



TRACERS

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Chair's Message

The Possibility of Future Change



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Chair, ABNM

The ABNM 2015 Winter Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona this February was a wonderful opportunity to discuss transformations and ways to better serve current and future diplomates, the public, and the specialty of nuclear medicine in general. Some of the resulting plans centered on improving our Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process and others looked at current residency training strategies.

It has never been more critical that we find ways to ensure public safety that practicing physicians can better incorporate into their busy lives. We, on the ABNM board, fully recognize it is our duty to continue developing more meaningful and efficient measures to assess physician competency. As our Executive Director, Dr. George Segall, discusses in this publication, many changes are now in motion to improve MOC, including an enhanced, more practical MOC re-certification exam.

Another important area examined at this meeting concerned optimizing residency training. The identity of nuclear medicine continues to rapidly evolve. With current studies such as PET/CT and SPECT/CT relying heavily on knowledge of anatomic imaging, it is already difficult for residents to find a balance between learning CT and the basics of nuclear medicine. New technologies are moving rapidly into the work place including PET/MR, which involves a dizzying array of complex MR techniques, as well as dedicated breast imaging (MBI/BSGI) scintigraphy, which

requires understanding mammography, ultrasound, and breast MRI. It is also clear that we cannot anticipate what other exciting new techniques will be introduced in the future. Therefore, incorporating diagnostic radiology into our training has become essential in order to do more than take call or compete in the job market; it provides a solid basis of knowledge across many platforms. In that light, new combined residency programs, with both 4 - and 5 -year paths leading to dual certification in Nuclear Medicine and Diagnostic Radiology (NM/DR), continue to open. The Board also thought about the future of our specialty as we continued evaluating ways in which we might work more closely with the ABR, re-imagine training programs of the future, and attract more trainees into the exciting field of molecular imaging. While these discussions are important, I am pleased to note, as the list of new diplomates posted here indicates, that our current programs remain strong.

The end of our meeting resulted in sad transitions as our colleagues, Dr. Kirk Frey and Dr. Chun Kim, rotated off the ABNM. Their expertise and dedication have been invaluable to us all. As I now also move on, from my position as ABNM Chair to my role as Past-Chair, I am pleased to hand the reigns over to our incredible new Chair, Dr. Louise Thomson. Dr. Munir Ghesani now moves into the role of Vice-Chair and Dr. Erin Grady becomes our Secretary-Treasurer. It has been an honor to serve as Chair, and I hope to continue work that helps promote our field and demonstrates what makes nuclear medicine so special and unique.