Dr. Edward Vincent Staab, 72, passed away November 1, 2008. He did his residency at V.A. Hospital at the University of Minnesota and obtained a M.S. in Biophysics during that time.

His notable discoveries included the development of the first technetium 99m-labeled phosphate bone scanning agents as well as labeled blood cells for imaging their organ distribution. After his tenure at Johns Hopkins, Dr. McAfee spent 25 years at the State University of New York Health Science Center at Syracuse, New York as Professor and Chairman of the Department of Radiology and Radiological sciences.

In 1990, Dr. McAfee became a radiology professor at the George Washington University Medical Center and a nuclear medicine consultant to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center. From 1992 to 1995, he was Chief of NIH Radiopharmaceutical Research Section and consulted in the Clinical section until retiring. He served on many committees for NIH and the National Academy of Sciences.

A prolific writer, he was the author or coauthor of more than 300 papers, book chapters, and abstracts. He served on the ABNM from 1972 to 1976.

By the time you read this article, my term as Chair of the ABNM will have ended. As shown below, the new ABNM Chair is Dr. Harvey Ziessman; the Vice-Chair is Dr. Barry Shulkin; the Secretary Treasurer is Dr. David Mankoff and the Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee is Dr. Janis O’Malley, a new board member whose profile is on page 4. I will remain on the Executive Committee as Past-Chair and Dr. Henry Royal will remain on the Executive Committee as Executive Director.

The other new Board member this year is Marcelo F. Di Carli, M.D., who has already written an article for this newsletter (page 3) describing his experience preparing for and taking the MOC examination. All board members are required to actively participate in MOC. I hope you enjoy his article. George will also be the ABNM representative on the American Board of Medical Specialties’ Board of Directors.

Welcomeing 2 new board members is a bitter sweet moment for the Board because it also means we must say goodbye to two dedicated board members (Dr. Sally Delhado and Steve Lancer) who have completed their terms. It has been a privilege to serve as the chair of the ABNM.

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• In Memoriam, Past ABNM Board Members
• 2009 Certification and Maintenance of Certification Examination Schedule

2009 ABNM New Board Members

George M. Segall, M.D.
Chief, Nuclear Medicine Services
VA Palo Alto Health Care System
Palo Alto, California

Janis P. O’Malley, M.D.
Director, Nuclear Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Nuclear Medicine Department
Birmingham, Alabama

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Harvey A. Ziessman, M.D. Chair
Barry L. Shulkin, M.D., MBA Vice-Chair
David A. Mankoff, M.D., Ph.D. Secretary Treasurer
Janis P. O’Malley, M.D. Member-at-Large
Marcelo F. Di Carli, M.D. Past-Chair
Henry D. Royal, M.D. Executive Director

DIRECTORS
Dominigue Delibeke, M.D., Ph.D.
Gary L. Dillehay, M.D.
Kirk A. Frey, M.D., Ph.D.
Leonie L. Gordon, M.D.
J. Anthony Parker, M.D., Ph.D.
Lalitha Ramanna, M.D.
George M. Segall, M.D.

I hope you have noticed that the newsletter has a new design. Kudos to Dr. Leonie Gordon, Communications Committee Chair and the ABNM staff (especially Monica Waller – our graphics guru) for taking on this task. One of our biggest problems when we write this newsletter is that we quickly run out of space. So much is happening so quickly that it is difficult to keep our diplomas informed.

In addition to this newsletter, the ABNM frequently writes articles about maintenance of certification and other board related issues for the Newsline section of the Journal of Nuclear Medicine. Past issues of Tracers and the Newsline articles are posted on the ABNM website. Tracers can be found on the “ABOUT ABNM” tab by clicking on “Newsletters” in the left hand navigation column. The Newsline articles can be found on the “MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION” tab by clicking on “MOC Updates From Newsline” in the left hand navigation column.

Tracers is written to meet your needs. Let me know if there are any topics you would like to see covered.

A prolific writer, he was the author or co- author of more than 300 papers, book chapters, and abstracts. He served on the ABNM from 1972 to 1976.

American Board of Nuclear Medicine
Kevin Weiss MD, MPH, the president of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) attended part of our board meet- ing. He discussed the need to document that high quality healthcare is provided by physicians through certain processes and continuous quality improvement. He stressed that for physicians to have an important role in healthcare reform, groups that take the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) exam need to be recertified.

About 95% of diplomates pass the MOC exam on their first attempt. I also learned that practicing physicians can learn a lot about what didn’t provide much reassurance. It’s not clear what the consequences will be of diplomates who don’t participate in MOC. It is anticipated that organizations that regulate the practice of medicine and reimburse for professional services will require participation in MOC. Right now, the tangible benefit of passing the MOC exam is documentation of expertise in 12 areas of practice, including basic science, cardiovascular, general nuclear medicine, pediatrics, molecular imaging, neurology, bone-infection, oncology PET and PET/CT, bone-infection, oncology PET and PET/CT, oncologic therapy, and patient safety.

In my videos, I encourage others to take the MOC exam because of the necessary competencies to provide quality patient care in nuclear medicine. It is important to have an ongoing process and will require the assessment and improvement of practice by nuclear medicine physicians, as well as completion of a patient safety module. ABNM is requiring MOC participation for its diplomates with time limited certificates issued after 1991 expire in 10 years, and certificates issued since 1992. It is required to serve on the ABNM. Panic! Being a VA physician, my practice was restricted to a Lifer’s Reflections on the MOC Exam—George M. Segall, M.D.

A Lifer’s Reflections on the MOC Exam

I took the ABNM certification exam in 1986 and am considered a “lifer” – a physician with a lifetime certificate. ABNM certificates issued after 1991 expire in 10 years, and physicians must take the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) exam to be recertified.

Although I was a lifer, I was required to take the MOC exam in 2008 when I was elected to serve on the ABNM. Panic! Being a VA physician, my practice was restricted to health services. I went online to the ABNM website and read the four sample questions. I answered three of them correctly. Why was that good enough to pass? Would I pass with a low score that would embarrass me in front of my peers? No luck. There was nothing for physicians. I looked with dismay at the textbooks lining my bookshelf. I sought out colleagues who took the exam, but their breezy assurance didn’t provide much reassurance. Paralyzed by uncertainty and running out of time, I did nothing. The day arrived and I showed up at the testing center at my appointed time. I emptied my pockets, was fingerprinted, photographed and led to my cubicle.

Once I got started my anxiety evaporated. This wasn’t so bad. The questions were reasonable and well written. Even I knew the answers to some of the pediatric and molecular imaging questions. I had plenty of time to complete the 100+ questions in the allotted 3.5 hours. I felt confident that I passed, and optimistic that my performance wouldn’t be embarrassing.

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