

# ABAI Update



**Program Directors Assembly  
Winter Meeting January 8, 2022**

**Michael R. Nelson, MD, PhD**  
**President, ABAI**

# Disclosures

- No financial disclosures

*View expressed are my own on behalf of ABAI and not representative of ABMS or UVA*



# Outline

- **ABAI 2021**
- Certification Update
  - 2021 Exam
  - New Blueprint
  - PD Responsibilities
- Faculty Development
  - CAP Update
  - PD/APD/Faculty Part IV opportunities



# ABAI Mission

*Improve the quality of medical care by the development and utilization of professional and educational standards for the initial certification and Maintenance of Certification of physician specialists in allergy/immunology*



# American Board of Allergy and Immunology

## Directors

- Leonard Bacharier, MD (Outgoing Chair)
- Mariana Castells MD, PhD
- Luz Fonacier, MD (Chair)
- Ramsey Fuleihan, MD
- Mitchell Grayson, MD (Treasurer)
- Corinne Keet, MD, MS, PhD
- Mitchell Lester, MD
- Jay Lieberman, MD
- Aidan Long, MD
- Giselle Mosnaim, MD, MS
- Anna Nowak-Wegrzyn, MD, PhD (Vice Chair)
- Princess Ogbogu, MD (Vice Chair Elect)
- Wanda Phipatanakul, MD, MS (Secretary)
- S. Romi Saini, MD
- Jeffrey Stokes, MD
- Michael Swarzman, MBA\* (Public Member)
- Dana Wallace, MD

## Test Writing Committee

- Prescott Atkinson, MD, PhD
- Stuart Abramson, MD, PhD
- Mark Corbett, MD
- Mary Beth Fasano, MD
- John James, MD
- Jay Lieberman, MD
- John Oppenheimer, MD
- Stokes Peebles, MD
- Scott Sicherer, MD
- Dana Wallace, MD

## Staff

- Michael Nelson, MD, PhD
- Chelsey Williams
- Anthony Brewer
- Gina Capozzoli
- Rayne Harrison
- Cecilia MacCormack
- William Thompson, MS
- Brianna Wilkins

(Larry Vapniarek, MBA)\*

## Liaisons

- ABIM- John Oppenheimer, MD
- ABP- Mary Beth Fasano, MD, MSPH

## Completed term in 2020

- Theodore Freeman, MD
- Kathleen May, MD

## Completing term in 2021

- Leonard Bacharier, MD
- Luz Fonacier, MD
- Michael Swarzman, MBA

## Incoming 2022

- Harold Hoffman, MD
- Theresa Bingemann, MD
- Emily Jakacki, MScEd



# ABAI Strategic Plan 2021-2026

- **Strategic Goal #1**

- Enhance communication with and responsiveness to input from all stakeholders

- **Strategic Goal #2**

- Study, build and share ABAI value in collaboration with the American Board of Medical Specialties, our sponsoring Boards (American Board of Internal Medicine, American Board of Pediatrics) and our collaborating societies

- **Strategic Goal #3**

- Support diplomates and the public by ensuring ABAI governance, infrastructure and programs adapt to meet the evolving needs and circumstances of the diverse patients and diplomates in the specialty of allergy and immunology



# ABAI COVID-19 Response: Initial Certification

- Option to defer 2020 cert exam to 2021 (w/o reapplication or added fee)
- Extended 2020 exam window for completion of the 2020 certification exam
- Assisted candidates with Pearson VUE scheduling
- One-time ↑ from 8 to 10 wks for max time away for 2020 & **2021 grads**
- Supported COVID-19 education & activities inclusion in fellowship curricula
- Extend board eligibility from 7 to 8 yrs for 2020 candidates (clock not reset)
- **Accepting case by case exception requests for missing requirements**



# ABAI COVID-19 Response: Continuing Certification

- Extended 2020 certificate expiration date to 12/31/2021
- Extended deadline for all MOC requirements (Parts I-IV) due in 2020 to 12/31/2021
- Extended CAP 2020-Block 1 from 7/15/20 to 1/15/21 (cancelled CAP 2020-Block 2)
- Extended 2020 MOC annual fee deadline to 12/31/2021 without penalty
- Updated web page with links to specialty & national pandemic resources
- Providing expedited certification status confirmation to credentialing bodies
- COVID 19 practice improvement activities eligible for part IV attestation





# NEW: Fee Waiver for New Diplomates

- Feedback from FITs and recent new diplomates
  - financial burden of maintenance fee entering practice
- Oct 2021 ABAI BOD meeting
  - Decision to waive 1<sup>st</sup> year in MOC annual fee for new diplomates
  - Automatically enrolled in MOC and expected to complete all annual & 5yr requirements



# ABAI 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



# ABAI in 2022

- New ABMS Standards review and implementation
- DEI initiatives
- Ambassador program launch
- Bylaws update
- Strategic Plan implementation
- Website & data management enhancements



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# Initial Certification

- Requirements
  - ABP or ABIM certification
  - ACGME accredited AI Fellowship
  - PD Evaluations
  - Letters of recommendation
  - Unrestricted license
  - Pass ABAI certification exam
- Initial certification window
  - 7 years following graduation
  - Meet all requirements
  - Unlimited exam attempts in window
- Regaining IC eligibility pathway
  - 1 year fellowship equiv. retraining
  - Meet all other requirements
  - 3 exam attempts
    - ITE & 50 CME for more attempts



# 2022 Certification Examination

- Exam Registration
  - Opened Jan 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Closes Apr 30<sup>th</sup> (late fee thru May 31<sup>st</sup>)
  - Cancellation Deadline Aug 30<sup>th</sup>
- Test Center Registration
  - Opens Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Pearson VUE Testing Centers
- Exam Administration Dates
  - Oct 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>
- Exam Results
  - Tentative release date Dec 1<sup>st</sup>



Items	225
Time	7hrs (2 sessions)
Location	Pearson Vue Test Center
Method	computer-based
Passing Score	predetermined
<u>Basic Science</u> *	25% (from 35%)
<u>Clinical Science</u> *	75% (from 65%)



# New Certification Exam Blueprint Effective for 2022 Exam

- Thanks to Blueprint committee & GME stakeholders
- Highlights:
  - Shift from ~65%/35% to 75% clinical/25% basic science
  - Fully aligned with CAP and CQE blueprints
  - Basic & clinical science categories now allergy/hypersensitivity & immunological disorders
  - Foundational knowledge expectations for allergic and immunologic basic science principles preserved
- Program impact
  - Minimal- Minor changes in percentages of major content areas
  - New emerging health priorities (e.g. disparity of care, opioid crisis, physician burnout & wellness)



# 2022 Certification Examination Blueprint

## A. Hypersensitivity Principles and Disorders (epidemiology, risk factors, clinical presentation, diagnosis and differential diagnosis, treatment/management, physiology/pathophysiology)

### 1. Head and neck

- a. Nasal (allergic and non-allergic rhinitis)
- b. Sinus (acute and chronic, NP, allergic fungal sinusitis)
- c. Ocular

### 2. Dermatologic

- a. Eczema/Atopic Dermatitis
- b. Contact Hypersensitivity
- c. Urticaria
- d. Angioedema (hereditary and acquired)

### 3. Lung – Asthma and related disorders

- a. Asthma
- b. Occupational diseases
- c. ABPA
- d. Hypersensitivity pneumonitis
- e. Eosinophilic granulomatous polyangiitis (CSS)
- f. COPD/ILD
- g. Acute & chronic clinical presentations (cough, dyspnea, wheezing) or Undiagnosed clinical presentations (cough, dyspnea, wheezing)

### 4. Food and Drug Allergy/Hypersensitivity Reactions (not including eosinophilic GI disease)

- a. IgE mediated food allergy
- b. Non-IgE mediated food allergy (not including eosinophilic GI disease)
- c. Drug Allergy/Hypersensitivity

### 5. Eosinophilic and Gastrointestinal Disorders

- a. Eosinophilic
- b. HES
- c. Others, including IBD, celiac

### 6. Mast Cell, Anaphylaxis and other Hypersensitivity Disorders

- a. Mast cell disorders
- b. Idiopathic anaphylaxis
- c. Exercise induced anaphylaxis
- d. Latex hypersensitivity
- e. Other hypersensitivity disorders

## B. Immune System Principles and Disorders (epidemiology, risk factors, clinical presentation, diagnosis and differential diagnosis, treatment/management, physiology/pathophysiology)

### 1. Immunodeficiencies

- a. SCID, CID
- b. Other T cell disorders
- c. Humoral – B cell disorders (hypogammaglobulinemia, antibody deficiencies)
- d. Phagocytic disorders
- e. Complement disorders
- f. TLR signaling pathways
- g. IL-12/IFN-gamma pathways
- h. Secondary immunodeficiencies
- i. Other immune dysregulation and immunodeficiencies

### 2. Immune Hypersensitivity Disorders

- a. Immune complex Disorders
- b. Autoimmune disorders (not including immunodeficiency related)
- c. Autoinflammatory (febrile) disorders
- d. Other aspects of immune-mediated inflammation (e.g., vaccination, immunotherapies for neoplasia)

### 3. Immune System & Research Principles

- a. Immune system development/normal immune system
- b. Cellular mechanisms of immune responses including cytokines and mediators
- c. Antibody structure and function
- d. Research principles

### 4. Non-specific pharmacology/therapeutics

### 5. Allergens/antigens (non-disease specific properties)

## C. New! Emerging National Health Priorities





# Certification Examination

Examination Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total # Candidates	153	180	178	171	163	174
% Pass – All Candidates	88%	82%	77%	80%	79%	82%
% Pass - First Time	91%	85%	89%	86%	86%	84%
% Pass - Repeaters	67%	64%	53%	66%	63%	73%
% Pass - Total	88%	81%	83%	83%	83%	81%



# Program Director Responsibilities

- Evaluations
  - Clinical competency every 6 months
  - Procedural skills assessment
  - Final evaluation (practice competently w/o direct supervision)
  - Portal e-signatures signify accuracy and review by the fellow
  - Retain copies for stakeholders (ABAI does not release)
  - Remediation plan for 2 consecutive (or final) unsatisfactory rating
- Inform graduates of 7yr board eligibility limit & MOC/CAP



# Program Director Exception Requests

- >2 mo absence from training (\*\*10wks 2020, 2021 grads)
- Completion of 24 curriculum months in >36 total months
- Off-cycle exam date window near misses



# Outline

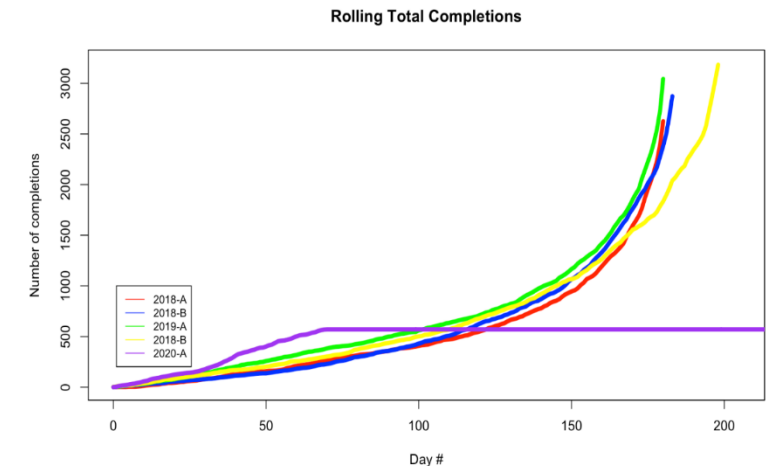
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# ABAI CAP

- **Average block score 93%**
- **Diplomate feedback & satisfaction**
  - Content relevant to my practice
    - 91% strongly agree or agree
  - Helped Identify Knowledge/Practice Gaps
    - 83% strongly agree or agree
  - Practice Changes Based on Knowledge Acquired
    - 63% strongly agree or agree

Block	Core Questions	Article-Based Questions
2018A	1 min 34 sec	1 min 20 sec
2018B	1 min 47 sec	1 min 2 sec
2019A	1 min 20 sec	1 min 23 sec
2019B	1 min 34 sec	1 min 6 sec



High ratings for relevancy & promoting practice changes



# CAP Progress Meter

Accessible from two places

## Maintenance of Certification

[Certificate](#)

[CME Credits](#)

[NEW! Continuous Assessment Program \(CAP\) Pilot](#)

[Your CAP Progress Meter](#)

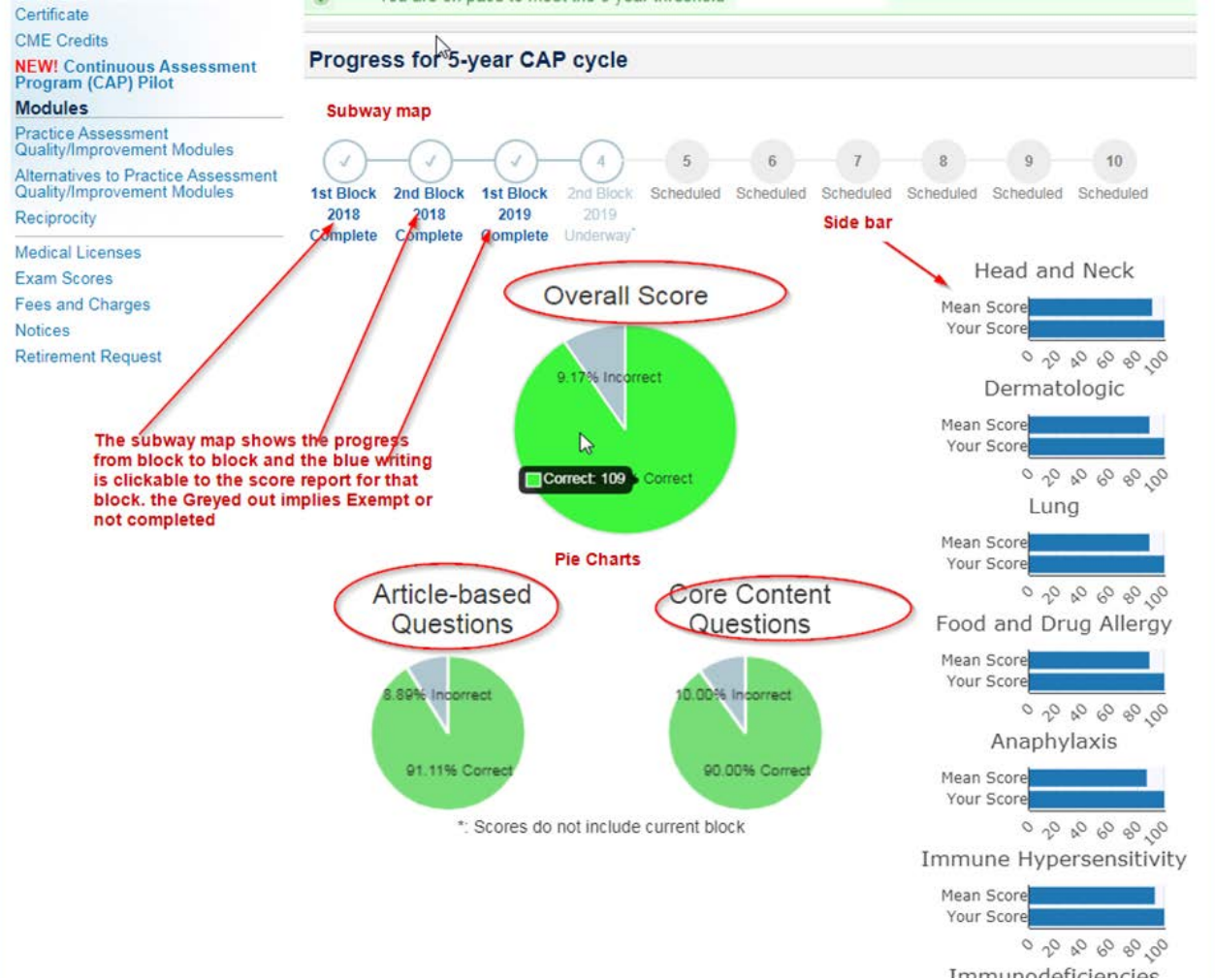
[Modules](#)

Please complete all questions by 11:59pm EST January 14, 2020 to satisfy your CAP requirements

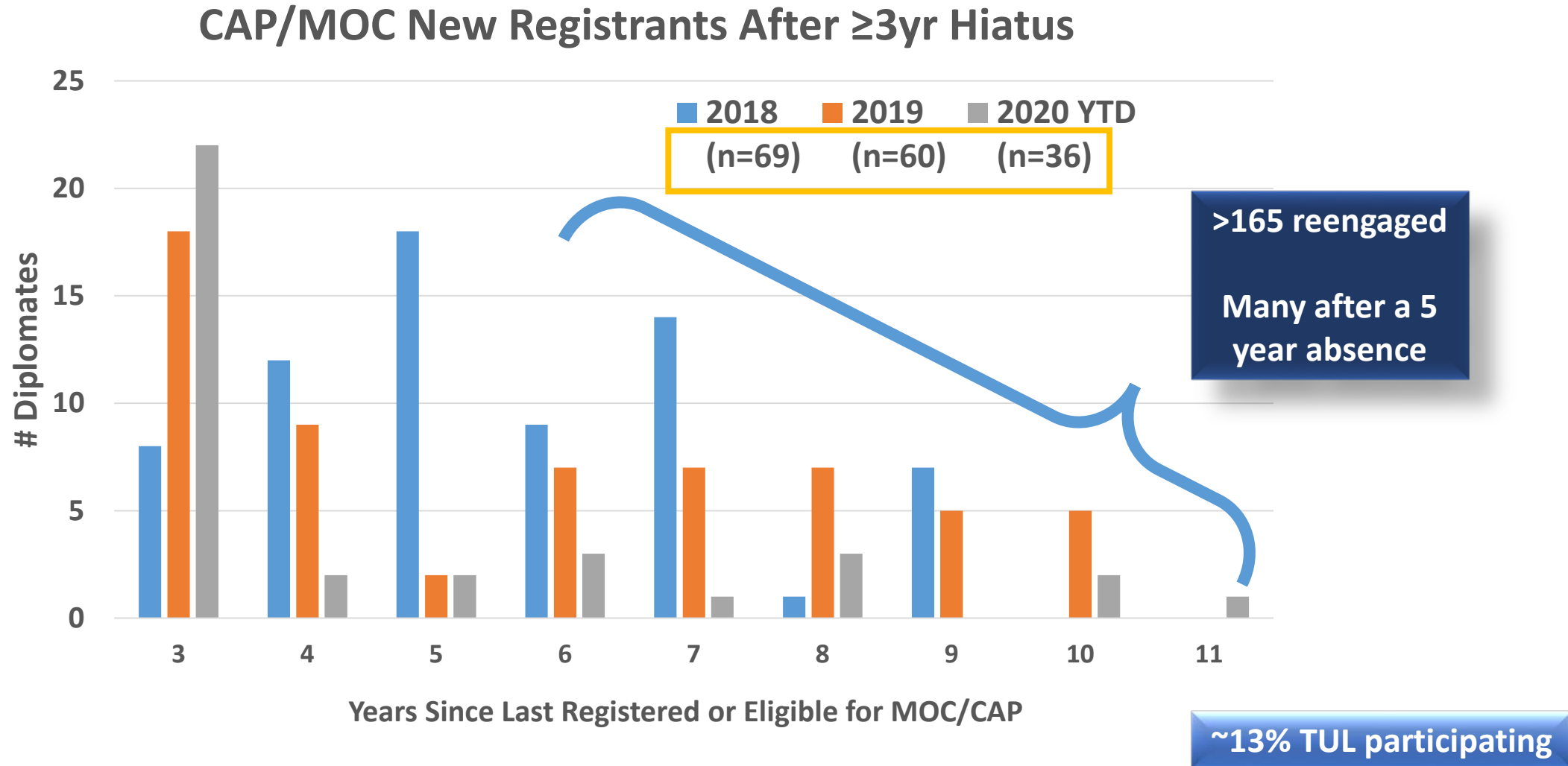
[Click here to begin Continuous Assessment Program \(CAP\) Pilot](#)

[Click here to see your CAP scores](#)

[Your CAP Progress Meter](#)



# CAP is Bringing ABAI Diplomates Back into CC/MOC



# MOC/IHHC

## Part IV

### About MOC

Requirements

MOC Frequently Asked Questions

Reciprocal Credit with ABP & ABIM

MOC Core Competencies

Fees & Payment

### MOC Process

Part I: Professional Standing

Part II: Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment

CME Credit

Part III: Cognitive Expertise

Continuous Qualification Exam (CQE)

CAP Frequently Asked Questions

CAP Re-Entry Pathway

Part IV: Quality Improvement

## Part IV: Practice Assessment / Quality Improvement

### ABAI Quality Improvement Program

A practice assessment/quality improvement activity must be completed once every five years to help the physician investigate and evaluate their patient care practices, appraise and assimilate scientific evidence and improve their practice of medicine (MOC Part IV).

### Practice Assessment/Quality Improvement Activities

A practice assessment/quality improvement activity must be completed once every five years to help the physician investigate and evaluate their patient care practices, appraise and assimilate scientific evidence and improve their practice of medicine (MOC Part IV).

Diplomates will complete one of the following activity options in order to satisfy the Part IV requirement of MOC.

AAAAI Internet Point-of-Care Learning 2021	▼
AAAAI QCDR (Quality Clinical Data Registry)	▼
ABAI Approved Activities	▼
Applying Choosing Wisely® Recommendations	▼
Atopic Dermatitis (AD)	▼
EQIPP: Immunizations	▼
EQIPP: Asthma	▼
Medical Home for Pediatric Primary Care (eQIPP)	▼
Providing Enhanced Medical Support for PID Patients	▼
Virtual Quality Improvement with Simulated Data: Performance Improvement Module	▼
Alternatives to Practice Assessment Quality/Improvement Modules	▼





# Part IV Alternatives

- **Development and Transmission of Knowledge**
  - Grant recipient of at least 3 years
  - Publication of QI article in a recognized peer reviewed journal
  - Publication of clinical trial in a recognized peer reviewed journal
  - **Publications of scholarly work that advances the field (at least 3 articles in a 5 year period)**
  - Editor, Associate Editor, Assistant Editor, editorial board member or reviewer for Annals, Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, JACI, JACI in Practice or JCI or other recognized peer reviewed journal pertinent to the specialty of Allergy and Immunology
  - **Reviewer of articles for Annals, Allergy Asthma and Immunology, JACI, JACI in Practice or other recognized peer reviewed journals (minimum 5 reviews in a 2 year period)**
  - **Service as ACGME accredited Allergy & Immunology training program director, training program key faculty or as a member of Training Program Clinical Evaluation Committee.**
- **Service for Self-Improvement**
  - **Academic advancement (i.e. Assistant Professor, Associate Professor)**
  - Participation in a program designed to prevent or ameliorate symptoms of professional burn-out
  - **Successful completion of a leadership program conducted by a recognized provider such as a national professional society (i.e. AAAAI, ACAAI, CIS, AAP, AMA), AAMC or academic institution.**



# Part IV Alternatives

- **ABAI Mentorship/Supervision Module**

- **Supervision of learners, staff, colleagues, tech or research support**

- **Service to the Profession**

- Leadership in national specialty society (i.e. AAAAI, ACAAI, CIS, AAP, and AMA)
- Service on program committee of national professional society (i.e. AAAAI, ACAAI, CIS, AAP, and AMA)
- Service as Chair/Vice Chair on a quality improvement committee (i.e. registry, measures) of a national allergy & immunology professional society (i.e. AAAAI, ACAAI, CIS, AAP, AMA)
- Grant reviewer for national professional society (i.e. AAAAI, ACAAI, CIS, AAP, AMA)
- Service in leadership role of a Regional, State or Local Allergy Society
- Service on the ACGME review committee for allergy and immunology, internal medicine or pediatrics

- **Service to Improve Safety and Patient Care**

- **Service on QI Committee of hospital, department or practice**
- **Service on root cause analysis (RCA) Committee**
- **Specific QI project/activity for hospital, department or practice**
- **Service on hospital, departmental or practice committee relevant to improved patient care or safety such as pharmacy and therapeutics, staff peer or other committee directed toward improvement of clinical services**
- **Leadership and/or regular participation in case conferences directed toward improved care**



# Part IV Alternative QI Committee

- Must have occurred within your current 5 year MOC cycle.
- Complete Request Form
- Active member on QI committee for at least 3 years
- Acknowledgement and Attestation Form must be completed by current Committee Chair
- **Upload supporting documentation by Oct 1 for credit that year**
- Incomplete requests may result in denial and need to reapply

Name of the committee?

Dates served on the committee:

From:

MM/DD/YYYY

To:

MM/DD/YYYY

What was your role on the committee?

What gaps in practice assessment/quality improvement have you addressed?

What did you learn from this experience?

What are your plans for future growth?

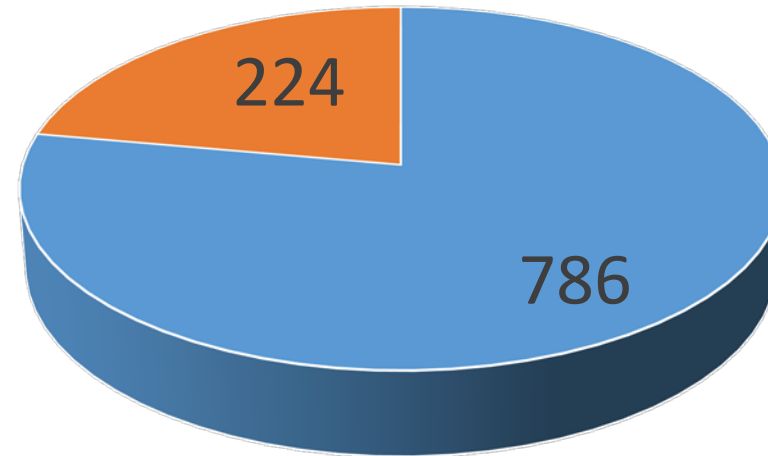
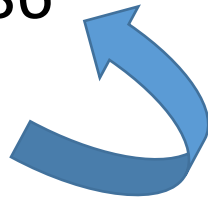
What barriers did you encounter or anticipate?

What challenges did you have to overcome?

[Click here to download](#) this Attestation Form, scan and upload using the button below.

# Alternatives to Practice Assessment Quality/Improvement Modules

- Total submissions - 1010
- Approved - 786
- Denied - 224



# Professional Development Opportunities: A/I Fellowship Program Leaders & Faculty

- **ABAI Board of Directors**
- **ABAI Test Writing Committee**
- **ABAI Ambassadors**
- **Pathways**
  - **Sponsors (BOD)**
  - **Self-nomination (all)**
- **TWC Members (2021 – 2023):**
  - Karla Adams
  - Jack Becker
  - Matthew Bell
  - David Bernstein
  - Jonathan Bernstein
  - Kanwaljit Brar
  - Scott Feldman
  - Neema Izadi
  - Michael Land
  - Cecilia Mikita
  - Lindsey Moore
  - Anil Nanda
  - Thanai Pongdee
  - Pavadee Poowuttikul
  - Christopher Randolph
  - Rebecca Scherzer



# Summary

- 2021 Exam performance similar to recent years
- New Blueprint
- New Strategic Plan
- Faculty Development Opportunities
- Key dates....



Date	Event
January 1	Cert (\$2650) & CQE (\$2600) <a href="#">Registration</a> Opens
January 15	CAP 2021 – Block 2 Closes
February 15	CAP 2022 – Block 1 Opens
April 15	CQE Registration Closed
April 30	Cert & CQE <a href="#">Registration</a> Deadline Before \$500 Late Fee
May 31	Cert & CQE <a href="#">Registration</a> Closed
July 15	CAP 2022 – Block 1 Closes
August 4	Approximate Registration <a href="#">Test Site</a> Opens for Cert
August 15	CAP 2022 – Block 2 Opens
August 31	Cert & CQE <a href="#">Cancellation</a> Deadline
September 22	Cert & CQE Application Documentation Due
September 29	Cert & CQE <a href="#">Exam</a> Start Date
October 3	Cert & CQE <a href="#">Exam</a> End Date
November 30	2021 Cert Exam Results Released
December 1	2021 CQE Results Released

# ABAI 2022 Calendar





**THANK YOU!**