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Daniel A. Pryma, M.D. Chail

### From the Desk of the Chair

It is with great excitement that I write to you as Chair of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. I am deeply honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity and am indebted to the work of our prior Chairs. Most recently ..... Read more



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Associate Executive Director Message from the

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Welcome to Our New Board Member

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### Leonie Gordon Reprinted with permission J Nucl Med 2018, 59:13N.

One of the main purposes of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) is the advancement of

the health of the public through....Read more



# Reprinted with permission J Nucl Med 2017, 58: 15N.

Maintenance of Certification (MOC), introduced in 2001, is a common program of the 24 member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Participation in MOC....Read more



# Diplomates Who Passed the 2017 MOC

**Examination** Congratulations to Diplomates who passed the MOC

### exam....View the List Results of the 2017 Certification/ MOC

**Examination** 2017 CE/MOC Examinations.....View the Stats

# Diplomate Corner

CertLink







CertLink

Profile or click the Frequently Asked Questions link or the Helpful Videos link for information regarding CertLink.





### The ABNM appreciates all the Diplomates who

support....Read more

### Upcoming **Events**



begins for Certification & Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Examination (Computer-Based Test (CBT) at a Pearson VUE location (selected by the applicant) April 2, 2018 - CertLink Pilot Hard Launch

April 1, 2018 - Online Application Period

- begins September 1, 2018 - In-Training
- Examination (ITE) Enrollment October 1-6, 2018 - Certification and
- Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Examination



Certification (MOC) application season kicks-off on April 1, 2018, and ends on May 31, 2018. The ABNM recommends that you start your application early to make sure that you have time to collect the needed documents ON-LINE APPLICATION ENROLLMENT BEGINS APRIL 1ST

# FOR RESIDENTS

### The application for the ABNM Certification Examination

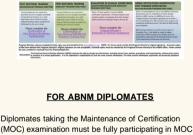
is an online application. In order to start an application, Trainees/Applicants must first create an account. To create an account go to ABNM website www.abnm.org. The outline/link below is a quick reference titled, "How to Navigate the ABNM Certification Examination Application" as an applicant. opticulize for the MINM Contification Examination is on line to endor to start attackers, who much first swist an execut, to entore an extend ge to splant age. The individual is a put in territor of "Man to Novigate the ARMA nation Examination Application" on an applicate.



FOR PROGRAM DIRECTORS When Trainees/Applicant applies to take the ABNM

### Certification Examination, the Board requires each trainee to obtain documentation from their Program

Director(s). The outline/link below is a quick reference titled, "Program Directors: What You Need to Do" and contains links and information on what forms you need to complete for your Trainee(s). PROGRAM WHAT YOU N DIRECTOR'S TO DO



including payment of all MOC fees. To start your online application, log in to your MOC Profile at <a href="https://www.abnm.org">www.abnm.org</a>, click the MOC-Part 3 link (located on the navigation bar on the left side of your web browser). For detailed information regarding Exam Schedules & Fees for MOC Examination CLICK HERE.

QUICK REFERENCE DEADLINE—for all Applicants The following MUST be completed by the MAY 31st

# Fees —The \$500 non-refundable processing

fee must be paid. Submit — On-line applications must be completed and submitted.

deadline:

applicants must be received.

Received — Supporting documents supplied by

Need additional assistance? Our staff is ready to assist you!

Email us at abnm@abnm.org or call (314) 367-2225.

Our office hours are 7:30 am to 4:00 pm Central Standard Time (CST).







The ABNM welcomes comments from Diplomates and residents regarding issues raised in this Tracers or any other issues affecting the practice of nuclear medicine or certification processes. Please email your comments to:

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# From the Desk of the Chair

Daniel A. Pryma, M.D. Chair, ABNM

Dear Diplomates,

It is with great excitement that I write to you as Chair of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. I am deeply honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity and am indebted

to the work of our prior Chairs. Most recently Dr. Grady set a very high bar that I hope to match.

The last year has been incredibly exciting for the field of Nuclear Medicine and the future promises to be even brighter. We have seen the FDA approval of new diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals. Furthermore, we are witnessing an unprecedented level of investment in radiopharmaceutical development with numerous large multi-center clinical trials ongoing. This highlights the ongoing and growing need for well-trained and well-qualified practitioners to bring these new agents to our patients. ABNM certification remains gold standard evidence of qualification to practice Nuclear Medicine at a high level.

At the same time, these new radiopharmaceuticals and techniques require ongoing learning by our Diplomates. The ABNM is committed to assisting our Diplomates in learning about cutting edge procedures and showing evidence of such ongoing learning. Indeed, with the launch of the CertLink pilot, we have given our Diplomates the opportunity to participate in a program that simultaneously assesses and disseminates knowledge of the techniques that are relevant in today's practice. We have been thrilled by the community's response to CertLink—enrollment and early feedback have both been strong. However, enrollment remains less than it could be. I would strongly encourage all ABNM Diplomates not currently participating in the CertLink pilot to please consider enrolling. If you have questions, please see our CertLink FAQ page or call the ABNM office. With the inclusion of state-of-the-art content in CertLink, successful participation in CertLink will provide a Diplomate with strong evidence that s/he is providing quality, cutting-edge care.

In addition to our current Diplomates, the ABNM remains committed to ensuring excellent training for the future practitioners of Nuclear Medicine. We continue to collaborate diligently with stakeholders in graduate medical education to allow Nuclear Medicine training to evolve with changes in practice demands. 2017 saw an increase in the number of physicians sitting for the certification exam. Congratulations to our new Diplomates! The ABNM will continue to do all that we can to maintain the steady stream of new Diplomates required for the field to continue to thrive. The future of Nuclear Medicine is bright and I am thrilled at the opportunity to serve as the Chair of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine at this exciting time.

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# Message from the Executive Director

2017 Financial Report

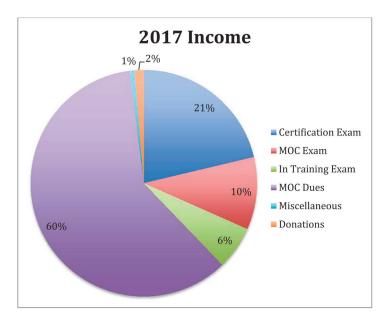
George M. Segall, M.D., Executive Director, ABNM

The ABNM fiscal year is January 1 through December 31. A full audit is conducted every two years by a certified public accounting firm, UHY. The firm conducts a less extensive financial review in alternate years. In 2017, UHY audited ABNM's financial statements

for the year ending December 31, 2016. The report dated June 1, 2017, noted total assets of \$3,249,161, with an increase of \$189,754 compared to the prior year.

The United States Income Tax Return, Form 990, filed by all non-profit organizations, is publically available. There are many websites that provide free access to the tax returns, including the returns filed by the ABNM. One such website is http://foundationcenter.org/find-funding/990-finder.

The ABNM started 2017 with a budget of \$875,969 in operating income and expenses. At the end of the year, the estimated total non-investment income was \$662,875. Income was below budget for the MOC exam (-\$38,960) and MOC dues (-\$118,163), largely due to the launch of CertLink with payment of fees in 2018. Operating expense was \$776,926. Expense was below budget for operations (\$63,991), salaries (\$35,053), and board meetings (\$23,396), The ABNM ended the year with an estmated net income of -\$114,051.

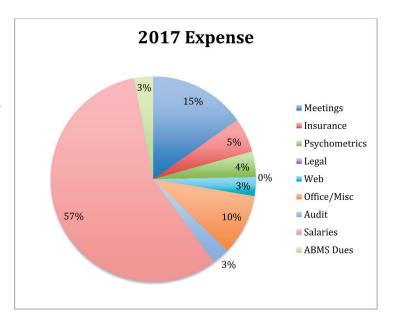


A break down of the major income and expense categories for 2017 is shown in the following diagrams.

The largest percentage of income (60%) was derived from Maintenance of Certification (MOC) annual dues. Annual dues were \$150 when they were instituted in 2007. They were increased to \$175 in 2010. The dues were increased to \$400 in 2012, mostly to offset the fee paid by Diplomates for the MOC examination. As a result, the MOC exam fee, which was \$2,050 in 2011, has been decreased by \$205 per year. The 2017 exam fee was \$820. The exam fee will be phased out completely in 2021. The same decreasing fee schedule is used for Diplomates enrolling in CertLink™, a new longitudinal learning and self-assessment program, which was launched on January 3, 2018 as an alternative to the MOC exam.

The largest expense was salary for six employees, including the Executive Director (0.25 FTEE), Associate Executive Director (0.25 FTEE), Administrator, MOC and Examinations Program Manager, Diplomate Relations and Communications Program Manager, and one Secretary. Salaries were 57% of total expense in 2017. ABNM operations and exam production is handled by ABNM staff in St. Louis and directors located throughout the United States using email and conference calls. The ABNM also meets twice a year. These two meetings account for 13% of expenses. The ABNM is one of 24 member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). ABMS membership dues account for 3% of expenses.

The ABNM had \$2.55 million in an investment portfolio on December 31, 2017, which is managed by Wells Fargo Advisors. The value of the portfolio increased 11.5% since December 31, 2016. The investment portfolio is the ABNM's reserve fund for unexpected financial difficulties, and major new initiatives.



The 2018 budget is balanced, with expected income and expense of \$885,014. The ABNM is financially robust, but maintaining a balanced operating budget is becoming more challenging. The ABNM has not increased annual MOC dues of \$400 since 2012, or the initial certification exam fee of \$2400 since 2009. The MOC exam fee has been decreasing by \$205 each year, and will be zero in 2021. The one-time CertLink fee is the same as the MOC exam fee. At the same time, expenses have been steadily increasing due to inflation. The ABNM plans to meet the financial challenges in 2018-2021 by increasing Diplomate participation in Maintenance of Certification by making it easier and more valuable with new programs such as CertLink™.

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# Message from the Associate Executive Director

On Line Longitudinal Assessment – CertLink™ Launched!

Leonie Gordon, M.D., Associate Executive Director, ABNM

The ABNM has been engaged with ABMS in the design, development, testing and launch of our new longitudinal assessment tool – Certlink™. This pilot study will run from 2018-2021. In January 2018, we released the soft launch of Certlink. The questions are image rich and high quality with practice-relevant content. The pilot, which periodically delivers nuclear medicine questions with detailed explanations and references directly to ABNM Diplomates enrolled, is being evaluated as an alternative to the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) examination required of ABNM time-limited certificate holders every 10 years. It is also very useful for lifetime certificate holders to keep current and test their knowledge. We hope to gain valuable information about how our Diplomates learn and in which platform they prefer to be tested. Along with the CertLink questions, surveys are being sent to participants to collect additional data.

Currently, 185 Diplomates are participating in the Certlink soft launch. We receive regular updates from ABMS about participation and the number of questions answered. As of March 16<sup>th</sup> Diplomates have already answered a total of 1,866 questions. Diplomates had the option on their preference for answering the 4 required questions per month for the soft launch. They could space it out over a month or answer all 4 questions at one time. Currently 75 Diplomates answered all 12 questions. In April 2018, ABNM will fully launch Certlink and continue the pilot for 4 years. All Diplomates with unexpired, time-limited certificates (expiring in 2018 or later) or with lifetime certificates are eligible to participate if they have not been subject to any ABNM disciplinary actions (probation, suspension, or revocation of certification) in the past 10 years. Diplomates with certificates expiring in 2018 – 2021, had to register for CertLink by March 15, 2018.

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# ABNM Launches CertLink Longitudinal Assessment Program

Leonie Gordon
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One of the main purposes of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) is the advancement of the health of the public through establishment and maintenance of standards of training and education, and the qualification of physicians rendering nuclear medicine services to the people of the United States. The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), with its certification and maintenance of certification (MOC) programs, also helps make certain the public has confidence that they are receiving high-quality medical care from physicians who are well trained and knowledgeable in the latest advances, research, and technologies in their chosen specialty.

In January 2018, the ABNM embarked on a soft launch of our new longitudinal assessment pilot: CertLink™, developed for the ABMS Member Boards. Based on adult learning theory, CertLink's questions and explanations provide repeated exposure to relevant information as a way to test and expand knowledge. The process helps individuals fill knowledge gaps and demonstrate proficiency. The questions are image rich and high quality, with practice-relevant content. The pilot, which periodically delivers nuclear medicine questions with detailed explanations and references directly to enrolled ABNM Diplomates, is being evaluated as an alternative to the MOC examination required of ABNM time-limited certificate holders every 10 years. It is useful for lifetime certificate holders to keep current and test their knowledge. ABNM Diplomates who are enrolled in CertLink also have agreed to participate in surveys that ABMS administers. ABNM, by participating, hopes to gain valuable insight into how our Diplomates learn and on which platform they prefer to be tested. ABNM would like to find out what works and what does not work for individuals as well as get tips and insight from our participants in all aspects of the program, including relevance of the questions to their practice of nuclear medicine, the quality of images, and the testing platform and environment.

The CertLink soft launch currently involves the participation of 185 diplomates. We receive regular updates from ABMS about our participation and questions that have been answered. As of January 22, 110 Diplomates had logged into CertLink with 382 questions answered. Diplomates had options in answering the 4 required questions for January.

They could space these out or answer all at once. A total of 95 Diplomates (51%) had answered all 4 questions by January 22. Diplomates will continue to receive 4 questions each month until the end of March, when the soft launch ends. In April 2018, ABNM will fully launch CertLink and continue the pilot for 4 years. All Diplomates with unexpired, time-limited certificates (expiring in 2018 or later) or with lifetime certificates are eligible to participate if they have not been subject to any ABNM disciplinary actions (probation, suspension, or revocation of certification) in the past 10 years.

All participants in the soft launch have been sent a baseline survey from ABMS to collect information to obtain a basic understanding of Diplomates' overall Internet and device usage, preferred learning methods and resources, volunteer engagement, and practice area information. The Baseline Survey's goal was to provide support for the continuous improvement of the CertLink user interface and experience. The data have been carefully reviewed by ABNM and ABMS, and the overall results show that Diplomates prefer to utilize technology/devices for CertLink with which they consider themselves to be extremely comfortable and also showed high usage of Internet resources to stay current. Those participating are highly engaged, use a broad array of medical resources to obtain their nuclear medicine knowledge, and are encouraged by the alternative CertLink will provide to the traditional secure exam. When CertLink participants have had questions about process, content, or other aspects of program, these have been answered quickly.

Interested Diplomates may enroll in CertLink by visiting the CertLink homepage at https://www.abnm.org/index.php/certlinktm/. Additional information regarding ABNM's CertLink program can be found on the Frequently Asked Questions page on the ABNM website at https://www.abnm.org/index.php/certlink-fags/.

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# Welcome to Our New Board Member Meet the newest member of the ABNM

Gholam Reza Berenji, M.D., M.S., FACNM, Board of Director, ABNM
Attending Physician in Nuclear Medicine, VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System
Associate Clinical Professor of Radiology, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA
Program Director, VA Advanced Fellowship in Polytrauma and Traumatic Brain Injury

Dr. Gholam Reza Berenji is an attending physician at the VA Greater Los Angeles Health Care System. Following his training in Nuclear Medicine, Dr. Berenji served as the Nuclear Medicine Program Director at the VA Greater Los Angeles until 2014. He is currently the Program Director of VA Advanced Fellowship in Polytrauma and Traumatic Brain Injury and the Associate Program Director of Nuclear Medicine Residency Program. He has been an active member of ACNM and SNMMI Academic Council and currently a member of board of directors of Correlative Imaging Council.

His clinical practice includes PET myocardial perfusion, PET/CT including oncology and bone studies and general nuclear medicine. He has been involved in training of nuclear medicine, radiology and cardiology residents and fellows and an advocate for multidisciplinary collaboration. He has received the 2013 ACNM Mentor of the year award.

His research interests are focused in brain imaging including Traumatic Brain Injury, advanced multimodality cardiac imaging and oncology.

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# **2017 Contribution List**

The ABNM appreciates all the Diplomates who support the ABNM by paying MOC fees and voluntary contributions every year. In addition, we would like to thank the following Diplomates for their generous support of the ABNM through a financial donation in 2017.

### Radium (\$2000-above)

Vaseem Chengazi, M.D., Ph.D. Bennett Greenspan, M.D. George Segall, M.D.

### Indium (\$500-\$999)

Gholam Berenji, M.D., MS David Mankoff, M.D. J. Anthony Parker, M.D., Ph.D.

### lodine (\$200-\$499)

Eva Dubovsky, M.D.
Stephen Gerard, M.D.
Leonie Gordon, M.D.
Arnold Jacobson, M.D.
Helen Nadel, M.D.
Eric Rohren, M.D.
Barry Shulkin, M.D., MBA
James Woolfenden, M.D.
Katherine Zukotynski, BASc, M.D.

### Technetium (Up to \$199)

Robert Carretta, M.D.
Robert Finch, M.D.
Karen Goodhope, M.D.
Darrel McIndoe, MD
Patrick Murphy

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# From the ABNM: Improvement in **Medical Practice**

George M. Segall Reprinted with permission J Nucl Med December 1, 2017 vol. 58 no. 12 15N

Maintenance of Certification (MOC), introduced in 2001, is a common program of the 24 member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties. Participation in MOC demonstrates that physicians are committed to the highest professional standards. This MOC effort includes 4 parts: Part 1: Professionalism and Professional Standing; Part 2: Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment; Part 3: Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, and Skills; and Part 4: Improvement in Medical Practice (IMP). The American Board of Nuclear Medicine (ABNM) began to implement MOC in 2007 and fully implemented the program in 2014 with a requirement for IMP. Physicians who routinely participate in quality improvement activities in their practices demonstrate commitment to patient-centered care that improves quality. The ABNM recognizes these activities, such as participation in peer review, membership on safety committees, and regular attendance at tumor boards and other clinical conferences. A complete list of the recognized activities is available on the ABNM website at https://www.abnm.org/ index.php/qualifying-activities/. To meet MOC requirements, physicians must attest only once each year to participation in one or more of these activities.

The ABNM also recognizes that physicians who practice in outpatient settings or small groups may not have the opportunity to routinely engage in quality improvement activities. The ABNM has developed a practice survey for these and other physicians interested in a convenient and clinically relevant way to compare their practices to those of peers and identify opportunities for improvement. These practice surveys are based on procedure standards and clinical guidelines of professional societies such as SNMMI. They are designed to be easily completed by individual physicians or groups. The practice surveys are based on a review of 10 clinical studies and require answers to no more than 10 questions. Diplomates receive a summary of the answers provided by other physicians that allows them to compare their practices to those of peer's.

The 2018 practice survey, Lung Scintigraphy for Diagnosis of Pulmonary Embolism, is available on the ABNM website at: https:// docs.google.com/a/abnm.org/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdL39GtljRurYKIZEiE8sbUBSM6uletSCSI2FppPx\_XDAswQ/viewform. The practice survey is based on the SNMMI Procedure Standard for Lung Scintigraphy 4.0, July 19, 2011, which is available on the SNMMI website at: http://interactive.snm.org/docs/lung\_scintigraphy\_v4\_final.pdf. The survey asks 6 questions:

- 1. How often is the referring physician's estimate of the prior probability of pulmonary embolism (low, medium, high) documented in the procedure request/ order or documented in the patient's medical record and available to you at the time of study interpretation?
- 2. How often has a chest radiograph or CT scan been performed within the preceding 24 hours before the lung scan when a patient presents with acute symptoms?
- How often is SPECT imaging obtained in addition to, or instead of, planar images in multiple projections?
- Which criteria do you use for interpretation?
- 5. How are the study results reported?
- 6. How often is direct (verbal or other methods accepted by your hospital) communication of results documented in the study report or the medical record?

The ABNM believes that completing the survey will provide a valuable educational opportunity to review the SNMMI guidelines and learn what others are doing. Physicians will learn, for example, how often other physicians are performing SPECT imaging and which interpretive criteria are most frequently used. The practice survey can be completed online and fulfills the MOC Part 4 requirement for the year in which it is completed.

The ABNM has improved MOC to make it more valuable, easier to understand, and convenient. Diplomates can document meeting MOC requirements by logging onto My Profile on the ABNM website at <a href="https://www.abnm.org/account/profile/login">https://www.abnm.org/account/profile/login</a>, answering a few questions, and confirming that they are meeting requirements for continuing medical education as well as IMP. The ABNM would like to know how we can continue to improve MOC. Please send comments and suggestions to <a href="mailto:abnm@abnm.org">abnm@abnm.org</a>.

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# **New Diplomates Who Passed the 2017 Certification Examination**

Mukta Agrawal M.D.

Fatma Ahmed M.D., MSc, MBBCh

Frankis Almaguel M.D., Ph.D.

Shadfar Bahri M.D.

Jason Bailey M.D.

Mohammed Bermo MBChB, M.D., FRCR

Shalini Chhabra MBBS, DMRD, DNB

Gagandeep Choudhary MBBS, M.D.

Amy Chudgar M.D.

Caitlin Connolly M.D.

Michael DiGianvittorio D.O.

Asif Fakhri M.D.

Bina Franklin M.D., MS

Samuel Galgano M.D.

Gunjan Garg M.D.

Reema Goel M.D.

Samar Hajj M.D.

Michelle Hopstone M.D.

Ryan Huber M.D.

Pooya Iranpour M.D., MSc

Malak Itani M.D.

Aditya Jain MBBS, MPH

Olfat Kamel Hasan MBChB, FRCR

JinAh Kim M.D.

Robert Knebel M.D.

Nii Koney M.D., MBA

Simone Krebs M.D.

Sachin Kumbhar MBBS, M.D.

Jonathan Kuo M.D.

Manohar Kuruva M.D.

Chee Hwee Lee M.D.

Nadine Mallak M.D.

Wael Marashdeh M.D.

Mitchel Muhleman M.D.

Philipose Mulugeta M.D.

Shahin Nassirkhani M.D.

Carl Odom M.D., MS

Austin Pantel M.D.

Darshan Patel M.D.

Puskar Pattanayak MBBS

William Rieter M.D., Ph.D.

Roberto Rojas M.D.

Ahmad Sharif Tabrizi M.D.

Stanislav Spiridonov M.D.

Mohammed Taoudi Benchekroun M.D.

Anuradha Thenkondar MBBS

Babak Toulabi M.D.

Thomas Yohannan M D

Nigist Zemariame M.D.

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# **Diplomates Who Passed the 2017 MOC Examination**

Samuel Almodovar-Reteguis, M.D.

Rolando Alvarez, M.D., MS

Mario Arredondo, M.D.

Murray Becker, M.D.

Gholam Berenji, M.D., MS

Paul Billeaud, BS, M.D.

Marques Bradshaw, M.D., MSCR

Paul Chesis, M.D., Ph.D.

Alessandro D'Agnolo, M.D.

John Dahlin, M.D.

John Daly Jr., M.D.

Chandra Dass, M.D.

Marilin Espino-Maya, M.D.

Adwoa Essel, M.D.

Mark Estrada, M.D.

Joseph Foss, M.D.

Gregory Francken, M.D.

Yitong Fu, M.D.

Tomas Garcia, M.D.

Stanley Grossman, M.D.

Lance Hall, M.D.

James Hausmann, M.D.

Laura Horky, M.D., Ph.D.

Steve Huang, M.D., Ph.D.

Raul Idea, M.D.

Hossein Jadvar, M.D., Ph.D.

Priya Jagasia, M.D.

Carlos Jimenez, M.D.

Cecilia Jude, M.D.

Erik Kilgore, M.D.

Susanne Kim, M.D.

David Kolb, M.D.

Ruben Krishnananthan, MBBS

Manish Kumar, M.D.

Fred Lassiter, M.D.

Jongwon Lee, M.D.

Val Liberace, M.D.

Anita Lipson, M.D.

Nadia Malik, MBBS, M.D.

Murali Krishna Meka, M.D.

Gustavo Mercier Jr, M.D., Ph.D., MBA

Jeffrey Naiman, M.D.

Mona Natwa, M.D.

Ryan Niederkohr, M.D.

Lisa Oakley, M.D.

Yogeshkumar Patel, MBBS

Brandon Peters, M.D.

Shibu Philips, M.D., MPH

Ramesh Rao, M.D.

Sarah Reimer, M.D.

Josephine Rini, M.D.

Jennifer Rodriguez-Ferrer, M.D.

Elham Safaie, M.D.

Kevin Schlegel, D.O.

William Sharpe, M.D.

Craig Sherman, M.D.

Philip Shie, D.O.

Kamal Singh, M.D.

Donald Stallman, M.D.

Uma Suriyanarayanan, M.D.

Alan Tafler, M.D.

Sanjeev Taneja, M.D.

Anita Thomas, BS, M.D.

Gary Ulaner, M.D., Ph.D.

Ivan Velez, M.D.

Hao Vuong, M.D.

Joseph Wapenski, M.D.

Justin Williamson, MBBS, Ph.D.

James Wilson, M.D.

Robert Wolek, M.D.

Tracy Yarbrough, M.D., Ph.D.

Hongyun Zhu, M.D.

Katherine Zukotynski, BASc, M.D.

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# Results of the 2017 Initial Certification/ MOC Examination

