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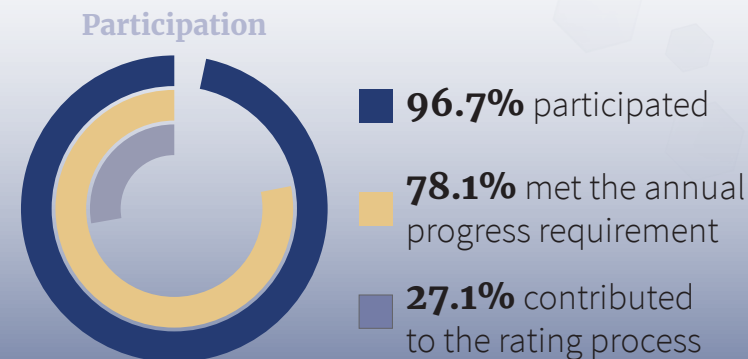
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## OLA Year One

The first year of Online Longitudinal Assessment (OLA) was a success, with most eligible diagnostic radiology diplomates participating. The continuous assessment is widely preferred over the traditional proctored exam to satisfy Part 3 of Maintenance of Certification.

Here's a quick look at OLA's initial year:



## OLA Statistics

# 1,195,503

Questions were answered

# Only 2.87%

of ALL questions  
were declined



The unsung heroes of the ABR are the individuals who generously offer their time and considerable talent in support of our mission. The ABR – and by extension our diplomates, candidates, and the public – benefits from the more than 1,200 volunteers who last year contributed almost 72,000 hours. For most of our volunteers, that time occurs during off-hours, after meeting their daily professional demands.

One of the most common volunteer roles is *exam item writer*. These diagnostic radiologists, interventional radiologists, physicists, and radiation oncologists, all of whom participate in the ABR's Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process, are content experts who, after initial training, create exam questions that are compliant with rigorous psychometric standards. The items are then edited, critiqued, and modified by colleagues in a committee discussion forum that is designed to reduce ambiguity, avoid esoterica, and optimize relevance. Item writers must be board certified, be enrolled in and meeting MOC requirements, and have practice experience after completion of training. Most of our item writers work in academic teaching programs but some, especially those on our Online Longitudinal Assessment (OLA) committees, are in private practice.

Another volunteer role is *oral examiner* in radiation oncology, interventional radiology/diagnostic radiology, or medical physics. In support of the oral examiners, we also have dozens of *committee members* who curate the content for the oral exams.

*ABR trustees* volunteer substantial time and offer their expertise in a variety of roles, but much of what they do involves guiding the volunteer committees in support of exam development and delivery.

*Angoff raters* set the passing standard for an exam based on the level of difficulty of each question. This is a commonly used and statistically thorough psychometric process that solicits multiple inputs to support the highest level of fairness for our candidates; it has been part of ABR exam scoring for many years. Anyone participating in OLA may act as an Angoff rater for content in their clinical practice areas.

Our *advisory committees* for Initial Certification and Continuous Certification consist of individuals at various stages of training and in diverse practice environments who provide an outside view of our programs (broadly, “board certification”). Their candid discussions offer perspectives that are invaluable as the ABR works to optimize value to our stakeholders.

The ABR benefits from the more than 1,200 volunteers who last year contributed almost 72,000 hours.

*ABR governors* are accountable for the fiduciary obligations of the board; specifically, this means making sure that decisions and policies are consistent with the ABR's mission and the requirements for a nonprofit corporation. These include fiscal responsibility but are represented more broadly by a commitment to a duty of care, a duty of loyalty, and a duty of obedience. Governors are also volunteers.

Our volunteers are motivated by working with peers to serve their professions. The ABR could not accomplish what it does without the support of these professionals and their high-quality contributions.

## President's Message

A stylized, handwritten signature in gold ink that reads "B. Wagner".

Brent J. Wagner, MD  
President





It has been my great pleasure to have served as the ABR's executive director since 2014. As much as I have loved this job, the time has come for me to retire and turn the position over to a new leader, Brent J. Wagner, MD, to guide the organization to further success.

The executive director position has provided some of the most challenging and rewarding years of my professional life, and it's an experience I will always cherish. Our candidates and diplomates deserve a board that is responsive to them, and I think the ABR team has lived up to those expectations.

Some of our accomplishments over the past few years include the following:

- Redesign and launch of an improved website.
- Rollout of Online Longitudinal Assessment (OLA), a new way to satisfy Part 3 of Maintenance of Certification (MOC).
- Relocation of the ABR's radiation oncology and medical physics oral exams from Louisville to Tucson.
- Development of enhanced benefits for ABR diplomates participating in MOC, such as the simplification and inclusiveness of a wider range of practice quality improvement requirements.
- Enhancement of exam content and production through the onboarding of additional volunteers and a revamping of volunteer committee organization, production schedules, and item-editing and imaging processes.

- Creation of the ABR certification services division, a group of ABR staff dedicated to serving the needs of candidates and diplomates.
- Implementation of a simplified MOC attestation process, eliminating the requirement for diplomates to report detailed data on participation.
- Establishment of a new exam eligibility policy allowing candidates with extended leave between PGY-2 and PGY-4 to take the qualifying exam with their class.
- Recognition of platinum status, the highest offered, by GuideStar, an information service specializing in reporting on U.S. nonprofit companies.
- Launch of our social media platforms, including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram.

That's an impressive list and one that was accomplished thanks to the hard work of our board members, volunteers, and staff.

That's an impressive list and one that was accomplished thanks to the hard work of our board members, volunteers, and staff. I remain eternally grateful to all of them.

The organization will remain in good hands under Dr. Wagner, our boards of governors and trustees, volunteers, and excellent staff. These dedicated men and women will continue the mission of certifying that diplomates demonstrate the requisite knowledge, skill, and understanding of their disciplines to the benefit of patients. It's been that way since 1934 and, regardless of whose name is on the letterhead, that commitment will never change.

A stylized, handwritten signature in gold ink, reading 'Val'.

Valerie P. Jackson, MD  
Executive Director

## Executive Director's Message

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**John H. Suh, MD**  
*Radiation Oncology*  
Cleveland, OH

# ABR Leadership







“The ultimate satisfaction of volunteering with the ABR is the interaction with the staff and other volunteers who share the same passion for creating a well-constructed and fair exam for our trainees and diplomates. Further, working with my nuclear radiology core committee and being part of the annual test assembly provides me priceless time with some of the smartest and nicest radiologists in the country.”

**Umesh Oza, MD**

*Partner, American Radiology Associates  
Vice Chairman, Baylor University Medical Center Radiology Department  
Dallas, TX*

## Volunteer and Staff Accomplishments

- Developed Online Longitudinal Assessment practice profile option for emergency radiology.
- Created diverse subspecialty committees composed of radiologists with content expertise and an interest in education.
- Successfully conducted the administration of two Core Exams, two Certifying Exams, and three subspecialty exams.
- Awarded 1,103 new certificates in diagnostic radiology and 229 new subspecialty certificates.

# Diagnostic Radiology







“Volunteers give a realistic perspective of the specialty across the country: practice types, genders, regions, programs, directors, new graduates. They make exams reflective of the entire specialty.”

**Sabina Amin, MD**

*Head, Division of Interventional Radiology  
Cooper University Health Care  
Camden, NJ*

## Volunteer and Staff Accomplishments

- Conducted the third-ever administration of the Interventional Radiology/Diagnostic Radiology (IR/DR) Certifying Exam to a record number of candidates in October 2019.
- An active and engaged group of private practice and academic interventional radiologists researched and wrote questions for Online Longitudinal Assessment, which started for IR/DR diplomates in January 2020.



# Interventional Radiology





“Of all the professional activities that I participate in, ABR service is the most rewarding. Being a volunteer has made me both a better educator and a better clinician.”

**Richard Popple, PhD**

*Professor and Vice Chairman for Physics  
Director, Medical Physics Division  
University of Alabama at Birmingham*

## Volunteer and Staff Accomplishments

- Held the first medical physics (MP) oral exam in Tucson, which was also the largest MP oral exam ever conducted.
- Implemented a successful reorganization of the committee that provides diagnostic radiology core physics material in order to reduce question overlap in the core categories.
- Modified the Part 1 exam requirements.
- Successfully produced the Part 1, Part 2, and Part 3 (oral) exams.
- Presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) and at AAPM meetings in Florida, Southern California, Northern California, and the Northwest.

# Medical Physics







“Contributing to a community effort is empowering. Volunteering with the ABR is a way of being a voice in our community. The field is what we make of it, and it is our responsibility to provide input and direction to steer the field toward continual improvement and quality medical care.”

**Bridget Koontz, MD**

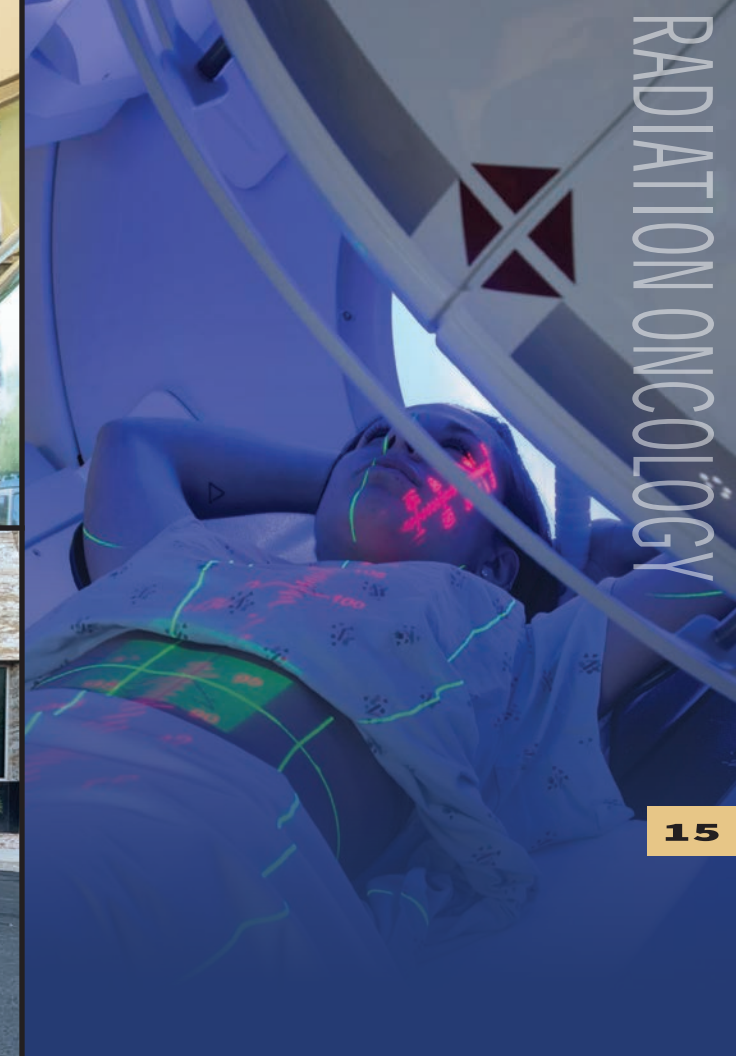
*Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology  
Duke University School of Medicine  
Durham, NC*

## Volunteer and Staff Accomplishments

- Successfully administered the first radiation oncology (RO) oral exams in Tucson.
- Created, edited, and reviewed the entire 2020 Online Longitudinal Assessment (OLA) item inventory.
- Reorganized the OLA item development committee to operate as a freestanding, limited-function team, chaired by Andrea Ng, MD, MPH, and consisting of RO generalists.
- Agreed to serve as the convener of annual stakeholder initiatives to review and update RO Initial Certification (IC) basic science study guides.
- Developed a standard for Web-based reporting of RO IC basic science domain weighting.



# Radiation Oncology



Specialty Certifications

YEAR	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
Diagnostic Radiology	1,239	1,257	1,328	1,334	125 <sup>1</sup>	1,092	1,273	1,160	1,173	1,103	11,084
Interventional/ Diagnostic Radiology	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	256	312	332	900
Medical Physics	204	315	263	266	279	248	242	217	215	239	2,488
Therapeutic <sup>2</sup>	[181]	[263]	[232]	[213]	[217]	[211]	[196]	[155]	[166]	[190]	2,024
Diagnostic <sup>2</sup>	[22]	[41]	[29]	[45]	[54]	[30]	[41]	[52]	[43]	[44]	401
Nuclear <sup>2</sup>	[1]	[11]	[2]	[8]	[8]	[7]	[5]	[10]	[6]	[5]	63
Radiation Oncology	139	148	155	170	164	154	196	194	170	199	1,689
TOTAL	1,582	1,720	1,746	1,770	568 <sup>1</sup>	1,494	1,711	1,827	1,870	1,873	16,161

1. Because of the transition from the diagnostic radiology (DR) Oral Exam to the DR Certifying Exam, only those who took and passed a DR Oral Exam were certified in 2014. The first DR Certifying Exam was administered in October 2015.

2. Specific specialty of medical physics

Subspecialty Certifications

YEAR	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
Neuroradiology	167	185	197	189	158	170	149	211	248	159	1,833
Nuclear Radiology	5	7	7	13	11	10	2	5	6	4	70
Pediatric Radiology	40	53	59	60	57	81	65	74	52	66	607
Vascular & Interventional Radiology <sup>1</sup>	98	117	133	150	177	103	177	-	-	-	955
Hospice & Palliative Medicine <sup>2</sup>	11	-	42	-	5	-	2	-	-	-	60
Pain Medicine <sup>3</sup>	-	1 <sup>4</sup>	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	4
TOTAL	321	363	438	412	408	364	396	291	307	229	3,529

1. No longer issued; replaced by IR/DR in 2017.

2. Certification administered by the American Board of Internal Medicine beginning in 2008; exams offered every other year.

3. Certification administered by the American Board of Anesthesiology beginning in 2016; exams offered every year.

4. Diplomate was originally certified by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and later transferred.

Certification Statistics

Certifications by Decade

1934-1939 <sup>1</sup>	1940-1949	1950-1959	1960-1969	1970-1979	1980-1989	1990-1999	2000-2009	2010-2019	TOTAL
1,413	1,844	3,303	4,175	9,318	10,083	12,391	12,994	19,690	75,211

1. Founded in 1934

Initial Exam Statistics

Average pass rates for residents taking the exam for the first time (2017-2019\*)

Exam	Average Count	Average Pass Rate
Diagnostic Radiology Core	1,184	88%
Medical Physics Part 1 Clinical	216	71%
Medical Physics Part 1 General	216	62%
Medical Physics Part 2	193	88%
Medical Physics Part 3 (Oral)	218	65%
Radiation Oncology Biology	207	87%
Radiation Oncology Clinical	180	93%
Radiation Oncology Oral	185	91%
Radiation Oncology Physics	202	86%
Neuroradiology Subspecialty	210	85%
Nuclear Radiology Subspecialty	5	100%
Pediatric Radiology Subspecialty	61	100%

\* Medical Physics Part 1 and Part 2 data are from 2016, 2017, and 2019. Numbers from the 2018 exam are not available because of an inconsistency in the test administration.

Initial Exam Statistics





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