Orthodontic Board Certifications

Submitted by Dennis J. Tartakow, DMD, MEd, PhD
Editor-in-Chief, Ortho Tribune, Dental Tribune America, LLC

In order to allow non-boarded practicing orthodontists the opportunity to obtain certification, the ABO announced the Gateway Offer in March 2004. An orthodontist who satisfies the requirements of the Gateway Offer will be established from the premise that early entry into certification, followed by continuing education throughout their career, will encourage a higher standard of care through the development and maintenance of a practitioner’s clinical skills. With great vision and foresight, this historic change in the certification process was inaugurated. Examination requirements for initial certification and continuing recertification have been improved and expanded. Additionally, the computerization of the ABO Written Examination has now been implemented and is now widely available at local testing centers.

The changes to the certification process are two-fold. Beginning in 2007, the ABO will certify orthodontists following their graduation from an ABO-accredited postdoctoral orthodontic program, provided they have passed a Written Examination (formerly called the Phase II Written Examination). To maintain their diplomate status, these individuals will submit periodic reexaminations throughout their careers.

These changes have resulted in the largest growth period in the 76-year history of the ABO. In the past, more than 900 orthodontists have achieved diplomate status. Approximately 55 percent of all AAO members are diplomates of the ABO for an all-time high.

To serve the entire orthodontic community as well as the public, the Board has given consideration to those practicing orthodontists who have begun or have never completed the certification process by implementing transitional programs for orthodontic professionals in the following groups are encouraged to become board-certified:

• Practicing orthodontists who have never applied for board certification are invited to review the changes in requirements and begin the process now.
• Practicing orthodontists, who have passed the ABO written examination in the past but have lapsed in completion of the clinical examination, can re-enter the process now without re-taking the written examination.
• Continuing their education, those orthodontists are advised that the Opinion I and II pathways must be completed by 2008. If this is not possible for you, there is a transition pathway available.

From the ABO Web site, the meaning and purpose of certification is defined as follows:

“A board-certified orthodontist is a dentist who has completed an American Dental Association-accredited graduate program in the specialty of orthodontics. A dentist who graduates from a specialty program becomes an orthodontic specialist who is eligible to become board certified through the voluntary examination process of the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO). Involvement in the certification process is a demonstration of the orthodontist’s pursuit of competency and proficiency.

The certification process involves a thorough Written Examination covering all areas of knowledge in orthodontics. Successful passage allows the orthodontist to present treated cases, which will be evaluated by expert examiners of the Board during a Clinical Examination. Certification is now awarded for a time-limited period and the orthodontist must re-examine on a periodic basis to retain the board certified status.”

Those 84 orthodontists who have become new Diplomates of the American Board of Orthodontics are:

USA:
- W. Michael Allen, CA; John N., Archer, OK; Jeffrey A. Arego, NC; TIMOTHY C. Bandeen, TN; Dan D. Balz, CA; Marsha L. Beattie, MI; Mark F. Bellard, TX; Jason L. Bird, WI; Anthony E. Bisconti, OH; Ryan G. Bowles, TX; CHI H. Bug, Hong Kong, China; JT CAIN, TN; Steven W. Charchut, MI; Dara J. Chira, VT; Patrick T. Cusuzo, NJ; Gregory J. DeVellis, CA; A. DeWoods, TN; Murray D. Dickson, AL; Mark Fagin, CA; Chris A. Freels, TX; Judah S. Garfinke, NY; Thomas R. Gabez, Jr., MI; Robert F. Gergis, IL; Katherine Graber, IL; Jason F. Hall, MI; Sangkyu Han, WI; Blaine R. Hansen, AZ; Pamela R. Hanson, WI; Kervin K. Ho, AP; Richard D. Hulme, TX; Ali S. Hussein, DE; Casey W. Johnson, CO; Sandra V. Kahn, CA; H. Ludia Kim, MI; Yong E. Kim, OH; Joan P. Klayton, NJ; Michael S. Klein, KS; L. Douglas Knight, KY; Vance A. LeCrone, TX; Robert P. Lee, TX; Ian P. Lennard, CA; Meredith L. Long, GA; Elizabeth K. Lyons, WA; Dallas H. M argeson, GA; Laurie J. Mcnamara, MI; Tannya L. Meissner, MN; Andrew A. Miller, OK; Vance G. Misuraca, LA; Joseph M. Mullins, CA; Robert J. Naderer, Jr., IL; Byron S. Okubo, UT; Nancy L. Olkevara, MI; Sugeon H. Owen, WI; Jacqueline R. Palaisa, AZ; Matthew J. Peluso, NJ; Carrie W. Piklak, TX; Mohammad R. Razavi, OH; Viney P. Saini, MD; Llewellyn B. Sample, AL; Nicole M. Schefler, NC; Gilpatrick Schmuthe, WI; Thomas S. Shipley, AZ; Jerome R. Shuman, ME; Edward N. Silverman, MD; Michael J. Solomon, TX; Kurt D. Stormberg, CA; Lloyd B. Swidrows, TX; Yana Volkoff Newman, NJ; Victoria M. Wan, NY; Josephine C. Weeden, MI; Andrew P. Wells, NC; Thorpe C. Whitehead, ME; Stephen S. Yang, CA; Isaac C. Yue, IL; Heather I. Zahlocki, MI

KUWAIT:
- Rashid Hamad Al-Muharik, Kuwait

BRAZIL:
- Luciane Q. Grossi, RS

KOREA:
- Keum-Ryung Kim, Kyungi-do

TAIWAN:
- Benjamin H. Lo

CANADA:
- Grant A. MacColl, ON; Anthony M. Mac Isaac, Alberta; Daman D. Thanik, ON

GREECE:
- Sappho Tzannetou, Athens

ISRAEL:
- Joshua L. Wachspress

From the Editor’s Desk

Congratulations are in order to the 84 orthodontists who have successfully passed the rigorous and demanding examination process of the American Board of Orthodontics. Board certification is the ultimate level of education and accomplishment that has been achieved in all specialties of medicine or dentistry. Founded on July 16, 1929, as the first examination process of its kind, the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) is the only specialty board recognized by the American Dental Association (ADA) and sponsored by the American Association of Orthodontics (AAO). Dr. Albert Ketcham and several colleagues believed that the specialty of orthodontics should have a certifying body, whose primary objective was “to elevate the standards of the practice of orthodontics; to familiarize the public with its aims and ideals; to protect the public against irresponsible and unqualified practitioners.”

In the 1950s and 1960s, ABO certification required a thesis and presentation of clinical case reports. There was no written examination at that time. As the ABO certification process developed, the need for a written examination was implemented in 1966. From 1964 to 1978, candidates had a choice of either writing a thesis or taking a written examination. The thesis requirement was eliminated in 1978, and from that time on, candidates became certified in much the same way that they are presently, i.e., with a written examination along with the presentation of clinical case reports.

The ABO announced dramatic changes in the certification process, and by 2009, all aspects of the new process will be implemented. This process begins with an Initial Certification Examination of the recently graduated orthodontist and utilizes cases that the orthodontist treated in their residencies. A 10-year, time-limited certificate will be issued, and the orthodontist must return by the expiration of the certificate to take the First Recertification Examination with a presentation of cases treated in private practice. The new 10-year certificate will be issued, and the orthodontist must appear for Recertification Examinations on a 10-year basis.

Each level of the Clinical Examination has its own set of examination details and particulars for case presentations. In general, the examiner will present required case reports with an oral defense of the treatment and oral examination of cases presented by the Board for analysis.

Contact
For more information about eligibility and certification, go to the ABO Web site: www.americanboardortho.org or write to: The American Board of Orthodontics 401 N. Lindbergh Blvd., Suite 500 St. Louis, MO 63141-7859 Phone: 314.452.6150 Fax: 314.452.8170 E-mail: info@americanboardortho.org

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