

The American Board of Orthodontics 2021 Constituency Report

May 2021 *(Revised 5.11.21)*

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.

ABO Yearly Update:

Clinical Examination Update:

- The ABO conducted Clinical Examinations in February and November 2020 and February 2021. The originally scheduled July 2020 Clinical Examination was cancelled due to COVID-19 with examinees having the opportunity to transfer to future examination dates. A total of 503 examinees were certified or recertified during the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020 and the 1st quarter of 2021, including the November 2020 Scenario-based Clinical Examination. A total of 288 examinees were certified or recertified during the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2021, including the February 2021 Scenario-based Clinical Examination. Listings by constituency for all examinations are located on the [ABO website](#).

Additional examinations in 2021 will be administered in July and November. Registration for both the February and October 2022 Clinical Examinations will open on June 2, 2021.

Interest and demand in the Scenario-based Clinical Examination continues to be solid with most examinations reaching full capacity. Examinations take place at Scantron testing centers worldwide with travel to St. Louis no longer required. Examination components and testing criteria have not changed with the only accommodation made on how answers are submitted. The examinations continue to be scored by multiple ABO examiners.

Study guides, sample cases and preparation materials are continuously updated as valuable resources for those wanting to take the examination and are located on the [ABO website](#). Complete details on how to register for upcoming exams can also be found on the website.

The ABO is proud to announce that board certified orthodontists now represent 54% of AAO membership.

Certification Renewal:

- The ABO continues to focus on board certified orthodontists whose certification is scheduled to expire within the next 3 years. Emails, letters and creative mailed pieces will be distributed throughout the year as a reminder to recertify. Certification Renewal is required every 10 years to maintain an active board certification status and may be started no earlier than 36 months prior to the expiration date printed on the individual's certification. Two options are available to include completion of one online Board Case Examination or a Mail-In Case Report Examination; both options also require the completion of continuing education credits from four online AJODO examinations. Please view this [motion graphic video](#) which briefly outlines the examination components and why renewal is important. Additional information may also be found on the [ABO website](#).

Written Examination Update:

- The ABO Written Examination was administered to 408 examinees on April 6, 2021 at Scantron testing centers in the United States and Canada. The ABO Written Examination is a comprehensive exam that assesses the examinee's knowledge of basic sciences and clinical concepts based on criterion-referenced testing. The examination is composed of 240 multiple-choice questions on subject areas outlined by CODA divided into 4 modules. An important reminder once this examination is successfully completed, it does not expire. Requirements, eligibility and examination resources are all located on the [ABO website](#).

Educational Update:

- The ABO will conduct a July 2021 Item Writing Session in St. Louis where guest item writers will be tasked to build questions and answers for upcoming Scenario-based Clinical Examinations.
- The ABO is pleased to introduce a new video, [It Takes A Specialist](#), on the importance of using a specialist. This resource was designed exclusively for use by board certified orthodontists for placement on their website, social channels, office lobby or patient waiting areas. In addition, we are working to expand this campaign with additional materials to compliment the video and its' message. We are also honored to share the video with the World Federation of Orthodontists (WFO) for inclusion on their website.
- ABO educational toolkit materials are updated as needed as an online resource for board certified orthodontists. A convenient link is now located on personalized dashboards for easier access.
- The ABO is working to upgrade their website to improve functionality and overall user experience.
- The ABO has again requested an unmanned tabletop display for board certification materials at the individual constituency Annual Session meetings.

- Complimentary ABO measuring gauges for incoming residents will be 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, originally scheduled on April 18, 2020, has been rescheduled. The symposium will now take place on Saturday, October 30, 2021, in St. Louis, Missouri. A welcome dinner will take place the evening of Friday, October 29. Orthodontic department chairs, program directors and ABO-appointed advocates along with AAO trustees, CDABO council and ABO emeriti will be invited to attend. Space will be limited, however, a virtual component of the event will be available to invited guests unable to attend.

The College:

- The College of Diplomates (CDABO) continues to offer prep courses on how to prepare for the ABO Scenario-based Clinical Examination. For information on these courses, please contact the [College](#). In addition, the College continues to oversee the administrative organization of the ABO advocacy program to encourage certification at orthodontic residency programs.

GORP:

- The ABO again looks forward to participating in the 2021 GORP meeting in St. Louis, MO. Dr. David Sabott will provide information on board certification to the residents and ABO staff will also be on hand for questions.

2020-2021 ABO Directors:

- The [ABO Directors](#) for the 2021-2022 year are as follows:
Dr. David Sabott, President, representing the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists
Dr. Patrick Foley, President-Elect, representing the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists
Dr. Timothy Trulove, Secretary-Treasurer, 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, Director, representing the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists
Dr. P. Emile Rossouw, Director, representing the Northeastern Society of Orthodontists
Dr. Valmy Kulbersh, Immediate Past-President, representing the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists

The AAO House of Delegates confirmed Dr. Anthony Puntillo as the new 2021-2022 ABO Director representing the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists. Please view the announcement [HERE](#).

- Due to the multiple cancellations to recognize the ABO 2020-2021 award recipients, the ABO is pleased to announce awards will be presented during the rescheduled Educator's Symposium dinner on Friday, October 29, 2021 in St. Louis, MO. Congratulations to these deserving individuals:
 - Dr. Rolf G. Behrents – Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award
 - Dr. Carla Evans - Dale B. Wade Award of Excellence in Orthodontics
 - Dr. Perry Opin - Earl E. and Wilma S. Shepard Distinguished Service Award
 - Dr. John Kanyusik - O.B. Vaughan Special Recognition Award

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