



ABFAS NEWSLETTER

for Residents

July, 2019

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ABFAS Sits Down With Dr. Michelle Butterworth— Newly Elected to the Board of Directors

“I think I can be helpful with my experience and it’s kind of a labor of love. It’s a passion, you just want to help, you want to pay it forward with your profession.”
- Dr. Butterworth

Michelle Butterworth DPM, was just elected into a new role on ABFAS’ Board of Directors. While Dr. Butterworth’s term starts on September 1, 2019, she is very familiar with ABFAS, having served for years on numerous committees. These committees include the Communications Committee, Online Study Guide Task Force, and Bylaws Task Force. She is currently a member of the Cognitive Examinations Committee and servers as a Case Reviewer.

ABFAS sat down with Dr. Butterworth to discuss her career, her new role, and her service to ABFAS.

Dr. Butterworth, how did you start your board certification process?

“After getting your training in residency you start focusing on the future. And then you start thinking about board certification and your long-term career. So, fortunately, I had great instructors and residency directors who were very familiar with ABFAS. From the very beginning, in my residency, it was always just a given that your goal was to become ABFAS board certified. Yes, you’re a skilled surgeon. We’re going to teach you all the techniques, but you need to become board certified. That’s going to be sort of your ultimate achievement and your success as a surgeon.”



What does ABFAS board certification mean to your patients?

“I think it’s exactly like the tagline says. It’s a credential you can trust. ABFAS is the board for podiatric foot and ankle surgery and patients look for a board certified surgeon in any type of surgery. My certificates hang on the wall, and patients comment about it. It gives them more trust in you as a surgeon, that they know that you’ve gone through this rigorous process and ultimately become board certified and you’ve got the skills and the training.”

What would your advice be to residents thinking about their own career path?

“One of the things I see with residents or those that are just out in the practice, they are focused on trying to get their numbers. They worry about the number of procedures. My advice is to just treat your patients, regardless of whether you’re trying to achieve board certification. It’s a natural process. Treat your patients as you would regardless of whether you’re trying to accumulate cases or trying to go through the credentialing process.”

To read more of the Dr. Butterworth interview, [click here](#).

Preparing for the Part I Board Qualification Didactic Exams

Registration for the Part I Board Qualification examinations opens in August. There will be two didactic exams offered, Part I Foot Surgery Didactic, and Part I RRA Surgery Didactic. Similar to the didactic part of the In-training exam, these exams are made up of single best-answer multiple-choice questions. Each exam consists of 80 questions and is 120 minutes in length.

The Part I didactic exam evaluates your clinical knowledge and treatments skills that you acquire through residency. This adaptive test is presented electronically, where the multiple-choice questions are adjusted in difficulty based on the examinee’s demonstrated ability level.

The Part I didactic exams cover board subject areas, such as: diagnostic studies/medical imaging, surgical principles, surgical procedures/techniques, procedural perioperative management, complications, and general medicine.

ABFAS provides resources to candidates to prepare for all examinations. The [ABFAS Online Study Guide](#) will help you prepare for the Part I didactic exams. This resource will walk you through all areas of the didactic exams – scoring, results, and adaptive testing. Included in the Study Guide are Foot Didactic and RRA Didactic practice exams.

For any questions about the Part I process or examinations, please reference the [ABFAS Board Qualification Document](#).



Introducing ABFAS Podcasts

ABFAS is proud to launch new podcasts focused on important foot and ankle surgery topics. You can find these recordings at ABFAS.org/podcasts where they can be downloaded and shared.

“**ABFAS Exam Preparation Materials**” guides you through all ABFAS produced materials that you can review before taking your In-training exam or Part I Board Qualification Exams.

Another podcast, “**The New 2020 Certification Process**”, reviews the changes in the new ABFAS certification process. This podcast explains the new In-training examination changes, and the new exam format for final year residents. It also outlines the new Qualification process.

Podcast “**The Value of ABFAS Certification**” highlights the importance of board certification.

Finally, the “**Case Review Preparation and PLS Logging**” is a comprehensive overview on candidate’s preparation for case review. This will be an excellent resource when you are preparing for Part II Case Review.

Please feel free to listen to [these podcasts](#), download them, and share with #abfas.

PRR Logging FAQs

Each month ABFAS will share PRR logging frequently asked questions and the correct answers to them.

Question:

Is the use of loupes acceptable for microscopic repair?

Answer:

Yes, the use of loupes is acceptable for microscopic repair. Residents do not have to use a microscope alone, and loupes are considered within the definition of “microscopic” repair.

Question:

I understand that all rearfoot fusions regardless of number of joints fused count as one procedure. If you perform multiple rearfoot fusions AND an ankle fusion, is this still one procedure?

Answer:

That is correct regarding STJ/ankle fusion. Contiguous fusions are considered one procedure, but if remote can be logged separately.

Special thanks to Randall Dei, DPM, John T. Marcoux, DPM, and Roya Mirmiran, DPM, for helping with these answers.

Residents and Residency Directors #footfirst

ABFAS would like photos from all the residency programs across the country! We are looking for photos of residents studying, performing cases, interacting with feet, performing on feet, or even just hanging out with other residents.

Send your best photos to footfirst@abfas.org so we can share them on social media, in our magazines, and online. We will select a monthly winner with the best photo who will receive a great ABFAS prize and recognition on our Facebook page. Don’t forget to share your photos using #footfirst and #ABFAS.



THE NATIONAL

APMA ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING
SALT LAKE CITY | JULY 11-14, 2019

ABFAS will be attending APMA’s Annual Scientific meeting, [The National](#), this July 11-14. Held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, you can find ABFAS at booth 807. Please come by, introduce yourself, and pick up a complimentary flash drive. And share your photos using #ABFAS and #footfirst!

ABFAS will be sponsoring the Young Practitioners’ Reception on Friday, July 12, at the Salt Lake City Marriott. All residents and residency directors are invited to attend. Join us in Salons A-C from 6-7:30pm.

Join Us!

ABFAS will be attending the ASPS conference in Chicago in August. If you are attending, we welcome you to stop by our booth and receive a free gift!

7th Annual ASPS Surgical Conference

August 2-3, 2019
Swissotel
Chicago, Illinois

Examinations Dates and Deadlines

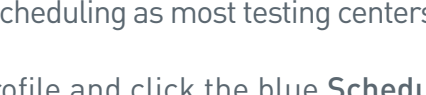
In-training Examination

July 1 – Registration Opens for Institutions to Enroll Candidates
August 30, 2019 – Registration Closes for Institutions to Enroll Candidates
September 16 – 21, 2019 – Exam Period

RESIDENTS: Once your residency director has registered you for the ABFAS ITE exam, and you have completed your bio in PRR (with your address and phone number), your next step is to schedule your exam with a Pearson VUE testing center.

ABFAS strongly encourages early scheduling as most testing centers do not have more than 15 seats.

Please sign on to your ABFAS profile and click the blue **Schedule/View an Exam with Pearson VUE** link, found on the left-hand side of your profile. Your ABFAS log-in information is the same as PRR. The **Schedule/View an Exam with Pearson VUE** link looks like this:



You will then be directed to the Pearson VUE website, where you will be able to select a location, date, and time to take your ITE exam.

Safe Sender

ABFAS would like all communication to find it to your inbox. Please add info@abfas.org, updates@abfas.org, and scheduling@abfas.org to your safe sender list to assure that all of our emails arrive in your “new emails” inbox and not in “spam.”

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.

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