

AMERICAN BOARD OF ORTHODONTICS (ABO)

ABO Mission:

The mission of The American Board of Orthodontics is to elevate the quality of orthodontic care for the public by promoting excellence through certification, education and professional collaboration.

ABO Vision:

The American Board of Orthodontics is the global leader in orthodontic board certification and sets the standards of care for excellence in orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics.

ABO Yearly Update:

- **Clinical Exam Update:** The ABO conducted Clinical Examinations in February, June and November of 2019. A total of 479 examinees were certified or recertified during these examinations. A complete listing of newly certified or recertified orthodontists by constituency is located on the [ABO website](#). The ABO currently represents over 46 percent of AAO membership.
- **Written Examination Update:** The ABO Written Examination was administered April 10, 2019, at Pearson-Vue Testing Centers throughout the United States and Canada to 422 examinees. The examination had a 96% pass rate. The next Written Examination will be offered April 7, 2020. As a reminder, once the Written Examination is successfully completed, it never expires.
- **The College:** The ABO and the College (CDABO) continue to work together to support orthodontic programs in their preparation for the ABO Clinical Examination through the advocacy program. To date, all 73 North American orthodontic programs have at least one advocate assigned to their school. The College offers examination preparatory courses for examinees to help prepare for the Clinical Examination. The course once again will be offered at the CDABO Summer Meeting. CDABO will also host the College of Diplomates Luncheon during Annual Session where the 2020 ABO award recipients will be recognized.
- **GORP:** The ABO attended the 2019 GORP meeting held in St. Louis. Dr. **Nicholas Barone**, ABO president, gave a presentation to the residents and answered questions on board certification. Dr. **Valmy Kulbersh** will represent the ABO at the 2020 GORP meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan this summer.

Educational Update:

The transition to the ABO Scenario-based Oral Clinical Examination is now complete with the first exam successfully administered in February 2019. Due to anticipated

demand, a third examination has been added in 2020 to include February, July and November. Dates for 2021 examinations will be posted on the ABO website in May 2020. To accommodate the new examination format, additional examination rooms were constructed at the ABO testing center in St. Louis. Additional guest examiners have also been invited to increase the pool of qualified examiners for future examinations.

The final Traditional Case Based Clinical Examination occurred June of 2019.

For insight into the development of the Scenario-based Clinical Examination, a [motion graphic video](#) was developed and is located on the ABO website. An AAO/ABO Podcast, [“The Business of Orthodontics”](#) was released in December 2018 to provide an update on the status of the new examination. Additionally, the ABO directors authored an article entitled *American Board of Orthodontics Update on the New Scenario-based Clinical Examination* which was included in the June 2019 edition of the *AJODO*.

The ABO will again offer an Educators Symposium in April 2020. Department Chairs, Program Directors and/or Faculty of accredited orthodontic programs in the United States and Canada have been invited to attend, along with ABO-appointed Advocates, ABO Emeriti, AAO Trustees and CDABO Councilors.

The ABO continues to review and improve materials offered on the ABO website to assist in preparing for the Scenario-based Clinical Examination, including a [Study Guide](#) with sample cases. Orthodontic programs interested in hosting case-based mock board exams are encouraged to contact [ABO examiners](#) listed on the ABO website to schedule a school visit. [ABO advocates](#) have been identified for each orthodontic program and upon request are available for school advocacy visits on board certification.

Certification Renewal is an important part of the board certification process and requires ongoing proficiency in orthodontics and a commitment to life-long learning. This examination may be taken two years prior to your certification expiration date. Examination criteria is available on the [ABO website](#).

An Educator/Advocate Workshop along with an ABO Open House/Info Session will occur during the 2020 meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. Both sessions provide opportunities for different audiences to obtain updates and information on board certification requirements. In addition, the ABO mans a booth in the Convention Center to answer questions and provide information on the board certification process.

For orthodontists who have achieved board certification status, the ABO offers online educational materials including an Educational Toolkit, Brand Standards Guide, sample website wording, press release, pathway graphic, consumer brochure, seal and logos. Enhanced software allows for improved functionality on the ABO website including an enhanced orthodontist locator.

Complimentary ABO measuring gauges were distributed to first-year residents at requesting CODA-accredited orthodontic programs, along with a pathway graphic poster on board certification.

- **ABO Directors 2019-2020:**

The ABO Directors for the 2019-2020 year are as follows:

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

Dr. **Valmy Kulbersh**, President-Elect, representing the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists

Dr. **David Sabott**, Secretary/Treasurer, 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 H. Park**, Director, representing the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists

Dr. **Roberto Hernandez-Orsini**, representing the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists

Dr. **Stephen McCullough**, Director, representing the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists

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

The AAO House of Delegates confirmed Dr. **Stephen McCullough** as the ABO new director representing the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists.

ABO Award Recognition

The ABO is pleased to announce the following award recipients who will be recognized during the 2020 Annual Session meeting:

- Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award: Dr. **Rolf Behrents**
- Dale B. Wade Award of Excellence in Orthodontics: Dr. **Carla Evans**
- Earl E. and Wilma S. Shepard Distinguished Service Award: Dr. **Perry Opin**
- O.B. Vaughan Special Recognition Award: Dr. **John Kanyusik**

Patrick Foley
foley@americanboardortho.com

847/833-5361