



Newsletter to Diplomates April 2023

The mission of The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. is to promote safe, ethical, efficacious plastic surgery to the public by maintaining high standards for the education, examination, certification and continuous certification of plastic surgeons as specialists and subspecialists.

86 years in the Public Trust

Included in this Newsletter is the Board's expressed appreciation for our diplomates who support the Board in its mission.

Report from the Chair Michael W. Neumeister, M.D.



Were you one of the 4,000+ diplomates who successfully completed the ABPS Self-Assessment Activity in 2022? Did you miss the April 2021 or 2022 assessments? No worries, any incomplete assessments will be archived and presented during the current year for you to catch up. Be mindful of your Certificate Expiration Date, as all assessments must be completed by the April of your certificate expiration year.

This year's assessment is open through April 30th - there is still time to complete your questions!

The ABPS started its new Continuous Certification program in 2019. The initiation included a 15% reduction of the total fees charged to Diplomates throughout the previous 10-year MOC cycle. The ABPS piloted the online annual longitudinal assessments from 2019 through 2021 and had a record number of diplomates complete the April 2022 Self-Assessment activity. Four modules, Craniofacial, Hand, Cosmetic, and Comprehensive are offered annually throughout the month of April. Core items, relevant to all subspecialties, are shared among the specialty modules. The ABPS Continuous Certification assessment activity provides timely relevant questions supported by evidence-based publications. The new format allows diplomates the opportunity to answer the question after reviewing the rationale and embedded reference material. 2022 marked the full transition to longitudinal learning to replace the former 200-question secure examination held at standardized testing centers. This was a great accomplishment and the Board thanks all diplomates for their feedback that helped shape the administration. Over 300 diplomates participated in the pilot study to demonstrate that the longitudinal learning platform was a better indicator of diplomate performance.

The Board is continuing this momentum and focusing efforts to ensure the Continuous Certification requirements satisfy external stakeholder demands but remain relevant, educationally focused, and non-burdensome to diplomates. As Chair of the ABPS, Department of Surgery Chair, Fellowship Program Director Chair and immediate past-Chair of the Residency Review Committee for Plastic Surgery, I understand the demands of the busy plastic surgeon. The ABPS Continuous Certification Program has fit neatly into my already busy clinical practice.

For Performance Improvement, the Board now accepts activities that diplomates are already completing such as case study publications, registry participation, and other quality improvement activities at their institutions. If your hospital or group is considering adding an ERAS (Enhanced Recovery After Surgery) protocol to improve patient recovery, join the effort and receive Board credit for the Practice Improvement activity. If you contribute significantly to the design, administration and evaluation of the results, your effort will be recognized. The goal of the Board is to reward those Diplomates who are already doing notable work in practice improvement. Diplomates may submit these activities to fulfill the performance improvement requirement in lieu of the tracer procedure log. Applications are provided [here](#).

To comply with new American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) standards, starting January 1, 2024, the Board will divide its certification cycle in half for those initially certifying or re-certifying after that date. **This will NOT result in additional requirements or fees for ABPS diplomates.** Diplomates currently in a 10-year cycle will retain that cycle and migrate into the new 5-year cycle at the end of their current cycle. Certificates will be issued without expiration dates from that point forward. Credentialers will be directed to verify certification status in real-time on the ABPS website.

The Board will implement annual primary source verification of licensure by working with the ABMS and the Federation of State Medical Boards. This will confirm that all Diplomates have an unrestricted license and ensure that state medical license actions are identified quickly, with appropriate action is taken regarding the Diplomates' certification status. The ABPS prioritizes patient safety and is one of only two ABMS Boards that publicly display adverse actions taken on certification status.

Last year, the ABPS initiated the granting of CME for completing initial certification or a Continuous Certification cycle. The Board worked with the American Medical Association to distribute CME credits to those diplomates – 60 Category I AMA credits for achieving initial or continuous certification. The CME costs will be absorbed by the Board and diplomates will have one less task on their to-do list.

Please visit the ABPS website for details surrounding these changes <https://www.abplasticsurgery.org/diplomates/cc2024/>.

If you have questions, please reach out to the Board Office at staff@abplasticsurgery.org.



Message to Plastic Surgery Program Directors

*From ABPS Executive Director
Keith E. Brandt, M.D.*

ABPS Personal Leave Policy

The Board has established an optional 12 weeks of Personal Leave that is available to residents in Integrated, Independent and Competency-Based plastic surgery residency training programs. **Personal Leave taken by a resident must be approved by the Board prior to the resident taking the leave. View the Board's Personal Leave Policy**

International Rotations

International rotations must be approved by the Board **and** the ACGME/RRC-PS prior to the residents trip. Requests for approval must be sent to the Board **at least 90 days** before the start of the rotation.

Resident Transfers

Programs should not accept any resident as a transfer into their program **without Board approval**.

Residents **cannot** transfer from one Independent Program to another Independent program. All 3 years of plastic surgery residency training must be completed in the same Independent program.

For additional information and requirements on International Rotations and Resident Transfers, please refer to the ABPS Booklet of Information. **View the 2022-2023 ABPS Booklet of Information**. Inquiries can be directed to info@abplasticsurgery.org.

Joint Plastic Surgery Hand Surgery Program Accelerated Hand Fellowship

The American Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) is piloting an Accelerated program that would allow an Integrated plastic surgery resident to complete both their plastic surgery residency training and an ACGME-accredited Hand Fellowship within 6 years. The ABPS has worked together with the American Council of Graduate Medical Education Requirements Committee (ACGME-RC) to create an Accelerated pilot program that allows a qualified plastic surgery resident to finish their Integrated Plastic Surgery residency training in 5 years. This program will allow the resident to pursue an ACGME-accredited one-year Hand Fellowship at the same program. After completing 5 years of plastic surgery residency training, and one year hand fellowship training the resident would have satisfied the training requirements for both primary Plastic Surgery Certification and Subspecialty certification in Hand Surgery through the ABPS.

Because of the pilot status of this program, the Joint Plastic Surgery Hand Surgery (JPSHS) program is limited to only ACGME-accredited Plastic Surgery Integrated programs that have a Plastic Surgery ACGME-approved Hand Fellowship at the same institution. The qualified resident must complete both their plastic surgery and hand surgery training at the same institution. Only one resident may participate in the pilot program from each Integrated program per year. If the ACGME and the ABPS determine that the program has sufficient hand cases, the program may keep its current compliment of Hand Fellows. The resident would be an additional Hand Fellow.

The resident participating in the JPSHS pilot program is required to successfully complete the Plastic Surgery Operative Log (PSOL) minimums and Milestones by the end of their PSY-5 year of plastic surgery training. The JPSHS resident must be identified and approved by the ABPS at the beginning of their PSY-IV year of Integrated plastic surgery residency training before advancing into the accelerated pilot program. This provides adequate time to complete the necessary deficiencies in the PSOL or Milestones.

Details of the pilot program are outlined here **Plastic Surgery Hand Surgery Fellowship**. If you feel your plastic surgery program has enough hand cases and would like to explore more about this JPSHS pilot program, please email the Board Office at info@abplasticsurgery.org.

The Board Office is moving June 2023

1601 Market Street
Suite 900
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Phone number will remain the same:
215.587.9322



2022-2023 Officers of the Board

Michael W. Neumeister, M.D.

Chair

Joan E. Lipa, M.D.

Chair-Elect

Jeffrey D. Friedman, M.D.

Vice-Chair

Steven L. Moran, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Keith E. Brandt, M.D.

Executive Director

[View 2022-2023 Directors of the Board](#)

[View Advisory Council Members](#)

Thank You

The Board would like to acknowledge the Advisory Council members, Oral Examiners and Item Writers for their continued dedication, hard work and significant contributions throughout the year. These individuals are crucial to the development of the Written, Oral, and Hand Examinations, as well as the Self-Assessment Activities.

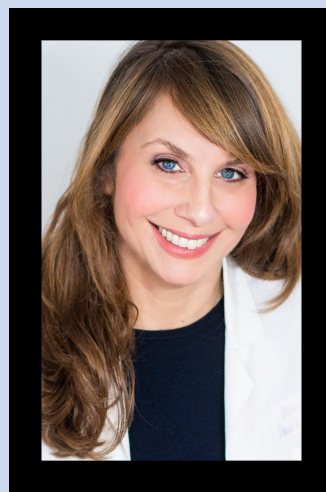
Congratulations to the New ABPS Directors!

In May 2022, the Board elected three new Directors who were nominated by one of the 20 Sponsoring Organizations of the Board. Drs. Lee, Shermak, and Urata will serve from May 2022 to May 2028, unless elected as Chair. The Chair of the Board serves a 7-year term.

Drs. Lee, Shermak and Urata's Bios



Clara N. Lee, M.D.
Columbus, OH



Michele A. Shermak, M.D.
Baltimore, MD



Mark M. Urata, M.D.
La Canada, CA

Special Recognition

**Thank you to our past Chair of the Board,
who completed his term of service in May 2022**



David H. Song, M.D.

2015-2022

Washington, DC

Officer of the Board: Chair 2021-2022, Chair-Elect 2020-2021, Vice-Chair 2019-2020

Committees: Oral Exam Chair, By-Laws and Publications, Continuous Certification, Budget and Finance, Aesthetic, Representative to the RRC-PS

**Thank you to our Directors who completed
their terms of service in May 2022**

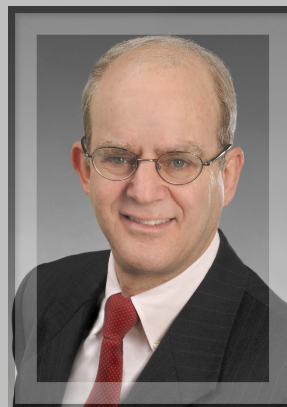


Debra J. Johnson, M.D.

2016-2022

Sacramento, CA

Officer of the Board: Secretary-Treasurer
Committees: Continuous Certification Chair, Written Exam, Plastic Surgery Within the Head and Neck, Aesthetic, Ethics, Budget and Finance, ABMS Committee on Continuous Certification and ABMS Ambassadors Network Members



James E. Zins, M.D.

2016-2022

Cleveland, OH

Committees: By-Laws and Publications Chair, Written Exam, Continuous Certification, Plastic Surgery Within the Head and Neck, Aesthetic

2023 Examination Dates and Locations

Self-Assessment Activity

April 1, 2023 through April 30, 2023

(for both Continuous Certification and Hand Surgery Recertification)

Written Examination

May 9, 2023, Tuesday

Computer-Based Test at Prometric Test Centers throughout the United States and Canada

Hand Surgery Examination

August 2, 2023, Tuesday

Computer-Based Test at Pearson Test Centers throughout the United States and Canada

Oral Examination

November 9, 10, 11, 2023, Thursday, Friday, Saturday in Phoenix, Arizona

[View 2022 Oral Examination Examiners](#)

2023 Potential Examination Candidates

The Board will review comments regarding the suitability of any candidate for certification. Please direct written comments on official letterhead, signed and received in the Board Office by June 1, 2023. If you are aware of a potential candidate omitted from this list, please send an email to written@abplasticsurgery.org or oral@abplasticsurgery.org.

[2023 Potential Written Examination Candidates](#)

[2023 Potential Oral Examination Candidates](#)

Congratulations to our New Board Diplomates

The ABPS certified 235 diplomates in 2022.

The total number of ABPS Board Certified Plastic Surgeons since 1937 is 10,275.

Approximately 7,644 are in active practice as of January 2023.

Of the total active diplomates, 17.6% are female.

[2022 New Diplomates](#)

Diplomates who successfully completed Continuous Certification cycle

In 2022, 357 diplomates successfully completed their Continuous Certification cycle requirements to renew their primary plastic surgery certificates.

In April 2022, a total of 3,915 diplomates completed the Self-Assessment Activity, with a total pass rate of 99.42%.

A total of 5,340 diplomates are currently participating in the Continuous Certification Program.

CMEs

Starting in 2022, the ABPS annual CC fee will include the granting of CME credits through the AMA. Diplomates who renewed in 2022 were granted 60 Category 1 credits for completing the

ten year cycle. The Board will facilitate this process with the AMA on behalf of diplomates. All requirements must be current in order to receive the credits.

2022 Continuous Certification

Diplomates in the Subspecialty of Hand Surgery

In 2022, the ABPS newly certified 29 diplomates in Hand Surgery, and 12 diplomates completed their Continuous Certification requirements to renew their subspecialty certificates in Hand Surgery.

To date, the ABPS has issued 980 certificates in Hand Surgery.

2022 Hand Examination and Recertification

[View Examination Statistics](#)

Thank You to Our Diplomates!

The Board values each of our diplomates and appreciates your support in carrying out the Board's mission to protect the public and to distinguish ourselves as safe, ethical, efficacious plastic surgeons who have met high standards in order to achieve ABPS Board Certification.

The Board actively communicates with our major plastic surgery and regional societies to maintain a strong presence and to gain support in our mission.

We are proud of what the ABPS Certificate represents.

The Board encourages all diplomates to display the ABPS Diplomat Logo on their advertising materials. The logo can be downloaded once logged into the Board's website.



CERTIFIED BY
The American Board
of Plastic Surgery Inc.™

[ABPS Consumer Search](#)

The public may search for ABPS Board-Certified Plastic Surgeons by name or within a specific area by city, state, and zip code. Certification history and current status will also be reported here.

REVOKED ABPS CERTIFICATION

The Board began revoking certificates in 1988. Revocations are submitted to ABMS and reported on the Board's website. To date, a total of 103 certificates have been revoked.

The Board revoked 4 certificates in 2022.

Robert P. Bolling, M.D. - Fayette, AL

Matthew J. Bonanno, M.D. - Tampa, FL

Kevin F. Ciresi, M.D. - Danville, CA

James S. Hurvitz, M.D. - Santa Monica, CA

SUSPENSION OF ABPS CERTIFICATION

The Board began suspending certificates in November 2015 and began reporting suspended certification status on the Board's website. Suspensions are reported to the ABMS.

ABPS CERTIFICATION ON PROBATION

The Board began placing certificates on Probation and reporting probation certification status on the Board's website in November 2019.

Board Staff

Melissa A. Karch, MBA
Executive Administrator

Maria K. D'Angelo
Test Development Manager/Examination Editor

Gwen A. Hanuscin
Written Examination and Projects Coordinator

Melissa M. Hill
Oral Examination Coordinator

Stephanie L. Kash
Continuous Certification Program and
Hand Surgery Examination Coordinator

Cassandra Kosielowski
Examination Associate and Ethics Coordinator

Sarah S. Praul
Examination Associate and Credentialing Specialist

The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc.

Phone: 215-587-9322

Fax: 215-587-9622

Email: info@abplasticsurgery.org

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Website

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