issue of JNM Digital Newsline.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as Chair of ABNM. I am very thankful to the current members of the Board as well as the members over the past 6 years for their support, for sharing their knowledge and experience as well as for their continued dedication to our specialty and our Board. We extend our heartfelt farewell to Tony Parker, the Associate Executive Director of ABNM, who will be retiring from the Board in February 2017. Tony is a tireless worker and has had major contributions and valuable input in the operational, scientific, information technology, and many other areas to the Board. We will unquestionably miss Tony’s presence on the Board. We extend our warm welcome to Leonie Gordon, incoming Associate Executive Director of ABNM. We look forward to the Board benefitting from her energy and enthusiasm. We are convinced that her knowledge and experience will be extremely valuable to the Board.

I am thankful to George Segall, Executive Director, Louise Thomson, Immediate Past-Chair, and Maria Watts, Administrator for their continued support and guidance.