

I want to begin my term as an ABO Director by thanking so many of you who took the time to share your support. I am extremely honored and humbled to have been chosen as the new ABO Director from the GLAO. The role of the Board has never been more important for our profession. I am firmly committed to its mission of elevating the quality of orthodontic care for the public by promoting excellence through certification, education and professional collaboration. I look forward to the opportunity to serve.

Secondly, I want to thank **Dr. Valmy Kulbresh** for her historic service to our profession. As the first female President of the American Board of Orthodontics, she shattered the orthodontic glass ceiling, promoted the highest standard of care for our patients, and through all of the pandemic challenges provided strong leadership for our organization. During her eight years, thus far, on the Board she has directed her endless energy and enthusiasm, toward improving the exam process and opening the door for Board certification to become the standard for all orthodontists. We owe her a significant debt of gratitude. I look forward to serving and learning from her with the greatest admiration, as she concludes her service on the Board this next year, as our Immediate Past-President

Now for the update on the state of the Board:

**[The ABO is proud to announce that board certified orthodontists now represent 54% of AAO membership.](#)**

**Clinical Examination:**

- The ABO's most recently conducted a Clinical Examination in February 2021. Additional examinations in 2021 will be administered in July and November. Registration for both the February and October 2022 Clinical Examinations will open on June 2, 2021.

A total of 288 examinees were certified or recertified during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of 2021, including the February 2021 Scenario-based Clinical Examination. Congratulations to the following individuals from the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists for achieving certification or recertification during this timeframe:

**ORTHODONTIST NAME**

*William Ray Bates*

*Jennifer Lynn Bonamici*

*Spencer B. Crouch*

*Andrew Thomas Daabous*

*Adrian Victor de Moya*

*Joseph Deek*

*Sherry Deol*

*Joseph A. Dougherty*

*Todd A. Hickman*

*Justin Kammo*

*Brandon R. Knapp*

*Mark Komforti*  
*Tara M. Kraisinger*  
*Laurie McNamara-McClatchey*  
*Hengameh Motevasel*  
*Katelyn Owen*  
*Falon Rozhitsky*  
*Lam Vuong*  
*Kathryn M. Welch*  
*Ariel B. Wong*  
*Jennifer Yessa*

Interest and demand in the Scenario-based Clinical Examination continues to be solid with most examinations reaching full capacity. Examinations take place at testing centers worldwide with travel to St. Louis no longer required. Examination components and testing criteria have not changed with the only accommodation made on how answers are submitted. The examinations continue to be scored by multiple ABO examiners.

Study guides, sample cases and preparation materials are continuously updated as valuable resources for those wanting to take the examination and are located on the [ABO website](#). Complete details on how to register for upcoming exams can also be found on the website.

#### **Certification Renewal:**

- Certification Renewal is required every 10 years to maintain an active board certification status and may be started no earlier than 36 months prior to the expiration date printed on the individual's certification. Two options are available to include completion of one online Board Case Examination or a Mail-In Case Report Examination; both options also require the completion of continuing education credits from four online AJODO examinations. Please view this [motion graphic video](#) which briefly outlines the examination components and why renewal is important. Additional information may also be found on the [ABO website](#).

#### **Written Examination:**

- The ABO Written Examination was administered to 408 examinees on April 6, 2021 at Scantron testing centers in the United States and Canada. The ABO Written Examination is a comprehensive exam that assesses the examinee's knowledge of basic sciences and clinical concepts based on criterion-referenced testing. The examination is composed of 240 multiple-choice questions on subject areas outlined by CODA divided into 4 modules. An important reminder once this examination is successfully completed, it does not expire. Requirements, eligibility and examination resources are all located on the [ABO website](#).

### Educational Update:

- The ABO is pleased to introduce a new video, [It Takes A Specialist](#), on the importance of using a specialist. This resource was designed exclusively for use by board certified orthodontists for placement on their website, social channels, office lobby or patient waiting areas. In addition, we are working to expand this campaign with additional materials to compliment the video and its' message. We are also honored to share the video with the World Federation of Orthodontists (WFO) for inclusion on their website.
- ABO educational toolkit materials are updated as needed as an online resource for board certified orthodontists. A convenient link is now located on personalized dashboards for easier access.
- The ABO is working to upgrade their website to improve functionality and overall user experience.
- Complimentary ABO measuring gauges for incoming residents will be provided to requesting CODA-accredited orthodontic programs.

### Educators Symposium:

The ABO Educators Symposium, *"The Change is Here – Are you on Board?"* honoring **Dr. Katherine Vig**, originally scheduled on April 18, 2020, has been rescheduled. The symposium will now take place on [Saturday, October 30, 2021, in St. Louis, Missouri](#). A welcome dinner will take place the evening of Friday, October 29. Orthodontic department chairs, program directors and ABO-appointed advocates along with AAO trustees, CDABO council and ABO emeriti will be invited to attend. Space will be limited. However, a virtual component of the event will be available to invited guests unable to participate.

### GORP:

- The ABO again looks forward to participating in the 2021 GORP meeting in St. Louis, MO. Dr. David Sabott will provide information on board certification to the residents and ABO staff will also be on hand for questions

### 2020-2021 ABO Directors:

- The [ABO Directors](#) for the 2021-2022 year are as follows:  
**Dr. David Sabott**, President, representing the Rocky Mountain Society of Orthodontists  
**Dr. Patrick Foley**, President-Elect, representing the Midwestern Society of Orthodontists  
**Dr. Timothy Trulove**, Secretary-Treasurer, representing the Southern Association of Orthodontists  
**Dr. Jae Hyun Park**, Director, representing the Pacific Coast Society of Orthodontists  
**Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Orsini**, Director, representing the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists  
**Dr. Stephen McCullough**, representing the Southwestern Society of Orthodontists  
**Dr. P. Emile Rossouw**, representing the Northeastern Society of Orthodontists  
**Dr. Valmy Kulbersh**, Immediate Past-President, representing the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists

The AAO House of Delegates confirmed me as the new 2021-2022 ABO Director representing the Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists. Please view the announcement [HERE](#).

**Award Honorees:**

- Due to the multiple COVID cancellations to recognize the ABO 2020-2021 award recipients, the ABO is pleased to announce awards will be presented during the rescheduled Educator's Symposium dinner on [Friday, October 29, 2021 in St. Louis, MO](#). Congratulations to these deserving individuals:
  - [Dr. Rolf G. Behrents](#) – Albert H. Ketcham Memorial Award
  - [Dr. Carla Evans](#) - Dale B. Wade Award of Excellence in Orthodontics
  - [Dr. Perry Opin](#) - Earl E. and Wilma S. Shepard Distinguished Service Award
  - [Dr. John Kanyusik](#) - O.B. Vaughan Special Recognition Award

Please visit the [ABO website](#) for information on all award honorees.

Respectfully,  
Anthony Puntillo (dr.p@pandcsmiles.com)  
ABO Director