ABIM Releases MOC Survey Results

The American Board of Internal Medicine recently released results from its survey “Improving the MOC Assessment Experience.” Among the survey’s findings, 69.6% of respondents said they were dissatisfied with ABIM’s MOC program as a whole. About 38% answered “positive” when asked, “How well has ABIM done over the past several months at addressing the needs and concerns of the internal medicine community?”

In December 2015, ABIM invited board-certified physicians to complete an online survey. A representative sample was identified for follow-up reminders. More than 9000 ABIM diplomates responded; 360 responses were from the random representative sample of 1125 respondents.

ASN released results from its own survey, “Maintenance of Certification – ASN 2016,” in April 2016. In an announcement, ABIM said it conducted the survey to determine physicians’ views on what they believe maintaining board certification says about them as physicians, as well their opinions about potential innovations in examinations and other assessments.

The majority of physicians surveyed said board certification means that they are staying current in the knowledge they need to practice or are engaged in improving the quality of their practice.

The survey asked physicians about 4 possible options for length and frequency of examinations and assessments. Fifty-six percent responded positively to the idea of taking a series of shorter examinations over the course of a few years, with the potential to skip the traditional MOC exam if they score high enough. Another 14% said they were “neutral” to the idea or needed more information.

Respondents varied widely in their preferences for how long and how frequent examinations should be: 55.5% preferred yearly exams that take less than 1 hour, and 47% preferred the option of taking assessments of 2 to 4 hours duration every few years. Only 21% preferred an 8-hour exam every 10 years. The least favorable option was “assessments that require a few minutes, every week,” at 10.5%.

There was clear support (86.4%) for taking examinations at a location other than a testing center, such as at home, office, or elsewhere, and for allowing access to online reference material during an examination (76%).

“Alternative assessment models were favored in the survey of ABIM board-certified physicians (which included nephrologists, as well as other physicians). An assessment model that could be used by physicians to support lifelong learning would be an important change,” said Mark E. Rosenberg, MD, FASN, ASN Education Committee Chair and Professor of Medicine and Vice Dean for Education at the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis, MN. “ASN looks forward to working through the important but controversial issue of MOC with the newly formed ASN Task Force on Recertification.”

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Gentzon Hall, MD, PhD, Receives First ASN-AMFDP Award

As the first recipient of the American Society of Nephrology–Amos Medical Faculty Development Program (ASN-AMFDP) Award, Gentzon Hall, MD, PhD, intends to build on his current work in renal genomics, with a primary focus on hereditary focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS).

Dr. Hall is a medical instructor in the Duke University Division of Nephrology. Through a partnership with the Harold Amos Faculty Development Program (Amos Scholars), the ASN-AMFDP Award was created in February 2015 to support the research and career development of a kidney research scholar and future health care leader.

“As a junior faculty member at Duke, Dr. Hall has already distinguished himself as a scholar, role model for other trainees, and health care leader,” said Donald Weston, MD, FASN, co-chair of the ASN Diversity and Inclusion Work Group. “We are pleased that he is being honored with the ASN-AMFDP award, which will help further his career and research goals.”

Dr. Hall’s research career started in high school during a National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute–sponsored summer research internship. The experience ignited Dr. Hall’s decision to pursue a career as an academic physician-scientist, a decision shaped further during his undergraduate years and as he pursued an MD-PhD degree at the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

During his MD-PhD program and upon starting an internal medicine residency, Dr. Hall became interested in a career in cardiology and cardiovascular research. However, these early career objectives changed after a meeting with the late Michelle P. Winn, MD, during an inpatient renal rotation as an intern. Dr. Winn invited him into her lab, and after a year learning the fundamentals of human genetics, Dr. Gentzon decided to pursue subspecialty training in nephrology. He was particularly moved by the predicaments of young African American patients who often do not have many options after being diagnosed with FSGS.

After his clinical nephrology training at Duke University, he began a postdoctoral fellowship in human genetics research under the mentorship of Dr. Winn. During his fellowship, Dr. Hall’s accomplishments included 9 or more peer-reviewed publications, 3 awards, and 9 national and scientific presentations.

Currently under the mentorship of Douglas A. Marchuk, PhD, and Dr. Rasheed Gbadegesin, MD, Dr. Hall will use the award to help focus on developing his skills in renal genomics and human glomerular disease modeling, particularly studying the genetics of FSGS in at-risk populations using state-of-the-art genetic and whole animal modeling strategies.

Dr. Hall is married to Rasheeda Hall, MD, who is also a nephrologist and clinical researcher at Duke University.

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