



ABFAS

NEWSLETTER

FOR RESIDENTS

July, 2021

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An Orientation to ABFAS

There are [several reasons](#) it makes sense to seek Board Certified status through the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS). But once you've decided to commit to the process, how and when should you begin working toward becoming an ABFAS Diplomate?

The ABFAS pathway to certification begins at the resident level. In the Fall, residents can take [In-training Exams](#) (ITEs) to assess strengths and weaknesses. (And maybe to skip the Part I Board Qualification exams altogether. See below for more!)

Just like the Part I Board Qualification exams, the ITEs consist of both a didactic (multiple choice) component and a computer-based patient simulation (CBPS) component. ABFAS offers two sets of ITEs: one for postgraduate years one and two (and three in four-year programs); and a second for final-year residents. Because Board Certification in foot surgery is a prerequisite for Board Certification in reconstructive rearfoot and ankle (RRA) surgery, ABFAS offers separate foot surgery and RRA surgery ITEs.

Once they've completed their residencies, candidates who pass both the Part I didactic and CBPS exam components (or Final-Year ITEs; see story below) are on their way to achieving ABFAS [Board Qualified status](#). Candidates then have seven years to successfully complete the Part II certification examination, Case Review, in which a team of case reviewers (ABFAS Diplomates) thoroughly evaluate all aspects of a randomly selected list of candidates' surgical cases. Those who pass Case Review and have an unrestricted license and surgical hospital privileges become ABFAS Board Certified, or ABFAS Diplomates.

If you have questions about the process or want to learn more, visit the [ABFAS website](#) or feel free to contact us at info@abfas.org or 415.553.7800.

Please Update Your Email Address

It's important to keep your ABFAS contact info current! We encourage you to use a personal email address—**not your residency program address**—as the login for your [ABFAS profile](#), as well as your login for PRR. Otherwise, we run the risk of losing track of you after you complete your residency and begin using a new address. If your online registration still uses your residency program email address, please take a moment to click through to update your profile.



Online Proctored ITE Option

ABFAS will continue to offer an online proctored exam option for the PGY1&2 Didactic [In-training Examinations](#). The online proctored exams are available during the September 20-25 window, and residents can take their exam anywhere they like—so long as the environment is private and secure.

Test-takers should ensure they understand and test privacy setup requirements ahead of time. They need a functioning personal computer with a webcam and a strong, reliable web connection, as well as a cell phone with video capability. Test-takers should check their computer's compatibility with testing software prior to the exam. Finally, rooms need to be free of test preparation materials, noise, or any distractions.

Appointments for online proctored didactic exams are limited, so interested residents should schedule appointments as soon as possible. Visit the ABFAS website for [more information](#) on online proctored didactic ITEs.

ABFAS ITEs Help Residents “Jump the Line”

The ABFAS [In-training Examinations](#). The ABFAS In-training Examinations (ITEs) don't only offer an excellent opportunity for residents to familiarize themselves with ABFAS exams. **Final-year residents who pass any individual Final-Year ITE have the option to use that score toward fulfilling their Part I Board Qualification examination requirements!**

In fact, of the 569 members of the 2021 final-year resident class, 100 candidates passed all four ITEs: the Foot Surgery Didactic, NEW Foot Surgery CBPS, RRA Surgery Didactic, and NEW RRA Surgery CBPS. These candidates are already well on their way toward Board Certification in Foot and RRA Surgery!



Join ABFAS at The National

In 2021, ABFAS is engaging with DPMs across the country at podiatric conferences. If you're attending the [American Podiatric Medical Association \(APMA\) Annual Scientific Meeting](#) July 29 through August 1—virtually or in-person—we welcome you to connect with ABFAS staff to ask questions about ABFAS certification! Meet us at booth # 605 during open Exhibit Hall hours.

Help Us Remain #FootFirst

We're continuing our crowdsourcing campaign of seeking foot and ankle surgical photos from Diplomates. Email footfirst@abfas.org with photos of you performing surgery, interacting with feet, performing surgery on feet, or just hanging out with other DPMs. We'll feature our favorites in our publications and on social media.



Zach Farley, DPM, inserts a fibula nail at Northeast Georgia Health System.



Phong Le, DPM, (right) works with his team to repair a displaced trimalleolar ankle fracture at Dignity Health Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento, California.



Navid Sadoughi, DPM, of White Oak Medical Center in Maryland says he snapped this selfie at 11:30 p.m. one evening while drained physically and mentally after performing two procedures while the OR was all but shut down due to pandemic restrictions.

Keeping in Touch with ABFAS



ABFAS uses email as the primary method of communicating announcements and details to Diplomates. To ensure you are receiving ABFAS emails, make sure you add lead@abfas.org, info@abfas.org, updates@abfas.org, and scheduling@abfas.org to your email inbox safe sender list. Instructions are available [online](#).

In addition, please log into your [ABFAS profile](#) and, if necessary, update your personal information—particularly if you change your contact information (especially your email address) post-residency.



AMERICAN BOARD OF
FOOT AND ANKLE SURGERY®

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Since 1975, ABFAS' mission is to protect and improve the health and welfare of the public by the advancement of the art and science of foot and ankle surgery.

[ABFAS.org](https://www.abfas.org)