

Message from the Chair

Joanna R. Fair, MD, PhD - Chair, American Board of Nuclear Medicine

Dear ABNM Diplomates:

Like you, I practice nuclear medicine clinically, and I am committed to bringing state-of-the-art nuclear medicine imaging and therapy to the underserved population of my state. I am also fully invested in medical education as the Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education at the University of New Mexico. I have two school-aged children and bounce between scout meetings, music rehearsals, and gymnastics competitions. I maintain two board certifications, in Nuclear Medicine and Diagnostic Radiology; each to me is worth the time and investment.

I agreed to serve on the Board five years ago because I believe in Nuclear Medicine and in the board's work to certify and advocate for competent practitioners of our specialty. As directors, we are not paid, but we work alongside our small, dedicated staff and part-time Executive Director and Associate Executive Director, spending many hours each month participating in conference calls and email discussions, writing and editing questions, reviewing credentials applications, preparing communications, and otherwise carrying out the work of the board.

The board meets face-to-face twice a year; these meetings facilitate frank conversations about our specialty and the board's direction. Each of our subcommittees (including Communications, Residency, MOC, Finance, Credentials, and Examinations) updates the board on its between-meeting work, with discussion of any hot topics each subcommittee addresses. A portion of each meeting is devoted to reviewing, revising, and compiling questions; exam development then continues throughout the year with our Examinations Committee. The heart of our meetings lies in our tough conversations, whether about

board finances, maintenance of certification, or threats to our specialty. While we do not always agree, we have respectful conversations about difficult issues.

Some of our work may seem mundane at face value yet is important. This year, board members and staff have spent many hours researching a change in our exam database vendor to replace our aging system. In addition to providing a more robust and trackable platform for examination development, we anticipate being able to offer a computer-based In-Training Exam next year, improving accessibility and modernizing the exam format. We continue to invest time and energy into ongoing development of our CertLink® ABNM pilot, bringing summative/formative questions directly to diplomates on a periodic basis. All board members are required to participate in MOC and in CertLink; we get the same reminder emails and can help flag systems issues.

This is an exciting time for Nuclear Medicine, particularly as theranostics grows. I am honored to serve the Board and our diplomates in this role at this crossroads.

Warmly,



Joanna R. Fair, M.D., Ph.D.