

Subject: MOC Survey and Relevance

May 19, 2015

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The results of the survey are helpful to gage the temperament of our members. I believe the 1000 or so who responded last time and did not respond this time have moved on from ABIM and are pursuing other avenues to document lifelong learning. I am seeing this move in large groups in competitive metropolitan areas in our state and in surrounding states. This is the current that will continue to gather strength as physicians committed to lifelong learning pursue those avenues that maintain relevance to their practice and their patients. I am also seeing insurers and hospitals backing away from requiring "ABIM" certification due to broad objections to the present ABIM MOC program.

I hope all of you have had the chance to read the book *Race for Relevance*. I believe the ACC has taken a course of maintaining relevance by offering to support members with whatever decision each makes regarding MOC. For those not participating with ABIM MOC we need to support them with a path of lifelong learning with or without ABMS, the AHA or others.

We all believe and support lifelong learning. Empowering our members by showing the way to continue lifelong learning independent of ABIM will be required by many of our membership. ABIM has acted in bad faith in their offer to work with ACC and ACP and others on the MOC process by not certifying new graduates of training programs unless they sign up for MOC immediately after passing their boards. Some may consider this extortion to force physicians to participate in MOC to "demonstrate they are keeping up to date" immediately after passing their Boards.

I hope you had the chance to read Robert Guyton's ACC in Touch Blog post which I forwarded to you last week. It is the most clear and concise message I have seen regarding empowering our members. This empowerment is the key to maintaining relevance as a Society. In Robert's message he speaks of empowering our members to accomplish the ACC mission to "transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health". Empowering members to accomplish our mission and to deal with issues such as we face with recertification is the key to maintaining relevance and accomplishing our goals as a Society and as physicians.

Michael

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Robert Shor, MD, FACC (rshor@tcg.md)

Please let me know if you are aware of **hospitals who are now accepting NBPAS**. We have heard of folks who are going to or who have gone to their hospitals to request a change in the certifying body, but have not heard of any who are now accepting NBPAS as an alternative to ABIM. This info will be EXTREMELY helpful moving forward.

May 19, 2015

Douglas Pearce, MD, FACC (djpearcemdacc@gmail.com)

Hi Bob, Thanks for the info. Our present bylaws state that one must be "board certified" to maintain staff privileges but does not specify the board. We are intentionally delaying action on this issue until we see how the process with the ABIM plays out. The loudest sentiment by all of our IM docs is to move away from ABIM. Doug