



THE DIPLOMATE

AMERICAN BOARD OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

WINTER 2023

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2023-2024 Board of Directors



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Director



A Message from Your President



Pushkar Mehra, DMD, MS, FACS

Greetings from Boston! A city which has somehow successfully managed to always blend the “Old with the New”. ABOMS is no different- the leadership team continues to strive to develop new partnerships while reflecting on our incredible history and cherishing our progress over many decades. As a specialty, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is unique—we are an efficient blend of office- and hospital-based surgery encompassing the disciplines of Dentistry, Medicine, and Surgery! As one of the backbones of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, our success at ABOMS has been the result of a carefully thought out strategy and implementation of rigorous and thorough processes. Our mission is to ensure that Diplomates meet our standards of training, education, and professionalism through their career. We will continue to provide programs that promote optimal care and service to the public.

ABOMS is a leader in Board Certification and is renowned for being at the forefront of innovation. Currently, we are actively working on many projects which will keep us contemporary and further streamline the Certification processes. Some recently launched initiatives include creation of the Examination Preparatory Portal, a self-assessment tool for those seeking Board Certification; and, availability of the ABOMS Portal mobile app which helps the Candidates and Diplomates to keep tabs on their applications and certification. We are actively exploring other initiatives like increasing our collaborative footprint with other healthcare organizations, and inclusion of Simulation testing into the examination processes.

Diversity is our heart and soul, and when it comes to inclusion, we are all in! The skill, dedication, and compassion of the ABOMS team which includes the Board of Directors and staff members is what makes our organization extraordinary; it is their selfless work which will make us even stronger in the future. We remain thankful to Dr. Bernard J. Costello for his exemplary leadership this past year. His guidance as Immediate Past President will be instrumental in our path forward. The words of wisdom of Dr. Vincent Perciaccante, who completed his term on the Board of Directors, will be sorely missed. Personally, it is an honor to lead this organization and I could not be more excited about what lies ahead!

I wish you and your families a happy holiday season. Stay safe and be well.



A Note from Our New Director



Joseph E. Cillo Jr., DMD, MPH, PhD, FACS

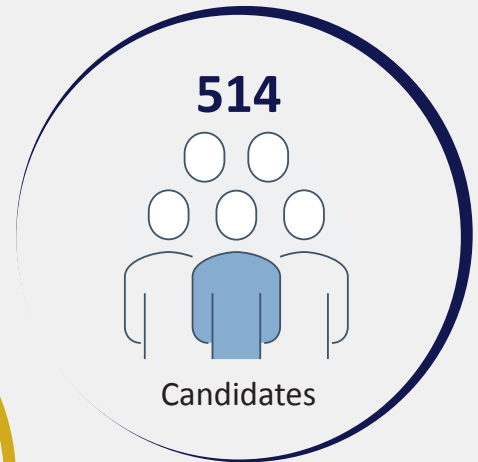
I am equally thrilled and humbled to be elected by my peers to the position of new ABOMS Director. As Marcus Aurelius said “The only wealth which you will keep forever is the wealth you have given away”. It is the wealth of service and commitment with which I proudly step forward as a new Director to join this talented team of professionals with the opportunity to fulfill the Board’s mission of maintaining the standards of training, education, and professionalism through our certification process.

There are many challenges that have and will continue to test our profession and Board. The impact of ever advancing technology, artificial intelligence, medical innovations and other external forces will create both trials and opportunities that must be met and adapted to for our profession to continue to thrive. These challenges can provide new opportunities for our profession to grow. I am confident in the entire Board’s commitment to rising to these challenges of our profession, maintaining and advancing the high standards of this organization to meet its mission of patient safety, maintenance of appropriate professional credentials, training, experience and knowledge.

The proven evidence-based assessment techniques employed by the Board make it an efficient, engaged, and effective organization and will continue to make it the premier credentialing entity in dentistry. Witnessing first-hand the marked increase in the number of candidates that were successfully examined over the last few years and both internal and external forces that stress it, I have seen the diligent and tireless work of the Directors, staff, and members of the Examination Committee which continue to prove that great things can come from this well-run and directed organization. I look ahead to the future challenges presented to both this Board and profession and look forward to meeting these challenges in collaboration with the members of the Board and staff.



Keeping Informed



Keeping Informed

2024 Annual Registration and Certification Maintenance

Start your year off right by checking off two things from your 2024 list - Annual Registration (AR) and Certification Maintenance (CM)! AR will open on Diplomate profiles on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, and you will have until March 31 to submit payment. 2024 CM requirements can be found on your Diplomate profile in January, and you will have until the end of 2024 to complete those.

IMPORTANT!

You will not be able to pay 2024 Annual Registration if you have not yet completed your 2023 Certification Maintenance requirements, so please be sure to complete those by December 31, 2023, via your Diplomate profile.

Display your Board Certification!

Want patients to know you're Board Certified by ABOMS? Visit the online store in your Diplomate profile to order extra certificates (framed or unframed) and/or a Diplomate lapel pin.

You can also request customized press releases and patient brochures. Visit the "Resources" tab in your Diplomate profile for more information.

Download our Mobile App

This year ABOMS released its first-ever mobile app, "ABOMS Portal." This app provides resources right at your fingertips and is available for everyone from residents to Diplomates.

Here are just some of the capabilities of this new app:

- Apply for Board Certification and check the status of your application
- Track the status of your certification
- Complete assessments and modules for Certification Maintenance
- Pay Annual Registration

Compatible with a range of smartphones and tablets, we invite you to download this app in Apple's App Store or Google Play, or simply scan the QR code.



Keeping Informed

Examination Preparatory Portal: What it is and Who is it for?

The Board designed a new assessment program to support applicants seeking ABOMS Board Certification: the Examination Preparatory Portal (EPP), an interactive and complimentary online tool to help applicants prepare for the Qualifying Examination (QE).

How does the Exam Prep Portal support the certification process?

The EPP complements OMS residency programs by providing resources to assess and refine an applicant's expertise within the scope of our specialty; it features diverse study tools to target specific domains as outlined in the QE Blueprint. The EPP incorporates:

- **Proficiency Quizzes:** Short, focused 3-5 question assessments to gauge applicants' understanding of a particular topic
- **Mini Exams:** 15 timed questions on several domains to test applicants' readiness
- **Immediate Feedback:** Quick responses to incorrect answers for clarification
- **Score Reports:** Track progress in specific domains for a tailored study experience
- **References:** Cited references for each question for continued learning

Through initiatives like the Exam Prep Portal, we will continually enhance our programs to support OMS surgeons on their journey to Board Certification and beyond and thereby advance standards of oral and maxillofacial surgery practice.

Note: An applicant's use of the portal does not impact Board Certification eligibility, nor does it guarantee Board Certification; Candidates must meet all application requirements and pass the ABOMS Qualifying Examination (QE) and subsequent Oral Certifying Examination (OCE) to become Board Certified.

At this point in our EPP roll-out, it is available to those who are registered for the QE. If you are outside of this category but would still like access to the EPP, please email info@aboms.org.



Volunteer with ABOMS

OPPORTUNITIES

Board of Directors

Shape direction & policies of ABOMS, administer the certification process and Certification Maintenance.

Section Editor

Review exam questions throughout year, attend annual meeting for training new members.

Regional Advisors

Interview potential committee members. Requires an average of 2-3 hrs per month, no travel.

OCE Committee

Serve as in-person examiners and prepare cases for OCE. Travel to Raleigh each Feb. for OCE.

Content Expert

Maintain a relevant item bank, reviewing & editing exam questions within your assigned domain as needed.

Computer-Based Testing Item Writer

Write questions for QE, OMSITE, and Exam Prep Portal. Need 2+ yrs to qualify for OCE Committee.

CAQ Item Writer Committee

Write questions for 1 of 2 CAQ exams. Attend in-person workshop. Need 2+ yrs to qualify for OCE Committee.

OCE Co-Chair

Help oversee committee members & facilitate exam process, <5 hrs monthly, travel for in-person meetings in Raleigh & Chicago.

BENEFITS

- Opportunity to build professional relationships
- Be a leader in the OMS specialty, helping to form the next generation of surgeons
- Continuing Education credits are available for OCE

Interested in volunteering with ABOMS? Check our website for more details or email info@aboms.org with how to get involved with a specific role.

2023-2024 Examination Committee

Each spring the Board of Directors selects a group of Examiners to serve on its current year's Examination Committee. This group of exceptional individuals aid in the development of the ABOMS computer-based testing (CBT) examinations and Oral Certifying Examination (OCE). Committee members are responsible for submitting questions and cases for specific examinations and, at times, assigned to leadership positions within the Committee. The Board recognizes the time and commitment spent as an ABOMS Examiner and thanks our dedicated members in advancing the specialty.

Tara Aghaloo*	Hany Emam	Benjamin Kur	Cory Resnick
John Allen	Michael English	Carl Labela	Tracey Rosenberg*
Suganya Appugounder*	David Fallah	Edward Lahey	Sara Runnels
Jon Bailey	Elie Ferneini	Jay Lee**	Michael Safian
Carrie Baldwin**	Luis Ferrer-Nuin	Susie Lin	Salam Salman
Gerard Begley**	Elda Fisher	John Lupori	Randy Sanovich*
George Blakey	Steven Fletcher	Ashley Manlove*	Nathan Schroeder
Todd Brandt	Michael Gentile	Amir Marashi	Joshua Segal
Hans Brockhoff**	Tamer Goksel	Michael Markiewicz*	Trina Sengupta**
Tuan Bui	Bradley Gregory**	Glenn Maron	John Shroyer
Anthony Bunnell*	Daniel Hammer**	Nima Massoomi*	Jonathan Shum
Kamal Busaidy	Michael Han	Robert McNeill*	Constantine Simos
Curt Cain	James Henderson	Daniel Meara*	Christopher Smith**
Nicholas Callahan**	Andrew Henry**	James Melville*	Jim Solomon
Ronald Caloss	Raza Hussain	Brian Murphy	Brittany Sonnichsen**
Vincent Carrao	Malini Iyer**	Gregory Ness	Richard Szumita
Angelle Casagrande	Matt Jacks	Brandon Newell	R. John Tannyhill
Srinivasa Chandra*	Courtney Jatana	Alexis Olsson	Jayini Thakker*
Radhika Chigurupati	Douglas Johnson	Wayne Ozaki	Tibebu Tsegga
Joli Chou	Anku Johri*	Neeraj Panchal	Ashok Veeranki
Paul Ciuci	Robert Julian	Chan Park	Peter Vellis*
Thaer Daifallah*	Arshad Kaleem**	Zachary Peacock*	Christopher Viozzi
Jason Dashow*	Katherine Keeley	Daniel Perez	James Ward
Dean DeLuke	Karen Keith	Leonel Perez	Dean Whitman
Valmont Desa	Brian Kelley	Jason Portnof	Monty Wilson*
Robert Diecidue	Kevin Kempers	Kathlyn Powell	Melvyn Yeoh
Donita Dyalram	JD Kisella	Michael Ray	Yedeh Ying**
Nathan Eberle	Alia Koch	Gwendolyn Reeve	Waleed Zaid**
Jeffrey Elo	Jack Krajekian*	Shravan Renapurkar	

*CBT Item Writer

**Newly appointed CBT Item Writer

Committee Leadership

Examination Committee members are selected by the Board to serve in leadership roles through the development and administration for both our CBT examinations and OCE. The individuals listed exude the highest level of professionalism and exceptional knowledge in the specialty. The Board of Directors graciously thanks each of these individuals for their time and commitment to the specialty.

Co-Chairs

Surgery Section I

Paul Ciuci
Michael Gentile

Surgery Section II

Curt Cain
Kevin Kempers

Surgery Section III

Radhika Chigurupati
Steve Fletcher

Section Editors

Surgery Section I

Robert Julian

Surgery Section II

Vincent Carrao

Surgery Section III

Edward Lahey

Certification Maintenance

Co-Chairs

Kamal Busaidy
Glenn Maron

Editor

Tuan Bui

CAQ Committee

The following Diplomates are members of the ABOMS Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) Committees, which are also part of the ABOMS Examination Committee. We thank them for their work in building our past exams and in preparation for the 2024 administration.

CAQ in Head and Neck Oncologic and Reconstructive Surgery

Kevin Arce
Allen Cheng
Daniel Hammer

Arshad Kaleem
Roderick Kim
Hisham Marwan

Ashish Patel
Brian Schmidt

CAQ in Pediatric Craniomaxillofacial Surgery (Cleft and Craniofacial)

Kyunghoon Chung
Michael Gentile
Carlo Guevara

Caitlin Magraw
Mark Miller
Bonnie Padwa

David Wilson

Upcoming Examinations

2024 Qualifying Examination (QE)

January 6–13, 2024, Prometric Testing Centers

2024 Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery In-service Training Examination (OMSITE)

February 3–17, 2024, Prometric Testing Centers

Important Dates: Exam scheduling closes December 22, 2023

2024 Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

February 5–9, 2024, Raleigh, NC



Past Presidents' Brunch and the Annual Gala

Each year, we look forward to our annual brunch, honoring our past presidents and ABOMS Directors. We love the tradition of catching up and hearing everyone's personal updates and stories from the year.

We ended the week with our annual gala, honoring outgoing President, Dr. Bernard J. Costello, and the Examination Committee. Held at The Prado in the gorgeous Balboa Park of San Diego, the celebration was classy and touching and was the perfect wrap-up to our week. Thank you, everyone, for a great meeting in sunny California!



Dr. James Hupp shares what he's been up to over the past year.



A few of our past presidents pause from chatting to pose for the photographer. Left to right: Drs. Pete Larsen, Richard Burton, Mary Delsol, Colin Bell, and David Bitonti



New Director, Dr. Joseph Cillo, introduces himself and shares any life updates at his first Past Presidents brunch.



Michelle Steed, Lisa Bitonti, and Patty Larsen take a moment to catch up.



Dr. Vincent Perciaccante warmly welcomes Dr. Bernard James Costello into the ABOMS Past Presidents group.



2023-2024 Board of Directors



Dr. Costello with his wife Jackie and children, Michael and Mia, before the start of the gala.



Dr. Pushkar Mehra presents the presidential plaque to Dr. BJ Costello.



The Fountain Courtyard of The Prado in Balboa Park made a picturesque setting for guests to mingle during cocktail hour.



Dr. Deepak Krishnan stops to say hello to Examination Committee members, Drs. Zachary Peacock and Daniel Meara.



Drs. Michael Ray and Kevin Kempers pause for a photo while catching up.



ABOMS ladies unite! Just some of our fabulous surgeons gather in the courtyard. From left to right: Drs. Debra Sacco, Janice Lee, Angelle Casagrande, Radhika Chigurupati, Julia Plevnia, Trina Sengupta, and Suzanne McCormick



The band of the evening, Third Coast Jazz, prepares another song for entertaining the crowd during dinner.

In Memoriam

Within the past couple months, we mourned the passing of two major contributors in the world of oral and maxillofacial surgery. While they were well known for their professional accomplishments, they will both be remembered most for their wonderful characters, full of joy and compassion. Both gone too soon, they will be forever missed. Below, two of our past presidents remember their good friends with warm tributes for each.



Wayne S. Atebara, DMD, MD

February 23, 1960–October 3, 2023

Dr. Atebara served as ABOMS President from 2012-2013, as well as many years as an Examiner. A tribute was created by lifelong friend, Mary Delsol, DDS, in memory of Dr. Atebara.

Dr. Wayne Atebara embodied the best human qualities—joy, kindness, optimism, and congeniality. He was always quick to offer his infectious smile, a welcoming handshake, and a warm embrace. Above all, he loved his family and his friends, and was exceptionally dedicated to his patients and the specialty of oral and maxillofacial surgery. A shining example of service above self, he worked tirelessly on numerous committees for AAOMS and OMSNIC and represented Hawaii in the AAOMS House of Delegates for over two decades. As President of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, he served with integrity and passion.

Dr. Atebara was proud to follow in his father's footsteps as an alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, then chose to continue his training in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Washington University and St. John's Medical Center, both in Saint Louis, MO. He received his medical degree from St. Louis School of Medicine. He is survived by his parents Dr. George and Mrs. June Atebara of Hilo, Hawaii, as well as his brother Dr. Neal Atebara, sister-in-law Fay Atebara, and nephews Matthew and Mitchell Atebara, all of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Although our hearts ache with this immeasurable loss, there is deep gratitude for our lives being touched by this exemplary individual. He will be forever remembered and greatly missed.



In Memoriam



Ramon Ruiz, DMD, MD

September 26, 1967 - September 9, 2023

Dr. Ruiz was an ABOMS Examiner for seven years. Within that time he served as a horizontal rotator, Co-Chair, and Editor for our CAQ in Pediatric Craniomaxillofacial Surgery (Cleft and Craniofacial) Exam. Good friend, Bernard James Costello, DMD, MD, FACS, has written a tribute in his honor.

Dr. Ramon L. Ruiz was a transformative giant in our field and responsible for training countless individuals with his joy and passion for pediatric craniomaxillofacial surgery. Despite achieving an international reputation for innovation and excellence, Ramon was humble and quickly gave his undivided attention to anyone who shared his interest in propelling our specialty forward. As a warm and caring surgeon with truly rare skills, he touched the lives of thousands of patients and influenced the lives of his trainees,

colleagues, and those who read all that he wrote about the art and science of surgery. He was an influential leader with ABOMS, AAOMS, AACFS, ACPA, and many other organizations. Ramon was a deeply committed man to his family and anyone he called a friend.

At his funeral service, there were touching testimonials from mentors and friends and stories about Dr. Ruiz's impact on all who knew him. Of particular note was his family's reference to Maya Angelou's fitting poem, When Great Trees Fall. It speaks to the unique way people who serve others touch our lives. I also encourage you to see his full obituary. We are fortunate to have many great individuals associated with ABOMS; losing one of this importance is difficult—particularly at a young age. However, his impact will live on in us for many years to come, and we celebrate having the opportunity to know him each day.

