

Why American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery Certification Is Important to You and Your Patients!

By Kathy Kreiter, Executive Director, American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery

A credential you can trust. That's not only the tagline of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) but a statement we take seriously.



AMERICAN BOARD OF
FOOT AND ANKLE SURGERY®

A credential you can trust.®

“Obtaining board certification signifies that you have met the highest formal training standards in the profession and gives merit to the years of dedication and training for our patients.”
—Francesca Zappasodi, DPM, AACFAS

idents, ABFAS encourages you to take the ABFAS In-training exams each year of your residency. In the spring of your final year of residency, you are eligible to take the Board Qualification exams. These consist of a computer-based patient simulation exam and a didactic exam. Depending on your residency program type, you can take either the Board Qualification exams in Foot surgery and/or the exams in Reconstructive Rearfoot and Ankle (RRA) surgery. ABFAS offers the Board Qualification exams twice a year, in the spring and the fall, in case you want to delay taking them until you've completed your residency, or you are unsuccessful in the spring exams.

Since 1975, ABFAS' mission is to protect and improve the health and welfare of the public by the advancement of the art and science of podiatric surgery. That is why ABFAS is the **only** surgical certification board recognized by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) through the Joint Commission on the Recognition of Specialty Boards (JCRSB). The American Podiatric Medical Association has assigned the responsibility of specialty board recognition to CPME.

ABFAS develops all exams following the rigorous standards of professional testing. An independent testing consultant oversees test development and scoring. That's why having ABFAS Board Certification is a standard for many hospitals and insurance companies.

What are the steps to ABFAS Board Certification?

1) For current res-

2) Once you finish residency, you should start logging cases where you are the surgeon of record into ABFAS' Podiatry Logging System (PLS). You don't

need to wait to become ABFAS board qualified to start logging. This will enable you, once you are board qualified and reach the required numbers and types of cases, to take Part II Case Review. The other Part II Examination is the CBPS examination, which you can take anytime within the seven years after you are board qualified. You have seven years from the time you become board qualified to become board certified. And, remember, there are separate certifications for foot and for RRA, which means you need to go through this examination process for each certification type. Once you pass the Part II examinations, have a valid podiatric license, and ac-

Continued on page 145

A Message from the President-Elect

“After I completed residency and started full-time practice, my next goal was to achieve ABFAS certification as soon as possible. At that time, all I knew was that ABFAS certification would provide me with the personal satisfaction of passing the foundational test for my career, **provide credibility to my patients**, and help meet the criteria to become a shareholder and receive the full benefits and privileges at my hospital. My perception of that value has not changed 14 years after becoming certified and has only fortified my belief in the quality, integrity, and necessity of the ABFAS certifying process. It is indispensable to our profession's future growth and prosperity in the ever-changing medical landscape.”

Danny Choung, DPM, FACFAS
ABFAS President-Elect

ABFAS *(continued)*

tive hospital privileges, you become board certified and an ABFAS Diplomate.

ABFAS Board Certification is valid for ten years. To ensure Diplomates stay current with new research and technologies, ABFAS requires annual participation in continuing medical education activities. In addition, an ABFAS-certified foot and ankle surgeon must take an examination every ten years to evaluate

“Being board certified through ABFAS strengthens the validity of surgical training and the perception by patients.”
—Amber M. Shane, DPM, FACFAS

“Achieving board certification by ABFAS is a professional milestone.

It signifies to patients, colleagues, and facilities, a level of medical knowledge and clinical judgement that has been vetted by peers in the profession.”

—Alan A. MacGill, DPM, FACFAS

his/her current level of knowledge.

Currently, there are more than 7300 ABFAS Certified and 2300 ABFAS Board Qualified DPMs.

For more information, visit www.abfas.org or click here.
