



ABAT Up to Date

THE AMERICAN BOARD OF APPLIED TOXICOLOGY ESTABLISHES AND MAINTAINS NATIONAL STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE FOR CLINICAL TOXICOLOGISTS THROUGH A RIGOROUS CREDENTIALING, EXAMINATION, AND RE-CREDENTIALING PROCESS TO BOARD CERTIFY ITS DIPLOMATES.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

BRYAN D. HAYES, PHARM.D., DABAT, FAACT, FASHP

It is with great excitement that I begin my term as President of the American Board of Applied Toxicology. Thank you for your support along the way. At the ABAT business meeting in Chicago, I mentioned that my vision for the next two years focuses on ten key goals. Some are bigger than others, but all are achievable and aim to position ABAT for long-term success and growth.



Before outlining the vision, I first want to share some great news. We had 12 candidates sit for the 2018 exam. We are proud to welcome seven new diplomates: Dr. Steve Dudley, Jr., Dr. Ryan Feldman, Dr. Patrick Leffers, Dr. Justin Loden, Dr. Dana Roman, Dr. Kristie Williams, and Dr. Emily Jaynes Winograd. Congratulations! We will learn much more about each of them in an upcoming newsletter. Additionally, the AACT board voted to add the ABAT president as an ex officio member of the AACT board. This will be a great way to improve communication and keep up to date with what is happening at the AACT leadership level.

My primary objective, above all else, is to establish more frequent and open communication between the ABAT board and our members. There are so many great ideas shared and conversations had. Our intention is to promote more of those discussions and include more members in them. With that background here are the ten goals for my presidency:

Officers

President: Bryan Hayes
 President-Elect: Dawn Sollee
 Past-President: Mark Winter
 Secretary-Treasurer:
 Howard McKinney, Jr.
 Directors:
 Sal Baeza
 Alexander Garrard
 Rachel Gorodetsky
 Stephanie Hon
 Kathi Meier
 Ashley Webb

Committee Chairs

Nominations
 - Howard McKinney
 - Stephanie Hon
 Symposium
 - Howard McKinney
 - Rachel Gorodetsky
 Credentialing
 - Sal Baeza
 - Ashley Webb
 Certification Renewal
 - Alexander Garrard
 - Rachel Gorodetsky
 LLSA and Webinars
 - Kathi Meier

1. Credentialing criteria update

Over the past 5 years the Board has undertaken a large task evaluating the credentialing criteria to determine if updates were needed. In an effort to share all of the information we've gathered and summarize the discussions we've had, we recognize that our communication may have been subpar. We started by defining core competencies of a clinical toxicologist using a modified Delphi process with input from 10% of our membership representative of all practice areas. We then conducted a practice survey to investigate what ABAT diplomates do at the beginning of their toxicologist careers and how it evolves over time. The results of this survey will be posted on our website in the coming weeks. One point of note is that 6 of the 9 core competencies presented at the 2017 ABAT business meeting were well represented in what our members do on a daily basis. However, 3 of the 9 were not validated by the survey results and were removed in our subsequent discussions.

We've taken into account all of the feedback we've received, for example that research and publications is an important core competency. I'm happy to report that, as of the 2018 ABAT board meeting at NACCT, we have agreed upon updated credentialing criteria. Importantly, they actually aren't too different from the current criteria, but they are now streamlined with quantifiable, measurable, objective definitions for each area. They protect fellowship training, align with the practice survey results, and align with current clinical toxicology training programs. They do not make credentialing easier, and in fact may make it more difficult in some areas due to the specific experiential standards we set for non-fellowship trained candidates. We had some minor revisions to make after our board meeting. These are just about complete. In December, we will send the updated criteria to all of you for comment and will incorporate further revisions based on feedback received. I want to thank Dr. Richard Thomas for his leadership and hundreds of hours dedicated to this effort over the past 5 years.

2. ABAT website update

Our website is important for both ABAT members and visitors interested in learning about ABAT. Dr. Stephanie Hon, ABAT board member, will be working closely with Dr. Jeanna Marraffa, AACT board member and chair of the AACT Communications Committee, to update all ABAT contact information, board of directors' information, committee information, and more. There was a great suggestion at the business meeting to have photos on the site, so we can start to put names with faces. The AACT website actually has this capability and we will communicate instructions on how to update your profiles to include a headshot.

3. Create Dropbox for ABAT Board of Directors' documents and photos

This is a behind-the-scenes goal to organize all our documents in one place and set us up for accomplishing goal #4. This goal is complete.

4. Increase the number of ABAT board meetings

Historically, there were two ABAT board meetings per year, one in the spring and one at NACCT. Dr. Kristin Engebretsen increased it to three. My plan is to add one more so that we have a quarterly meeting. In addition, our board members will be providing committee updates monthly to the ABAT President. The goal behind all of this is improved communication and accountability.

5. Update all committee documents and policies/procedures to reflect current committees

6. Multiple Choice Exam Question Review

We currently have over 225 questions in our database. We have added new questions over the past few years but haven't conducted a thorough review of the older ones in quite some time. The goal over the next two years is to review all MC exam questions for relevancy and currency. Any questions retired will be replaced with a new one. This will set us up to focus on adding new questions for the next 3-5 years knowing that our database of questions is strong and recently refreshed.

7. Engage new members

The aim is to establish a sustainable process for engaging new members after they have passed the examination (ie, those who have not yet gone through their first certification renewal). One of our board members will oversee this new committee which will focus on integrating new diplomates into ABAT, pairing them with an experienced member in a mentor-like role, and introducing them to opportunities within ABAT (including committees and board of director positions).

8. Encourage AACT fellow status for all ABAT diplomates

We all contribute to toxicology, ABAT, and AACT in many ways. My goal is to facilitate more of our ABAT members applying for FAACT and providing opportunities to those interested in applying in the future.

9. Establish new committee to engage BPS on toxicology portions of EM board certification

The Board of Pharmacy Specialties has started their process of creating a board certification for emergency medicine. It is certain that toxicology will be included. My goal is to ensure that any toxicology material is completed by ABAT diplomates. I have already reached out to Anjali Weber, Senior Director of Psychometric and Testing Services. The next steps in developing a certification in EMP is to call for petition, which they would expect to receive next year (hopefully on the early side). Then, if the board determines that there is sufficient evidence to move forward, they will begin developing the certification. He anticipates that this will take several months (perhaps summer 2019 depending on the petition), after which (and upon approval), they would begin to develop a new council, start item writing, etc. They welcome our participation and certainly will need questions from a broad base of practice areas in EM, including toxicology. He asked us to reach out to them as we see the announcements to express interest.

10. Create an award for distinguished service to ABAT

We have many diplomates who contribute so much to ABAT, often out of the spotlight. The goal is to recognize them for their efforts with an annual award to be presented at our NACCT business meeting.

Thank you for electing me as President. We have some good work to do. I look forward to getting started and working with each of you. - Bryan (ABATpresident@clintox.org)