Dear Diplomates:

We are excited to share with you the ABMGG Spring Newsletter. As you can see, we have a number of new initiatives and updates to share, including the CertLink longitudinal assessment pilot, the new Portal transition, the LGG alternative pathway option, and others! Of note, a major effort of the Board is focused on making the ABMGG Continuing Certification (formerly MOC) program more relevant to your individual practice, allowing activities that are already part of your everyday practice to fulfill requirements.

Please reach out to me at any time with comments, questions and suggestions. We welcome your input and ideas.

Miriam (Mimi) G. Blitzer, PhD
CEO

New Board Member Announcement

ABMGG is pleased to announce the election of three new members to its Board of Directors:

- Katrina Dipple, MD, PhD – Seattle, WA
- Sarah H. Elsea, PhD – Houston, TX
- Sue Richards, PhD – Portland, OR
Call for Nominations to Serve on the ABMGG Board of Directors

ABMGG is seeking interested diplomates to serve as Directors on the Board. The new Directors serve a maximum of two 3-year terms, starting January 1, 2020. Nominations are being solicited for two open positions, one in each of the following specialties:

- Clinical Cytogenetics and Genomics
- Clinical Biochemical Genomics

See here for details and the nomination form.


LGG Alternative Pathway

There will be an informational session on the LGG Alternative Pathway at the ACMG Conference in Seattle, WA at 7 AM on Friday, April 5 in Room 602-604. You can find more information about the session in the ACMG Conference Program. If you are attending the conference and have questions on the pathway, we strongly encourage you to attend the workshop to have your questions answered.

CertLink® Pilot Program Update

By the end of 2018, over 1170 diplomates completed all 48 questions distributed in the first two assessment segments of the CertLink® pilot program. As we move into the third segment, we are excited to offer specialty-focused assessments—be sure follow the instructions below when customizing your assessment.

- Follow specified percentage requirements as shown in this brief video: https://youtu.be/vgTGgmbCLqw
- All diplomates certified in at least one lab specialty will complete 10% core lab items. You must customize your remaining assessment by choosing from the list below. If certified in:
  - 1 lab specialty only: select 90% in that specialty
  - 2 lab specialties: 45% specialty 1 and 45% specialty 2
  - Clinical and 1 lab: 50% clinical and 40% lab specialty
  - Clinical and 2 lab: 30% clinical, 30% lab 1, 30% lab 2
- Once set, your assessment design is locked for 2019. In 2020 – we anticipate more flexibility in designing your assessment to match your current practice.

Click here to sign into CertLink®: https://abmgg.mycertlink.org.

Deadline to answer questions: July 15, 2019
Review Your Information in the ABMGG Diplomate Portal

Thanks for your patience throughout our transition to the new ABMGG portal. Be sure to check the following information for accuracy:

- Email address
- Mailing address
- NPI number (please add)
- Degree year

Continuing Certification annual fees are due May 31st, 2019. As was announced in September, the 2019 annual fee is $450. All prior unpaid fees are charged at the current rate.

Secure Examination for Certificates Expiring in 2019

Diplomates with certifications expiring in 2019 who have not been meaningfully participating in CertLink since Feb. 2018 are required to take the Continuing Certification secure examination before the end of 2019. The secure exam will be offered three additional times this year at the ABMGG offices in Rockville, Maryland in a secure, proctored environment in paper and pencil format.

The dates are as follows:

- Monday, June 10 at 9 AM and 2 PM EST
- Friday, August 16 at 9 AM and 2 PM EST
- Monday, November 18 at 9 AM and 2 PM EST

Please [click here](#) to select your examination date and time.

Registration will close 4 weeks before the scheduled exam. The fee of $550 per specialty exam can be paid via [credit card form](#) sent to ABMGG@abmgg.org.

New Continuing Certification Activity Options

**Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment**

**ACMG Short Courses**: Successful completion of an ACMG short course held at the annual meeting is accepted for Lifelong Learning (Part II) credit. Upload the certificate of completion under “Alternative Lifelong Learning Activity” in the ABMGG portal for credit.

**Improvement in Medical Practice**

Service on a quality improvement, institutional review board, or patient safety committee: Diplomates must serve for at least 1 year minimum in order to receive credit. Documentation of service must be uploaded into the portal (i.e. letter from institution/supervisor/division chief).
Authorship on a published practice guideline: Authorship for a published practice guideline or technical standard and guideline, relevant to medical genetics and genomics can be used for Part IV credit. Diplomates must provide the reference to the published guideline: PubMed ID or full reference.

Participation in a CAP Resource Committee: Diplomates may receive credit for participation in CAP resource committees (cytogenetics, molecular genetics and biochemical genetics) by uploading documentation of involvement (i.e. resource committee member list in the summary report).

**ABMS Announces Release of Vision for the Future Initiative on Continuing Certification**

In February the Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission (Commission) released its final report to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The report included a set of recommendations and calls on ABMS member boards to make continuing certification programs more meaningful, relevant and of value to key stakeholders.

AMBGG is well on the way to implementing the recommendations of the Commission, in keeping with our mission “to serve the public and medical profession by establishing professional certification standards and promoting lifelong learning as well as excellence in medical genetics and genomics.”

One of the principal recommendations, with agreement by all ABMS Member Boards, is to commit to longitudinal assessment as an alternative to the high-stakes, point-in-time MOC examinations. Prior to the report, ABMGG already had launched the CertLink® pilot in 2018, in partnership with ABMS. This pilot has met with overwhelmingly positive response from our diplomates and is transitioning into a valid, formative and summative assessment tool for medical knowledge, judgment, and skills. Much of its success is due to the feedback from our diplomates. ABMGG is in the final stages of evaluating this pilot for replacing the high-stakes examination.

Click here for the full Commission report (pdf).

**Quick Links**

- ABMGG website
- Portal
- CertLink Platform
- Facebook page
- Portal issues submission form
- Nominations Information and Form