ABU Panel:
Roger R. Dmochowski, M.D. (President)
Douglas A. Husmann, M.D. (Vice President)
Eila C. Skinner, M.D. (President Elect)
Gary E. Lemack, M.D. (Secretary-Treasurer)
David B. Joseph, M.D. (Past President/LLL Chair)
J. Brantley Thrasher, M.D. (Executive Director)

Summary

I. Welcome/Introduction – Roger Dmochowski, M.D.

2020/2021 Board of Trustees – The Board spans all geographies of the United States and represents both private as well as academic urologists in practice. The ABU nominating organizations are the AUA, the AAGUS, the ACS, the AACU, the SPU, and the SAU.

Officers:
Roger R. Dmochowski, M.D. (President)
Nashville, TN
Douglas A. Husmann, M.D. (Vice President)
Rochester, MN
Eila C. Skinner, M.D. (President Elect)
Stanford, CA
Gary E. Lemack, M.D. (Secretary-Treasurer)
Dallas, TX

Trustees:
Christopher L. Amling, M.D.
Portland, OR
David B. Bock, M.D.
Overland, KS
Christopher J. Kane, M.D.
La Jolla, CA
Cheryl T. Lee, M.D.
Columbus, OH
James M. McKiernan, M.D.
New York, NY
Joel B. Nelson, M.D.
Pittsburgh, PA
Martha K. Terris, M.D.
August, GA
James Stuart Wolf, Jr, M.D.
Austin, TX
II. LLL Update – David Joseph, M.D.

The goals of continuing certification include support of lifelong learning, promoting Diplomate competency, improving standards of care, and providing public notification. Lifelong learning is continuously evolving in order to meet the standards set by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). ABMS standards are reviewed and modified periodically. Equally important is the feedback the Board receives from Diplomates. The Board of Trustees recognize that a computer-based exam can be time consuming and costly and that the current format lacks contemporary learning tools.

COVID-19 has induced the need for flexibility. As it stands now, the Lifelong Learning knowledge assessment is still scheduled for October. Should the COVID-19 situation deteriorate, the Board will make appropriate modifications. Many Diplomates have used the downtime to prepare and study. Pearson VUE has implemented several safety measures in accordance with government and local authorities. https://home.pearsonvue.com/coronavirus-update#health-and-safety. Diplomates uncomfortable testing at a Pearson VUE center should contact the Board office. Whereas completion at year 7 is encouraged, Diplomates can defer until year 8 or 9.

The current assessment is a knowledge, judgement, and skills (KJS) exam. It is a point-in-time exam given once every ten years. The ABU is one of the only member boards offering a low stakes exam (no-fail). Diplomates who perform inadequately are directed to CME remediation activities relating to areas of deficit. The Board recognizes that the current format presents disruption to clinical practice, personal lifestyle stress, and requires high security at Pearson VUE testing centers.

The ABU is working to develop a lifelong learning process of continuous, formative learning activities, while maintaining a low stakes method. The KJS exam will be offered in individualized learning environments preventing clinical practice disruption and allowing personal lifestyle integration. The ABU KJS trial will launch in 2021. The assessment will be based on a continuous 5-year cycle with alternating yearly activities (self-paced module question learning at years 1/3 and self-selected journal reviews at years 2/4). For individuals falling below standard, a knowledge gap assessment will be required leading to individualized CME education.

III. COVID-19 Adjustments – J. Brantley Thrasher, M.D.

ABU exams have a high level of validity and reliability. Significant time, effort, and cost go into the development of each question. Offering at home exams and/or remote proctored exams would jeopardize the security of ABU exam material. The ABU has implemented adjustments so that requirements can still be satisfied during the current pandemic.

- ABU office staff operating normal business hours despite working remotely since March 16th (reachable by phone 434/979-0059 or email staff@abu.org)
- Annual certificate fee deadline extension to July 1 without penalty
- Credit card processing fees waived
- CME remediation requirements available online
- LLL log submission deadline extension to May 15
- 2020 Qualifying (Part 1) Examination rescheduled from July 2020 to January 13/14, 2021
- Certifying (Part 2) Oral Exam adjustments in progress to allow social distancing and PPE
The ABU will continue to monitor the effects of COVID-19 on candidates and Diplomates. The ABU, ABMS, and the ACGME are collaborating in an effort to issue joint COVID-19 statements while working collectively. The ABU will continue to remain flexible during these trying times.

IV. Certifying (Part 2) Oral Exam Update – Gary Lemack, M.D.

The Certifying (Part 2) oral examination is a critical component of the certification process. Several aspects, including change in a clinical environment, communication skills, and professionalism, cannot be ascertained effectively on a written multiple-choice exam. Additionally, the practice log and complications narratives remain vitally important to certification. Presently, a face to face meeting with direct dialogue between an examiner and a candidate is the best means of accomplishing the goals of the certifying exam. Currently, the next oral exam is scheduled for Dallas in February of 2021. The Board of Trustees is vigilant of the necessity to minimize close contact and potential virus transmission. Candidate safety remains a foremost concern and measures will be instituted such that a safe, fair, and equitable examination can be delivered. ABU staff has already begun exploring means to alter the exam process in order to eliminate sequestering of candidates with every intent to minimize the exposure for both the candidates and examiners. As soon as details are finalized, ABU staff will communicate directly with candidates. The administration of the exam will adhere to all local and state safety requirements. Alternative oral exam administration options are being investigated.

The Trustees are aware of the case load influence COVID-19 has had. Practice logs, while reviewed individually, are compared to the class peer group. There is no systematic requirement for cases to enter the certification process and the reduction in cases and procedures attributable to the pandemic will not influence or impact ability to sit the certifying exam.

The Trustees are exploring options for future oral examinations, even outside the pandemic, in order to adjust and improve the oral exam experience. Skills assessments and other aspects more closely aligned to candidate practice are being researched.

V. Qualifying (Part 1) Exam Update – Douglas Husmann, M.D.

ABU Trustees surveyed alternatives for the Qualifying (Part 1) exam. Intertek Testing Services (ITS) was considered as a substitute to Pearson VUE however significant testing security concerns disallowed the option. Several factors were considered when selecting new QE dates to include residency culmination, relocation, practice establishment, urologic meetings, and COVID-19 distance. Sitting the QE in January 2021 will not affect Certifying (Part 2) eligibility.

Q&A Responses

- LLL level 1 and level 2 components will remain in the new KJS continuing certification model, less the exam
- The Annual Urologic Association will be modifying review courses based on current COVID-19 restrictions and schedule changes.
- LLL study materials include – Last 5 years of SASP (40% of questions), urology guidelines, and module topics (http://www.abu.org/lifelong-learning/lll-level-2/) – Core module material is covered in white papers on guidelines pertinent to the area of focus.
• The LLL pilot will require Diplomate participation in order to demonstrate success. Diplomates entering LLL level 2 at year 7 in 2021 will have the opportunity to elect enrollment in the pilot.
• If a resurge in COVID-19 occurs in the summer/fall, the ABU will make necessary arrangements to reschedule the October LLL exam with Pearson VUE. Extensions would be offered for those Diplomates in their last testing cycle.
• The Pediatric Urology Lifelong Learning exam is a low stakes exam. It is highly recommended that subspecialty certified Diplomates sit the exam at year 7 in order to allow time for potential remediation as pediatric urology CMEs are limited.
• LLL application components (to include practice log and complication narratives) will carry over to the next exam cycle.
• The ABU offers a retired status certificate for those Diplomates completely disengaged from patient care. [http://www.abu.org/retired-status/](http://www.abu.org/retired-status/)
• Scope and urologic focus are considered during log evaluation. Limited general urology exposure is expected of certain practices and/or subspecialists. A low bar threshold for case minimums exists, however, urologic academicians with low clinical volume will not be penalized.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID-19 Adjustments Highlight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABU office staff operating normal business hours despite working remotely since March 16th (reachable by phone 434/979-0059 or email <a href="mailto:staff@abu.org">staff@abu.org</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual certificate fee deadline extension to July 1 without penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit card processing fees waived</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CME remediation requirements available online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLL log submission deadline extension to May 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Qualifying (Part 1) Examination rescheduled from July 2020 to January 13/14, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certifying (Part 2) Oral Exam adjustments in progress to allow social distancing and PPE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>