

**American Board of Thoracic Surgery Report
to the
Thoracic Surgery Directors Association**

NEW – Structural Heart

At the Fall Board Meeting, the Board of Directors agreed to work in conjunction with the cardiologists to develop a fellowship in Structural Heart that can lead to subspecialty certification. In addition, a new Cardiac Pathway will be developed as an option for residents in training.

New Board Directors

In June 2019, Dr. M. Ashraf Mansour (Grand Rapids, MI) became a Director of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery (ABTS) representing the American Board of Surgery. In September 2019, the ABTS elected Dr. S. Adil Husain (Park City, UT) to be a Director on the Board. In addition, the Board elected Ms. Cathy E. Minehan to serve as Public Member Director. Drs. Mansour and Husain will serve six-year terms and Ms. Minehan will serve a renewable two-year term.

Thoracic Surgery Examinations

The ABTS administered the Written Exam to 130 candidates on December 9, 2019. The pass rate has not yet been determined. The next Written Exam will be held on December 7, 2020.

The ABTS administered the Part II (Oral) Examination to 158 individuals on June 7-8, 2019. The pass rate for the examination was 74% compared to 77% from the previous year. The next Oral Exam will be on June 5-6, 2020 in Chicago.

Congenital Cardiac Surgery Subspecialty Certificate

The ABTS administered the 2018 Congenital Cardiac Surgery Written Exam on November 19, 2018. The pass rate was 78%. The next Written Exam will be administered on December 9, 2019.

The ABTS administered the Congenital Cardiac Surgery Oral Exam on June 6, 2019 for the fellows who were successful on the Qualifying Exam. The pass rate for the exam was 90%. The next Oral Exam will be held on June 4, 2020.

SESATS XII (12)

SESATS XII (12) is now available for purchase at www.sesats.org. SESATS 12 is a web-based, self-assessment tool that covers all areas of thoracic surgery, including adult and congenital cardiac, general thoracic and critical care. Diplomates can earn up to 70 CME hours for taking SESATS 12.

MOC Part III Exam Format

The ABTS continues to offer its Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Exam in a Mastery Learning format by subspecialty (Adult Cardiac, General Thoracic, Cardiothoracic, and Congenital). Instead of taking the exam at a Pearson Testing Center, Diplomates enrolled in the 10-year MOC process will take the exam on their home or office computers.

New Congenital Cardiac Surgery Residency Length Option

The ABTS has agreed to allow CHS Fellowships to be either one or two years in length. Candidates for certification must complete twelve (12) or twenty-four (24) consecutive months of residency training in congenital heart surgery in a single program, accredited by the ACGME RRC-TS. Programs will need to seek approval from the ACGME to change from a one-year to a two-year residency program.