

ABAI Update



**Program Directors Assembly
Winter Meeting January 11, 2025**

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

ABAI Mission

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



American Board of Allergy and Immunology

Directors

- Miguel Angel-Park, MD
- Priya Bansal, MD
- Jessica Beth Perkins, MD
- Theresa A Bingemann, MD
- Christina E. Ciaccio MD, MSc
- Jeffrey G. Demain MD
- Denise Diprimio-Kalman, DO
- Hal Hoffman, MD
- Emily Jakacki, MBA (Public Member)
- Mitchell Lester, MD (Chair)
- Jay Lieberman, MD (Vice Chair)
- Giselle Mosnaim, MD, MS
- Anil Nanda MD (Secretary)
- Princess Ogbogu, MD
- Jeffrey Stokes, MD
- Julie Wang, MD (Vice Chair Elect)
- Dana Wallace, MD (Treasurer)

Emeritus Directors

- John Oppenheimer, MD MSPH (ABIM Liaison);
- Leonard Bacharier, MD (ABMS 3C, TWC CoChair)
- Theodore Freeman, MD (TWC Chair)

Staff

- Michael Nelson, MD, PhD
- Chelsey Williams
- Anthony Brewer
- Gina Capozzoli
- Rayne Harrison
- Cecilia Walters
- William Thompson, MS
- Brianna Wilkins
- Shellie Salemi
- Larry Vapniarek, MBA (consultant)

Liaisons

- ABIM- John Oppenheimer, MD
- ABP- Jeffrey Stokes, MD
- ABMS 3C- Anna Nowak-Wegrzyn, MD

Completed term in 2023

- Mariana Castells MD, PhD
- Corinne A. Keet, MD, PhD
- Aidan A. Long, MD
- Wanda Phipatanakul, MD, MS

Completing term in 2024

- Emily Jakacki, MBA (elig 2nd term)

Incoming 2026

- Could be you.....



ABAI Ambassadors & Test Writing Committee

ABAI Ambassadors

- Andrew Abreo, MD
- Taha Al-Shaikhly, MBChB
- Barbara K. Ariue, MD
- Becky Buelow, MD, MS
- Lauren Fine, MD
- David I. Hong, MD
- David A. Kaufman, MD
- Fatima S. Khan, MD
- Reena Khianey, MD
- Nancy Wasserbauer Kingston, DO
- Samatha Knox, MD
- Stephanie A. Leeds, MD
- Marilyn Li, MD
- Mahboobeh Mahdavinia, MD, PhD
- Kelly M. Maples, MD
- Bernard SK. Ng, MD

- Milind V. Pansare, MD
- Perdita Permaul, MD
- Brooke I. Polk, MD
- Constantine K. Saadeh, MD
- Jonathan S. Tam, MD
- Teresa K. Tarrant, MD
- Jyothi I. Tirumalasetty, MD
- Katherine L. Tuttle, MD
- Shahab Virani, MD

ABAI Test Writing Committee

- Andrew Abreo, MD
- Karla E. Adams, MD
- Taha Al-Shaikhly, MBChB
- Matthew C. Bell, MD
- Katharine Fast, MD
- Scott Feldman, MD, PhD
- Luz Fonacier, MD
- Mitchell Grayson, MD
- Michael H. Land, MD
- Cecilia P. Mikita, MD, MPH
- Thanai Pongdee, MD
- Pavadee Poowuttikul, MD
- Constantine Saadeh, MD
- Rebecca Scherzer, MD
- Elizabeth Secord, MD
- Kelly Stone, MD, PhD
- Julie Wendt, MD



Outline

- ABAI Year in Review
- Certification Update
- Faculty Development



Outline

- **ABAI Year in Review**
- Certification Update
- Faculty Development



ABAI 2024 Year in Review

- **New diplomate welcome package and soft landing**
- **Time away from training policy**
- **ABMS Scholar sponsorship**
- **Diversity and inclusion initiatives**
 - Diplomate demographics (ongoing updates; initial data review)
 - Exam item removal of unnecessary gender/ethnicity/age in progress
 - BOD nomination RFA
 - Self-nomination pathway for board volunteer positions
 - ABMS DEI TF member
- **Fellow and non-ABAI certified faculty access to CAP**
 - <https://fellows.abai.org/admin>
- **ABMS substantial compliance with new standards**
- **Public Member reappointment to Board**
- **Automation enhancements**



Outline

- ABAI Year in Review
- **Certification Update**
- Faculty Development



New Certification Exam Blueprint in 2022

- 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)



Initial Certification Requirements

- Requirements
 - ABP or ABIM certification
 - ACGME accredited AI Fellowship
 - PD Evaluations
 - PD Competency attestation
 - 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



Certification Examination

Examination Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total # Candidates	178	171	163	176	181	182	176
% Pass - First Time	89%	86%	86%	84%	94%	94%	94%
% Pass - Repeaters	51%	71%	67%	71%	77%	70%	63%
% Total Pass Rate	81%	83%	83%	81%	91%	91%	90%

**Pending final candidate(s) & analysis*

55% Correct Raw Score to Pass in 2024



Certification Examination First Time Takers Pass Rates

Examination Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
All First Time	89%	86%	86%	84%	94%	94%	94%
ABIM Certified	90%	87%	84%	85%	98%	94%	91%
ABP Certified	88%	83%	89%	83%	89%	94%	89%
US/Canada grads	80%	86%	85%	85%	91%	93%	92%
International grads	88%	65%	78%	68%	89%	81%	79%



ABAI 2025 Certification Exam Important Dates

2025	
Application start date	01/01/2025
Application end date	05/31/2025
Application cancel deadline	08/31/2025
Application late fee start date	05/01/2025
Supporting documents due	09/22/2025
Exam window start date	09/30/2025
Exam window end date	10/04/2025
Exam site registration start date	08/04/2025
Exam Results Posted	12/01/2025



Program Director Responsibilities

- Evaluations
 - Clinical competency every 6 months
 - Procedural skills assessment
 - Final competency attestation
 - 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 & CC/CAP



Program Director Exception Requests

- Completion of 24 curriculum months in >36 total months
 - research pathways, extended leaves of absence
- >2 mo absence from training (10wks if parental leave)
- Off-cycle exam date (limited window for special circumstances)
- Combined training tracks
 - accelerated residency/fellowship pathway
 - dual fellowships

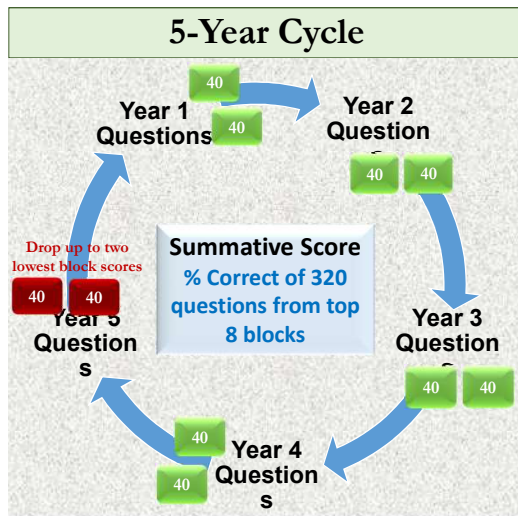


Outline

- ABAI Year in Review
- Certification Update
- **Faculty Development**



CAP Program Overview



Successful candidate

- Summative score of **≥80%** from top 8 blocks at end of each 5-year cycle

Unsuccessful candidate

- Unable to achieve 80% summative score
- Includes not participating (0 each block)
- Directed to re-entry pathway (Continuous Qualification Exam (CQE) re-entry exam)
- Unable to renew time limited certificate until reentry & all MOC requirements completed

Notes

- Blocks with no participation: Score of 0
- Answer all 40- denominator for each block is 40 no matter how many you complete
- Grace period/catchup: drop 2 lowest scoring or missed blocks within each 5-year summative cycle



CAP Faculty Development Reminders

- Download all articles for personal reference library
- Check progress meter frequently
- Reminder that 2 lowest scoring blocks dropped every 5 year cycle
- Encourage exploration of all topic areas
- Reduce stress by completing early/spreading out
- Take advantage of Part IV alternative credit...

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 Continuing Certification Program:


Practice Assessment/Quality Improvement (Improving Health & Healthcare)



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: To:

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.

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

- ABAI Board of Directors
- ABAI Test Writing Committee
- ABAI Ambassadors
- Pathways
 - Sponsors (AAAAI, ACAAI, AMA, AAP, CIS)
 - ABAI Director nomination
 - Self-nomination
- ABMS scholar & ABMS REF sponsored research



ABAI Ambassador Program

- Local and regional presentations to broad audiences
 - Diplomates, ABMS, state & specialty societies, training programs, credentialers, legislators, regulators, patients
- Reference body for ABAI initiatives and continuous program improvement
- Term
 - 2 years renewable
 - MOC fee waived if presents
- Application: self-nomination pathway annually



ABAI Test Writing Committee

- 16-18 board certified members meeting CC/MOC requirements
- Duties
 - Each block (twice per year)
 - Select 2-3 articles per assigned category
 - Write 5 questions per article
 - Write 3 core questions
- Term
 - 2 years renewable x1 at chair discretion based on TWC needs
 - CAP exemption during and for 2 years after term
- Application: self-nomination annually



ABAI Diplomate Research Opportunities

- ABMS Research & Education Foundation
- ABMS Visiting Scholars Program
- Partnering with ABAI

Certification outcomes
 Assessment
 CBME
 Diagnostic & clinical excellence
 Diversity & Inclusion
 ????



ABMS Scholar

- Year long program
 - Spring application/Sep start
 - 1 in person leadership meeting
 - Remain at host institution
- Self-selected research project & mentor
- Monthly virtual meetings
 - Peer & visiting scholar mentorship
- ABMS Annual Conference presentation of findings
- 2023: Tina Motazedj, Houston Methodist (PCN delabeling)
- 2024: ABAI sponsored first dedicated allergy position



ABMS REF Grant Opportunities

- **Certification Outcomes Research**
 - Grants of up to \$75,000 for up to 2 years (2024)
 - Examples: impact of board certification on public health and health care disparities; assessing and improving equity in assessment
- **Diagnostic Excellence Through Certification**
 - Three \$100,000 grants for up to 2 years (2024)
 - Priority for proposals that develop innovative systems of assessment or new measures and systems of measurement for diagnostic performance
- **2025 Program call for letters of intent (open now, NLT Jan 31)**
- For more information:

<https://www.abms.org/research-and-education-foundation/grants/>



Thank You!



2022 Certification Exam Performance by Category

Content Category	Annual Estimated Content %	Mean Standard Score
A. Allergy and Hypersensitivity Principles and Disorders	54%	
1. Head and neck	11%	474
2. Dermatologic	11%	475
3. Lung	11%	477
4. Food and Drug Allergy/Hypersensitivity Reactions	11%	473
5. Anaphylaxis and Mast Cell Activation Disorders	10%	477
B. Immunological Disorders	45%	
1. Immune Inflammatory Disorders	10%	478
2. Immunodeficiencies	16%	478
3. Eosinophilic and Gastrointestinal Disorders	6%	473
4. Immune system & Research Principles	9%	479
*5. Non-disease specific pharmacology/therapeutics	2%	472
*6. Allergens, Antigens and Extracts	2%	402
*C. Emerging Health Priorities	1%	NA

*<5% items

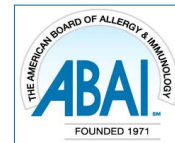


<https://abms.libguides.com/Home>



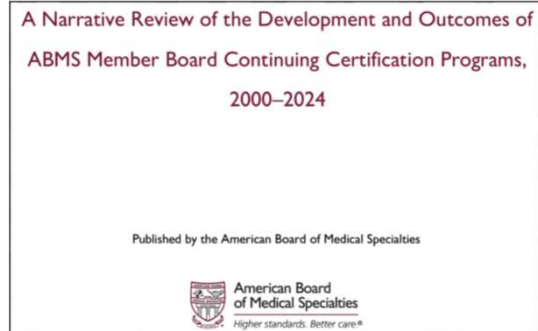
ABMS Continuing Certification Reference Center

The [ABMS Continuing Certification Reference Center](#) is an online, searchable resource that highlights literature relevant to ABMS Member Board certification and continuing certification. Provided by the [ABMS Research and Education Foundation](#), it is a dynamic database to which references and annotations are added as new studies, reviews, and commentaries are published.



Continuing Certification History & Outcomes

- Detailed narrative reviewing origins, history and evaluation of continuing certification programs
- 182 references



<https://www.abms.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/a-narrative-review-of-the-development-and-outcomes-of-abms-member-board-continuing-certification-programs-2000-2024.pdf>



ABMS Research and Education Foundation Research Priorities

- Diagnostic and prognostic excellence within and across specialties
- Adoption of competency-based medical education and assessments across certification programs
- Racial equity and diversity across the health care continuum
- Continuing certification programs impact on physician well-being
- Physician engagement in quality improvement and patient safety

