



# The initial certification (IC) program

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# Learning Objectives

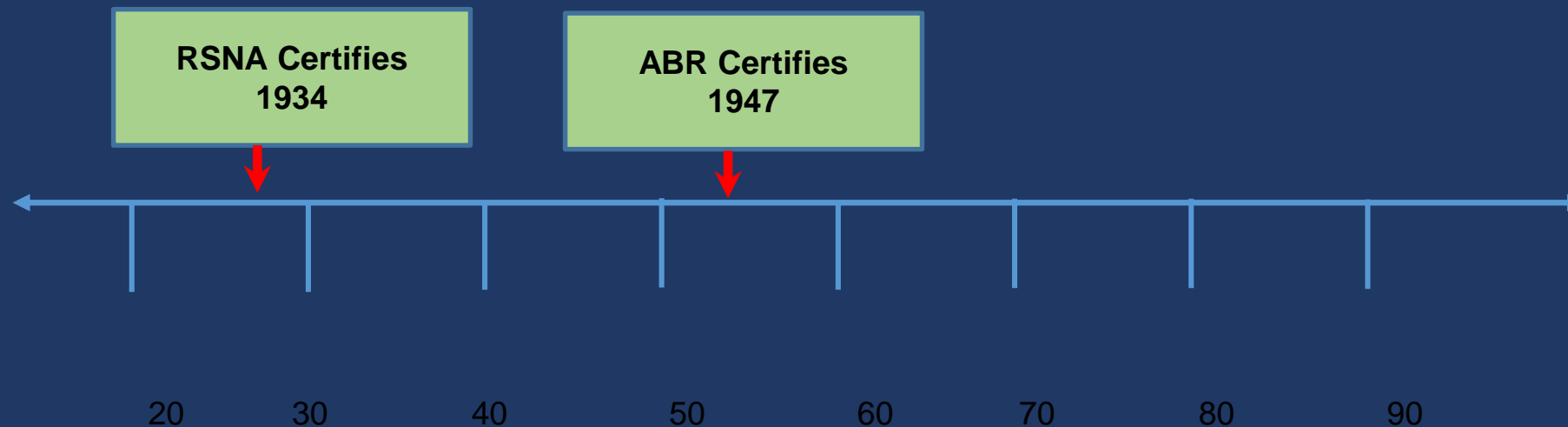
- Learn about the original development of the ABR IC program
- Understand the changes that have occurred over the years
- Be familiar with the current ABR IC requirements

# Original Certification

- RSNA and ABR – 1934
- Need to certify physicists was seen
- Around 1940 a consensus that certification naturally should be with the ABR
- WW II delayed things but in 1947 certification was transferred to the ABR

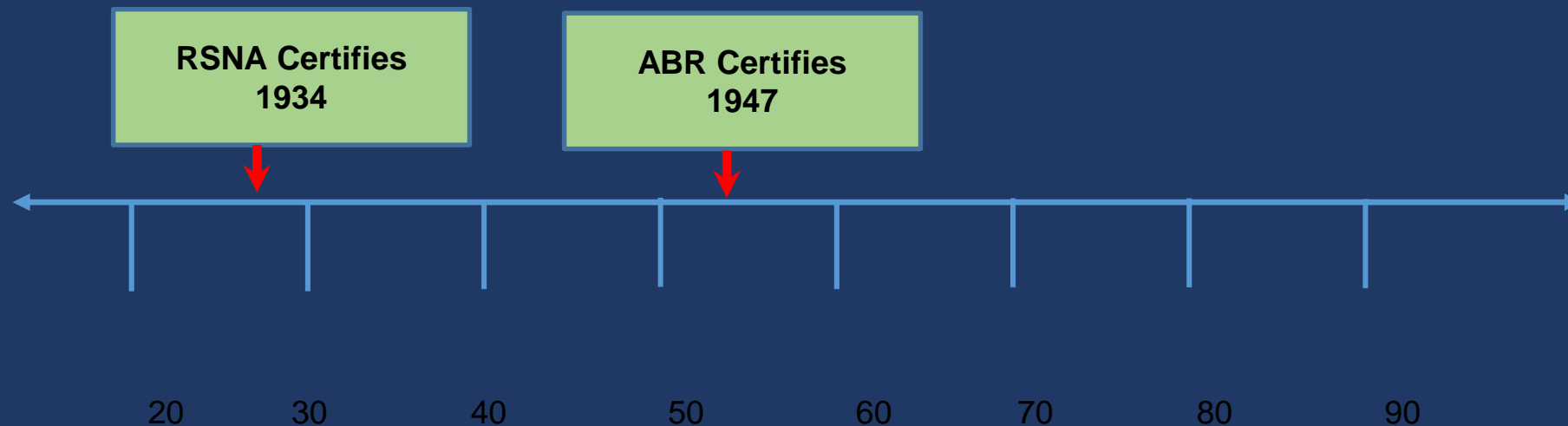
# Initial Certification Evolution

- An Ad Hoc Committee met with the RSNA physics group to discuss details of physicist certification.
- Unanimous opinion - ABR organize a procedure for examination and certification of physicists so that those who pass the examination in physics receive a certificate in radiation physics from the ABR.



# Initial Certification Evolution

- In the absence of formal training programs, the first eligibility requirements for ABR certification in physics included:
  - ✓ 4 or more years of college
  - ✓ 2 years of radiation physics study
  - ✓ A total of 8 years of training and practical experience



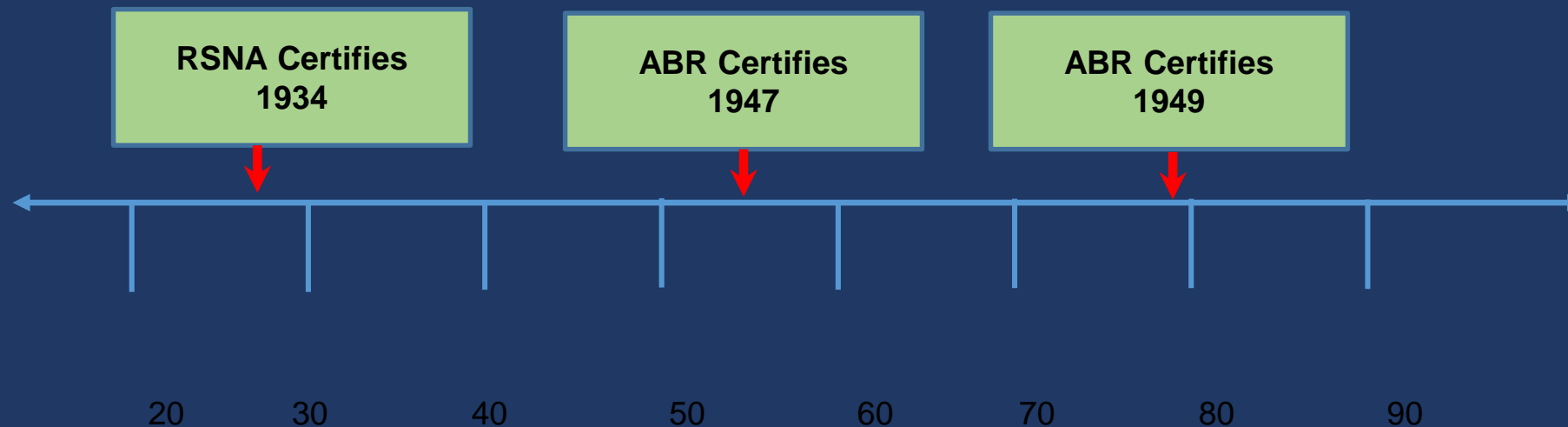
# Initial Certification Evolution

In 1949, the ABR granted certificates to the 34 physicists approved by the RSNA Registry of Certified Physicists and conducted the first (oral) examinations in radiation physics for four physicist applicants.

Oral examination panels in radiation physics included three certified radiation physicists and one ABR trustee.

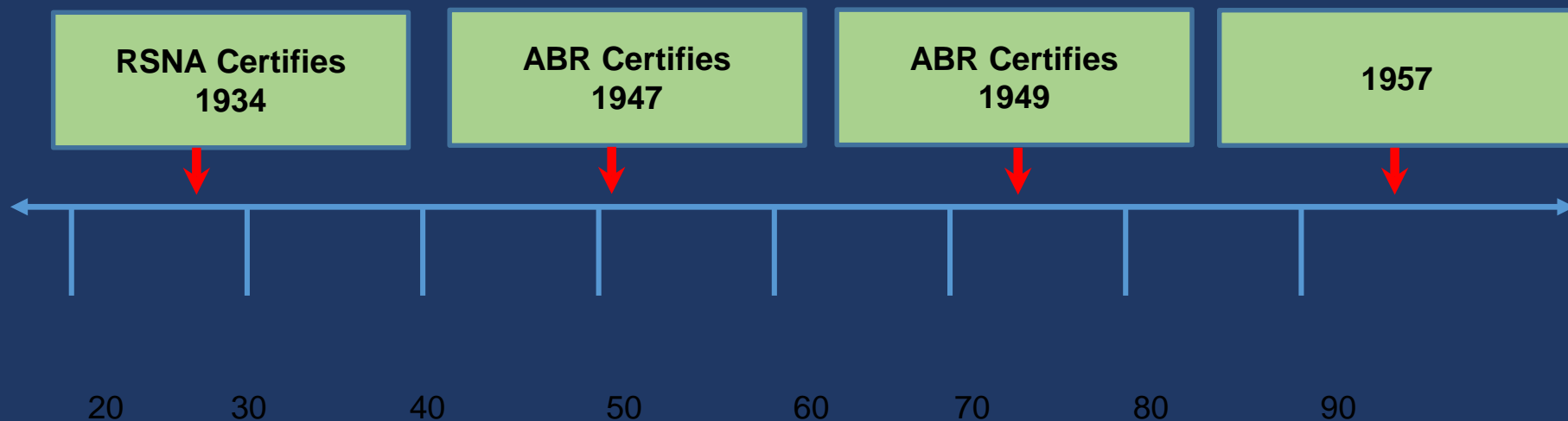
Initially, there was not a written examination.

Certificates could be granted in radiological physics, x-ray and radium physics, and medical nuclear physics.



# Initial Certification Evolution

A written physics examination was designed and scheduled for first use. After consultation with outside experts to determine the difficulties and costs, the ABR Board “backed away” from a written examination for several years.

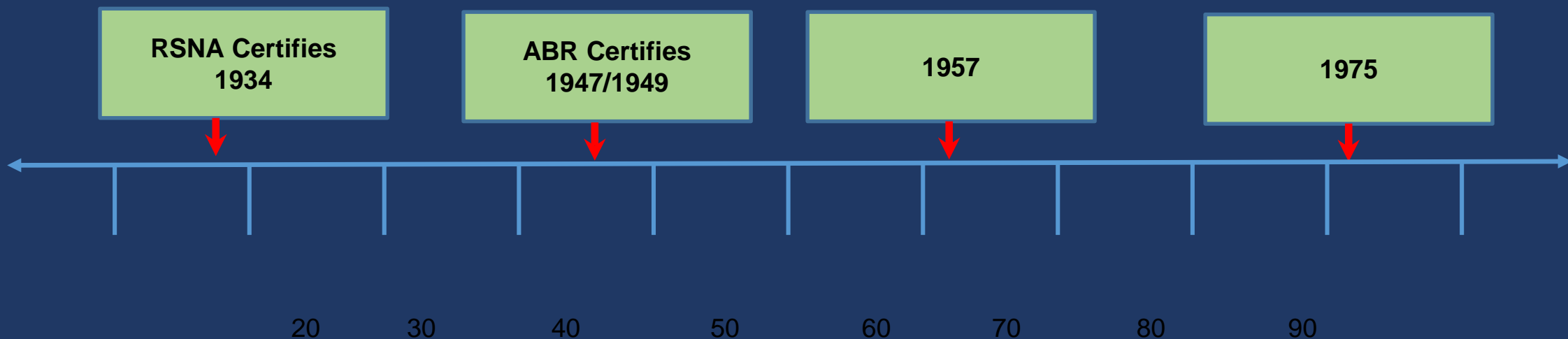


# First Written Exam

The first ABR written exam in physics was administered in June 1975.

The 78 applicants sought certification in these fields:

- 7 in diagnostic radiologic physics
- 9 in medical nuclear physics
- 37 in radiologic physics (combined diagnostic, medical nuclear, and therapeutic physics)
- 4 in therapeutic and diagnostic physics
- 21 in therapeutic radiologic physics

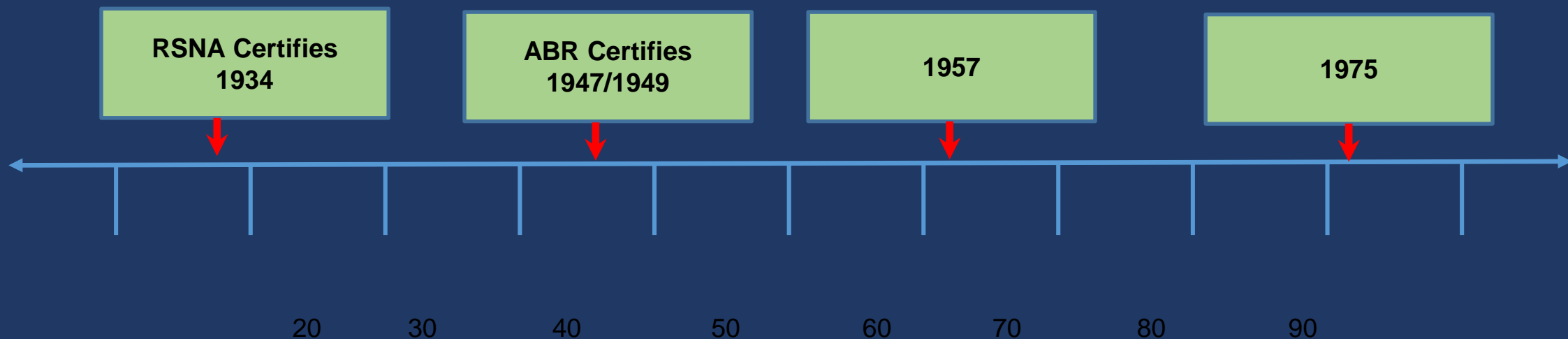




# First Written Exam

45 applicants passed the first exams which included some luminary medical physicists:

- Jon Trueblood, Paul Carson, Lawrence Rothenberg, James Deye, Charles Wilson, Stewart Bushong, James Hevezi, Robert Phillips, Raymond Rossi, James Purdy



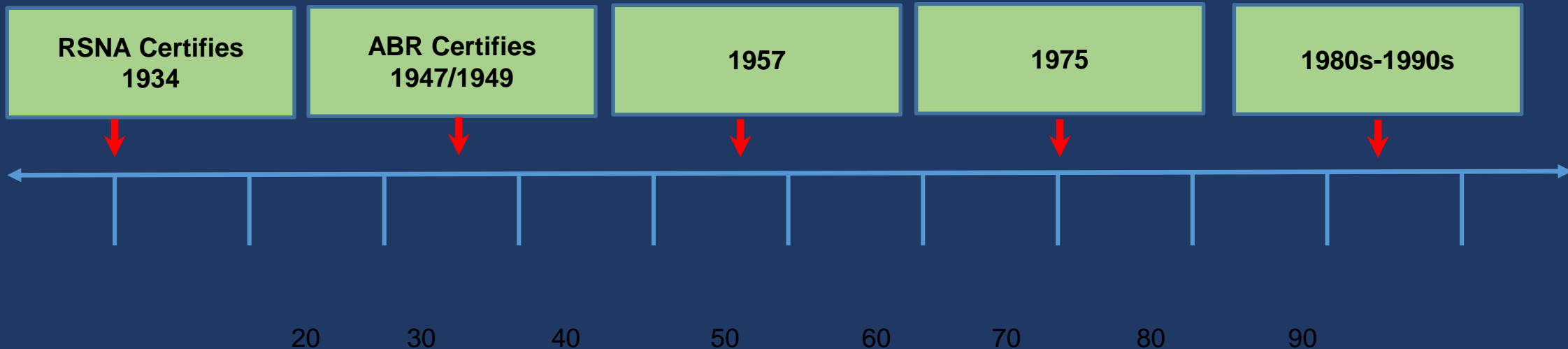
# Standardized Didactic/Clinical Training

A need for standardized *didactic training* in medical physics was addressed in the 1980s.

A need for standardized *clinical training* in medical physics was recognized in the 1990s.

- Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Educational Programs (CAMPEP) was formed and incorporated in Illinois in 1994.

- The best mechanism (for clinical training) - residency training accredited by CAMPEP.
- The first residency program accredited by CAMPEP was Washington University School of Medicine.

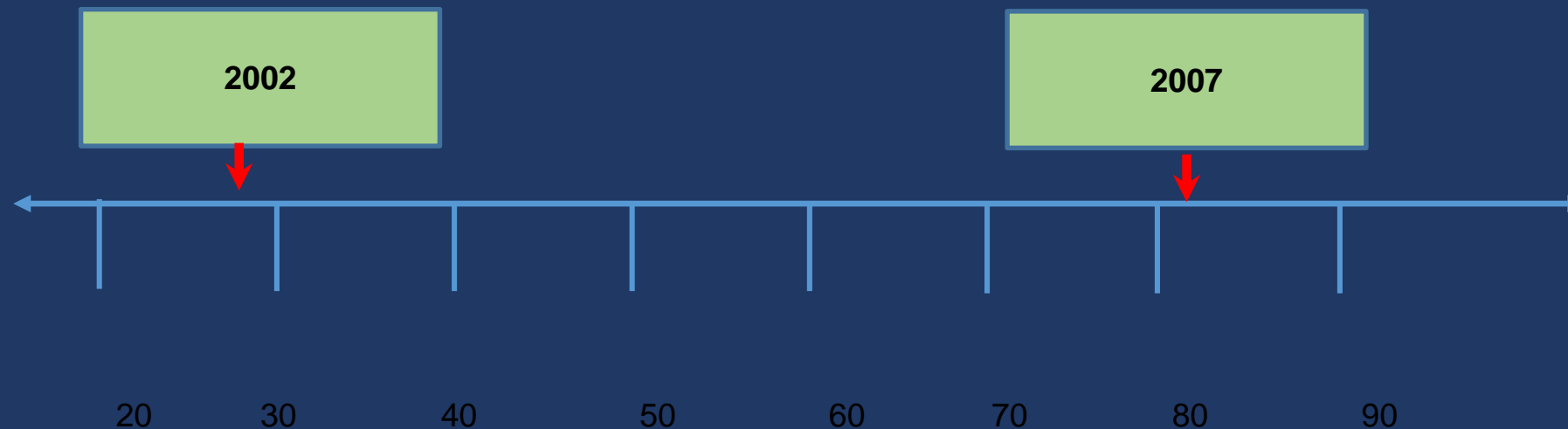


# Standardized Didactic Training

- In 2002, the ABR announced a policy whereby a prerequisite for certification in radiologic physics after 2012 would be completion of a CAMPEP- accredited educational program.
- Additionally, in 2002, the ABR replaced the issuance of lifetime certificates in medical physics with time- limited certificates.

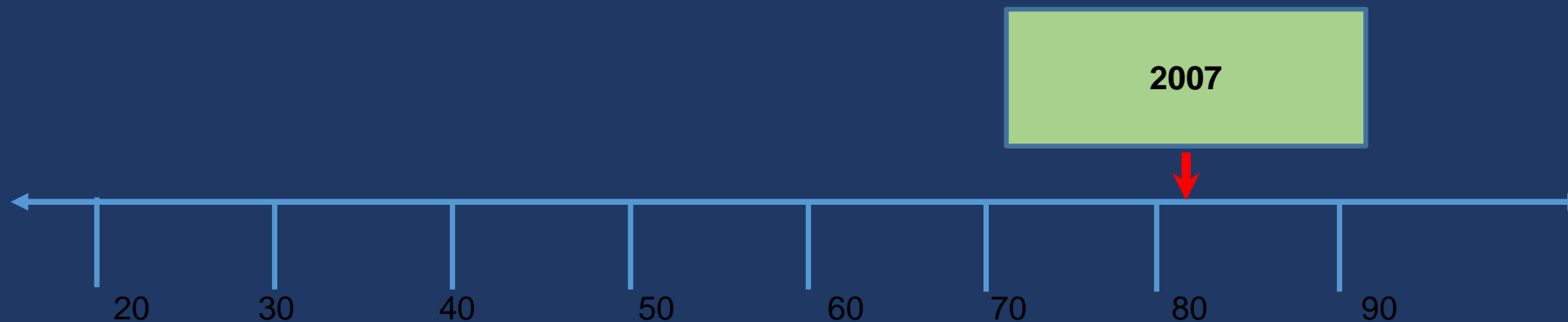
At a Special AAPM Board of Directors Meeting in Chicago on March 31, 2007, it was moved that:

*It is the policy of the AAPM that graduation from an accredited clinical residency program should be a requirement for qualifying for board certification, with an implementation date to be negotiated with the certification boards. Motion seconded. 29 approved, 1 opposed. Motion passed.*



# Standardized Didactic Training

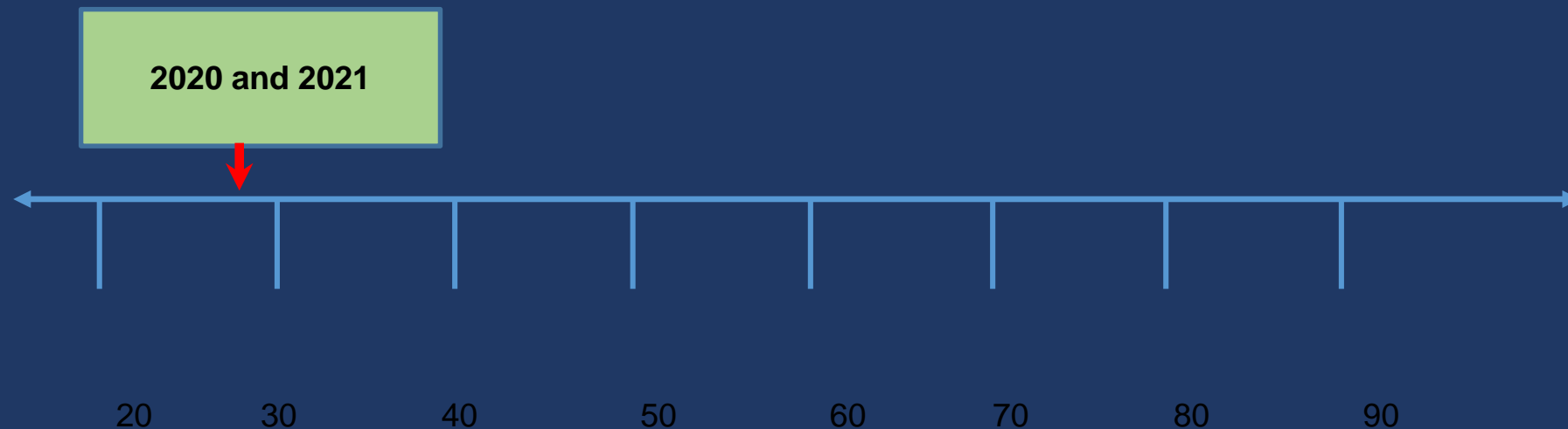
- At the AAPM Meeting in Chicago on July 26, 2007, there was an ad hoc “directors of medical physics programs” meeting to discuss a new professional society to advance the cause of medical physics education, the Society of Directors of Academic Medical Physics Programs (SDAMPP).
- In October 2007, at a meeting of the ABR Board of Trustees, a new policy regarding eligibility requirements for the ABR medical physics certification exams was adopted.
- ✓ Beginning in 2012, in order to take the Part 1 exam, candidates must be enrolled in or have graduated from a CAMPEP- accredited education program.
- ✓ Beginning in 2014, in order to take the Part 1 exam, candidates must be enrolled in or have completed a CAMPEP- accredited residency program.
- ✓ Residency Length: Currently 3 years. Voted to reduce required residency length for graduates of CAMPEP- accredited MS or PhD programs to 2 years.



# Part 1 Current Requirements

To be eligible for Part 1 on a new application

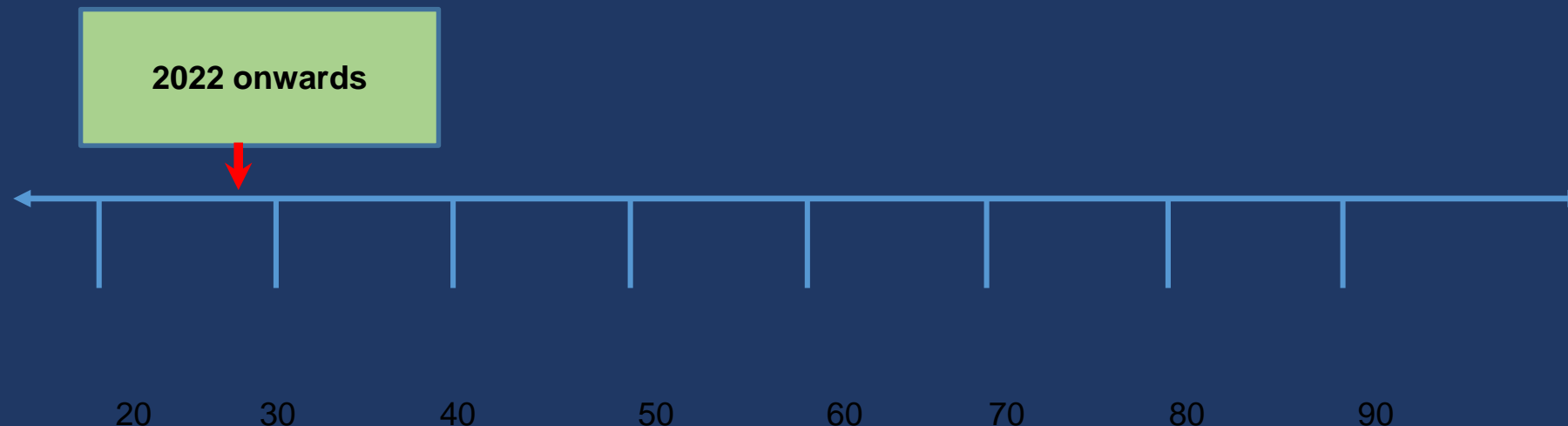
- Candidates must be enrolled in and in good standing with, or have graduated from, a CAMPEP- accredited program (graduate program, doctorate in medical physics [DMP] program, certificate program, or medical physics residency).
- The ABR will no longer audit candidates for the Part 1 and Part 2 (Qualifying) exams to ensure that they have completed the physics and medical physics academic training recommended by CAMPEP. ABR will leave these matters to the program directors and CAMPEP.



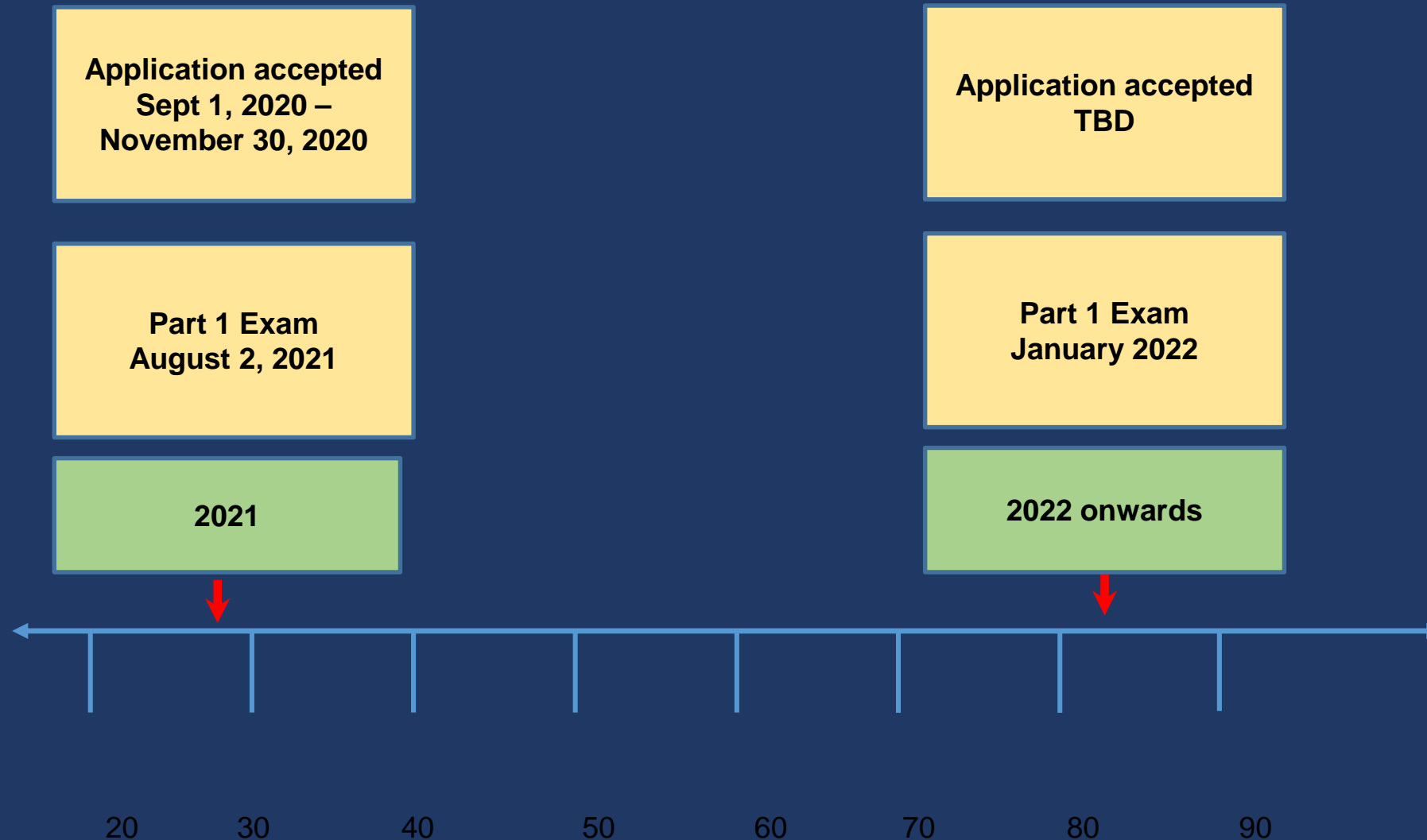
# Part 1 Current Requirements

To be eligible for Part 1 on a new application, candidates must meet one of the following:

- be enrolled in and in good standing with a CAMPEP- accredited program (graduate or doctorate in medical physics (DMP). The program director must attest that the candidate has completed or will complete the core courses, as described by CAMPEP, prior to the date of the exam;
- graduated from a CAMPEP- accredited program (graduate or doctorate in medical physics (DMP); completed a CAMPEP- accredited certificate program and have completed a PhD program at the time of registration;
- be enrolled in or have completed a CAMPEP- accredited residency;
- be partaking in an ABR- approved Structured Mentorship program.



# Part 1 Current Requirements



# Part 2 Current Requirements

## Candidates who applied for certification after July 1, 2013

- Must have passed the Medical Physics Part 1 exam (general and clinical).
- Must have completed a CAMPEP- accredited residency by August 31 of the year in which the Part 2 exam is to be taken.
- Candidates who completed a CAMPEP- accredited residency prior to the year in which they are applying for the Part 2 exam must also provide documentation of current employment as a medical physicist.

## Candidates who applied for certification prior to October 31, 2012

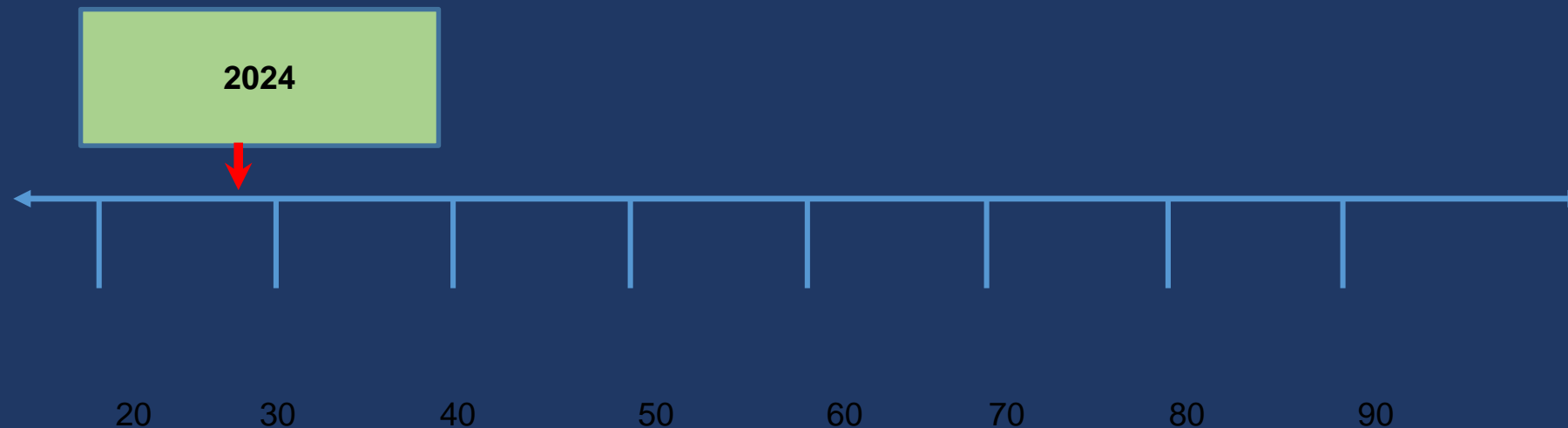
- See ABR website for requirements
- <https://www.theabr.org/medical-physics/initial-certification/part-2-exam/requirements-application>



# Part 2 Upcoming Requirements

## \*\* PLEASE NOTE\*\*

- Beginning with applications for the 2024 Part 2 exam and beyond, the ABR will no longer accept 36 months of clinical experience as a pathway to medical physics certification.
- All candidates who have not been approved for Part 2 by the 2023 exam must complete a CAMPEP- accredited residency (by August 31 of the year of the exam) for admission to the Part 2 exam, regardless of their initial application date.



# Part 3 (Oral Exam) Current Requirements

- Candidates who have passed all of the Part 1 computer-based exam and their chosen medical physics specialty Part 2 computer-based exam(s) are eligible to take the Part 3 (oral) exam.

# References

- <https://www.theabr.org/medical-physics/initial-certification>
- AAPM Newsletter | Volume 39 No. 3 | May/June 2014

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- Understand the changes that have occurred over the years
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THANK YOU!

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## QUESTIONS?

Please contact an ABR Certification Manager at:

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or

(520) 790-2900