

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

ABTS 75th Anniversary

The American Board of Thoracic Surgery (ABTS) will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary in 2023. The Board of Thoracic Surgery was founded on October 2, 1948 through a coordinated plan between the American Association for Thoracic Surgery and the American Board of Surgery. In 1971, the Board of Thoracic Surgery became known as the American Board of Thoracic Surgery when it was recognized as a primary board by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Since its formation in 1948, the ABTS has issued almost 9,200 primary thoracic surgery certificates and over 250 congenital cardiac surgery certificates. The ABTS is sincerely grateful to the 160 Directors that have served on the Board along with countless Guest Examiners and Question Writers over the past 75 years.

New ABTS Leadership

At the recent Fall Board Meeting, Dr. Joseph A. Dearani, a congenital cardiac surgeon from Rochester, MN, became the Chair of the Board. Dr. Dearani will serve a two-year term until 2024. Before becoming Chair, Dr. Dearani served as the Vice Chair (2019-2022), Director (2013-2019), Oral Examiner and Question Writer.

At the same meeting, the Board of Directors elected Cameron D. Wright, a general thoracic surgeon from Boston, MA, to be the next Executive Director. Dr. Wright will overlap for a year with Dr. David A. Fullerton, the current Executive Director, before assuming the position fully in 2024. Dr. Wright has a long affiliation with the ABTS and has served previously as a question writer, Oral Guest Examiner, Director, Vice Chair, and Chair.

Michael J. Mack, MD, a cardiac surgeon from Plano, TX, was elected to be the Vice Chair. Dr. Mack will serve in this role for two years (2022-2024) after which time he will succeed Dr. Dearani as the Chair (2024-2026). Before becoming Vice Chair, Dr. Mack served a six-year term as a Board Director.

Tom C. Nguyen, MD, from San Francisco, CA, was elected to be a Director on the Board, representing the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. Dr. Nguyen will serve a six-year term as a Director until 2028.

New Certification Operative Pathway

The ABTS approved a new Cardiac Operative Pathway for certification for residents who start their training on or after July 1, 2022. To learn more about the Cardiac Pathway Index Case Requirements, please visit the Board's web site at www.abts.org.

Two-year Congenital Heart Surgery Residency Change

Effective July 1, 2023, the ABTS will require all candidates for the congenital cardiac surgery subspecialty certification to complete two consecutive years of ACGME training in a single program and complete 150 major cases, with a minimum of 50 major cases in the first year of

training. To learn more about the changes to the Congenital Heart Surgery Residency, visit the Board's web site at www.abts.org.

Part II (Oral) Examination Update

The ABTS administered its third virtual Oral Examination to 168 candidates on June 10-11, 2022. The pass rate for the exam was 77%. The next Oral Examination will be in-person on June 9-10, 2023.

Part I (Written) Examinations Update

The ABTS administered the Part I (Written) Exam on December 12-16, 2022. The results of the exam are not yet available. The 2021 Part I (Written) Exam was administered on December 13-16, 2021 and had a pass rate of 85%.

Congenital Cardiac Surgery Subspecialty Examinations

The ABTS administered the CHS Part II (Oral) Exam to eligible CHS candidates on May 20, 2022. The pass rate for the exam was 92%. The ABTS will administer the next CHS Part II exam in-person on June 8, 2022.

The ABTS administered the CHS Part I (Written) Exam on December 12-16, 2022. The pass rate has not yet been determined.

MOC Update

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). The ABTS offers the MOC exam electronically allowing Diplomates to take the exam at their home or office instead of at testing center. The next MOC Exam will be administered in September-October 2023.