

ACHIEVING *the* VISION

The Recommendations of the Vision Initiative Commission

The Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission (Commission), convened as part of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Vision Initiative, presented a final report to the ABMS Board of Directors in February 2019. The independent Commission's report is the culmination of research, testimony, and public feedback from stakeholders throughout the Member Boards and greater health care communities. It contains 14 recommendations that address current concerns and outline a path forward for ABMS' continuing certification programs. The following recommendations are prioritized into three stages: one foundational, 10 short-term and intermediate, and three aspirational.

- 1 Integration of professionalism, assessment, lifelong learning and advancing practice.
- 2 Alternative solutions to burdensome highly-secure, point-in-time examinations of knowledge.
- 3 Regularly communicate with their diplomates about the standards for the specialty and encourage feedback about the program.
- 4 Consistent processes and requirements for continuing certification that are fair, equitable, transparent, effective and efficient.
- 5 Enable multi-specialty and subspecialty diplomates to remain certified without duplication of effort.
- 6 Facilitate and encourage independent research to build on the evidence base about the value of continuing certification.
- 7 ABMS Boards must change a diplomate's certification status when continuing certification standards are not met.
- 8 Clearly defined remediation pathways.
- 9 Make publicly available the certification history of all diplomates.
- 10 Member Boards comply with all ABMS certification and organizational standards.
- 11 Demonstrate and communicate that continuing certification has value, meaning and purpose in the health care environment.
- 12 Seek input from other stakeholder organizations to develop consistent approaches to evaluate professionalism and professional standing.
- 13 Collaborate to develop the infrastructure to support learning activities that produce data-driven advances in clinical practice.
- 14 Collaborate with professional and/or CME/CPD organizations to share data and information to guide and support diplomate engagement.

The ABMS Plan to Implement Vision Commission Recommendations

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Board of Directors (BOD) has established its plan to address the recommendations shared in the **Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission's (Commission) final report released in February 2019**. The ABMS BOD agreed to the following as necessary steps in implementing the Commission's findings:

- Creation of the "Achieving the Vision for Continuing Board Certification" Oversight Committee charged with directing the implementation strategy. This committee will seek guidance from ABMS' Stakeholder Council and various stakeholders in the continuing certification process throughout the implementation.
- Creation of the following four collaborative task forces that will include representatives from external stakeholders, focusing on the following areas identified in the Commission's report:
 - Advancing Practice
 - Information and Data Sharing
 - Professionalism
 - Remediation Pathways
- Agreement of all 24 ABMS Member Boards to commit to longitudinal or other formative assessment strategies and offer alternatives to the highly secure, point-in-time examinations of knowledge.
- Commitment by ABMS to develop new, integrated standards for continuing certification programs in 2020. The standards will address the Commission recommendations for flexibility in knowledge assessment and advancing practice, feedback to diplomates, and consistency. A fifth task force will be convened to update the standards.

The Commission's report affirmed that it is the role of the ABMS Member Boards to make summative decisions about continuing the certification of a physician based on a portfolio of information. However, the Commission called for the boards to create formative processes that offer opportunities for learning and improvement, as well as remediation when necessary, before summative decisions are made. And, while the report itself did not comment directly on the work the boards have already undertaken to enhance their programs, many of the Commission's recommendations affirmed those actions, most notably those referencing alternative formative assessment strategies, and improving communications with key stakeholders and diplomates.

Follow the progress of ABMS and its Member Boards and sign up for email updates at [vision.abms.org](https://www.vision.abms.org)

ABMS Oversight Committee for the Vision Initiative

The Oversight Committee leads the implementation of the recommendations outlined by the Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission.

Selected based on their expertise, knowledge, and understanding of the Commission's report, and their leadership positions in the ABMS Member Boards' community, the members of the Oversight Committee are:

- **Larry A. Green, MD, Chair-Elect, ABMS Board of Directors**
- **Richard E. Hawkins, MD, ABMS President and Chief Executive Officer**
- **Carolyn L. Kinney, MD, Executive Director, American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**
- **Michael R. Nelson, MD, PhD, President, American Board of Allergy and Immunology, Vision Commission Member**
- **George D. Wendel Jr., MD, Executive Director, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Vision Commission Member**

The Oversight Committee is chaired by ABMS Board Chair Barry S. Smith, MD. The Committee actively seeks guidance from the ABMS Stakeholder Council and various stakeholders in the continuing certification process to help direct the work of the following five task forces as part of the Achieving the Vision implementation plan: Advancing Practice, Information and Data Sharing, Professionalism, Remediation, and Standards. While the Standards Task Force will be composed of members of the ABMS Board of Directors and the ABMS Committee on Continuing Certification, the other four task forces will be composed of representatives from various external stakeholders in the continuing certification process as well as ABMS Member Boards.



Continuing Board Certification: Achieving the Vision Task Forces

The members of the five Continuing Board Certification: Achieving the Vision Task Forces work in concert with the Oversight Committee, to implement key recommendations outlined by the Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission (Commission) in its final report. Members bring their expertise, knowledge, and representation of a broad stakeholder community to create the next evolution of Continuing Certification. The Task Forces include a liaison from the ABMS Stakeholder Council as well as an official “observer” from the Council on Medical Specialty Societies. The Task Force Members are as follows:

Task Forces and Their Members

Advancing Practice

Engaging specialty societies, the continuing medical education and continuing professional development communities, and other expert stakeholders, the Task Force members will identify practice environmental changes necessary to support learning and improvement activities that produce data-driven advances in physicians’ clinical practice.

- Warren P. Newton, MD, MPH (Chair)
- Maryanne C. Bombaugh, MD, MBA
- Deborah J. Culley, MD
- Anne-Marie Irani, MD
- Rebecca L. Johnson, MD
- Samuel M. Keim, MD
- Bruce A. Nitsche, MD
- Cynthia D. Smith, MD
- Steven C. Thornquist, MD
- Barbara Wachsman, MPH
- Carol A. Berkowitz, MD (Stakeholder Council liaison)

Information and Data Sharing

Members of this Task Force will make recommendations regarding the processes and infrastructure necessary to facilitate data and information sharing between ABMS Member Boards and key stakeholders to support development of future educational and assessment programs and activities.

- Richard P. Dutton, MD, MBA (Chair)
- Ulysses G. J. Balis, MD
- Beth A. Bortz, MPP
- Patricia J. Hicks, MD, MHPE
- Dominic H. Mack, MD, MBA
- Brian Nussenbaum, MD, MHCM
- Suzann Y. Pershing, MD, MS
- Kevin L. Rode, BBA, PMP
- Randall K. Roenigk, MD
- Diane Meldi, MBA (Stakeholder Council liaison)

Professionalism

Dedicated to address the aspirational Commission recommendation calling for ABMS and its Member Boards to develop approaches to evaluate professionalism and professional standing, members of this Task Force will work with other stakeholder organizations to explore approaches to future assessment of professionalism and enhance consistency in judgments regarding professional standing.

Professionalism (Continued)

- Christie L. Morgan, MD, MS (Chair)
- Carol Cronin, MSG, MSW
- Thomas W. Hess, JD
- Valerie P. Jackson, MD
- Mark T. Keegan, MB, BCH
- Eve M. Kurtin, PharmD, MBA
- Bhushan H. Pandya, MD, MAMC
- Katherine D. Sherif, MD
- Christopher R. Thomas, MD
- Frederic W. Hafferty, PhD (Stakeholder Council liaison)

Remediation

This Task Force will define aspects and suggest pathways for remediation of gaps prior to certification loss as well as pathways for regaining eligibility after loss of certification.

- Suzanne K. Woods, MD (Chair)
- Eva M. Aagaard, MD
- David E.J. Bazzo, MD
- Ole-Petter Hamnvik, MD, BCH
- Walter H. Merrill, MD
- John C. Moorhead, MD, MS
- James C. Puffer, MD
- James A. Sliwa, DO
- David A. Swankin, JD, MS
- Donald J. Palmisano, Jr., JD (Stakeholder Council liaison)

Standards

This Task Force will develop new continuing certification standards, consistent with the Commission’s recommendations, which will be implemented by the ABMS Member Boards. Members will obtain appropriate input from stakeholders including practicing physicians.

- Susan M. Ramin, MD (Chair)
- Richard G. Battaglia, MD
- Elizabeth G. Baxley, MD
- Daniel J. Cole, MD
- David G. Nichols, MD, MBA
- Earl J. Reisdorff, MD
- Keith E. Brandt, MD
- Ricardo Correa-Marquez, MD, EsD (Stakeholder Council liaison)