



# The Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program

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# NOTE

- The information given in this presentation is accurate as of June 22, 2020.
- For the latest information, please visit the ABR website at

[www.theabr.org](http://www.theabr.org)

# Learning Objectives

- Identify factors that lead to the design and implementation of the original ABR MOC program.
- Explain the process for how the ABR MOC program is reviewed and improved.
- Describe changes to the ABR MOC program since original implementation

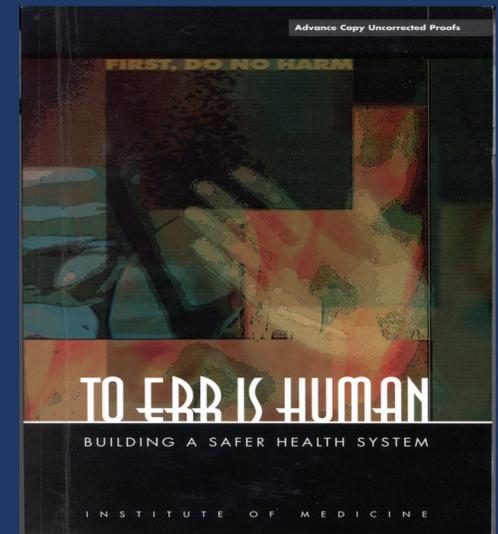
What lead to MOC?

# What lead to MOC?

- Scientific Research
  - ✓ In professions that were studied professional competence decreased over time
- Public Concerns
  - ✓ Focus Groups
    - Strongly recommended an MOC program with an exam
- Professional Interest
  - ✓ Keep MOC with the boards
    - NOT the government
    - NOT Insurance companies
    - NOT TJC

# What lead to MOC?

- Founded out of concern for quality of care and need to set standards
- Ongoing need to monitor and promote quality and safety
  - 44,000 to 98,000 Americans die each year as a result of preventable errors caused by faulty systems or processes used in their care



# Why MOC?

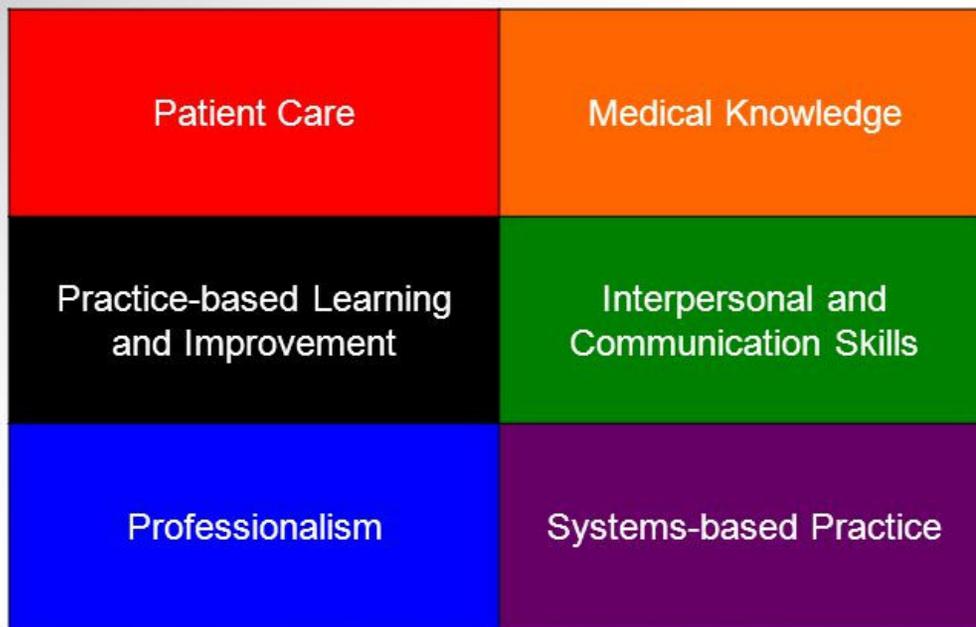
- Demonstrates commitment to lifelong learning and self-assessment
- Allows the physicist to self-direct own continuing education
- Results in continuous quality improvement

# What is MOC?

- The ABR MOC program builds on the validity of the IC process and provides a framework for self-regulation by the profession to improve quality of care.
- The program evaluates on a continuous basis, the six essential competencies. MOC uses four parts to evaluate these competencies.

# The Six Core Competencies

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Original  
ACGME List

- Widely  
adopted  
beyond the  
boards  
TJC,  
Hospitals ....

# ABMS Maintenance of Certification

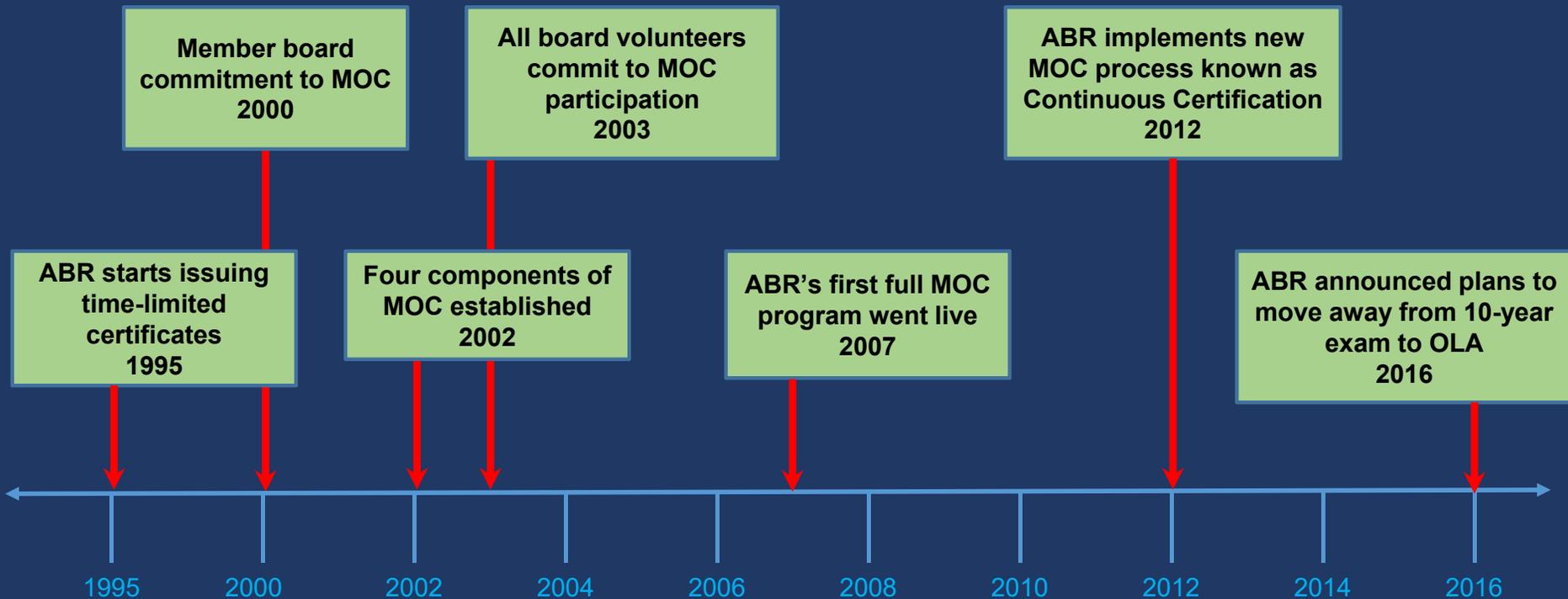


# MOC Annual Review

MOC Element	Compliance Requirement
Professionalism and Professional Standing	Valid, unrestricted state license (TX, FL, HI, NY) or professional standing attestation by one ABR certified diplomate
CME/CE	At least 75 Category 1 CME/CE credits in previous 3 years
Self-Assessment CME/CE (SA-CE)	At least 25 of the 75 Category 1 CME/CE credits must be SA-CE.
Assessment of Knowledge, Judgement and Skills	Pass most recent OLA performance evaluation or have passed a traditional exam in previous 5 years
Improvement in Medical Practice	Completed at least 1 PQI project or Participatory Activity in previous 3 years
Fees	Current with MOC fees

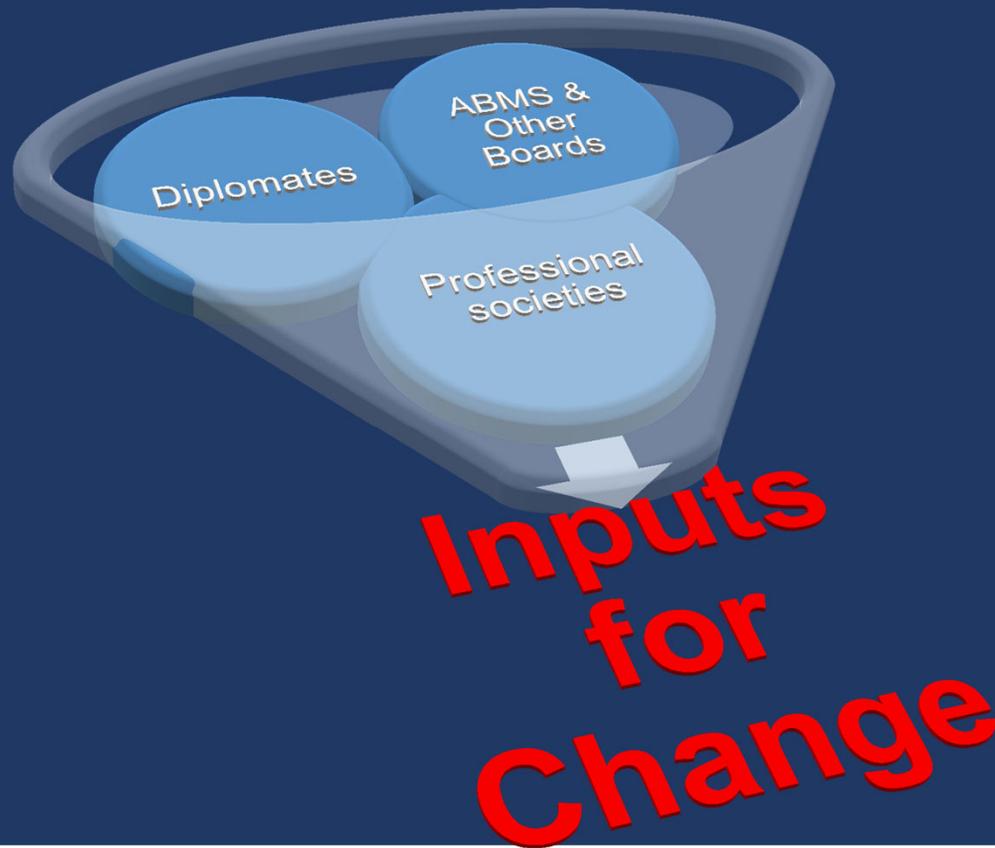
# The Evolution of MOC

# Evolution of MOC



# Review, Assessment and Improvements to MOC

# What sources does the ABR consult when considering changes to MOC?



# MOC Program Assessment

- How does the ABR (BOG, BOT, Staff) assess the MOC program?
  - How are areas of potential improvement brought to the attention of the ABR?
- 
- ✓ Feedback from Diplomates is carefully reviewed
  - ✓ Discussions at professional conferences and meetings
  - ✓ Some surveys (ad hoc)
  - ✓ Communications with staff, board members

# MOC Program Improvement

- How are potential improvements to the MOC program reviewed?
  - How are modifications determined?
- 
- ✓ Discussions at trustee and governor levels
  - ✓ Trustees have calls twice a month to discuss hot and routine topics and take immediate action where appropriate
  - ✓ Board meeting twice a year
  - ✓ Decisions made and approved

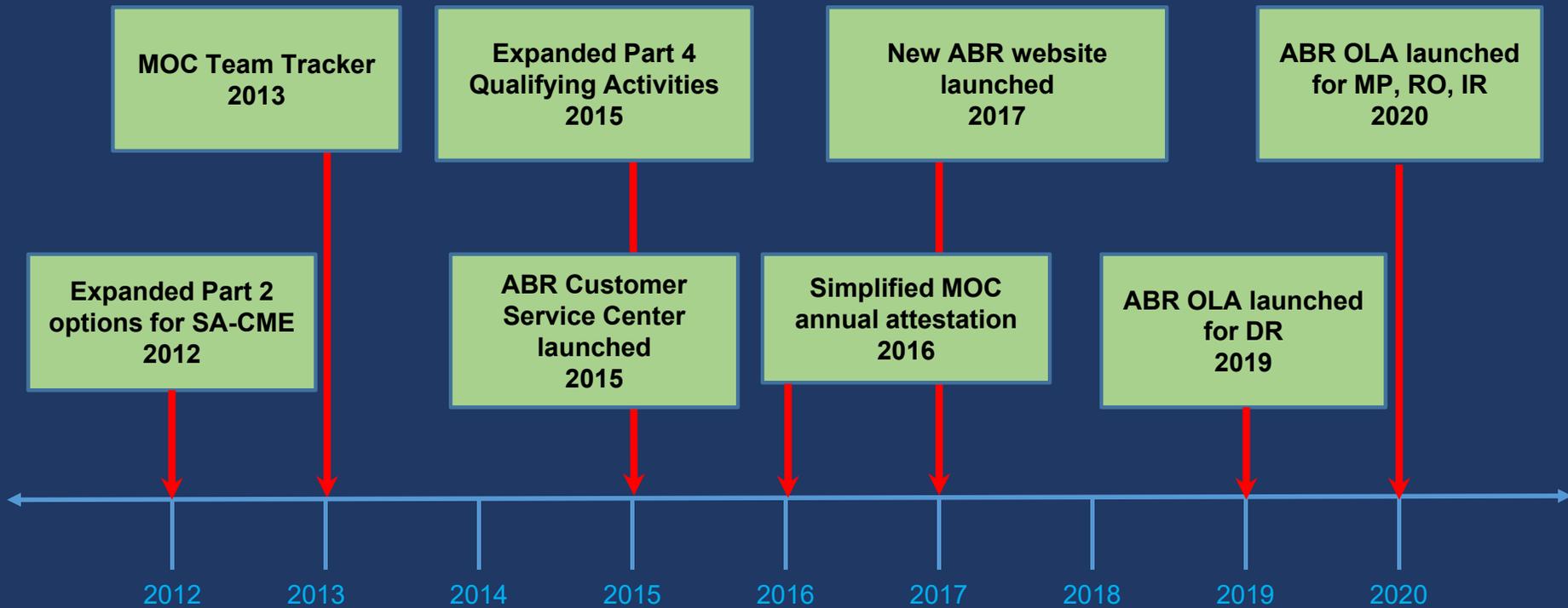
# MOC Program Improvement

- How are modifications to the program communicated to diplomates?
  - How are modifications implemented?
- 
- ✓ Email, ABR website, blogs, The Beam (*e-newsletter*), social media, society publications, letter sent to appropriate organizations (AAPM, CAMPEP, SDAMPP)
  - ✓ Typically a year or two later after announcement (for example, OLA – announced in 2016, implemented in 2019/2020)

# When does the ABR change the MOC program?

- When improved ways to meet the standards become evident
- When equivalent but less burdensome methods to meet the standards become available
- When required by the ABMS
- When it will improve the quality of the process
- When it will simplify the process for diplomates

# Evolution of MOC



# Advantages of OLA

- OLA eliminates the need for and the cost of travel
- It requires very little time away from your practice
- It offers immediate feedback with rationale and references
- It is more focused and relevant to your daily practice
- It is designed to be an ongoing, non-stressful experience
- It is flexible – Within broad guidelines you decide how often to engage with OLA
- Easy to participate as a question rater

# OLA Enhancements

## Implemented beginning 2020

- More time for selected questions
- Reduction in SA-CME requirements for OLA participation
- Ability to modify frequency of OLA emails
- Performance feedback

# Early OLA Statistics

- Over 3,200 (94.2%) diplomates have answered at least one OLA question
- Over 46k OLA questions have been answered
- Less than 3% of all questions viewed have been declined
- 37% have volunteered to participate in the OLA question rating process

# MOC Program Evolution

- In order to remain current and meaningful into the future, the ABR MOC program undergoes continual review and revision by the ABR board of governors and the ABR board of trustees.
- As professional standards and societal expectations regarding the competence of healthcare providers continue to evolve, further enhancements will be made to the ABR MOC program to enable it to continue to meet the needs of our patients and Diplomates into the future.

From “ABR Trustees’ Opinion – The Value of MOC for Medical Physicists”, ABR Trustees



THANK YOU!

[www.theabr.org](http://www.theabr.org)



QUESTIONS?

Please contact an ABR Certification Manager at:  
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(520) 790-2900