CERTIFICATION

- Part of a life-long process
- From Initial Training to Retirement

AMERICAN BOARD OF RADIOLOGY

- One of 24 member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties
- Board of Trustees: 25 members
  - 16 Radiologists, 6 Radiation Oncologists,
  - 3 Physicists: Jerry Allison, Geoffrey Ibbott, Tony Seibert
- Offices in Tucson, AZ
  - Executive Director: Valerie Jackson, MD
  - Associate Executive Director for Physics: Don Frey, PhD
ABR Mission

“To serve patients, the public, and the medical profession...”

“By certifying that its diplomates have acquired, demonstrated, and maintained a requisite standard of knowledge, skill, and understanding...”

ABR Certification

- Diagnostic Radiologists
- Interventional Radiologists
- Radiation Oncologists
- Medical Physicists

Organization of Exams

- Part 1
  - General
  - Clinical
- Part 2 (Practice-Specific)
- Part 3 (Oral Exam)
PART 1 EXAM REQUIREMENTS

- As announced in 2002, effective 2012:
  - The candidate must be enrolled in or have graduated from a CAMPEP-accredited medical physics program
  - Program must be accredited at, or within a year after, graduation
  - Program director must provide letter attesting that application has been submitted

EXPERIENCE

Must be working in a clinical medical physics environment under the supervision of a certified medical physicist.

Satisfied if enrolled in a CAMPEP-accredited program

Volunteer position may be accepted if formal structure

WRITTEN EXAM PART 1

- Written Exam
  - Administered at Pearson VUE
  - General and Clinical
  - Must pass within 5 years of admission
WRITTEN EXAM
PART 2

- Education - must have completed graduate degree
- Cannot be taken until passed Part 1
- Experience (as of 2014) - CAMPEP-accredited residency.

WRITTEN EXAMS

100 Type A questions (multiple choice, one correct answer)

- 75 Simple (limited calculations)
- 25 Complex (calculator often required)
  - Computer-based
  - Pearson VUE
  - Requires MS Windows calculator

EXPERIENCE - PART 2

If applied for Part 1 before 10/31/2012:

You must have had at least 3 years (36 months) of full-time equivalent clinical experience in ... an approved department or practice in the area(s) in which certification is sought under the supervision of a certified medical physicist.

This requirement must be satisfied by Aug. 31 of the year in which the Part 2 exam is to be taken.
EXPERIENCE

- Clinical component of educational program:
  - MS ≤ 6 months, PhD ≤ 12 months
  - Postgraduate internship or residency
  - Postdoctoral research with clinical component
  - Postgraduate employment

“BOARD ELIGIBLE”

- ABR now recognizes the term “board eligible”
- Physicist candidate is “board eligible” after:
  - Passing Part 1, and
  - Being admitted to take Part 2 exam or completing residency (whichever occurs first)
- Permitted 6 years to pass Parts 2 & 3

REQUIREMENTS FOR ORAL EXAM

- Must have passed Parts 1 and 2
- Must travel to Louisville
5 Examiners

5 Areas (Therapeutic Medical Physics)
- Radiation Protection & Safety
- Patient Related Measurements
- Image Acquisition, Processing, & Display
- Calibration, Quality Control, & Quality Assurance
- Equipment

3 Committees
- Computer based
- Crowne Plaza

Given in examiner’s room
Role of examiner

CANDIDATES: WRITTEN EXAMS
CANDIDATES: ORAL EXAMS

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

- Ensures that the diplomate maintains 6 key competencies:
  - Medical knowledge
  - Patient care and procedural skills
  - Interpersonal and communication skills
  - Professionalism
  - Practice-based learning and improvement
  - Systems-based practice

MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

- Through the 4 MOC components:
  - Professional standing
  - Lifelong learning and self assessment
  - Cognitive expertise
  - Practice quality improvement