



TRACERS

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4555 Forest Park Boulevard, Suite 119 • St. Louis, Missouri 63108-2173 • Telephone: (314) 367-2225 • E-mail: abnm@abnm.org • Website: www.abnm.org

Message from the Executive Director A Tribute to Henry Royal, M.D, ABNM Executive Director Emeritus

George M. Segall, M.D., Executive Director



George M. Segall, M.D.
Executive Director, ABNM

Henry retired from the ABNM in March 2014, after serving six years as a Director, from 1993-1999, and another ten years as Executive Director, from 2004-2014. Henry guided the Board through several major changes as Executive Director.

2004-2005

When Henry became Executive Director in 2004, the board was transitioning from an organization that conferred once in a lifetime certification to an organization that supported Maintenance of Certification (MOC) requiring two-way communication between the board and all certified physicians throughout their professional careers. 2004 was the second year that the ABNM certification exam had been given by computer. Previously the exam was given only at three sites in the United States, but now the exam was being given at over 200 testing sites. It was also the second year of the MOC exam. All of the exam preparation from beginning to end was now being done at the ABNM office.

In 2005, the ABNM administrator Gloria Gorden, who had expertly supported the Board for several years, resigned. This set off a chain of events that resulted in moving the ABNM office from Los Angeles to St. Louis and rebuilding the whole infrastructure to support the Maintenance of Certification program. Cindi Ade was hired as the new Administrator, and was invaluable in helping modernizing the office by converting from handwritten files to digital storage of data. Henry, and his wife Christine, also made a change, moving from their home in the suburbs to a town home within walking distance of the ABNM office and Washington University.

2006-2007

In 2006, the ABNM launched a new website to support implementation of MOC in January 2007. The ABNM developed secure web pages that diplomates could use to document their participation in MOC.

2010

In 2010, the My MOC section of the ABNM website needed to be revised. Henry, who had no formal training in website development, became a quick learner. No one at ABNM had programming skills, so the task was outsourced, but the website development company did not understand MOC. This compartmentalization of knowledge led to many long hours of back and forth communication, but the major revision was completed by the end of 2010.

2011

In 2011, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was enacted by Congress, which provided an incentive for physicians who participated in MOC more frequently than required by their specialty board. Henry was responsible in getting the ABNM recognized as one of the ABMS member boards that was qualified to submit MOC participation data to CMS, and he has been the Board's expert on PQRS.

2012-2013

The work of the board was growing and becoming more complicated. In 2011, Henry and the board determined that an Associate Executive Director (AED) was needed. Tony Parker, M.D, Ph.D., who was a previous board Director as well as Chair, was selected after a national search. Henry and Tony made a perfect team, and it's hard to image one person doing all the work that Henry formerly did alone. Around the same time that Tony became AED, Cindi retired as Administrator. Maria Watts was selected as the new Administrator, and has continued to manage the daily operations expertly and efficiently.

Despite revisions to the ABNM website, it became clear that the needs of the board and the needs of diplomates required a whole new digital platform. Henry, working with Tony, once again went to work to develop a completely new website that was launched this year.

Throughout the years, Henry was responsible for the fiscal operations of the board. When he became ED in 2004, no one had looked at the ABNM business plan for the previous 34 years. Henry developed a business plan in 2005, which has resulted in a very strong current financial position.

Henry has been an exemplary leader, as well as a visionary. He has made high quality patient care the central mission of ABNM through the setting of the highest professional standards. Although Henry has retired from the board, the work he has done will continue to advance Nuclear Medicine for many years to come.