



TRACERS

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The American Board of Nuclear Medicine

www.abnm.org

Message from the Chair — Barry L. Shulkin, M.D., MBA



Barry L. Shulkin, M.D., MBA
Chair

At the end of January, 2011, my term as Chairman of the ABNM and board member concluded. The new ABNM Chair is Dr. David Mankoff; the Vice-Chairman is Dr. Kirk Frey; the Secretary Treasurer is Dr. Eric Rohren, and the Members-at-Large on the Executive Committee are Dr. Leonie Gordon and Dr. Janis O'Malley. Dr. Harvey Ziessman remains on the Executive Committee as Past-Chair and Dr. Henry Royal continues as Executive Director.

Dr. Marcelo DiCarli and I have served 7 years on ABNM. As our terms expire, we welcome Dr. Helen Nadel, Associate Professor and chief of nuclear medicine at British Columbia Children's Hospital, and Dr. Louise Thomson, Assistant Clinical Professor at University of California-Los Angeles (see page 6). In June, we will welcome back Dr. Dominique Delbeke from a one year leave of absence while she served as president of the Society of Nuclear Medicine. When she returns, Dr. George Segall begins a one year leave of absence as he becomes president of the Society of Nuclear Medicine.

2011 marks the 40th year anniversary of our board. Over the past 7 years, I've witnessed remarkable changes in the ABNM. Our office has moved from Los Angeles, CA to St. Louis, MO and embraced the computer age. The vast majority of our communication is electronic. Modernization of our website is in process.

Much of the board business that was previously done at the semi annual meetings is now done by conference calls. As a result, ABNM meetings are considerably shorter. Yet board business is continuous, with ongoing deadlines for new questions for the certification exam, the maintenance of certification exam, and the in-training exam, as well as review of previous questions for "modernity", and analysis of the performance of those questions that have appeared on the examinations. Other committees, such as the credentials committee, communications committee, and MOC committee also communicate multiple times per year on

conference calls.

Over the past years, new challenges have appeared that have necessitated increasing the office staff. These include what seems like a moving goalpost for MOC requirements and more documentation of everything. The ABNM has had many discussions with the ABR on forging relationships that could foster the growth of nuclear medicine and acceptance of our diplomates as assets and allies in the delivery of health care in the private practice world. As I write this, the discussions have not led to the meaningful collaborations we had hoped to achieve. I am confident that the current board will pursue our aims to assure that the highest quality nuclear medicine that we can provide is embraced in the community practice of diagnostic imaging and therapy with unsealed sources.

I feel we owe a great deal to our founding board members, who had the vision and tenacity to recognize nuclear medicine as a vibrant, independent specialty and to establish its own certification board. It's amazing that many of the issues that early board members faced are similar to issues confronting the board today. The original board members were

Merrill A. Bender, M.D.
Frederick J. Bonte, M.D.
Paul V. Harper, M.D.
Tyra T. Hutchens, M.D.
E. Richard King, M.D.
Ralph M. Kniseley, M.D.

Joseph P. Kriss, M.D.
Richard E. Peterson, M.D.
Joseph F. Ross, M.D.
W. Newlon Tauxe, M.D.
Henry N. Wagner, Jr., M.D.

2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Message from the Chair—*continued*

I've had the opportunity and privilege to speak with Drs. Bonte, Kuhl, and Wagner about the early days of the ABNM. It strikes me how technologically and clinically advanced we've become over the 40 years both in the tracers available and the machines that detect, process, and display the signal the tracer emits. For more details on the formation and early days of ABNM, I refer you to Chapter 6, pages 69-71, *A New Medical Specialty*, in *A Personal History of Nuclear Medicine* by one of the founding members, Henry N. Wagner, Jr, MD (2006). These pages are particularly meaningful for me as they contain a picture of Dr. William H.

Beierwaltes, the chief of nuclear medicine at the University of Michigan during my training period. Next time I see a founding member, I'll be sure to thank him.

I feel mixed emotions as my term as ABNM chairman ends. It's been fun but a huge time commitment. I have the utmost confidence in our current board members to confront the challenges and obstacles ahead. It has been a pleasure and honor to serve on the ABNM.

Executive Director's Report—*Henry D. Royal, M.D.*



Henry D. Royal, M.D.
Executive Director
royalh@mir.wustl.edu

Major Revision of MyMOC

A major revision to MyMOC has been completed. Improvements to MyMOC include a dashboard (see below) on your profile's homepage that quickly tells you whether there are any MOC items you should attend to.

The first line of the MyMOC dashboard (Are you participating in MOC?) allows you to suppress the emails that will be sent every 2 months if you do not plan on keeping up with the MOC milestones. You will still receive an annual invoice of cumulative unpaid annual MOC fees. The reason we will continue to send you these invoices is that even though you have decided not to participate in MOC the Board believes that MOC will become increasingly important in the future and wants to continue to give you the opportunity to participate in MOC should your situation change.

ABNM. When approved, the lock will change to a green circle with a check mark. You can update your contact information at any time unless a lock is displayed in the status column. The lifelong learning section of the dashboard is where you enter your CME. You will have the option of automatically entering the CME that you have earned from national radiological and nuclear medicine organizations by connecting to the CME Gateway (www.cmegateway.org). If you earn CME from your medical center, you can enter that CME as an annual summary.

In the part three section of the dashboard (Cognitive Expertise), the date of your last examination and the date of your next MOC examination is listed. Diplomates are encouraged to take upcoming examinations two years before they are required so that they do not lose their certification if they do not pass the examination the first time that they take it. In the last section of the dashboard (Practice Performance Assessment), you are required to submit a brief annual summary.

My MOC

Click on Blue Triangle for help on each item.		Status
Are You Participating in MOC?	▼	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
MOC Fee	▼	⚠
Part 1 - Professional Standing	▼	🔒
Part 2 - Lifelong Learning	▼	📁
Part 3 - Cognitive Expertise Date of Next MOC Exam: 2016 Date Of Last Examination: 1979	▼	📁
Part 4 - Practice Performance Assessment	▼	✅

Before you can take action in the remaining sections of the dashboard, you have to first click on the down arrow to expand that section. Once the section is expanded, follow the directions. The second line of the dashboard indicates whether you have any MOC fees that are due. The yield sign with the exclamation mark indicates that one or more annual MOC fee(s) is(are) due. This changes to a green circle with a check mark when all fees are paid.

The third line indicates whether you have updated your contact information, licensing information and practice profile within the last 12 months. The lock in the status column indicates new information has been submitted to the ABNM but that the new information has not yet been approved by the

of your progress with practice performance assessment. Practice performance assessments are required beginning in 2011.

The first year requirement is to indicate how you have learned about quality improvement. Subsequent years will consist of three year cycles during which you select a project and then make a baseline measurement in the first year, come up within improvement plan in the second year and re-measure in the third year to see if there has been an improvement.

Feedback

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 Henry Royal M.D. (royalh@mir.wustl.edu), Executive Director, American Board of Nuclear Medicine.



CMS May Offer Financial Incentive for Participating in MOC—George M. Segall, M.D.

The Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) was introduced by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in 2007 to provide incentive payments to physicians who report data on quality measures for covered services. The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (MIPPA) made the PQRI program permanent, and the program was subsequently renamed the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS). In 2010 participating physicians received an incentive payment of 2% for reporting quality measure for covered professional services. The incentive payment is 1% in 2011, and 0.5 percent in 2012 – 2014. Penalties will be imposed beginning in 2015 for physicians who do not submit quality data.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) enacted in 2010 provides an additional incentive of 0.5% to physicians who submit data to CMS on PQRS measures and participate in a qualified Maintenance of Certification program “more frequently” than required for continued certification by a medical specialty board. CMS has announced that organizations with MOC programs such as ABNM may apply for qualification to submit MOC participation data to CMS on the behalf of a physician. ABNM has submitted an application, and will learn if it is qualified before spring 2011.

There is only one PQRS Measure for nuclear medicine (Correlation with Existing Imaging Studies for All Patients Undergoing Bone

Scintigraphy). If you are already reporting this quality measure to CMS and if CMS accepts ABNM MOC program, you will be eligible for this additional 0.5% financial incentive if you meet the ACA's requirement for “more frequent” participation in MOC.

Diplomates with lifetime certificates only need to participate in ABNM's standard MOC program to meet the ACA's requirement for “more frequent” participation. CMS' rationale is that lifetime members are not required to participate in MOC. By participating in the ABNM's MOC program, they are participating more frequently than they are required by the ABNM in order to remain certified.

In contrast, diplomates with time limited certificates are already required by the ABNM to participate in MOC in order to remain certified. CMS wants to incentivize diplomates to do more than what they are required to do. For diplomates with time-limited certificates, the CMS requirement for “more frequent” participation in MOC includes parts 2 through 4 and is summarized in the Table below.

It is expected that documentation of participation in PQRS MOC, like ABNM MOC, will be based on physician self-attestation, and verified by random audits. Physicians who would like to learn more about participation in MOC can visit the ABNM website at www.abnm.org and select maintenance of certification. More information about PQRS can be obtained from CMS at www.cms.gov/PQRI/.

	ABNM MOC Requirements	PQRS MOC Requirements
Part 2 Life Long Learning and Self-Assessment	25 Category 1 CME per year 8 hours of SAM per year	30 hours of Category 1 per year 9.6 hours of SAM per year
Part 3 Cognitive Expertise	MOC exam every 10 years	MOC exam every 9 years
Part 4 Performance in Practice Evaluation	3 practice evaluation projects every 10 years	4 practice evaluation projects every 10 years

2011 Certification and Maintenance of Certification Examination Schedule

Application Period: *April 1, 2011 through May 31, 2011*

on-line application available at www.abnm.org

Examination Dates: *October 3 through October 7, 2011*



The American Board
of Nuclear Medicine

A Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties



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Certification Matters

4555 Forest Park Boulevard, Suite 119, St. Louis, Missouri 63108-2173
(314)367-2225, Email: abnm@abnm.org, Website: www.abnm.org

2010 ABNM Examination Results

	Certification Examination	MOC Examination
Number of Candidates/Diplomates who took exam	98	78
Number who passed	80	77
Pass rate	82 %	99%

New Diplomates Who Passed the 2010 Certification Examination

Aaron, Vasantha	Homb, Andrew	Pucar, Darko
Adams, Scott	Jakubowski, Eric	Rahman, Saiyyeda
Agarwal, Rajan	James, Olga	Rezvani, Mohammad
Alenezi, Saud	Jessop, Aaron	Salib, Nancy
Amir, Guy	Jethva, Chirag	Samii, Jason
Annexy Marquez, Roberto	Kaushik, Aarti	Scotti, Stephen
Avery, Ryan	Kim, Do Hee	Shastri, Anil
Barshay, Veniamin	Koppula, Bhasker Rao	Sirineni, Gopi Kiran Reddy
Berk, Fatma	Kushen, Medina	Sokol, Levi
Birdjandi, Farschad	Latour, Euyen	Solnes, Lilja
Bravo Valenzuela, Paco	Lim, James	Son, Hongju
Bural, Gonca	Lin, Jeffrey	Tabib, Ramona
Carlson, David	Liu, Collins	Takaki, Kristi
Chahin, Lourin	Martinez Gonzalez, Felipe	Tan, Joseph
Chamarthy, Murthy	Mc Auley, Grainne	Tang, Bingfeng
Chamroonrat, Wichana	McConathy, Jonathan	Taylor-Gantte, Deanna
Chang, David	Mehta, Kaushal	Thaker, Harshada
Chaudhry, Muhammad	Michaud, Paul	Thomas, Damita
Chen, Ming-Kai	Miller, Jeffrey	Thompson, Chiarra
Chien, David	Mollura, Daniel	Udall, Don
DeLonga, David	Neumann, Gesa	Umlauf, Jon
Dubroff, Jacob	Nguyen, Nhan	Viana, Fernando
Ege, Gurkan	Osborne, Joseph	Virmani, Rashmi
Francis, Tony	Paes, Fabio	Wells, Karen
Gohil, Harshkumar	Piert, Morand	Xu, Feng
Gomes, Hilton	Poulos, George	Yan, Xuexian
Hegde, Vanishree	Prasad, Kalpna	

**Congratulations
and Welcome** ■

Congratulations to Our Diplomates Who Passed the 2010 MOC Examination

Abujudeh, Hani	Falen, Steven	Kerr, Carolyn	Schulman, Irene
Akhurst, Timothy	Fernandez-Abril, Aristides	Kwok, Pauline	Shankar, Lalitha
Bartley, Scott	Forgetta, Joan	Larhs, Anthony	Stoll, Howard
Bernard, Mark	Gan, Fang-Yun	Leahy, John	Studentsova, Yana
Brophey, Michael	Garcia, Tomas	Lim, Esther	Sung, Wei
Brousseau, David	Ghesani, Nasrin	Lin, Henry	Szabo, Zsolt
Camponovo, Ernest	Graham, Jess	Magram, Martin	Taylor, Ryan
Carlisle, Marie	Gupta, Rahul	Mallin, William	Tronco, Gene
Chacko, George	Guzalo, Erica	Manzanero, Philip	Van Der Westhuizen, Gert
Chandramouli, Bangaruswamy	Hickeson, Marc	Martin, Laurie	Vijayakumar, Vani
Clarke, Colin	Hiller, Jay	Martin, Chuck	Viswamitra, Sanjaya
Cliche, Jean-Pierre	Hopper, Orlin	Menda, Yusuf	Young, Steven
Cohen, Jason	Hsu, Te-Chung	Nguyen, Phong	Yun, Mijin
Cole, Charles	Ibrahim, Mian	Ojha, Buddhiwardhan	Yung, Babington
Contoreggi, Carlo	Jaksha, Matthew	Oldershaw, John	Zhuang, Hongming
De Simon, Gabriele	Johnson, Lester	Pinkus, Edward	Thomson, Louise
Dou, Yamin	Juweid, Malik	Reddy, Madhusudhan	Nadel, Helen
Eckersberg-Rhodes, Tristen	Kalapparambath, Tomy	Rice, Harry	
Esposito, Giuseppe	Kaskowitz, Lawrence	Scheiner, Jac	
Ezuddin, Shabbir	Kaufman, Michael	Schmitter, Stephen	

In Memoriam—Alexander Gottschalk, MD

Dr. Alexander Gottschalk, a lifetime board member of the ABNM passed away recently. Dr. Gottschalk served as a member of the board from 1973-1979 and in 1978, chaired the Recertification Committee. As noted in the memorial below, Dr. Gottschalk was a valued member of the nuclear medicine community and will be missed by many.



Alexander Gottschalk, MD, died peacefully on October 5 at the age of 78, after a 5-y battle with prostate cancer. Alex was born in Chicago, IL, in 1932 to illustrious parent educators. Both were professors at the University of Chicago: Louis was a historian and president of the American Historical Society, who specialized in the French Revolution, and Fruma Kasden

Gottschalk, a Russian immigrant, was professor of Slovak languages and literature. Alex received his magna cum laude baccalaureate degree from Harvard in 1954 and his medical degree in 1958 from Washington University of St. Louis, where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. He returned to Chicago for an internship at the University of Illinois and a radiology residency at the University of Chicago, which he completed in 1962.

During his residency, Alex became fascinated with and developed his lifelong interest in the fledgling field of nuclear medicine. To pursue this exciting new interest, he accepted a 2-y research associate position at the Donner Research Laboratory in Berkeley, CA, where he worked closely with Hal Anger, the developer of the scintillation camera that bears his name and remains the primary imaging instrument in today's clinical nuclear medicine practice. Lending his clinical expertise and ingenuity to Anger, the pair produced seminal images of the heart, kidneys, and brain.

Alex returned in 1964 to Chicago, where he continued his work and became chief of the University of Chicago's section of nuclear medicine. In 1967, he became director of the Argonne Cancer Research Hospital (later known as the Franklin McLean Institute), where he collaborated with such luminaries as Paul Harper, MD, Katherine Lathrop, and Robert Beck. Among other groundbreaking efforts, the group worked on the development of clinical applications for technetium compounds.

After a brief tenure as radiology department chair at the University of Chicago, Alex moved in 1974 to Yale University (New Haven, CT) as director of the nuclear medicine section. There, working with Barry Zaret, MD, he set up a pioneering cardiovascular nuclear medicine clinical and research service. During his years in Chicago and at Yale, he worked closely with Paul Hoffer, MD, another well-known researcher and clinical practitioner of nuclear medicine. He moved to Michigan State University (East Lansing) in 1990. Alex maintained a career-long interest in nuclear medicine techniques to assess pulmonary embolism and was closely involved in the Prospective Investigation of Pulmonary Embolism Diagnosis (PIOPED) studies, serving as chair of the nuclear medicine working group for PIOPED I, II, and III.

The awards Alex received for his brilliant and innovative work were numerous. One of the first (of which he

was always quite proud) was being named in 1967 as one of America's "Ten Outstanding Young Men" by the U.S. Jaycees. He received the gold medals of both the Association of University Radiologists and the Radiological Society of North America. He held board certifications from the American Board of Radiology (in both general radiology and special competence in nuclear radiology) and the American Board of Nuclear Medicine. He served as president of the Association of University Radiologists (1969-1971), the Society of Nuclear Medicine (1974-1975), and the Fleischner Society (1989-1990).

He authored or coauthored almost 400 publications, including highly influential peer reviewed scientific articles and book chapters. He served as editor-in-chief of the Yearbook of Nuclear Medicine from 1995 to 2003 and coeditor of the classic text, Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine, in 1976. His first publication was in The Journal of Nuclear Medicine in 1963 (coauthored with Anger: Localization of brain tumors with the positron scintillation camera. J Nucl Med. 1963;4:326-330). In recent years he collaborated with a number of distinguished colleagues in these pages.

His academic and scientific achievements were extraordinary, and his personal characteristics were even more impressive. He always preferred being called "Alex" rather than "Dr. Gottschalk." This extended not only to his residents but to all the technologists, secretaries, and custodial help in his several departments. His 50-y marriage to his beloved Jane (who chose the early photo of Alex included here) produced 3 children: Rand Gottschalk (Okemos, MI), Karen Bakos (New York, NY), and Amy Gottschalk (Princeton, NJ); and 5 grandsons, to whom he was endearingly known as "Poppy Alex."

Alex continued to work throughout his battle with prostate cancer, and he kept his sense of humor. About 2 years prior to his demise, while on a research telephone call, he said: "Hurry up and get the data. I might not be here next year." Near his death, while in an assisted care facility, he asked what was being served for dinner. When told that it was cottage cheese and mashed potatoes, he remarked that "at least they can't ruin the cottage cheese."

Alex Gottschalk was one of our great nuclear medicine pioneers. Many of his contributions have evolved into elements of routine everyday practice in nuclear medicine. He will be missed by many. Leonard M. Freeman, MD Paul D. Stein, MD E. James Potchen, MD H. Dirk Sostman, MD

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Login to the ABNM Website

www.abnm.org

Introducing 2011 ABNM New Board Members



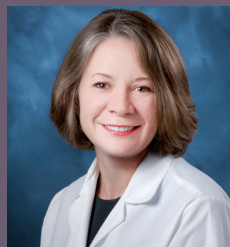
Helen R. Nadel, M.D., FRCPC

*Pediatric Radiologist and Nuclear Medicine Physician Head,
Division of Nuclear Medicine, Department of Radiology British
Columbia Children's Hospital Vancouver, British Columbia
Associate Professor of Radiology University of British Columbia*

Dr Helen Nadel is a Canadian trained and practicing nuclear medicine physician and pediatric radiologist. She holds multiple certifications in nuclear medicine. She grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba where she completed her undergraduate and medical school education. She trained in nuclear medicine and radiology in Toronto, Ontario. Subsequently she has been living and practicing as a nuclear medicine physician and radiologist at British Columbia Children's Hospital in Vancouver, British Columbia and presently is Head of the Division of Nuclear Medicine there. She describes herself as a generalist but has a particular interest in pediatric oncologic imaging and optimized low dose hybrid imaging.

She has been interested in assessment all through her medical career and has served as a member of the examination committee for nuclear medicine for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. She is a past president of the SNM Pediatric Imaging Council and the SNM Pacific Northwest Chapter.

Her interest on the ABNM is to become an expert at simplifying the maze of MOC for herself and other ABNM certificate holders. Her greatest accomplishment she states is being the mother of two adult daughters, who are presently graduate students in the northeast USA.



Louise E. Thomson, MBChB, FRACP

*Attending Staff Physician in Nuclear Medicine and Cardiac,
S. Mark Taper Foundation Imaging Center, Assistant Clinical
Professor of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA.
Program Director, Cardiovascular Imaging Fellowship, Cedars
Sinai Imaging Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA*

Dr. Louise Thomson trained as a cardiologist in New Zealand prior to a nuclear medicine fellowship in Australia. She moved to the United States in 2002 as a research fellow in cardiovascular MRI at Duke University Medical Center and subsequently completed training requirements in nuclear medicine. She presently practices in an imaging department at Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles and reads cardiac and general nuclear medicine, PET/CT as well as cardiac MRI and cardiac CT. Her research interests are focused in cardiac imaging, with particular interest in the non invasive detection of myocardial ischemia in women with angina and open coronary arteries.

She is an enthusiastic teacher of radiology residents, cardiology fellows and advanced cardiovascular imaging fellows and serves as the program director for the Cedars Sinai Cardiovascular Imaging Fellowship. "My background and teaching experience gives me a broad understanding of the credentialing processes for nuclear medicine physicians, radiologists and cardiologists." She takes pride in her ability to bridge differences in training backgrounds with case-based integration of physiology and anatomy from the perspective of both the imager and the referring clinician.

Donations Received in 2010

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 2010.

Contributor - \$100 and above

Nelson Arnstein
Frank Altomare
Frederick Bonte
Jorge Brito
William Delaney
Eva Dubovsky
William Elton
Stephen Gerard
Louis Gierke
Peter Giustra
Karen Goodhope
Leonie Gordon

Bennett Greenspan
Christopher Gregory
Shabbir Hakim
Robert Henkin
Edward Huycke
Anton Johnson
Zahid Khan
Esther Lim
Timothy Manzone
Robert Matthews
Darrell McIndoe
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Yogeshkumar Patel
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Chi-lai Ho