Topics covered

- Core exam
- Certifying exam
- SS certification
- MOC
- Leadership opportunities with ABR
Core exam - Timing

- Residents expected to take in 36th month of DR training
  - If off-cycle or have had significant LOA, must wait until have 36 months of DR
  - Exception - research residents with >9 months research in first 3 years can delay
  - Few other exceptions to delay have been granted but PD can request
• Few exceptions to take “early” have been granted (eg military). We do not expect to approve more.
• If don’t take exam at first opportunity, and no exception approved, must wait 27 months after take Core to take Certifying.
• Delivered 2x year - June, October in ABR Test Centers
Nuts and Bolts

• 2 day exam - 6.5 hours on Day 1, 5.5 on Day 2
  • Many candidates leave before time is up, especially on Day 2

• When register, choose a report time...the time to report to Test Center in Tucson, hotel in Chicago
  • Exams have rolling start. Can begin after sign in at computer
  • Cannot report early on either day
### Sample grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Breast</th>
<th>Cardiac</th>
<th>Gl</th>
<th>MSK</th>
<th>Neuro</th>
<th>Peds</th>
<th>Thorax</th>
<th>Repro / Endo</th>
<th>Urinary</th>
<th>Vascular</th>
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</table>

*Specific example: Form 1 of 2013 Core exam*
RISE (RadioIsotope Safety Exam)

- Embedded in Core and Certifying exams
- Rationale: radioisotope safety is important for all DR not just for AU’s
- 50-60 scorable units in Core exam
  - 25-30 already in NM, Safety, Physics
  - 25-30 additional radioisotope safety items
- Additional items in Certifying exam per NRC
- Scored after certifying exam
Core exam study resources

- Core Exam Study Guide - domain of each category
- Core exam Quality and Safety syllabus
  - Will be revised syllabus for 2017 exam
- Core Exam Blueprints - % content across domain on exam
- Core exam sample content
Available Study Resources - continued

- Core Exam Sample Content - covering all topics
- http://www.theabr.org/ic-dr-core-exam
• Practice exam
  • Subset of exam (110 cases) with answers
  • Available to anyone with “myABR”
  • Illustrates software interface, typical exam questions
ABR Exam Information

General Information | Exam Study Materials | Tucson | Chicago | Exam Breakdowns | Exam Integrity | FAQs | Photo Galleries

- Diagnostic Radiology
  - Initial Certification
    - Core Exam
    - Certifying Exam
    - Vascular/Interventional Subspecialty
    - Neuroradiology Subspecialty
    - Pediatric Radiology Subspecialty
    - Nuclear Radiology Subspecialty
    - Maintenance of Certification Exam

- Radiation Oncology
  - Initial Certification
    - Clinical Oncology
    - Medical Physics
    - Radiation and Cancer Biology
    - Oral Examination
    - Maintenance of Certification Exam

- Medical Physics
  - Initial Certification
    - Parts 1 and 2 Exams
    - Oral Examination
  - Maintenance of Certification
    - Diagnostic Medical Physics Exam
    - Nuclear Medical Physics Exam
    - Therapeutic Medical Physics Exam
How is this exam scored?

• Criterion (not norm) referenced
  • Measures what a candidate does relative to standard
    • Not how he/she does relative to others
  • Passing score determined by “Angoff committees” who ask “Would just-competent candidate answer this question correctly?”
  • 100% could theoretically pass exam
Two stage scoring process

Step 1: Must achieve overall score above the Angoff standard for exam as a whole.
  - Yes? Move to step 2
  - No? FAIL

Step 2: Must achieve conditioning threshold for each category (all 18). This is higher for Physics than other categories
  - Yes? PASS
  - No?
    - if 5 or fewer categories, CONDITION.
    - If > 5, FAIL
What have been the results?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% passed</th>
<th>% condit.</th>
<th>% failed</th>
<th># taking</th>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1186</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>91</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
<td>12</td>
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</table>

All conditions have been in Physics
Why didn’t anyone condition any section other than physics?

- Conditioning standard for physics is higher than other categories

- If weak in multiple categories, failed exam
FAQ: Why can’t I just go to a PearsonVUE center to take this test?

- Modular content difficult for PV
- PV can’t handle case structure on their software - scrolling stacks, videos
- PV monitors aren’t calibrated, can’t control lighting
- Aim: to have distributed exam. We are working on system to implement
Certifying exam

- Timing - taken 15 months after satisfactorily finishing residency

- Administered 2x year - October, March-April at ABR Exam Centers in Tucson and Chicago
Structure of Certifying exam

- 5 modules
  - NIS - required
  - Essentials - required
  - 3 clinical practice modules - selected by candidate
    - Two types of modules - fundamental, advanced
      - First module = basic; other(s) advanced
    - Each module at least 60 scorable units
  - Exam 5 hours long (1/2 day)
Non-interpretive skills (NIS)

- What *every physician* should know
- Domain includes: ethics, governmental regulations, systems-based practice, etc.
- Syllabus on ABR website (same as MOC)
  - Syllabus will be revised for 2017 exam
  - Make sure to download correct one!
- Number of items has been reduced for 2016 exams and will be reduced further with aim of 10% content
Essentials

- What *every radiologist* should know
- Includes, but not limited to, Emergency Radiology, common on-call dx
Clinical Practice Areas (CPA)

- CPA’s: Breast, Cardiac, GI, MSK, Neuro, Pediatric, Thoracic, GU, VIR, Nuclear Medicine, Ultrasound, and General Radiology.
  - Each will include relevant Peds, Radiation safety and Quality (“physics”)
  - May include normals and normal variants
  - Choose 1-3 in an area depending on practice profile
  - Study guides on website (same as MOC)
# Candidate Choice Of CPA Modules, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1 Module Selected</th>
<th>2 Modules Selected</th>
<th>3 Modules Selected</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiac</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>GI</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>MSK</td>
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<td>Neuro</td>
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<td>Nucs</td>
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<td>Peds</td>
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<td>Thoracic</td>
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<td>VIR</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Certifying exam, Scoring

- Pass/fail only
- Criterion referenced scoring, same as Core
- Results of 2015 exam: 100% resident cohort passed
  - Only 12% transition from oral passed
  - Why so high? Studied hard, practice-profiled exam, close to residency training
- RISE scored after certifying exam. Hope to have results at same time this year.
Subspecialties - Nuclear Radiology

- 16 month pathway:
  - A DR resident who has a total of 16 months of experience in Nuclear Radiology during residency, can qualify for the SS certificate in Nuclear Radiology
  - 4 months can be in Nuc medicine or Molecular Imaging-related rotations (eg Head and Neck, PET-CT)
  - Must be in department with ACGME-accredited program in Nuc Radiology or Nuc Medicine
  - Up to 2 months can be in PGY 1
  - See ABR website or contact ABR office for more details

Starting in 2017, a resident who has completed the 16 months program can take ONE exam to earn both the DR certificate and the SS certificate, if desired
Subspecialties - VIR

- Last oral exam in Louisville for subspecialty certificate, May 2016
- Beginning in 2017, oral exam will be in Tucson in October in conjunction with Certifying exam
MOC

- 4 parts
  - Part I - Professional standing - Must have unrestricted license in all practice locations
  - Part II - CME and SA-CME
    - 25 CME credits/year of which 1/3 must be SA-CME
  - Part III - Cognitive expertise
  - Part IV - PQI project or participation in PQI activities
MOC = continuous certification

- March of each year = look back

How do we know if you have fulfilled requirements?
- Simplified attestation of completion.
- Some are audited
  - Need to keep all primary documentation!
# MOC Participation Look-Back

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOC Element</th>
<th>Compliance Requirement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professional Standing</strong></td>
<td>At least one valid state medical license</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CME</strong></td>
<td>At least 75 Category 1 CME credits in previous 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Self-Assessment CME (SA-CME)</strong></td>
<td>At least 25 of the 75 Category 1 CME credits must be SA-CME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam</strong></td>
<td>Passed appropriate exam in previous 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PQI</strong></td>
<td>Completed at least 1 PQI project in previous 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fees</strong></td>
<td>Current with MOC fees at any time during the previous 3 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MOC Attestations

Practice Quality Improvement

Part 4 requires that you complete a PQI Project or Participatory Activity, as defined by the ABR, in the previous three years.

Attested by Kay Vydareny on 01/20/2016
Public reporting

• If meet requirements – “Certified, meeting MOC requirements”

• If not:
  • In next year: “Certified, not meeting MOC requirements”
  • If not meet in that year: “Not certified”
    • Can regain certificate by doing three years requirements in one
      • 75 CME/25 SA-CME, 1 PQI “project”
  • Life-time certificate holder: “ Not required to participate in MOC”
Leadership/volunteer opportunities with the ABR

- Do volunteer activities matter? YES
- Volunteer opportunities with the ABR
  - Usually at least 3 years after certified
  - Item writers - Core, Cert/MOC
  - Angoff committee members
  - SAM reviewers
  - Initial Certification Advisory Committee
  - MOC Advisory committee
Volunteering for the ABR

Diagnostic Radiology Volunteers

We appreciate your interest in the ABR’s Diagnostic Radiology volunteer team. Please survey these opportunities to contribute to the future of your specialty.

To apply as an ABR volunteer, click on an activity that interests you, and then click "Next" at the bottom of the page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Time Commitment</th>
<th>Travel</th>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Colleague Interaction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serve as committee member to develop exam content</td>
<td>One in person meeting, One-two electronic meetings per year (three-year term)</td>
<td>Possible travel to Tucson, AZ, other location, or may be done remotely</td>
<td>Committee meeting combined with follow-up submitted electronically</td>
<td>Committee of colleagues in same specialty meets in person and electronically over three years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Reviewer for Self-assessment Modules (SAMs) for the Maintenance of Certification program</td>
<td>One-two hours (avg.) per review, one-six times per year</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>E-mail exchange, some FTP exchange for larger files</td>
<td>Occasional electronic contact with other reviewers in same subspecialty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diagnostic Radiology Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you for your interest in contributing to our profession. Please fill out the form below.

* Indicates required fields

**First Name**

**Last Name**

Mailing Address 1

Mailing Address 2

City

State

Zip Code

Contact Phone

Email Address

Employer/Work Location

Practice Type