

**American Board of Thoracic Surgery Report
to the
Thoracic Surgery Directors Association**

New MOC Part III Exam Format

The American Board of Thoracic Surgery received approval from the American Board of Medical Specialties to continue to offer its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Exam in a Mastery Learning format, using SESATS questions. Instead of taking the exam at a Pearson Testing Center, Diplomates enrolled in the 2016 10-year MOC process will take the exam on their home or office computers as long as it has a web camera and is on a secure web site that can be continuously monitored. The new MOC Exam format will be specialty specific (Adult Cardiac, General Thoracic, Cardiothoracic, and Congenital) and consists of approximately 100 SESATS questions (primarily taken from SESATS 10-11). The goal of this new exam format is to provide a learning opportunity using judgement and decision-making as well as knowledge.

New MOC Part IV Requirements

Starting in January 2016, the ABTS will require Diplomates in the Maintenance of Certification process to participate in a Practice Quality Improvement (PQI) project. Diplomates can fulfill the PQI requirement individually, as a group or through his/her institution/health care organization. More information about acceptable PQI Projects is available on the Board's web site at www.abts.org

In addition, beginning in 2016, Diplomates at the 5-year and in the 10-year MOC Milestone in 2016 will need to participate in a Patient Safety Module. The Board will accept most Patient Safety Modules during the initiation of this program.

New Renewal Policy for Diplomates who hold Lapse Certificates

The American Board of Thoracic Surgery (ABTS) has changed its policy regarding the renewal of a lapsed certificate. Previously, Diplomates who held an invalid certificate had to take and pass the Part I (Qualifying) and Part II (Certifying) Examinations in order to obtain a valid certificate. Effective immediately, Diplomates whose certificates expired in 2010 or after can renew their certificate by coming in to compliance with Maintenance of Certification, including submitting an application, paying all dues and late fees, and taking and passing the MOC Exam. Diplomates then need to take and pass the Part II (Certifying) Exam. Diplomates whose certificate expired before 2010 will still need to take and pass Part I and II exams.

SESATS X1 (11) is Available

The ABTS is pleased to announce the release of the eleventh version of SESATS (Self-Education, Self-Assessment in Thoracic Surgery). SESATS XI (11) is currently a web-based program that is functional on all types of platforms, such as PCs, Macs, tablets, and smart phones. SESATS 11 is similar to the previous versions in that it contains 400

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questions, critiques and readings covering all areas of thoracic surgery. Up to 70 CME hours can be earned by taking SESATS 11. The ABTS would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Dr. David B. Campbell (Hershey, PA) as the SESATS Editor-in-Chief for his tireless work on creating SESATS. SESATS is available for purchase at www.sesats.org.

Pathways to Certification

Eligibility to enter the American Board of Thoracic Surgery's certification process may be achieved by completing one of four training pathways and fulfillment of the other requirements. Details about each pathway can be found on the Board's web site.

With regards to single accreditation, the ABTS' policy is to accept osteopathic residents provided they had three years (PGY 3-5) in a general surgery residency that was accredited by the ACGME followed by a two or three year thoracic surgery residency accredited by the ACGME.

Examinations

The Board administered the Part II (Oral) Examination to 120 individuals on June 5-6, 2015. The pass rate for the examination was 72%. The next Oral Exam will be held on June 10-11, 2016 in Chicago.

The 2015 Part I (Written) Exam was held on November 16, 2015. The pass rate for the exam was 82%. The next Part I (Written) Exam will be held on December 12, 2016.

Congenital Cardiac Surgery Subspecialty Certificate

The Congenital Cardiac Surgery Oral Exam was administered on June 4, 2015 for the fellows who were successful on the Qualifying Exam. The next Oral Exam will be held on June 9, 2016.

The 2015 Congenital Cardiac Surgery Written Exam was held on November 23, 2015. The pass rate for the exam was 80%. The next Congenital Cardiac Surgery Written Exam will be held on November 21, 2016.

New Board Directors

At the 2016 Spring Board Meeting, Dr. Christine L. Lau (Charlottesville, VA) was elected to serve a six-year term as Director of the Board. In January 2016, Dr. Anne G. Rizzo (Falls Church, VA) was appointed to be a Director on the ABTS by the American Board of Surgery.

At the 2015 Fall Meeting, Dr. Cameron D. Wright (Boston, MA) became the Chair of the Board and will serve in this role for the next two years. Dr. Bryan F. Meyers (St. Louis, MO) was elected to be the Vice Chair of the Board and will serve in this role for the next two years. Dr. Michael J. Mack (Plano, TX) was elected to the Board of Directors and will serve a six-year term.