

**Subject: ABIM**

*April 17, 2015*

*Michael Mansour, MD, FACC (mmansour@cvdocs.com)*

Dear Colleagues,

Just to clarify some points made this week regarding ABIM. As of now there has been no official change in ABIM and very little change in MOC. The survey we sent out last year harnessed the sentiments and energy of our members and continues to factor heavily into ACC decisions. We now have a follow up survey before us and our membership. We need at least as large of a response to this follow up survey on ABIM/MOC as we had on the first one. We need the BOG to encourage members to fill out this survey. Even if you have to send out emails and make some phone calls. Our job as leaders is not to tell members what to think or to make decisions believing we know what's best for members. Our job is to understand our members concerns and to direct their energy in a way that serves their best interest, the best interest of their patients, and is most consistent with the ideals and goals of the ACC. We need the survey results to help us make the best decisions. We have a great deal of work before us. Even if you believe the ABIM as we have known it is finished we have a greater responsibility to be certain that something better fills any void created by change.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE MEMBERS TO ANSWER THE SURVEY.

Thank you and best wishes,

Michael Mansour

*April 17, 2015*

*Bruce Lindsay, MD, FACC (lindsab@ccf.org)*

I returned from the ABIM writing committee chairs meeting yesterday. They are making a genuine effort to make the current system better, but they are still focused on the current system, and they are not eliminating the need for a secure MOC exam. My sense is that the Council discussed this but is not willing to let it go. They have not made a decision about the need for a subspecialist (e.g., EP, interventional, imaging, or heart failure) to maintain certification in cardiology, but they have not ruled against it and may be receptive to the idea. There was no discussion about the PIM.

If you want substantive changes in the way MOC is performed, you will need to make that clear to ACC leadership. For those who think the ABIM is in retreat, I think they are digging in.

*April 17, 2015*

*Victor Ferrari, MD, FACC (ferrariv@mail.med.upenn.edu)*

Thanks Mike - I filled out my survey this morning & we will encourage our members to do so as well. Thanks for keeping track of our members' feelings regarding these sands continue to shift...

Speaking informally to a number of my colleagues & some chapter members, there is strong support for ABIM to handle initial certification, but ACC to handle recertification. This makes obvious sense to many, & I hope the survey reflects that the majority hold this opinion. It would be great to go forward in negotiations with ABIM from a position of strength with broad member support for changes such as these.

Best ,  
Vic

*April 17, 2015*

*Gilead Lancaster, MD, FACC (gilead.lancaster@bpthosp.org)*

Mike and all,

With all the attention on the SRG this week, I missed [this article in the NYT](#).

(<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/04/13/board-certification-and-fees-anger-doctors/?ref=health&r=0>).

Although the article does not shed any new light on the situation (but does take a rather doctor friendly position), I found the comments very interesting. Many are by doctors, but I think the really important aspect of this is that we can get an idea of what the patients/consumers are thinking. It is clear that whatever public fight we have with the ABIM has to be accompanied by a good education campaign to the public. In fact, maybe we (the ACC or the AMA) should consider doing a survey to the public/consumers?

Gil

*April 17, 2015*

*Richard Chazal, MD, FACC (Richard.chazal@leememorial.org)*

Some new, somewhat hopeful developments with ABIM: <http://blog.acc.org/post/moc-update-greater-flexibility-available-part-ii-new-acc-task-forces-formed/>

Rick

*April 17, 2015*

*Norman Lepor, MD, FACC (norman.lepor@gmail.com)*

The pressure needs to be maintained. I appreciate the expressions of hope but I want concrete actions that we support not little teasers. I don't expect serious change from ABIM short of a real mutiny by the rank and file certified docs. Until then it will be smoke and mirrors.