

ABR Seeks RO Volunteers for OLA Question Writing

In January 2020, the ABR will launch its Online Longitudinal Assessment (OLA) tool for radiation oncology to replace the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part III 10-year exam.

OLA questions will be offered to ABR diplomates on a weekly basis. A practice period will start November 4 and information on the logistics of implementation and participation will be widely available prior to the OLA launch. The target for question development is to assess a base of knowledge that should be known to all diplomates regardless of their personal practice interests or site of practice.

To develop questions, the ABR is seeking volunteers whose practice focus is the general practice of radiation oncology. Individuals with site-specific clinical interests are welcome to apply, but those specific interests should not encompass more than 50 percent of practice time. Applicants must be ABR diplomates, must be in active clinical practice and must be more than two years post award of their ABR certification. Priority in selection will be given to individuals certified after 2009.

Selected volunteers would be expected to submit five to 10 questions each year with topic assignments based on inventory needs. Training in question writing will be provided, as will editorial support. It is anticipated that most of the question development tasks will be completed using secure web-based platforms, but some training may be face-to-face. Any travel requirements would be limited to one or two days, with expenses covered. There is no stipend associated with this participation and at this time participation in ABR activities would be limited to this one task. The ABR anticipates selection of 16-24 volunteers at this time committed to OLA development. Only individuals actively participating in ABR MOC will be considered. Selection will take into account gender, practice type, and geographical diversity.

Indications of interest should be sent to Dr. Paul Wallner, ABR Associate Executive Director for Radiation Oncology, at pwallner@theabr.org. A complete CV is preferred but if unavailable, a biographical sketch is acceptable. Indications of interest must include: name, email address, preferred phone number, primary site of practice, percent of time in site-specific (specify site) and general radiation oncology, and year initial certification was attained. Interest should be communicated prior to October 1, 2019, and appointments are anticipated before December 31, 2019.