

## AMERICAN BOARD OF ORTHODONTICS (ABO)

### ABO Yearly Update:

- **Clinical Exam Update:** The ABO conducted Clinical Examinations in February and November 2020. A total of 706 examinees were certified or recertified between January 1, 2020 and February 1, 2021. A complete listing of names by constituency is located on the [ABO website](#). The ABO currently represents 49 percent of AAO membership.

The February 2020 Clinical Examination was held in St. Louis in the Scenario-based Oral Clinical Examination format. However, in response to safety requirements recommended by the CDC due to COVID-19, an alternative testing option for the Clinical Examination was identified and announced in July 2020. The July 2020 Clinical Examination was cancelled, with examinees having the opportunity to reschedule to a future examination.

Beginning with the November 2020 Clinical Examination and for 2021 Clinical Exams scheduled in February, July and November, the examinations now take place at Scantron testing centers worldwide. Travel to St. Louis will not be required. The examination 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. Exams will continue to be scored by multiple ABO examiners to ensure accuracy and consistency for each exam section.

To-date, all future examinations are full with wait-lists, with the exception of the November 2021 date, which is currently open. Complete details regarding the Clinical Examination, study materials and how to prepare can be found on the [ABO website](#).

- **Certification Renewal:** Certification renewal is an important component of the board certification process, requiring ongoing proficiency in orthodontics and a commitment to life-long learning. In order to maintain an active board certification status, certification renewal is required every 10 years. Individuals may register for this exam up to two years prior to their expiration date. Please view this [Motion Graphic Video](#) created to outline the certification renewal process. Additional details and requirements for completing this examination are located on the [ABO website](#).

- **Written Examination Update:** The ABO Written Examination was administered to 409 examinees throughout the United States and Canada on June 5 and 6, 2020. The reliability of the exam was 87% with a 99% pass rate.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the original April 7, 2020 testing date was rescheduled and the exam format conducted through a live, online-proctored test, administered through Scantron/Examity. This change allowed examinees to complete the exam from their personal computer with strict security measures in place.

Registration for the next Written Examination closed on January 22, 2021. The exam is scheduled on April 6, 2021 at Scantron Testing Centers throughout the United States and Canada. Examination eligibility requirements and exam resources can be found on the [ABO website](#). An important reminder that once the Written Examination is successfully completed, it never expires and does not need to be retaken.

- **The College:** Due to COVID-19, the College cancelled in-person prep courses for the ABO Scenario-based Clinical Exams. Virtual presentations are being considered with the next in-person prep course being offered during the 2021 AAO Annual Session in Boston, pending COVID-19 restrictions. The ABO and College continue to collaborate to ensure all CODA accredited orthodontic programs in the United States and Canada have at least one assigned volunteer advocate to promote board certification.
- **GORP:** GORP 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19. Plans are underway for ABO's participation during the 2021 event.
- **WFO:** ABO directors were invited to present at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Orthodontic Congress 2020 meeting, originally scheduled in Yokohama, Japan, however, the physical meeting was cancelled and held virtually. In response, the ABO directors participated in the virtual meeting and presented information on board certification. Additionally, the ABO directors submitted an article for inclusion in the *Journal of the WFO*, titled *Introduction to the American Board of Orthodontics Scenario-based Clinical Examination*.

### **Educational Update:**

The ABO continues to develop study materials to assist in preparing for the Scenario-based Clinical Examination, which include a study guide, sample cases, and videos. Additionally, the ABO is working closely with examiners and orthodontic program

educators requesting their feedback and assistance with the new exam format and item writing process.

ABO advocates continue to be appointed for each orthodontic program as a resource to residents interested in additional information on board certification.

To add value to board certified orthodontists, the ABO is proud to introduce an orthodontic specialty video on the importance of using a specialist. This professionally created video was developed specifically for board certified orthodontists to feature in lobby or patient waiting areas, on websites and social channels and during patient consultations. The ABO continues to offer online educational materials to allow board certified orthodontists to speak in a unified voice to include an Educational Toolkit, Brand Standards Guide, sample website wording, press release, pathway graphic, window clings, and consumer brochure. Board certified orthodontists also have access to a personal, online dashboard, where enhanced software allows for improved functionality on the ABO website to include, an orthodontist locator with the ability to list multiple offices, user-specific dashboard notifications, print complimentary verification letter and track personal CE credit hours.

The ABO's April 2020 Educators Symposium, *The Change is Here – Are You on Board?*, honoring Dr. **Katherine Vig**, was cancelled due to COVID-19. In lieu of the physical meeting in St. Louis, a PowerPoint presentation with important examination information and updates was distributed to Department Chairs and Program Directors of CODA accredited orthodontic programs in the United States and Canada. The ABO will announce plans to reschedule the symposium in the fall of 2021.

Complimentary ABO measuring gauges were distributed to first-year residents at requesting CODA accredited orthodontic programs.

In preparation for the AAO's 2021 Annual Session, the ABO plans to again host an Educator/Advocate Workshop as well as an ABO Open House/Info Session to share updates, answer questions and provide educational information on the Written and Clinical Examinations. In addition, the ABO will have an informational booth located in the Convention Center to provide information on the board certification process.

#### **ABO Award Recognition:**

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 AAO Annual Session, the award ceremonies honoring the 2020 recipients could not take place. Therefore, these individuals will be recognized during the 2021 Annual Session in Boston during a newly established ABO Awards Night. No additional award recipients will be identified for 2021.

The following 2020 ABO award recipients who will be recognized in 2021 include:

- Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award: Dr. **Rolf G. 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**

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

**ABO Directors 2020-2021:**

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 H. Park**, Director, representing the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists

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

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

**Patrick Foley**

St Louis, Missouri