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Meet ABFAS' New Secretary/Treasurer

Amberly Paradoa, DPM, has served on ABFAS' Board of Directors for the past three years. This spring, Dr. Paradoa was re-elected to a three-year term as well as elected to executive leadership as the board's Secretary/Treasurer. Dr. Paradoa has long been affiliated with ABFAS, volunteering her time on numerous committees including the Cognitive Exam Committee, CBPS Review Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, as well as the Online Study Guide Task Force and Standard Setting Task Force.

We sat down with her to discuss her education, career, volunteerism, and commitment to ABFAS and the profession of foot and ankle surgery.

What made you choose a profession as a foot and ankle surgeon?

"All my life, I've always had a love of the art of medicine. I had the dream of becoming a physician, more specifically, a surgeon. Early in college, I had the great opportunity to shadow podiatric foot and ankle surgeons, and from that point on I always knew that I wanted to go to podiatry school and, ultimately, become a foot and ankle surgeon."



Dr. Paradoa performs on a 67-year old female undergoing 1st MTPJ arthrodesis for arthritic great toe joint.

How did you know you wanted to pursue ABFAS as a certification?

"I first became familiar with ABFAS in podiatry school, then more so in residency training. ABFAS surgical board certification was always an important goal of mine. Our residency program engrained in us to pursue ABFAS certification. Certification gave diplomates respect amongst podiatric surgeons, and also, peers within the medical community. The ultimate goal to be certified with ABFAS was always important to me."



68-year old male with diabetes, fixed equinovarus foot deformity and recurrent plantar stump ulcerations treated with tibiototalcaneal arthrodesis with hybrid internal and external fixation.

Read more about Dr. Paradoa's contribution to her community, her expectations in her new leadership role, and her advice to residents and young practitioners on: ABFAS.org

Understanding Your In-training Examination Score Report

The ABFAS In-training Examination (ITE) score reports are specifically designed to help residents and their residency directors understand resident's competence through residency training. The reports provide a comparison of the results of other residents in the same group of examinees.

Scaled Scores

Both scores of the ITE, the didactic and CBPS, are reported as "scaled scores" rather than raw scores or percent correct. What are scaled scores? Scores are transformed into scaled scores so that they remain comparable across different versions of the examination and as the examinations change over time. The didactic and CBPS ITE scores are both reported on a scale of 200-800. As there is no pass/fail for the ITE, there is no minimum score required to pass. For comparison, the minimum score required to pass the Foot Didactic Qualification Exam is 405, and the minimum to pass the RRA Didactic Qualification Exam is 450.

Didactic Examination Score Reports

At the completion of the ITE exam, residents receive a printed preliminary didactic examination score at the Pearson VUE test center. This report shows the total score and the weighting and scaled score for each subject area. This report is not available to residency directors.

Didactic score reports become available on PRR about six weeks after the ITE examination window has closed. Residency directors gain access to the same reports as residents in their program. Reports can be viewed directly on PRR and there is a downloadable version that can be saved and printed.

The didactic examination score report shows the resident's scaled scores for each of the six-foot surgery subject areas as well as the total score in the "Your Score" column. The total score is the most important, as it reliably measures the resident's knowledge of all subject areas. Although the individual scaled scores for each subject area are reported, they are not a reliable measure of knowledge or ability level in each subject area because there are too few items being tested in each subject area. However, these subject area category scores are a useful illustration of relative strengths and weaknesses among the subject areas. The total score is not the sum, nor average, of all the subject area scores because each subject area is weighted differently.

Mean Subject Area scores by PGY are given so that residents can see how well they performed compared to other residents. The mean scores are limited to In-training Examinations administered in the same examination year.

CBPS Examination Score Reports

CBPS score reports are available on PRR about six weeks after the examination window has closed, and there is no preliminary CBPS report handed out at Pearson VUE. There are two reports available - PRR provides a score report residents can view online and another that can be downloaded.

The CBPS exam for all PGY 1 and 2 residents has only foot cases, and the score report shows scores for those foot cases. PGY 3 and 4 residents in RRA programs (PMSR/RRA) will have RRA and foot cases on their exam and will receive scores for both foot and RRA. The CBPS exam for PGY 3 residents in foot programs (PMSR) has only foot cases and a single foot score report is given.

Similar to the didactic exam results, the CBPS total score is a reliable measure of the knowledge and interpretive skills deemed appropriate for a foot and ankle surgical resident. The mean total scores of each PGY group are shown for relative comparison with the resident's total score. Keep in mind; this is not shown on the downloadable version of the score report.

CBPS score reports do not include mean scores for each subject area because of the small number of items given to each case. Instead, the score reports show how the resident performed relative to the average of all the others who have taken the CBPS exam during the same examination year. Each subject area is reported as either "above," "below," or at the "average" of all the other residents in the same PGY group.



Exam Registration Opens for the March 11, 2020 Board Qualification Exams

Mark your calendars for November 4, 2019, as ABFAS opens registration for the March 11, 2020, Part I exams. You will be able to register for the Foot Surgery Didactic, Foot Surgery CBPS, RRA Surgery Didactic, and RRA Surgery CBPS Part I exams.

Important Dates:

- November 4, 2019** - Registration Opens
- February 26, 2020** - Registration Closes
- March 4, 2020** - Last Day to Withdraw w/o Penalty
- March 11, 2020** - Exam Date Don't forget to share your photos using #footfirstABFAS



Photograph submitted by Neda Mehmandoust, DPM, from Houston, TX.

Residents and Residency Directors are #footfirst

Send in your 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 newsletters, AND our new website! 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 #footfirstABFAS

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.

ABFAS.org

