

# ABMS

## “In the News”

March/April 2009



American Board  
of Medical Specialties

*Higher standards. Better care.®*



## Press Clips, Media & Releases

March/April 2009

Part of ABMS' strategic mission is to communicate to appropriate external stakeholders that board certification is known as a major marker of quality for physician practice performance and that ABMS is recognized as the organization that establishes standards and criteria.

Shown in this book are the numerous mentions that ABMS has received in the press and media from March/April 2009.

If you have any questions or come across other mentions of ABMS in the media, press or on the Internet, please direct all copies to Lori Boukas, Director of Marketing and Communications so this information can be published back to the boards.

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# Press Clips

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## **ABMS Monthly Media Report March/April, 2009**

Following is a summary of media coverage identified during the months of March/April related to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). A brief description of each story, along with an excerpt is provided as well as available links for complete articles. For other articles contact [lboukas@abms.org](mailto:lboukas@abms.org).

### **ABMS Mentions**

#### **Story #1**

*Chicago Tribune*, Julie's Health Club Blog  
"Tips for Using Online Doctor Rating Sites"  
Julie Deardorff  
March 4, 2009

This article on five ABMS suggested tips for consumers using online doctor rating sites posted on Julie's Health Club Blog.

ABMS Mentions: "If you use physician rating sites, the **American Board of Medical Specialties**, which oversees physician certification, suggests you do the following:...Confirm information...Check with **ABMS** to verify specialty certification."

[http://featuresblogs.chicagotribune.com/features\\_julieshealthclub/](http://featuresblogs.chicagotribune.com/features_julieshealthclub/)

#### **Story #2**

WCNC-TV  
"Accused Doctor Wasn't Certified in Plastic Surgery"  
Michelle Boudin  
March 11, 2009

The North Carolina Medical Board revoked the license of Genesis Plastic Surgery's Dr. Paul Drago after "nearly a dozen women filed board complaints against him, saying he caused pain, scarring and disfigurement." Dr. Drago is not certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery, and Dr. Felmont Eaves, a nationally recognized and board certified plastic surgeon, says that patients need to take a careful look at their physician's medical history. He warns that doctors should "offer patients options, different kinds of treatments and references to other patients."

ABMS & Specialty Member Board Mentions: "Drago wasn't actually certified by the

**American Board of Plastic Surgery...So bottom line: Beware. Do your homework. Check with the American Board of Medical Specialties for a doctor's certification."**

[http://www.wcnc.com/news/local/stories/wcnc-031109-mw-doctor\\_certification.269e6814.html#<http://www.wcnc.com/news/local/stories/wcnc-031109-mw-doctor\\_certification.269e6814.html>](http://www.wcnc.com/news/local/stories/wcnc-031109-mw-doctor_certification.269e6814.html#<http://www.wcnc.com/news/local/stories/wcnc-031109-mw-doctor_certification.269e6814.html>)

### Story #3

The ABMS press release on its first National Health Policy Forum to address physician accountability and health system performance standards, distributed March 13, was picked up by the following media outlets:

*Earth Times*  
March 13, 2009

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/abms-hosts-first-national-health,749193.shtml>

*Market Watch*  
March 13, 2009

[http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/abms-hosts-first-national-health/story.aspx?guid={548F9EE2-2DC7-4388-8225-AE7A994745BD}&dist=msr\\_5](http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/abms-hosts-first-national-health/story.aspx?guid={548F9EE2-2DC7-4388-8225-AE7A994745BD}&dist=msr_5)

RedOrbit  
March 13, 2009

[http://www.redorbit.com/news/health/1654268/abms\\_hosts\\_first\\_national\\_health\\_policy\\_forum\\_to\\_address\\_physician/](http://www.redorbit.com/news/health/1654268/abms_hosts_first_national_health_policy_forum_to_address_physician/)

SOA World.com  
March 13, 2009

<http://in.sys-con.com/node/876996>

PR-USA.Net  
March 17, 2009

[http://pr-usa.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=185462&Itemid=95](http://pr-usa.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=185462&Itemid=95)

### Story #4

The article on five ABMS suggested tips for consumers using online doctor rating sites posted on Julie Deardorff's Health Club Blog in the *Chicago Tribune* was picked up by the following media outlets:

*The Hour* (Norwalk, Conn.)  
March 16, 2009

<http://www.thehour.com/story/466529>

*Stamford Times* (Norwalk, Conn.)  
March 16, 2009

<http://thestamfordtimes.com/story/466529>

*Wilton Villager* (Norwalk, Conn.)  
March 16, 2009

<http://wiltonvillager.com/story/466529>

#### Story #5

*Orange County Register*

“Doctors Accused of Botching Breast Implant Surgeries”

Courtney Perkes

March 19, 2009

This article is about two doctors facing disciplinary actions by the California Medical Board for allegedly botching plastic surgeries. According to the article, Dr. Harrell Edward Robinson of Anaheim Hills, Calif., allegedly performed liposuction and a facelift on a patient who was supposed to receive a tummy tuck. Dr. Shir Miskinyar of Santa Ana, Calif., is accused of performing breast augmentation on two women who developed infections and had to have their implants removed.

ABMS Mention: “The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery recommends that patients only choose a **board-certified** plastic surgeon who has undergone additional, specialized training...Neither Robinson nor Miskinyar are board-certified in plastic surgery, according to the **American Board of Medical Specialties** Web site.”

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/robinson-board-plastic-2340413-patient-surgery>

#### Story #6

*Fayetteville Observer* Live Wire Blog

“Search for Eye Doctor Can Start Many Places”

Catherine Pritchard

March 18, 2009

In this Q & A blog, Pritchard answers a reader’s question about finding a pediatric eye doctor in the Fayetteville area. Pritchard advises the reader to ask a previous doctor for a referral, consult the phone book’s business pages and to consult membership lists of medical trade associations,

such as the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus and the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

ABMS & Specialty Member Board Mentions: “Note: Neither of those groups is the board that certifies ophthalmologists. That’s the **American Board of Ophthalmology**. Physicians aren’t required to be certified in their specialties, but such designations--by boards belonging to the **American Board of Medical Specialties**--indicate the doc has completed accredited education and specialty training and passed periodic oral and written exams.”

<http://www.fayobserver.com/article?id=321369>

#### Story #7

*AHA News Now*

“Physician Certification Board Announces New Standards”

March 26, 2009

This news brief is about ABMS announcing new standards to enhance its Maintenance of Certification program. According to the brief, the standards adopt several new program elements, including documentation that physicians are meeting continued medical education and self-assessment requirements; evidence of participation in practice-based assessment and quality improvement; completion of a patients safety self-assessment program; and assessment of communications skills.

ABMS Mention: ““Through these standards, hundreds of thousands of physicians in this country will be asked to participate in enhanced professional development activities to improve the **ABMS** life-long learning evaluation,’ said **ABMS President and CEO Kevin Weiss, M.D.**”

[http://www.ahanews.com/ahanews\\_app/index.jsp](http://www.ahanews.com/ahanews_app/index.jsp)

#### Story #8

Modern Healthcare

“Medical Specialties Board OKs New Guidelines”

Andis Robeznieks

March 27, 2009

This article is about ABMS announcing new standards to enhance its Maintenance of Certification program. According to the article, the ABMS Maintenance of Certification program is replacing the traditional specialty recertification exams that physicians took every few years with a process described as promoting “continuous professional development and assessment.”

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20090327/REG/303279982>

#### Story #9

Lahontan Valley News (Fallon, Nev.)

“Ask the Expert--What Makes a Great Primary Care Doctor?”

March 30, 2009

This article offers tips for choosing a primary care physician and also what to look for if you need a surgeon.

ABMS mention: "The American College of Surgeons recommends that you look for a surgeon that is board certified. Certification by a surgical board that is approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is a good indicator of competence."

<http://www.lahontanvalleynews.com/article/20090328/NEWS/903289980/1045&title=Ask%20the%20Expert>

#### **Story #10**

*Chicago Magazine*  
April 2009

A letter written by ABMS President and CEO Dr. Kevin B. Weiss in response to a *Chicago Magazine* article by Graham Meyer, "How to Deal with a Medical Crisis," was published in the April issue of the magazine's "Feedback" section. In his letter, Dr. Weiss points out that Meyer's article left out one of the most important questions any patient should ask his or her doctor: "Are you board certified, and if so, in what specialty?" Dr. Weiss points out that asking the right questions and finding the right doctor are essential to quality care, and asking about board certification should be at the top of the list.

#### **Story #11**

*Chicago Tribune*  
"ER' and 'County General'"  
Staff Report  
March 31, 2009

This article looks back over the many inaccurate depictions of emergency room medicine seen on the popular television show "ER," which was loosely based on Chicago's Cook County Hospital. According to the article, the final episode of "ER" is scheduled to air Thursday night (April 2).

ABMS Mention: "Not until 1979 was emergency medicine formally recognized as a specialty by the **American Board of Medical Specialties.**"

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/chi-0331edit2mar31,0,1099362,print.story>

#### **Story #12**

*Savannah Morning News*  
"Time for Your Doctor to Get a Check Up?"  
Dana Clark Felty  
April 7, 2009

This article is about resources available to consumers looking for a doctor, including online ratings sites. Dr. Nicholas Costrini, a gastroenterologist who writes a health column in the

*Savannah Morning News*, says ratings sites do provide some useful information such as a list of credentials and training, but they don't provide the most important pieces of information when someone's looking for a doctor: results.

ABMS Mention: "Free sites to check up on doctors....**American Board of Medical Specialties (www.abms.org)**: Information on board certification in 24 specialties."

<http://savannahnow.com/node/701751>

### Story #13

ABMS distributed a new release April 8, 2009, on Business Wire, outlining issues addressed at its first National Policy Forum (NPF) held March 17, 2009, in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the NPF was to underscore the value of aligning ABMS Maintenance of Certification (MOC) with the national healthcare policy reform movement. The following media outlets, listed alphabetically, picked up the news release:

*Ad Hoc News* (Berlin)  
April 9, 2009

<http://www.ad-hoc-news.de/abms-national-policy-forum-underscores-value-of--/de/Unternehmensnachrichten/20174883>

*Earth Times*  
April 9, 2009

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/abms-national-policy-forum-underscores,779701.shtml>

InsuranceNewsNet.com  
April 9, 2009

[http://insurancenewsnet.com/article.asp?n=1&neID=sN1ILnmzp-78B7Sh4X\\_8CSF99FKoNZegrjydGGI2CE0YErhmsmPmKxQmshtTbZM](http://insurancenewsnet.com/article.asp?n=1&neID=sN1ILnmzp-78B7Sh4X_8CSF99FKoNZegrjydGGI2CE0YErhmsmPmKxQmshtTbZM)

*Market Watch*  
April 9, 2009

[http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/abms-national-policy-forum-underscores/story.aspx?guid={9589BBEB-BB8D-4365-805A-3BF0A4203EEF}&dist=msr\\_2](http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/abms-national-policy-forum-underscores/story.aspx?guid={9589BBEB-BB8D-4365-805A-3BF0A4203EEF}&dist=msr_2)

PR-Inside.com  
April 9, 2009

<http://www.pr-inside.com/abms-national-policy-forum-underscores-value-r1172619.htm>

### Story #14

*Modern Healthcare*

"Conn. Attorney General Probes Medical Certification Scam"

Gregg Blesch  
April 8, 2009

This article is about an ongoing investigation being conducted by Conn. Attorney General Richard Blumenthal into an alleged scam artist, Keith Alan Lasko, who is accused of selling phony medical certifications. According to Blumenthal, the scam targets foreign-trained physicians who may be unfamiliar with licensing requirements and legitimate opportunities for specialty certification.

ABMS Specialty Member Board Mention: “Blumenthal said his office received a complaint from the **American Board of Internal Medicine** as well as more than 130 additional complaints regarding the certifications offered by Keith Alan Lasko under the guise of a variety of nonexistent organizations, such as the American Board of Geriatric Medicine and the United States Medical Specialists Federation.”

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20090408/REG/304089964>



## JULIE'S HEALTH CLUB

Where alternative and mainstream health meet

By Julie Deardorff

### Chicago Tribune

### Tips for Using Online Doctor Rating Sites

[http://featuresblogs.chicagotribune.com/features\\_julieshealthclub/](http://featuresblogs.chicagotribune.com/features_julieshealthclub/)

By Julie Deardorff, March 4, 2009

If you use physician rating sites, the **American Board of Medical Specialties**, which oversees physician certification, suggests you do the following:

- Confirm the information. Many Web sites include self-reported physician information. A doctor may list a specialty, but that doesn't guarantee that he/she is board certified in that particular area of medicine. Check with **ABMS** to verify specialty certification.
- Search for online physician ratings that allow consumers to read comments on an individual physician from a variety of sources, including other doctors, nurses and patients.
- Remember that many online physician ratings don't consistently moderate content or review the comments before posting.
- When choosing a doctor, consider several sources of information rather than relying solely on a doctor rating Web site.
- For a small fee, consumers can also check for disciplinary actions against individual physicians through the Federation of State Medical Boards.



## Local News

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### Accused doctor wasn't certified in plastic surgery Video

06:23 PM EDT on Wednesday, March 11, 2009

By MICHELLE BOUDIN / NewsChannel 36

E-mail Michelle: [MBoudin@WCNC.com](mailto:MBoudin@WCNC.com)

#### Video



March 11th, 2009

### Accused doctor wasn't board certified

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CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- Could your doctor be passing himself off as a specialist when he's not actually board certified? The NewsChannel 36 I-Team found out it happens all the time.

When we went by Dr. Paul Drago's house Wednesday, we were greeted by a "no trespassing" sign. It was not there when we were at the Ballantyne Country Club house on Monday.

The North Carolina Medical Board just yanked Drago's license after nearly a dozen women filed board complaints against him, saying he caused pain, scarring and disfigurement.

He worked at Genesis Plastic Surgery and former patients say he called himself a plastic surgeon.

Dr. Felmont Eaves, a nationally recognized and board certified plastic surgeon, said, "The medical laws actually state that once you have a license it's not really restricted to certain areas, so really the patient has to check."

Drago wasn't actually certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery.

"In this economy we're seeing those that may not be fully trained and adequately trained are really attempting to move into this area," Eaves told us.

Eaves is concerned there are plenty more like Drago.

"Legally, if they have access to an operating room, legally someone who has a medical license can do anything that they attempt," Eaves said.

Former Drago patients tell us many other women have had to find other board certified surgeons to fix their botched plastic surgeries.

Some, we're told, have even gone to Drago's partner at Genesis, who we've learned from the medical board has a primary specialty in general surgery, not plastic surgery.

"I'm very concerned that patients have safe procedures," Eaves said.

He says the doctor should offer you options, different kinds of treatments, should take a careful medical history and refer you to other patients for references.

"If you get a funny feeling something's not on the up and up, investigate further," Eaves said.

So bottom line: Beware. Do your homework. Check with the [American Board of Medical Specialties](#) for a doctor's certification.

We've been trying to talk to Drago since Monday, but he has yet to return our calls.

## Also Online

### Related Stories:

- [Accused doctor lost hospital privileges two years ago](#)
- [Patients suing Ballantyne plastic surgeon for botched surgeries](#)

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Tuesday, 30 June 2009

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ABMS is the not-for-profit organization that oversees U.S. physician certification through its 24 Member Boards.</p> <p>Keynote speakers at the forum are Janet M. Corrigan, PhD, MBA, president and CEO, National Quality Forum, and Barry M. Straube, MD, chief medical officer, director of the Office of Clinical Standards &amp; Quality Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.</p> <p>The forum will include discussions with panelists representing national consumer organizations, purchaser coalitions and U.S. Senate staff to address the role of physician certification standards in achieving quality care while containing costs. Panelists include Helen Darling, MA, BS, president, National Business Group on Health; Peter V. Lee, JD, executive director, National Health Policy Pacific Business Group on Health; Joyce Dubow, senior advisor, AARP Office of Policy and Strategy; Debra L. Ness, MS, president, National Partnership for Women and Families; Chris Dawe, professional staff, Senate Finance Committee; and Kavita Patel, MD, MSHS, deputy staff director for the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee of Senator Edward M. Kennedy.</p> <p>The focal point of the forum will be how ABMS and its Member Boards can best interact with public and private stakeholders in enhancing health system performance to benefit American consumers.</p> <p>For the past 75 years, ABMS and its Member Boards have been a leading and trusted resource for consumers and healthcare professionals seeking information on physician qualifications, first by establishing board certification, then recertification and, in recent years, ABMS Maintenance of Certification(R) (ABMS MOC(R)).</p> <p>"ABMS and its Member Boards are an important part of physician accountability in the quality movement," said Kevin B. Weiss, MD, ABMS president and CEO. "We are confident that this forum will help us collaborate with public and private stakeholders so that we remain responsive to the public's need for a more effective healthcare system."</p> <p>The need for reliable information is greater than ever as the quest to improve the quality and efficiency of medical care in the United States has become paramount. Recently, ABMS and its Member Boards launched the ABMS 2008-2011 Enhanced Public Trust Initiative, which is designed to examine how ABMS can be responsive to the need for increasing public transparency in physician accountability and to guide the design and implementation of new programs, research and expanded ABMS resource offerings for the public.</p> <p>About ABMS. Now in its 75th year, American Board of Medical Specialties is the organization overseeing physician certification in the United States. It assists its 24 Member Boards in their efforts to develop and implement educational and professional standards for the evaluation and certification of physician specialists. ABMS Member Boards provide physician certification information to ABMS for its certification verification service programs. ABMS is recognized by the key healthcare credentialing accreditation entities as a primary equivalent source of board certification data for medical specialists. Patients can visit www.abms.org or call toll-free 1-866-ASK-ABMS to see if their physician is board certified by an ABMS Member Board. For more information about ABMS visit www.abms.org or call (847) 491-9091.</p> <p>The 24 Member Boards that make up the ABMS Board Enterprise covers over 145 medical specialties and subspecialties include: American Board of Allergy and Immunology, American Board of Anesthesiology, American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery, American Board of Dermatology, American Board of Emergency Medicine, American Board of Family Medicine, American Board of Internal Medicine, American Board of Medical Genetics, American Board of Neurological Surgery, American Board of Nuclear Medicine, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, American Board of Ophthalmology, American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, American Board of Otolaryngology, American Board of Pathology, American Board of Pediatrics, American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, American Board of Plastic Surgery, American Board of Preventive Medicine, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, American</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">New Content</p> <p>Kameron Institute Offers Gift in Honor of Military as Study Shows Patriotism Runs Strong</p> <p>ArcelorMittal Launch "Creating Safer Communities" Program</p> <p>A Unique IDX Broker Software Integration Sets Realtor Todd Pierceall's Website Apart from his Compet</p> <p>Articulon Recognized as a Top Small Business in N.C.</p> <p>ChicoBag and Green Halloween revive annual children's trick or treat bag design contest and help cha</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Advertisement</p> <p><b>Ads by Google</b></p> <p><b><u>Press Release Service</u></b> Distributed To Journalists, Reporters, TV, Radio, B2B, Print +. www.RapidPressRelease.com</p> <p><b><u>Use Our PR Expertise</u></b> Improve your brand by using our proven marketing &amp; PR techniques. www.coyotemarsh.com</p> <p><b><u>Radio/TV Public Relations</u></b> Our news pros package and deliver messages to target your demos. www.zpr.com</p> <p><b><u>Watch TV Instantly Online</u></b> Install 3000 channels instantly on your personal computer www.SatelliteVpc08.com</p> <p><b><u>How to write a whitepaper</u></b> Step-by-step instructions, clear templates, fully written samples www.WritersJobGuide.com</p> <p><b><u>Ads by Google</u></b></p> <p><a href="#">Golf Advertising</a></p> <p><a href="#">NFL Football Teams</a></p> <p><a href="#">Fashion PR Agency</a></p> <p><a href="#">Golf Tournament Gift</a></p> <p><a href="#">Logo Tournament</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Disclaimer</p>
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Thursday, March 19, 2009

## Doctors accused of botching breast implant surgeries

### Medical Board says a doctor performed liposuction on a woman without her permission.

By **COURTNEY PERKES**

The Orange County Register

Two local doctors face state discipline for allegedly botching plastic surgeries, including a case where a woman woke up to discover she'd undergone a face lift and liposuction that she had not agreed to.

The California Medical Board this month filed accusations of gross negligence and incompetence against Dr. Harrell Edward Robinson of Anaheim Hills and Dr. Shir Miskinyar of Santa Ana. Each could face discipline ranging from a reprimand to loss of their licenses.

Robinson, a head and neck surgeon, is accused of performing procedures without a patient's consent and then later borrowing money from her and forcibly kissing her, according to legal documents. He could not be located for comment.

The documents say an unnamed woman paid Robinson \$16,000 for a tummy tuck, but he allegedly performed liposuction and a facelift during surgery. The patient did not want liposuction and had planned to have a facelift another time.

Later that month, Robinson allegedly borrowed \$6,000 from the patient. For the next three months, Robinson made almost daily house calls and would ask for more loans, the documents say. She gave him \$9,000 more.

Once, he allegedly kissed her, the documents allege, but the patient pushed him away and said, "Shame on you. You have a wife."

In treating a different patient, the medical board documents allege that Robinson replaced a woman's breast implants and later performed a breast lift. A month later, she was admitted to the hospital with an exposed implant visible at the base of an open wound. The board says Robinson failed to immediately remove the implant.

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Miskinyar, who works at All Beauty Plastic Surgery in Santa Ana, is accused of performing breast augmentation on two women who developed infections and had to have their implants removed.

The board says he failed to recognize that the implants could harbor bacteria, and in one case, delayed removal of the implants.

Miskinyar said in an interview that he treated each patient appropriately, but that one already had the infection at the time of surgery and the other did not heal properly because she smoked.

"I have the best record in the whole community of Southern California," Miskinyar said.

The American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery recommends that patients only choose a board-certified plastic surgeon who has undergone additional, specialized training. The society warns that any licensed doctor can advertise as a plastic surgeon, regardless of experience and education.

Neither Robinson nor Miskinyar are board-certified in plastic surgery, according to the American Board of Medical Specialties Web site.

**Contact the writer:** 714-796-3686 or [cperkes@ocregister.com](mailto:cperkes@ocregister.com)

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## Fayetteville Observer

### Search for Eye Doctor Can Start Many Places

<http://www.fayobserver.com/article?id=321369>

By Catherine Pritchard, Live Wire Blog, March 18, 2009

Q: Is there a pediatric eye doctor in the Fayetteville area? My daughter and her 23-month-old son recently moved here from Tennessee, and he has glaucoma in one eye. He was seeing a specialist in Tennessee, and I know there's one in Chapel Hill, but that's far for us to go on a regular basis. — B.H., Fayetteville

A: Your daughter has a number of options.

First, she might want to ask the Tennessee doctor for advice or a recommendation — though maybe she did and that produced the Chapel Hill info.

She also could take a tour through the phone book's business pages, looking first for the "physicians and surgeons" listing, then toward the end of those listings for "ophthalmologists." She then can call some of those offices and talk to them about her son's situation.

She could consult the membership lists of medical trade associations, such as the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus (when the eyes aren't properly aligned) and the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Both have members who list themselves as pediatric ophthalmologists. While some ophthalmologists belong to both groups, some don't.

Neither lists any members in Fayetteville. Both have members in the Pinehurst area and Clinton. Most of their members are concentrated in the Charlotte area and the Triangle, particularly Durham.

Note: Neither of those groups is the board that certifies ophthalmologists. That's the **American Board of Ophthalmology**. Physicians aren't required to be certified in their specialties, but such designations — by boards belonging to the **American Board of Medical Specialties** — indicate the doc has completed accredited education and specialty training and passed periodic oral and written exams.

Q: Can you give me the address in St. Louis for my World War II ribbons? I also need the address for where I can find my medical records. — J.S., Fayetteville

A: In both cases, you're going to want to contact the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis.

That's the repository for pretty much all of a soldier's records, including authorized decorations and medical records, once he or she leaves the service for any reason.

If you haven't checked there, do.

To request your records, fill out Standard Form 180, aka "Request Pertaining to Military Records." You can get that off the Internet at [www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/standard-form-180.html](http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/standard-form-180.html). Or you can get one from the Veterans Service Office in Fayetteville. Its number is 677-2970.

Q: Can you give me an address for Michael Phelps? My young grandson loves him. I know he's gotten some bad raps lately, but nobody has a perfect score. — A.M., Fayetteville

A: Indeed. And hooray for you grandmas, by the way.

Write Phelps at P.O. Box 1734, Olney, MD 20830-1734.

# AHANews.com

AHA News Now

## Physician Certification Board Announces New Standards

[http://www.ahanews.com/ahanews\\_app/index.jsp](http://www.ahanews.com/ahanews_app/index.jsp)

March 26, 2009

The American Board of Medical Specialties, which oversees U.S. physician certification, today announced new standards to enhance its Maintenance of Certification program. The standards adopt several new program elements, including documentation that physicians are meeting continued medical education and self-assessment requirements; evidence of participation in practice-based assessment and quality improvement; completion of a patient safety self-assessment program; and assessment of communication skills.

“Through these standards, hundreds of thousands of physicians in this country will be asked to participate in enhanced professional development activities to improve the ABMS life-long learning evaluation,” said ABMS President and CEO Kevin Weiss, M.D.

# ModernHealthcare.com

## Medical Specialties Board OKs New Guidelines

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20090327/REG/303279982>

By Andis Robeznieks, March 27, 2009, 3 p.m. EDT

The board of directors for the Evanston, Ill.-based **American Board of Medical Specialties** announced that it has approved a uniform set of standards—and timelines for their implementation—for the 24 member specialty boards of the **ABMS** to follow as they develop the elements of their individual maintenance-of-certification programs.

The **ABMS Maintenance of Certification** program is replacing the traditional specialty recertification exams that physicians took every few years with a process described as promoting “continuous professional development and assessment.”

The new principles cover processes for documenting whether physicians meet continuing medical education and self-assessment requirements, and boards must implement these processes by 2011. By 2010, the boards must implement processes for documenting that physicians are meeting practice-based assessment and quality-improvement requirements.

Also effective in 2010, member boards must ensure that physicians will complete a patient-safety self-assessment program by 2012. The last standard requires physicians who are involved in direct patient care to take part in a communication skills assessment with patients in 2010 and one with peers in 2012. To this end, boards have been directed to use tools such as the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems patient survey, or CAHPS, to evaluate physicians’ ability to communicate.

## Ask the Expert

BANNER CHURCHILL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL,

What makes a great  
primary care doctor?

Doctor's Day – March 30

There is no more personal – or important – choice in health care today than choosing your personal physician.

Your primary care doctor is literally the gatekeeper of your health. He or she serves as your personal physician, provides preventive and diagnostic services, offers counseling and education on smart health behaviors, manages and coordinates all of your care, and helps you receive specialty and follow-up care. Given all that your doctor does for you and your family think about choosing just the right doctor.

The Agency for Healthcare Research offers these questions to ponder:

Consider what you and your family needs. Internists and family physicians are the most common primary care doctors for adults. Many women see obstetrician/gynecologists for care. Pediatricians care for children. Family practitioners also offer primary care for children.

Find a doctor with training to meet your unique needs. Does he/she focus on preventive medicine, actively listen to your concerns and have privileges at the hospital of your choice?

When you have some names of doctors to try, call their offices. First, find out if the doctor is covered by your health plan and is taking new patients. It is important that the office is easy to get to and that it's clean and friendly.

When you need a surgeon

The American College of Surgeons recommends that you look for a surgeon that is Board Certified. Certification by a surgical board that is approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is a good indicator of competence.

For a list of medical professionals and more general health information, visit our online source of trustworthy medical news and information at [www.bannerhealth.com](http://www.bannerhealth.com). Keyword: Churchill

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[http://www.lahontanvalleynews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090328/NEWS/903289980/1045&title=Ask the Expert&template=printart](http://www.lahontanvalleynews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090328/NEWS/903289980/1045&title=Ask%20the%20Expert&template=printart)

# SAVANNAH now

Published on SavannahNow.com (<http://savannahnow.com>)

## **Time for your doctor to get a check up?**

By Dana Clark Felty  
Created 2009-04-06 23:30

Advice spreads fast among the Savannah Newcomers Club.

"If one good thing happens, 100 people hear about it.

If a bad thing happens, 500 people hear about it," said club president Kathie Viall.

The same holds true when it comes to dishing information on local health providers.

Viall found the monthly social club invaluable for getting - and giving - advice on finding a doctor and dentist shortly after she moved to Savannah from Florida.

When she didn't like the dentist, Viall went back and told her newcomer friends.

"That's just how it is," she said.

Savvy consumers have plenty of options when it comes to researching products such as cars, electronics and restaurants.

But finding the most appropriate health care provider isn't as easy.

One option raising some eyebrows in the medical community - online ratings sites.

In March, The Associated Press reported on the growth of online medical ratings services, some of which allow consumers to post reviews of health care providers anonymously.

One such site, RateMDs.com [1], lists reviews of dozens of Savannah-area doctors. Some of the comments aren't too flattering.

"Very unprofessional mannerism. Has short fuse, and does not appreciate questions. Walks in, asks why you are here, gives you a quick analysis and walks out," according to the report on one Savannah physician.

One Greensboro, N.C., company has begun helping doctors fight such negative comments.

The company, Medical Justice, provides doctors with standardized waivers they ask patients to sign agreeing not to post online comments about the doctor's medical practice.

The company also monitors Web sites such as RateMDs.com [2] and Angie's List and notifies the doctor when a comment appears.

"The health community is actually negative on these things," said Savannah gastroenterologist Dr. Nicholas Costrini. "People only write in - the vast majority - if there's something negative."

Ratings sites do provide some useful information such as a list of credentials and training, Costrini said.

But they don't provide some of the most important pieces of information when someone's looking for a doctor: results.

"The single most important piece of data to rate doctors is really outcomes," said Costrini, who writes a health column in the Savannah Morning News. "Measuring outcomes isn't an exact science."

Both local hospitals offer health information hotlines to help consumers navigate the sea of local physicians and providers.

Brenda Pough, director of the CallCare health information hotline for St. Joseph's/Candler, said that when helping callers, she asks for the insurance company, medical history or current symptoms and preferences such as the gender or office location of the physician.

"We also ask why they need the information," Pough said. "We don't want someone calling us having a symptom and asking for a doctor when they may really need immediate care."

A combination of multiple tools is best for researching physicians, said Dr. Paul Bradley.

The Savannah internist encourages patients to check that doctors are board eligible or board certified in their field.

"That means they've fulfilled their requirements and training, and they've met those minimum standards," he said.

Bradley encourages patients who ask how to find a doctor when moving to a new city to ask friends and neighbors. Practices that have a long history in the community, a high number of patients and plenty of recommendations are good clues.

Some sources are better than others.

"The best way to find a doctor is to ask their neighbor who's a nurse," Bradley said. "Nurses have a pretty doggone good knowledge and intuition on who the good doctors are."

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**Source URL:**

<http://savannahnow.com/node/701751>

# ModernHealthcare.com

## Conn. Attorney General Probes Medical Certification Scam

<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20090408/REG/304089964>

By Gregg Blesch, April 8, 2009, 5:30 pm EDT

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal is investigating an alleged scam-artist physician selling phony medical certifications, Blumenthal announced along with a warning to physicians and consumers.

Blumenthal said his office received a complaint from the **American Board of Internal Medicine** as well as more than 130 additional complaints regarding the certifications offered by Keith Alan Lasko under the guise of a variety of nonexistent organizations, such as the American Board of Geriatric Medicine and the United States Medical Specialists Federation.

Lasko is a physician whose license was suspended Illinois, New York and Mississippi after he was disciplined by the Medical Board of California in 1991 for excessive use of diagnostic procedures, gross negligence and incompetence, dishonesty, and false billing. According to Blumenthal, Lasko has used aliases such as Keith Ferrari and K.A. James Windsor.

The alleged scam targets foreign-trained physicians who may be unfamiliar with licensing requirements and legitimate opportunities for specialty certification, Blumenthal said. An application obtained on the Internet for the American Board of Geriatric Medicine asks for a one-page essay and a check or money order mailed to a Berkeley, Calif., address. No phone number is listed, and other efforts to reach Lasko for comment were unsuccessful.



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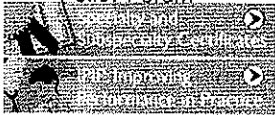
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**News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ABMS Media Contact: Lori Boukas**

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**Standards for ABMS MOC® (PARTS 1-4) Program**

**(PDF 152 KB)**

**Approved March 16, 2009**

**New Standards Adopted to Elevate Physician Life-Long Learning Assessment for the ABMS Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Program**

***Guiding Principles Will Help Its 24 Medical Specialty Boards Keep Pace with Advances in Medicine, Changes in Practice, and Efforts in Healthcare Reform***

**Evanston, Ill. - March 26, 2009** - The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) announces adoption of a new set of standards designed to further enhance physician qualification principles assessed through its ABMS Maintenance of Certification® (MOC) program. The ABMS Board of Directors (BOD) approved the standards, proposed by the ABMS Committee on Oversight and Monitoring of Maintenance of Certification (COMMOC), at its March 16 meeting. This uniform set of standards outlines and sets timelines for officially adopting several new MOC program elements, including:

- Documentation that physicians are meeting continued medical education (CME) and self-assessment requirements
- Evidence of participation in practice-based assessment and quality improvement every two to five years
- Completion of a patient safety self-assessment program at least once during each MOC cycle .
- Assessment of communication skills as a standard for all physician diplomates with direct patient care - using a Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) patient survey (or other COMMOC-approved survey), and an approved peer survey

These changes come on the heels of the launch of the ABMS 2008-2011 Enhanced Public Trust Initiative, which was approved less than a year ago. The initiative brings an increased commitment to quality healthcare and transparency in physician accountability and provides the opportunity to enhance the value of MOC to the public, physicians, and the Board Enterprise (ABMS and its 24 Member Boards).

"The ability to respond to the needs of the public while keeping pace with the growing field of physician performance measurement requires a dynamic, continuous certification process," said Kevin B. Weiss, MD, president and CEO of ABMS. "These standards, which will define board-certified physicians' engagement in continuous professional development and assessment, will need to be continually evaluated and updated. Through these standards, hundreds of thousands of physicians in this country will be asked to participate in enhanced professional development activities to improve the ABMS life-long learning evaluation. Ultimately, it's our patients and the public of this country for whom these principles were developed to ensure they are receiving high quality healthcare."

ABMS is the not-for-profit organization that oversees physician certification in the United States through its Member Boards, certifying more than 80 percent of U.S. physicians. Certification by an ABMS Member Board is widely recognized in healthcare as the gold standard for judging a physician's knowledge, experience, and skills within a medical specialty.

Highlights of ABMS MOC Program Principles:

**CME and Self-Assessment Requirements.** As part of the approved principles, the 24 ABMS Member Boards will, by 2011, document that physician diplomates are meeting CME and self-assessment requirements for MOC Part II. The content of

CME and self-assessment programs receiving credit for MOC will be relevant to medical advances within the medical specialty for which physicians are certified.

**Practice-Based Assessment and Quality Improvement.** By 2010, ABMS Member Boards will require physician diplomates to provide evidence of participation in practice assessment and quality improvement every two to five years. With the national movement toward performance measurement, evaluation of physician activities should include evidence of practice changes to improve quality and re-evaluation to determine the effect of a change in the practice process or structure of care. Whenever possible, physicians should use nationally-approved measures such as those endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF).

**Patient Safety.** As part of the MOC Part II self-assessment requirements, effective in 2010, Member Boards will ensure that every physician diplomate enrolled in MOC will complete a patient safety self-assessment program by 2012 and then a minimum of once per MOC cycle. The ABMS BOD approved this requirement as a "developmental standard" that will be piloted, tested for feasibility, and re-evaluated in no more than five years. The ABMS Patient Safety Foundations program or a COMMOC-approved equivalent will be accepted to meet this requirement.

**Communication Assessment.** Physician diplomates who provide direct patient care will be required to participate in communication skills assessments starting with patients in 2010 and with peers in 2012. Member Boards will evaluate physicians' communication skills using COMMOC-approved surveys, such as the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) patient survey. The ABMS BOD approved these requirements as "developmental standards" that will be piloted, tested for feasibility, and re-evaluated in no more than five years. Member Boards may choose to offer this as a part of MOC Part IV, and it will satisfy Part I requirements.

#### About ABMS

Now in its 75th year, American Board of Medical Specialties is the medical organization overseeing physician certification in the United States. It assists its 24 Member Boards in their efforts to develop and implement educational and professional standards for the evaluation and certification of physician specialists. ABMS Member Boards provide physician certification information to ABMS for its certification verification service programs. ABMS is recognized by the key healthcare credentialing accreditation entities as a primary equivalent source of board certification data for medical specialists. Patients can visit [www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org) or call toll-free 1-866-ASK-ABMS to see if their physician is board certified by an ABMS Member Board. For more information about ABMS visit [www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org) or call (312) 436-2600.

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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ABMS Media Contact: Lori Boukas**  
**(312) 436-2626**  
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### ABMS Announces New Board of Directors

**EVANSTON, Ill. — March 18, 2009 —** American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the organization overseeing the certification of physician specialists in the United States, announced yesterday at its Annual Assembly 10 new members of its Board of Directors including Valerie M. Parisi, MD, MPH, MBA, who begins a two-year term as secretary-treasurer. Dr. Parisi, who is board certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, replaces Stephen I. Wasserman, MD, who held the position from 2005-2009.

ABMS' secretary-treasurer is an elected position and considered an officer of the corporation as are the chair, vice chair and president of the organization. In her role as secretary-treasurer, Dr. Parisi has the responsibility to serve as chief financial officer of the corporation. She is a voting member of the Board, a member of the Executive Committee and chair of the Finance and Audit Committee. Dr. Parisi also will act as a member of the Liaison Committee for Specialty Boards (LCSB).

"This is an exciting time for ABMS as we advance several new initiatives designed to improve the quality of U.S. healthcare," said Kevin B. Weiss, MD, president and CEO of ABMS. "We are pleased to have Dr. Parisi in a leadership position to help guide ABMS and its Member Boards to address the public's need for a more effective healthcare system."

"Serving on the ABMS Finance Committee since 2004, I've seen many changes that have occurred as ABMS fulfills its mission to serve both its Member Boards and, most importantly, the general public," said Dr. Parisi, who also is vice dean of hospital relations and clinical affairs as well as a professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit. "I believe that my background, values and prior service position me uniquely to be part of the future success of ABMS."

The ABMS Board of Directors consists of 31 voting directors - one representing each of the 24 Member Boards, three public members and the ABMS officers (chair, vice chair, -more- secretary-treasurer and president). Other newly elected board members include:

- Judith Baumhauer, MD - American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery
- David H. Chestnut, MD - American Board of Anesthesiology
- Rebecca L. Johnson, MD - American Board of Pathology
- Dennis J. Matthews, MD - American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- John E. Mayer, MD - American Board of Thoracic Surgery
- Randall K. Roenigk, MD - American Board of Dermatology
- Barbara S. Schneidman, MD - American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology
- David J. Schoetz Jr., MD - executive director, American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery
- George M. Segall, MD - American Board of Nuclear Medicine.

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### ABMS Hosts First National Health Policy Forum to Address Physician Accountability and Health System Performance Standards

**Evanston, Ill. - March 11, 2009** - In the ongoing effort to ensure physician and healthcare quality standards, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is convening consumer, legislative and purchaser stakeholders for a March 17 National Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. ABMS is the not-for-profit organization that oversees U.S. physician certification through its 24 Member Boards.

Keynote speakers at the forum are Janet M. Corrigan, PhD, MBA, president and CEO, National Quality Forum, and Barry M. Straube, MD, chief medical officer, director of the Office of Clinical Standards & Quality Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The forum will include discussions with panelists representing national consumer organizations, purchaser coalitions and U.S. Senate staff to address the role of physician certification standards in achieving quality care while containing costs. Panelists include Helen Darling, MA, BS, president, National Business Group on Health; Peter V. Lee, JD, executive director, National Health Policy Pacific Business Group on Health; Joyce Dubow, senior advisor, AARP Office of Policy and Strategy; Debra L. Ness, MS, president, National Partnership for Women and Families; Chris Dawe, professional staff, Senate Finance Committee; and Kavita Patel, MD, MSHS, deputy staff director for the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee of Senator Edward M. Kennedy. ABMS

The focal point of the forum will be how ABMS and its Member Boards can best interact with public and private stakeholders in enhancing health system performance to benefit American consumers.

For the past 75 years, ABMS and its Member Boards have been a leading and trusted resource for consumers and healthcare professionals seeking information on physician qualifications, first by establishing board certification, then recertification and, in recent years, ABMS Maintenance of Certification® (ABMS MOC®).

"ABMS and its Member Boards are an important part of physician accountability in the quality movement," said Kevin B. Weiss, MD, ABMS president and CEO. "We are confident that this forum will help us collaborate with public and private stakeholders so that we remain responsive to the public's need for a more effective healthcare system."

The need for reliable information is greater than ever as the quest to improve the quality and efficiency of medical care in the United States has become paramount. Recently, ABMS and its Member Boards launched the ABMS 2008-2011 Enhanced Public Trust Initiative, which is designed to examine how ABMS can be more responsive to the need for increasing public transparency in physician accountability and to guide the design and implementation of new programs, research and expanded ABMS resource offerings for the public.

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**News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ABMS Media Contact: Lori Boukas****(312) 436-2626****[lboukas@abms.org](mailto:lboukas@abms.org)****ABMS National Policy Forum Underscores Value of Aligning ABMS MOC with National Healthcare Policy Reform Movement**

**EVANSTON, Ill. — April 7, 2009** — The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), recently convened major stakeholders in healthcare policy reform for its first National Policy Forum (NPF) addressing physician accountability and the role of physician standards in achieving improved healthcare performance and effectiveness.

Keynote speaker Janet M. Corrigan, PhD, MBA, president and chief executive officer of the National Quality Forum (NQF) confirmed the critical need for involvement from the physician community. "If we are going to have meaningful healthcare reform, we need to have everyone on board," said Dr. Corrigan. "The new administration and Congress are off and running, so your voice is really needed. Now is the time to ensure that board certification is aligned with efforts to improve quality, cost and care."

The forum, held March 17, 2009, in Washington, D.C., provided ABMS and representatives of its 24 Member Boards the opportunity to meet with leaders in purchaser, government and consumer groups who are involved in improving healthcare value in the United States. The event included panelists from major purchaser groups, U.S. Senate staff, and national consumer organizations.

One theme during the panel discussions was support among major stakeholders for ABMS Maintenance of Certification® (MOC) as a method for increasing physician accountability. Panelists said that MOC - a key ABMS priority - should be included in healthcare reform legislation as a way for patients, health insurers and policymakers to know that providers are delivering effective, quality care.

"It is no longer enough for physicians to indicate they are board certified; they must maintain their certification," said Barry M. Straube, MD, director and chief medical officer of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), who delivered the NPF opening keynote address. ABMS MOC "aligns perfectly with what we are doing at CMS," said Dr. Straube. He added that one idea for including MOC in healthcare reform would be to count it as a Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) measure.

A second theme of the forum discussion was the need for evidence to demonstrate the link between MOC and healthcare quality and the reduction of costs, two primary goals of healthcare reform. Dr. Straube stated that making this connection is essential, because right now we don't have evidence that MOC-participating physicians deliver better quality care. "I think we all believe it, but we don't have the evidence," said Dr. Straube, adding that reporting data on MOC will provide the needed connection for policymakers.

ABMS was created more than 75 years ago as a reliable and trusted resource for consumers and healthcare professionals seeking information on physician qualifications. "In establishing MOC, ABMS furthers its ability to assure patients, health insurers and policymakers that commitment to quality among the physician community is continuing," said Kevin B. Weiss, MD, ABMS president and CEO after the forum.

Reporting performance data has been unpopular with some physicians who see it as an unfair evaluation tool, but the panelists said doctors need to understand that policymakers believe that reporting will increase quality and lower costs. "I think there is a role for public reporting and I don't think it is going to go away," said Dr. Corrigan.

Panelists representing patients and health insurers said they believe MOC-based reporting will provide consumers with the information they need to distinguish between physicians who deliver effective, quality care and those who do not. But Peter V. Lee, JD executive director of National Health Policy for the Pacific Business Group on Health added that employers want MOC to be reported "not so insurers can play gotcha, but so consumers can make better informed choices among all the physicians available to them."

Helen Darling, MA, BS, president of the National Business Group on Health, confirmed that initial interest among purchasers is in being able to distinguish good from bad care, but that long term, what they are looking for is improvement in care. "Eventually, there should be a difference in payments based on what the reporting shows," said Joyce Dubow, senior advisor in AARP's Office of Policy and Strategy.

"While physicians understand the demands of maintaining certification, patients need to understand that MOC is different than licensing and that while licensing is done state-by-state, MOC is nationwide," said Kavita Patel, MD, MSHS, deputy staff director of the Senate Health Committee. Lee added that because most of the state licensing boards oversee only the most minimal level of physician competence, it will be helpful to make transparent the data underlying the board certification process and ongoing MOC criteria.

ABMS has taken several steps to address the need to align MOC with national healthcare reform by developing more rigorous reporting standards, through programs such as its Enhanced Public Trust Initiative, launched within the past year, and implementation of the Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) patient survey. Corrigan asserted that incorporating CAHPS with MOC requirements is extremely important. Debra L. Ness, MS, president of National Partnership for Women and Families, agreed. "It is not enough for doctors to say they care about patients if they aren't willing to take the step to ask their patients for feedback," said Ness.

ABMS also recently became a member of the NQF's National Priorities Partnership (NPP), a group of 28 "stakeholder organizations" that Corrigan said is aiming to improve safety, care coordination, patient and family engagement, palliative care and the general health of the population while reducing unnecessary medical costs. The NPP initiative goes beyond simple reporting. Corrigan explained, "A lot has been done on quality but we have only seen modest improvement. We have focused on measurement and not enough on improvement." She also acknowledged that while the partnership is moving faster than some want, "we don't have the luxury of moving at a snail's pace anymore."

According to Chris Dawe, a staff member for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, the Finance Committee plans to introduce healthcare reform legislation this summer. He noted, stakeholders in healthcare reform are looking to the physician community to embrace transparency as a necessary element in the effort to create incentives that reward quality care and efficient use of resources. "Things are moving rapidly," said Dawe, "And we are interested in working on something that works. Opportunities like this come around only once every 10 or 20 years."

"I think the ABMS participants all came away with an increased sense of urgency about the need for transparency in physician accountability," said Joel A. DeLisa, MD, MS, ABMS chair. "This was a pivotal opportunity for our Board Enterprise to hear from and align our efforts with national leaders in healthcare reform."

#### **About ABMS**

Now in its 75th year, American Board of Medical Specialties is the medical organization overseeing physician certification in the United States. It assists its 24 Member Boards in their efforts to develop and implement educational and professional standards for the evaluation and certification of physician specialists. ABMS Member Boards provide physician certification information to ABMS for its certification verification service programs. ABMS is recognized by the key healthcare credentialing accreditation entities as a primary equivalent source of board certification data for medical specialists. Patients can visit [www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org) or call toll-free 1-866-ASK-ABMS to see if their physician is board certified by an ABMS Member Board. For more information about ABMS visit [www.abms.org](http://www.abms.org) or call (312) 436-2600.

The 24 Member Boards that make up the ABMS Board Enterprise covers over 145

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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ABMS Announces Plans to Move its Headquarters to Downtown Chicago

**Evanston, Ill. - April 14, 2009** - The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) announces that it will be moving its headquarter office from Evanston, Illinois to downtown Chicago, Illinois effective June 8, 2009. The new office space is located at 222 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

After 38 years of being located in Evanston, the ABMS Board of Directors voted to move its offices to downtown Chicago after its current lease ends. "The ability to respond to the needs of the public while keeping pace with the growing demands of creating standards for physician performance measurement has increased our programs and initiatives in recent years," said Kevin B. Weiss, MD, president and CEO of ABMS. "We feel that the new office location at 222 N. LaSalle not only gives us more space to meet these demands, but makes us more centrally located - for our Member Boards, associate members and other healthcare organizations we work with. Chicago has such a great transportation system that allows for easy access," stated Dr. Weiss.

"We engaged in a deliberate and thorough site selection process before deciding on the 222 N. LaSalle location, carefully analyzing the demographic and facility requirements of the organization while being cognizant of the fiscal environment," continued Dr. Weiss.

"The new space provides ABMS with increased meeting space which allows us to bring more meetings to our offices thus better utilizing our resources," added Margaret Jung, chief operating officer of ABMS.

"This move comes at a pivotal time in the history of ABMS as we're expanding to meet the needs of the ABMS Maintenance of Certification® program and the ABMS Enhanced Public Trust Initiative - all which require a lot of time from our members, volunteers and staff," stated Joel A. DeLisa, MD, MS, ABMS board of directors chair. "We're looking forward to welcoming our Member Boards to our new space as we consider them to be an important ingredient to the success of our mission."

ABMS' company mailing address and phone and fax numbers will change; which will be published as soon as they are available. The toll-free consumer line and staff emails remain the same.

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