

# The American Board of Orthodontics 2020 Constituency Report

**June 2020** *(Revised 8.31.20)*

The ABO is committed to upholding our mission to elevate the quality of orthodontic care for the public by promoting excellence through certification, education and professional collaboration. We believe the increase in orthodontists achieving board certification strengthens the specialty and provides an opportunity for us to come together to address non-specialists practicing orthodontics.

## **ABO Yearly Update:**

### **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 new graduates 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.
- In response to safety requirements recommended by the CDC relating to COVID-19, the ABO researched and evaluated alternative options to conduct our Scenario-based Oral Clinical Examination. Our current examination format and structure is not conducive to social distancing requirements and restrictive air travel. The safety for all involved is our top priority and necessitated a change in the administration of the examination.

As a result, the examinations originally scheduled in 2020 and 2021, will now take place at Scantron Testing Centers Worldwide. Travel to St. Louis will not be required.

This decision was made with serious deliberation and evaluation of multiple options. Our goal was to find the best way to balance honoring our commitments to exam candidates and maintaining the integrity of the exam, while protecting the health and safety of all participants. The Clinical Exam will continue to be administered in a scenario-based format with the same exam components and testing criteria. The validity of the exam will be maintained with changes only made to accommodate how answers are submitted.

To learn more about the Clinical Examination format in 2020 and 2021, please visit the [ABO website](#).

- On-line registration for all 2021 Clinical Examinations opened 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.
- [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 is currently planning to offer an in-person Prep Course at the AAO 2021 Annual Session.
- 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:**

- Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our original testing centers offered limited appointment availability, directly impacting our Written Examination originally scheduled on April 7, 2020. Identifying an appropriate solution to this problem was our top priority as this examination is often used as an exit examination for many orthodontic programs.

Following comprehensive research and discussions, the decision was made to conduct the examination through a live, online-proctored test administered through Scantron/Examity, June 5 and 6, 2020. This format allowed candidates to complete the examination from their personal computer within a defined testing window over the two day period. Extensive security measures were followed during the examination.

The 2020 Written Examination was administered to 409 examinees. The reliability of the exam was 87% with a 99% pass rate. Once the Written Examination is successfully completed, it never expires.

We were 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.

The 2021 Written Examination will be held on April 6, 2021 at Scantron testing centers in the United States and Canada. Please visit the [ABO website](#) for additional details.

### **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 for incoming residents have been provided to requesting CODA-accredited orthodontic programs.

### **Educators Symposium:**

- The ABO 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 COVID-19. Department Chairs, Program Directors and ABO-appointed Advocates along with and 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 in their prep courses on how to prepare for the ABO Scenario-based Clinical Examination. For updates on future prep courses, please visit 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.

### **GORP:**

- The ABO was represented during the 2019 GORP meeting in St. Louis by Dr. Nicholas Barone who shared a presentation to residents and answered questions on board

certification. In addition, tours of the ABO Examination Center were provided along with participation in an interactive, competitive game of “Steady Hands”. The 2020 GORP meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19.

### **ABO at 2020 AAO Annual Session:**

### **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. Jae 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 now be honored during a special event held during the 2021 AAO Annual Session.

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.