

**The American Board of Orthodontics**  
**Interim Constituency Report**  
*January 2022 (Rev. 1.27.22)*

**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 Examination Update:**

- **Scenario-based Clinical Examination:** The ABO conducted 2021 Scenario-based Clinical Examinations in February, July and November at testing centers worldwide. A total of 946 examinees were certified/recertified during the year. Listings by constituency for all examinations are located on the [ABO website](#).

Examination dates for the 2022 Clinical Exams are posted on the ABO website with registration open until full. Examinations will be administered at Pearson Vue Testing Centers Worldwide. Travel to St. Louis is no longer required.

Orthodontists taking the examination are objectively tested on their knowledge, skills and critical thinking abilities. The exam format utilizes the most fair, reliable and valid testing methodology. Exams are scored by multiple ABO examiners to ensure accuracy and consistency for each exam section.

Preparation materials for the examination are continuously reviewed and updated on the ABO website to include study guide with sample cases. Tools previously developed by the ABO for outcome assessments continue to be important when preparing for the examination, as is clinical self-evaluation. Many orthodontic programs hold mock board exams and welcome advocacy visits where critical thinking skills are stressed in preparing for the exam. The ABO works closely with examiners and orthodontic program educators, requesting their feedback and assistance with the new exam format and item writing process.

Following a field study with ABO examiners and examinees on software functionality, the ABO announced electronic Cast Radiograph Evaluation (e-CRE) available as an assessment tool through Ortho Share 3D. The practice software is available free of charge by utilizing the link on the ABO website, completing registration information and submitting a license agreement to access the software. Sample cases are uploaded in the software to include instructional videos. Additional cases will be added in the future.

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

- **Certification Renewal:** In order to maintain an active board status, Certification Renewal is required every 10 years (unless Lifetime certification is in place). The process may be started no earlier than 36 months prior to the expiration date printed on the board-certified orthodontist's certificate. Two options in completing the examination are offered, with both requiring the completion of an AJODO continuing education

component. Voluntary Certification Renewal is encouraged for all Lifetime board certified orthodontists.

A study guide for the examination is located on the ABO website along with a Motion Graphic Video summarizing the Certification Renewal process. Certification Renewal demonstrates a board certified orthodontist's commitment to lifelong learning and personal dedication to excellence.

- **Written Examination Update:** Registration for the April 5, 2022, ABO Written Examination is closed. The examination will be administered at Pearson Vue Centers throughout the United States and Canada. Once the examination is successfully completed, it does not expire.

The Written Examination assesses the examinee's knowledge of basic sciences and clinical concepts based on criterion-referenced testing. The exam is composed of 240 multiple-choice questions on subject areas outlined by CODA and divided into four modules. A Reading List to assist in preparing for the examination is located on the ABO website.

### **Educational Update:**

- The ABO held the October 2021 ABO Educators Symposium in St. Louis, Missouri with approximately 75 guests in attendance. Orthodontic department chairs, program directors, faculty, ABO-appointed advocates and emeriti, along with AAO Trustees and CDABO Councilors were in attendance. The symposium titled "*The Change is Here – Are You on Board?*" was held in honor of Dr. Katherine Vig. A virtual component of the event was available to those unable to physically attend.
- The ABO website has been updated to include an improved user experience and new look. Easier access to materials, elevated experience for mobile devices and an improved orthodontist locator tool are some of the updated features.
- The ABO's *It Takes a Specialist* video campaign has been expanded to include a digital toolkit for use by board certified orthodontists to inform the public of the importance of using an orthodontic specialist. By logging into their personal dashboard, the orthodontist can access the custom video along with digital images for use on websites, social channels and in office areas. The campaign video has also been shared with the WFO for placement on their website.

Other resources available in the online Educational Toolkit include Brand Standards Guide, sample website wording, sample press release, pathway graphic, window clings, consumer brochure and patient/staff materials. Board certified orthodontists also have access to a personal, online dashboard with enhanced software to include an orthodontist locator with the ability to list multiple offices, user-specific dashboard notifications, ability to print a complimentary verification letter and track personal CE credit hours.

- ABO directors attended their individual 2021 Annual Constituency Meetings. Tabletop displays showcasing board certification materials were available.
- The ABO distributed complimentary measuring gauges for incoming residents to requesting CODA-accredited orthodontic programs.

- The ABO and College continue to work together to ensure all CODA accredited orthodontic programs in the United States and Canada have at least one assigned volunteer advocate to promote board certification and to ensure all advocacy educational materials are current.
- During the 2022 AAO Annual Session in Miami Beach, the ABO will host an Educator/Advocate Workshop as well as an Open House/Info Session for meeting attendees interested in learning more about board certification. An ABO informational booth will also be located within the Exhibit Hall.

### **ABO Award Recognition:**

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 AAO Annual Session meeting, the 2020 ABO award recipients were not formally acknowledged. Therefore, a ceremony to honor these deserving individuals will take place during the 2022 AAO Annual Session in Miami Beach during the ABO Awards Night.

The following 2020 ABO award recipients will be recognized in 2022. Congratulations!

- 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.