



American Board
of Family Medicine

ABFM UPDATE FOR THE FAMILY MEDICINE WORKING PARTY

The ABFM Board of Directors met in Lexington in October for their Interim Meeting, during which they interviewed the final two candidates for the position of President and Chief Executive Officer. Over the course of the past 12 months, a search committee chaired by current Board Chair Elizabeth Baxley reviewed the dossiers of 37 candidates who initially applied to become the next President and Chief Executive Officer of the ABFM. From this pool, eight candidates were interviewed in June from which four were selected to interview with senior executives and staff in Lexington this past summer. The final two candidates were then selected to interview with the full Board of Directors in October. The Board of Directors selected Dr. Warren Newton as the new President/CEO Elect, and he will begin at the ABFM on July 1, 2018 to begin the transition with Dr. Puffer until Dr. Puffer's retirement on December 31, 2018. Dr. Newton will join ABFM senior staff in Scottsdale to attend this Working Party Meeting.

As this report is written, we are preparing to deliver the results of the November examination. Just over 400 initial certification candidates, mostly residents graduating off cycle, were approved to sit for the exam, and another 3200 continuing certification candidates were approved. A total of 4184 candidates have applied for the primary (Family Medicine) examination with another 124 applications for the Sports Medicine examination; about 3600 candidates sat for one of these two exams examinations. These numbers are very consistent with our historical registration rates for the November examinations.

Participation in our new Continuous Knowledge Self-Assessment (CKSA) activity, which we rolled out at the beginning of the year, continues to be a tremendous success. We had close to 8,000 early adopters participate during the first quarter, over 9000 participated in the second quarter and over 12,000 in the third quarter. At the time that this report is being written, over 14,000 are participating in the fourth quarter, and over 12,000 have completed the questions. The phone app was introduced in July and has received very favorable reviews by those that are using it. In response to feedback, we eliminated the need to indicate whether each question was answered with assistance, and we have added a feature that provides the participant with information about the difficulty of the question. This assessment tool was made available to residents in July, and we have seen increasing participation from them in the last two quarters of the year. Those participants that participated in all four quarters, answering 100 questions, will receive a detailed score report near the end of January along with an indication of their probability of passing the Family Medicine Certification Examination if they were to take it at this time.

The concept of an independent assessment of the value of board certification, proposed at the June American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Board of Directors meeting, has matured

significantly over the summer. Originally, it was envisioned that this review would be undertaken by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). Current ABMS leadership met with Victor Dzau, current President of the Academy, earlier this summer, and the merits and limitations of this study being conducted by the NAM were discussed. After considerable

ABFM Update December 2017

reflection, ABMS has decided not to engage the NAM, but to create a special commission to conduct the assessment. The process by which the commission will be created was approved by the ABMS Board of Directors in late September, and a planning committee is in the process of selecting the members of the commission.

Our proposal to create a limited eligibility window for the certification of osteopathic family physicians by the ABFM was reviewed and unanimously approved by the ABMS Committee on Certification (COCERT) at their September meeting. This limited eligibility window, beginning on January 1, 2018 and running for five years until December 31, 2022, will allow any osteopath that has completed three years of training in an AOA accredited Family Medicine Residency Program or an AOA program that has received ACGME accreditation or pre-accreditation status to become eligible to apply for certification by the ABFM. This will essentially allow osteopathic family physicians the opportunity to become ABFM certified and thus eligible for entry into any of the six ACGME subspecialty fellowship programs (Adolescent Medicine, Geriatrics, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Pain Medicine, Sleep Medicine, and Sports Medicine) for which ABFM issues subspecialty certificates. Without this approved eligibility window, osteopathic trainees would have been ineligible to apply for any of these ACGME accredited fellowship programs.

Participation in our registry, PRIME, continues to increase. We have over 1200 practices and 4000 clinicians currently participating in the registry in every state but one. Approximately 85 practices are joining PRIME every month. We continue our excellent working relationship with FIGmd, our technology vendor and partner, which has done fantastic work on our new Performance Improvement platform that was launched earlier in October. This new platform will replace our Performance in Practice Modules, and it will accommodate seamless data entry from PRIME as well as manual entry of data from those not participating in PRIME.

The Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors (AFMRD) has identified 10 residency programs that we will assist in connecting with PRIME. These 10 programs will be offered the opportunity to participate for free and will provide valuable feedback to us about the use of the registry in residency training; the utility of the new Performance Improvement platform in facilitating quality improvement within the training program; and when introduced later this year, the benefits of our new Population Health Assessment Engine and its accompanying curriculum in teaching residents about population health.

Work with the University of Missouri team that is performing our Population Health Assessment Engine build continues. Contractual arrangements were finalized last April, and they have been working closely with us and FIGmd on the build out of the tool and its eventual integration into

PRIME. Similarly, a contract with the Robert Graham Center has provided assistance in the development of the population health curriculum that will be paired with the new population health tool.

ABFM Update December 2017

We received notification in September that we have become certified as a Quasi Qualified Entity (Quasi QE) that can receive data from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This will allow us to receive claims data to wed with our registry data to further inform participants about the quality and cost of care they are providing as well as for use by our research team.

The National Academy of Medicine (NAM), formerly the Institute of Medicine (IOM), announced that Tammy Chang, M.D., M.P.H., M.S. was selected as the James C. Puffer, M.D.-ABFM Fellow at the NAM for 2017-2019 at their Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. in October. Dr. Chang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Michigan with a deep interest in understanding the needs and perspectives of at-risk use youth. She is the recipient of an NIH Career Development Award to study how to effectively use social media to communicate with at-risk teen mothers to prevent obesity in them and their children. After her introduction at the NAM Annual Meeting, she completed her orientation two weeks later and joined Sean Lucan, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., our current 2016-2018 Fellow at the NAM.