



# ABFAS

## NEWSLETTER

FOR BOARD QUALIFIED CANDIDATES

November 2022 [ABFAS.org](http://ABFAS.org) | [ABFAS Profile Login](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Contact Us](#)

### Protecting Public Health and the Profession

The American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery (ABFAS) strives to protect and improve public health and welfare by advancing the art and science of foot and ankle surgery. More than 10,000 podiatrists have earned ABFAS Board Certification by successfully demonstrating competency and proficiency in the specialty field of foot and ankle surgery. Together, we are committed to providing the best patient care and preserving trust in our profession.

Like many of you, we were disappointed in the decision by the American Board of Podiatric Medicine (ABPM) to open applications for a Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Podiatric Surgery outside of the profession's traditionally rigorous certification process. Several leading podiatric organizations—including the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons, Council on Podiatric Medical Education, and the American Podiatric Medical Association—have raised serious concerns about ABPM's rush to launch the new CAQ and the potential confusion it may cause among patients and hospitals.

To read those comments from podiatric organizations, review our [full statement](#) on the ABPM decision. We have also posted some information about the [difference between ABFAS Board Certification and ABPM's CAQ](#).

### Talk to Us About How We Talk to You

Which communication methods do you prefer? Please take a minute to respond to our [quick survey](#) on how best to talk to you.

### Attention 2023 Case Review Candidates

On January 23, 2023, ABFAS will hold a webinar to answer your questions about the Case Review process. Stay tuned for more information.

### Changes to 2023 Case Review

Registration for 2023 Case Review is now open!

In our ongoing efforts to improve the Case Review process, you will find some changes to this year's Case Review exam.

1. New drag and drop functionality for uploading documents.
2. Candidate checklist. This new checklist will help you ensure you uploaded the correct documents and provide an opportunity to explain missing documentation.

Here is a screenshot of the new checklist.

The screenshot shows a web-based checklist titled "Case Documentation Checklist - Case 1". It contains eight numbered questions with various input options:

- 1. Are you the Surgeon of Record? (Radio buttons for Yes/No)
- 2. Are all required imaging studies present? (Radio buttons for Yes/No, with a "No" button selected. Includes detailed instructions for preoperative and postoperative views.)
- 2a. If you cannot physically or technically obtain weightbearing radiographs in your facility, please submit a notarized letter from the facility to attest to this. (Upload Letter button)
- 3. Date of the podiatric history and physical assessment done by you or reviewed by you that includes the rationale/indications for all procedures performed in the case. (Date picker and Save button)
- 4. Is there complete clinical documentation present to evaluate the case? This should include typed progress notes from the time of the patient's first presentation to the final outcome. (Radio buttons for Yes/No)
- 5. Did the patient follow up per your recommendations? (Radio buttons for Yes/No)
- 6. Did the patient follow your postoperative care instructions? (Radio buttons for Yes/No)
- 7. What is your objective assessment of the final outcome regarding your preoperative goals? (Text input field and Save button)
- 8. Explain any missing materials. (Text input field and Save button)

### Case Review Timeline

- **November 1, 2022:** Case Review Registration Opens
- **December 9, 2022:** Case Review Registration Closes
- **December 13, 2022:** ABFAS sends candidates instructions for Facility Audit
- **January 6, 2023:** Deadline for Facility Audit Upload
- **January 20, 2023:** ABFAS notifies candidates that the list of procedures selected for review is available on the PLS site
- **March 10, 2023:** Early bird case documentation upload deadline for Surgeon of Record checks with the opportunity to fix. Candidates must submit by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time.
- **March 24, 2023:** Deadline for candidate upload of case documentation. Candidates must submit by 11:59 p.m. Pacific time.
- **April 13-15, 2023:** Case Reviewers meet. Candidates do not attend Case Review.

### Why Seek ABFAS Board Certification?

You have done a great job reaching Board Qualified status. Don't lose steam!

Why should you continue working toward becoming an ABFAS Diplomate? In short, [Board Certification](#) communicates you have made the effort to be a **better surgeon**. In addition, ABFAS Board Certification is a **prerequisite for surgical privileges** at many hospitals and for some insurance companies, and many larger medical groups require ABFAS Board Certification to become a shareholder or partner.

ABFAS continually adapts the Board Certification process to make it the best it can be to protect public health and safety, so you can trust your **credential will be portable** across state lines or to new employers.

ABFAS is the **only** Foot and Ankle Surgery Certification Board recognized by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) through the Specialty Boards Recognition Committee (SBRC).



### Profile in Excellence: Nilin Rao, DPM, D.ABFAS

The September 2022 issue of Podiatry Management features a profile of ABFAS Diplomate Nilin Rao, DPM, D.ABFAS, a 2017 recipient of the Michael L. Stone, DPM, Outstanding Professional Conduct Award from ABFAS. Dr. Rao describes his own journey to ABFAS Board Certification, as well as what his practice in Scottsdale, Arizona is like. [Read the full profile now](#) on the ABFAS website.

### Join Us in New Orleans for ASPS

Throughout 2022, ABFAS has engaged with DPMs and candidates across the country. If you're attending the [ASPS Annual Surgical Conference](#) November 4-5, stop by the ABFAS booth in the Exhibit Hall to learn more about the LEAD program or your ABFAS status—or just to hang out with Team ABFAS!



### Keep in Touch with ABFAS

ABFAS uses email as the primary method of communicating announcements and details. To ensure you are receiving ABFAS emails, make sure you add [info@abfas.org](mailto:info@abfas.org), [updates@abfas.org](mailto:updates@abfas.org), and [scheduling@abfas.org](mailto: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—especially your email address!



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445 Fillmore Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94117-3404

[info@abfas.org](mailto:info@abfas.org)  
415.553.7800  
Fax: 415.553.7801

[abfas.org](http://abfas.org)

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

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