

AMERICAN BOARD OF ORTHODONTICS (ABO)

Clinical Examination Update:

- The ABO conducted Clinical Examinations in February, June, and November 2019, as well as a February 2020 exam. Since the new Scenario-based Examination has been initiated, 531 orthodontists have achieved board certification through this exam. Since the announcement of the new Scenario-based Oral Clinical Examination, the demand has been consistent and strong. The February 2020 Clinical Examination examinees ranged from residents just completing their orthodontic programs, to established orthodontists practicing for 30+ years – reiterating the fact that board certification is for any orthodontist today who wants to challenge and better him or herself, and commit to the level of excellence expected to provide the highest level of patient care.
- The ABO now represents 49% of AAO membership.
- Following serious deliberations between ABO directors, examiners and staff, the decision was made to cancel the July 2020 Clinical Examination due to COVID-19. All options were considered to ensure we not only honored our commitments to the examinees but also to protect the safety and welfare of all involved while maintaining the integrity of the examination. Examinees will be automatically transferred to a newly added July 2021 examination unless we are otherwise notified. The next Clinical Examination is scheduled to be held in November 2020 and is currently at full capacity with a wait list.
- On-line registration for all 2021 Clinical Examinations will open on July 15, 2020, 9:00 AM CST.
- The final case-based examination occurred in June 2019. Examinees who have 3 or more complete cases have two options to complete the board certification process. Complete details are available on the [ABO website](#).
- A [“Day in the Life” video](#), filmed during the November 2019 Clinical Examination, was created to share first-hand accounts and behind the scene details of the examination process from examinees, examiners and ABO directors. We hope this allows those interested in achieving board certification an opportunity for a basic overview of what they can expect when in St. Louis.
- [On-line study materials](#) to include a Study Guide, sample cases and board prepared videos continue to be available on the ABO website to assist in preparing for the examination. ABO-appointed advocates for orthodontic programs are available for presentations, as well as ABO examiners who can be contacted for mock-exams to demonstrate the traditional style clinical examinations. In addition, CDABO offers Prep Courses to assist in preparing for the examination throughout the year.
- To maintain an active Board Certification status, Certification Renewal is required every 10 years and may be taken up to two years prior to the expiration date printed on the individual’s certificate. [A motion graphic video](#), outlining the

certification renewal process, is available for reference. See the ABO website for complete details on the process.

Please visit the [ABO website](#) for additional details on the any of the above.

Written Examination Update:

- The ABO Written Examination was originally scheduled to be held on April 7, 2020 at Pearson Vue Testing Centers throughout the United States and Canada. However, we were notified by the testing center that all exams at their venues were cancelled due to COVID-19. ABO directors and staff immediately began exploring all viable possibilities to administer the test. Time was of the essence as many orthodontic programs use the ABO Written Exam as their exit examination for graduation.

Following extensive research and discussions, the decision was made to conduct the examination through a live, online-proctored test administered through Scantron/Examity, June 5 - 6, 2020. This format allows candidates to complete the examination from their personal computer within a defined testing window over the two-day period. Security measures are in place to include a candidate ID check at the beginning of the exam, a room scan, login procedures, observation during the test administration, video and audio recording of the testing session, monitoring of the candidate's computer during test administration, ability for the proctor to communicate with candidates if the proctor needs to correct improper behavior and the ability to stop the examination if the candidate does not correct improper behavior.

We are excited to offer this innovative approach to the examination and are pleased that a swift and competent solution was found to administer this examination without jeopardizing the integrity or reliability of the exam. Please visit the [ABO website](#) for additional details concerning the Written Examination. As a reminder, once the ABO Written Examination is successfully completed, it does not expire and does not need to be retaken.

Educational Update:

- The ABO continues to offer on-line ABO educational toolkit resources for ABO certified orthodontists in promoting their certification achievement. A quick link to the storefront login has been added to individual dashboards.
- All board certified orthodontists are strongly encouraged to reset their ABO password to access their personal dashboard on the new software. As a reminder, enhancements include enhanced orthodontist locator, ability to add professional head-shot to profile, ability to edit/add personal and practice

- information with unlimited offices, increased security, user specific dashboard notifications, make annual fee payments and view payment history, upload and track CE credits and print complimentary verification letter.
- Complimentary ABO measuring gauges will again be provided to CODA-accredited orthodontic programs that request them for their incoming residents.

Educators Symposium:

- The Educators Symposium, *The Change is Here – Are you on Board?*, honoring Dr. **Katherine Vig**, scheduled for April 2020 in St. Louis, was cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Department Chairs, Program Directors and ABO-appointed Advocates along with AAO/CDABO councils were invited to attend. This important meeting will be rescheduled, at a date to be determined.

The College:

- The College (CDABO) continues to experience a high level of interest for attendance at their Prep Course on how to prepare for the ABO Scenario-based Clinical Examination. Upcoming classes are listed on the [CDABO website](#). The College continues to oversee the administrative organization of the ABO advocacy program to encourage certification at orthodontic residency programs, with volunteers assigned for each program.

2020-2021 ABO Directors:

The ABO Directors for the 2020-2021 year are as follows:

- Dr. **Valmy Kulbersh**, President, representing the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists
- Dr. **David Sabott**, President-Elect, representing the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists
- Dr. **Patrick Foley**, Secretary-Treasurer, representing the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists
- Dr. **Timothy Trulove**, Director, representing the Southern Association of Orthodontists
- Dr. **Jaе Hyun Park**, Director, representing the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists
- Dr. **Roberto Hernandez-Orsini**, Director, representing the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists
- Dr. **Stephen McCullough**, representing the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists
- Dr. **Nicholas Barone**, Immediate Past-President, representing the Northeastern Society of Orthodontists

The AAO House of Delegates confirmed Dr. **Emile Rossouw** as the new 2020-2021 ABO Director representing the Northeastern Society of Orthodontists. To view the announcement please visit the [ABO website](#).

Of special note, Dr. **Valmy Kulbersh**, becomes the first woman in the history of the ABO to serve in the position of ABO President.

- The ABO award recipients are traditionally recognized during the AAO Annual Session. However, due to the 2020 meeting cancellation, the Albert H. Ketcham award will now be presented to Dr. **Rolf Behrents** at the 2021 Annual Session in Boston. No additional award recipients will be identified for 2021.

Dr. **Carla Evans**, 2020 Dale B. Wade Award of Excellence in Orthodontics, Dr. **Perry Opin**, 2020 Earl E. and Wilma S. Shepard Distinguished Service Award and Dr. **John Kanyusik**, O.B. Vaughan Special Recognition Award, will all be honored during the March 2021 CDABO Annual Meeting to be held in Savannah, GA.

Please visit the [ABO website](#) for information on all award honorees.

- The ABO participated in the AAO's virtual 2020 Annual Session by including board certification brochures in conference bags distributed to over 9,000 AAO registered attendees.

Patrick Foley

St Louis, Missouri