

AMERICAN BOARD OF ORTHODONTICS (ABO)

ABO Yearly Update:

- **Clinical Exam Update:** In January 2018, the ABO announced a change to the board certification process to a Scenario-based Oral Clinical Examination. This decision was based on extensive research, specialty board reviews and collaboration with industry leaders which identified the need to improve our testing methodology to better assess clinical competency and critical thinking skills. The new examination format will be composed of four domains for assessment. Benefits of the exam include improved testing methodology, tests critical thinking skills and clinical competency, removes unnecessary barriers and helps level the playing field.

The change was communicated via emails, an AAO podcast, and *AJODO* article. In addition, the ABO hosted Open House/Info Sessions during the 2018 AAO Annual Session in Washington D.C. which were very well attended. ABO directors were on-hand to answer questions on the examination and provided sample cases and a study guide for attendees' review. In addition a workshop for educators and advocates was held to provide additional details on the examination format.

Traditional Clinical Examination with case submission requirements will be offered by petition only in September 2018 and February 2019. The Scenario-based Oral Examination will be offered beginning with the February 2019 examination.

The ABO encourages examinees to continue to work through patient cases, and utilize the tools created by the ABO to assess care outcomes, including the Discrepancy Index (DI), Cast Radiograph Evaluation (CRE), Case Management Form (CMF) and Cephalometric Superimpositions.

The ABO conducted Clinical Examinations in both February and September 2017 as well as February 2018. A total of 335 examinees were certified or recertified at these exams. A complete listing of newly certified or recertified orthodontists by constituency can be found on the [ABO website](#). The following MSO candidates received initial certification at the February 2018 exam: Drs. **Jennifer Caplin**, **Jessica Fuller** and **Nicole Kim**.

Upcoming examination dates and fees are also listed on the website.

Please visit www.AmericanBoardOrtho.com for additional details on the above items.

- **Written Examination Update**
- The 2018 American Board of Orthodontics Written Examination was administered April 10-13, 2018, to 414 examinees at Pearson Vue Testing Centers throughout the United States and Canada. The reliability of the examination was 92%, with a 96% pass rate. The next Written Examination will be offered April 9-12, 2019. Eligible individuals may register for this exam beginning September 4, 2018.
- **Educational Update**
 - Elements of the educational toolkit have been updated to reflect the new Scenario-based Oral Clinical Examination, including:
 - Consumer Brochure
 - ABO Gauge Brochure
 - ABO PyramidThese items may be found on the ABO website and are password protected for use by board certified orthodontists.
 - The ABO launched new software to enhance the functionality of the ABO website. Benefits of the upgrade 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, view payment history, upload and track CE credits, print complimentary verification letter.
- **The College**
- The ABO and the College (CDABO) continue to collaborate on an ABO advocacy program with the goal to reach out and encourage ABO certification at all orthodontic residency programs. All 73 orthodontic programs have at least one volunteer advocate assigned to their school.
- **ABO at 2018 AAO Annual Session**

The ABO Directors for the 2018-2019 year are as follows:

Dr. **Larry Tadlock**, President, representing the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists

Dr. **Nicholas Barone**, President-Elect, representing the Northeastern Society of Orthodontists

Dr. **Valmy Kulbersh**, Secretary/Treasurer, representing the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists

Dr. **David Sabott**, Director, representing the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists
Dr. **Patrick Foley**, Director, representing the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists
Dr. **Timothy Trulove**, Director, representing the Southern Association of Orthodontists
Dr. **Jae Hyun Park**, Director, representing the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists
Dr. **Roberto Hernandez-Orsini**, Director, representing the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists
Dr. **Chun-Hsi Chung**, Immediate Past President, representing the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists



The AAO House of Delegates confirmed Dr. **Roberto Hernandez-Orsini** as the new ABO Director representing the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists.

The ABO presented the following recognition awards during the 2018 AAO Annual Session meeting in Washington, DC:

- Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award: Dr. **Birte Melsen**
- Dale B. Wade Award of Excellence in Orthodontics: Dr. **Jeryl English**

- Earl E. and Wilma S. Shepard Distinguished Service Award: Drs. **Peter Greco** and **Richard Diemer**
- O.B. Vaughan Special Recognition Award: Dr. **Richard Kulbersh**

In addition to the Open House/Workshop outlining the new examination, the ABO manned an informational booth located outside of the Exhibit Hall, displaying ABO educational materials available to board certified orthodontists.

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