

Message from the Executive Director

Henry D. Royal, M.D., Executive Director



There continue to be several major issues facing the ABNM and the other ABMS boards.

As reported in the Winter 2012 ABNM newsletter, the ABNM, SNM, ACNM and NM RRC opposed the proposed changes to the nuclear radiology (NR) program requirements that would make these requirements nearly equivalent to the nuclear medicine program requirements. NR was conceived as a subset (diagnostic imaging only) of nuclear medicine, not as a competing training pathway. The ACGME Committee on Requirements met on September 27, 2012 and recommended to the ACGME BOD that the proposed changes to the NR program requirements be accepted. The ACGME Committee on Requirements also recommended that the changes to the diagnostic radiology program requirements that added treatment with > 33 mCi of I-131 be accepted. Although the BOD's decision has not been announced publicly, it is our understanding that the BOD has approved these recommendations.

Some progress is being made in developing combined DR/NM training program where trainees will get 16 months of nuclear medicine training during 4 years of DR training or 24 months of NM training during 5 years of training. At least 3 accredited nuclear medicine training programs have made significant progress in establishing a combined program.

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) continues to work on a number of important policy changes and issues. Eleven boards have joined the original 7 boards displaying information on MOC status on the ABMS website (www.certificationmatters.org). The remaining 6 boards are expected to display MOC status on the ABMS website by this time next year. The ABNM is proud to be one of the original 7 boards that have displayed information on MOC status on the ABMS website. Participation in MOC cannot have value for our diplomates unless this information is publically available. Currently, board certification and participation in MOC are not used extensively by local credentialing committees. We expect that this will change as this information becomes more publically accessible.

Another important change is that 4 ABMS member boards (Pediatrics, Neurology and Psychiatry, Family Medicine and Radiology) have removed the end dates to their time limited certificate. This change has been made to emphasize the fact that certification is dependent on continuous participation in MOC. Once a diplomate is no longer participating in MOC, they are no longer certified. It is likely that the ABNM will remove the end dates to our time limited certificate in the next few years.

In a statement following the Supreme Court's upholding of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), the ABMS issued a statement (http://www.abms.org/News_and_Events/Media_Newsroom/features/feature_ABMSStatementOnACA2010Ruling_07032012.aspx) indicating that the ABMS shares the goals of the ACA. The ABMS continues to work with the Federation of State Medical Boards (www.fsmb.org) to develop Maintenance of Licensure (MOL) programs. The expectation is that MOC will fulfill the requirements of MOL thereby increasing the value of MOC.



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Finally, the ABMS has a new president and CEO

(http://www.abms.org/News_and_Events/Media_Newsroom/Releases/release_DrNoraAppointedNewCEO_04112012.aspx). Her name is Lois Margaret Nora, MD, JD, MBA and she is a board certified neurologist. Dr. Nora has more than 20 years of experience in academic medicine, possessing a remarkable depth and breadth of leadership experience garnered during her career as clinician, teacher, scholar, medical school president and dean. Her scholarly work has focused on issues in medical education and the intersection of law and medicine.



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