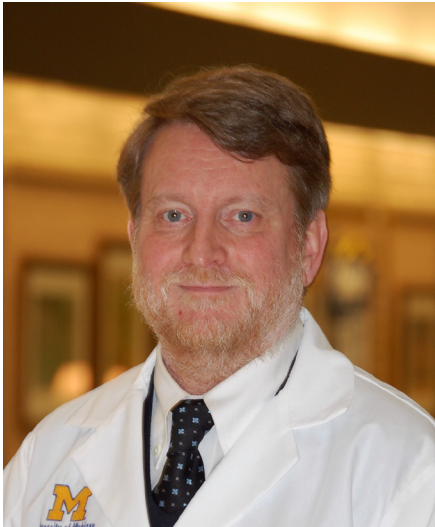




## Chair's Message



Kirk A. Frey, M.D., Ph.D.  
Chairman

The Winter ABNM meeting again presented a busy agenda, with yet increasing emphasis on activities beyond preparation and delivery of the In Training (ITE), Certification (CE) and Maintenance of Certification (MOC) examinations.

The umbrella organization for the boards, the American Board of Specialties, (ABMS), continues to define and refine expectations for member board activities. Although the ABMS and CMS (medicare) want unified conceptual approaches to certification and maintenance of certification there is a growing realization that the one size fits all approach has limitations.

Recently, ABMS has begun displaying the status of diplomates on their web site "Certification Matters" (<https://www.certificationmatters.org/is-your-doctor-board-certified/search-now.aspx>). On this site, a member of the public can search on a physician by name and location to determine their board certification status. The site lists certifications achieved and the status of participation in MOC. If a diplomate is board-certified, their MOC status is listed under the heading: "Meeting Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Requirements?" as: "Yes"; "No"; or "Not Required". The latter can apply only to diplomates with lifetime certificates. In order to accurately reflect a diplomate's MOC status,

ABNM must provide this information to ABMS. Further, ABNM is required to define what level of activity is needed to define that a diplomate is active in MOC.

ABNM has determined that to be designated as "Meeting MOC Requirements", diplomates must hold a valid medical license and make an annual update to their profile on the ABNM web site (MOC Part 1). They must also be no more than 3 years behind in required MOC Part 2 and Part 4 activities. Finally, they must hold a valid certificate (either lifetime or a time-limited certificate less than 10 years old). If a diplomate does not meet these criteria, they will be listed as not meeting MOC requirements. The ABNM is developing an automatic email system that will notify diplomates when they fall behind on one of the MOC milestones.

### From the MOC Committee

The ABMS has recently informed member boards that dedicated MOC learning activity in Patient Safety is recommended. ABNM is now completing an on-line learning activity that will likely be in place before the end of 2013. The activity is planned to consist of 4 individual modules, each satisfying MOC Part 2 SAM credit for 2 hours. Topical areas to be covered include: Epidemiology of Error; System Thinking and Effect of Systems on Safety; Human Factors; Culture of Safety; Fundamentals of Quality Improvement; Methods for Assessing Safety Events and Communication. Diplomates completing all 4 modules will earn 8 SAM credits, satisfying the year's requirement. ABMS recommends that all diplomates complete a Patient Safety learning activity within the first year of certification (and re-certification). It is required that the modules include content-based pre- and post-testing, and that to receive CE/SAM credit, a minimum score on the post-test will be required. The modules under development include aspects of patient safety that pertain generally to medical practice, but also more specifically to diagnostic and therapeutic Nuclear Medicine.