



THE DIPLOMATE

AMERICAN BOARD OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

SUMMER 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

Board of Directors	2
President's Message	3
Congrats on Another 10 Years	4
Diplomates Making a Difference	5
Keeping Informed	8
Examination Committee	9
Examination Statistics	12
Upcoming Examinations and Processes	13
Director Nominees	14



Find us at:



2020-2021

Board of Directors



Larry L. Cunningham Jr., DDS, MD
President



Vincent J. Perciaccante, DDS
Vice President



Bernard J. Costello, DMD, MD
Secretary/Treasurer



David A. Bitonti, DMD
Immediate Past President



Pushkar Mehra, DMD
Director



David B. Powers, DMD, MD
Director



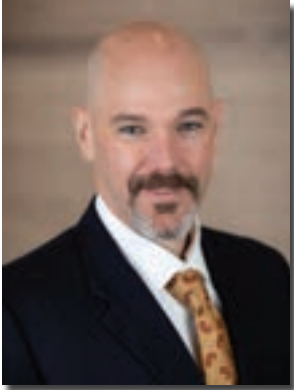
Deepak Kademani, DMD, MD
Director



Paul S. Tiwana, DDS, MD
Director

A Message from your President

Larry L. Cunningham Jr., DDS, MD



As I gaze out my office window, finished with my charts, and waiting on a case to go, I'm struck by the thought that there must be hundreds of Diplomates out there on Tuesday evening doing exactly this: waiting to help someone who is ill or injured. We are inconvenienced because we will be late for dinner or will miss a game while we wait on the OR. But I am part of a call group, so I will be home for dinner every night next week and tonight's inconvenience will be forgotten.

On a grander scale, each of us has had similar experiences related to the pandemic: isolation, loneliness, worry, fear, weariness. Today, however, my Pittsburgh skies are blue, and as we come to what seems like an end to the pandemic, I feel hope. Maybe you feel it too.

When I think back over the past year, and about the people with whom I worked...the things we have overcome together and the patients we have treated and the people we have served...I recognize what we have overcome. How strong we can be together and how much we can accomplish when we have a common goal.

As we enter summer and then fall of this year, the Board and staff have been working very hard to maintain service to our Diplomates and our Candidates. The 2020 examinations continue to show a trend of well-qualified Candidates with a pass rate on the Qualifying Exam (QE) of 86% and on the Oral Certifying Exam (OCE) of 75%. COVID stole the February 2021 offering of the OCE from us, so in order to continue our work and to prevent a year lapse in Board Certification, we have developed two exams, almost simultaneously, that will be offered in August 2021 and then February 2022. We will continue our relationship with the American Board of Anesthesiology, using their testing facility in Raleigh, NC, for the administration of the OCE. The staff of the ABA have been wonderful to partner with; their facility is first-rate, and the people are friendly, professional, and have been extremely accommodating.

The Certification Maintenance program (CM) has been overwhelmingly successful so far. Launched in 2020, the vast majority of our Diplomates successfully completed CM without difficulty. I believe this program will continue to be successful as the years pass, and will show that as a specialty, we strive to be current and thoughtful with our processes and exams, and that we continue to place our patient's well-being as our top priority.

Thank you all for continuing your good work. Thank you for the continued opportunity to serve the specialty.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry L. Cunningham Jr., DDS, MD".

Larry L. Cunningham, Jr. DDS, MD
ABOMS President

Congrats on Another 10 Years

CONGRATS

Certification Maintenance (CM) is a comprehensive program instituted by ABOMS in 2005. In order to maintain certification, Diplomates who hold time-limited certificates are required to participate in this program. The Diplomate names listed below are individuals whose certificates expired on December 31, 2020, and successfully met all four components of the CM process: Professional Standing, Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment, Cognitive Expertise, and Evaluation of Performance in Practice.

Timothy Scott Acord	Steve S. Dorsch	Robert J. Huvar	Jeremy K. Miner	Debra M. Schardt-Sacco
Junil Ahn	Ian Dozier	Salomon Israel	Maurizio Mirabelli	Craig D. Schmidtke
Firas Alcheikh ali	Michael J. Dugan	Brandon R. Iverson	Alexei I. Mizin	Nathan Douglas Schroeder
Rahaf Y. Alhabbab	Terry R. Ellis	Steven C. Jacks	D. Jason Mohorn	Martin A. Seidenschmid
Abed Alkhatib	Turner P. Emery	Walter C. Jackson	Jeff E. Moxley	Khurram M. Shahzad
Steven A. Anderson	Barry L. Eppley	John D. Janulewicz	Dieter J. Moya	Charles H. Shanks
Karl H. Andraesen	Marty J. Espe	Michael A. Kail	Brian C. Murphy	Kalpapakam A. Shastri
Laith Azzouni	James M. Eyre	Keith H. Kaner	R. Anthony Murray	Michael I. Shnyder
Bryan F. Bailey	Fariborz A. Farnad	Andrew L. Kanter	Robert L. Myers	William G. Shoemaker
William S. Barnes	Scott A. Fauvell	William Kappan	Amir Naimi	Zhengshi Song
Prasad Bastodkar	Robert Ferdowsmakan	Jason R. Kennedy	Joseph Anthony Napoli	Anthony M. Spina
David Beanland	Andrew Ferguson	Kelly S. Kennedy	Ayesha Nawab	Russell P. Spinazze
James W. Belcher	Elie M. Ferneini	Michael W. Kessler	Christopher B. Nester	Michael Spink
Chad Betz	David K. Fiaschetti	Robert S. Kiken	Quoc L. Nguyen	Dane St. John
Christopher R. Bevin	Jason Fleischmann	King Kim	Jean-Luc Niel	Kris A. Stegmann
William B. Bohannan	Robert L. Flint	Don Han Kim	Ahmad-reza Noroozi	Derek Steinbacher
R. Chris Bondurant	Michael P. Folck	Alexander Y. Kim	Thomas C. Ocheltree	Avichai Stern
Andrea M. Bonnick	Jason E. Ford	Daniel E. Kirkwood	Brian M. Oneill	Richard K. Stern
Bryan C. Bouchelion	William D. Fox	Michael H. Kirsch	John P. Ouano	Randall W. Stettler
John S. Brokloff	James E. Freeman	JD Kisella	Zachary A. Owen	Alvin J. Stosich
Perry L. Brooks	Nicholas N. Gadler	Bradley S. Koch	Matthew F. Pagnotto	Rhys P. Strasia
Jeffrey S. Brown	Wendell K. Gardner	Anthony C. Kramer	Michael Papadimitriou	Vanni R. Strenta
Gerard J. Bruno	Robert D. Gear	Jeffrey M. Kratky	Ketan P. Parekh	Ashoka Subedar
Craig E. Buchmann	James H. Gherardini	Stephen L. Kreizenbeck	Michelle Pashley	Theodore A. Tanabe
Robert G. Burcal	Guriqbal G. Gill	David P. Kretzschmar	Ajay Patel	Samuel A. Tancredi
Corey C. Burgoyne	James D. Gipson	Deepak Gopala Krishnan	Jay J. Patel	Igor Tarlo
Claudine Cafferata	Jeffrey W. Glosser	Elizabeth A. Kutcipal	Kevin M. Patterson	Glenn N. Taylor
Joshua A. Campbell	Michael T. Gocke	Claude-Jean Langevin	Francisco M. Perez	Craig J. Thatcher
Andrew J. Campbell	Christopher J. Haggerty	Dietrich Lawrenz	Robert A. Petcash	Troy A. Trondson
Michael A. Casillas	Raymond Haigney	John M. Leib	Anthony R. Petito	Bradley S. Trotter
Suchie Chawla	Louis E. Halkias	Joseph S. Leibovici	Julia R. Plevnia	Maria J. Troulis
Bradley A. Cherry	Michael J. Hartman	Galia G. Leonard	Timothy A. Pliske	John E. Truitt
Francis D. Chionchio	Terrance L. Hauck	Jerry L. Leonard	Justin C. Ponquinette	Michael D. Tuttle
Sung H. Cho	Samuel L. Hayes	Julie A. Lesnick	Michael P. Powers	Carlos M. Ugalde
Robert L. Ciarallo	Curtis J. Hayes	Edwin M. Leung	John C. Pritchett	Brian A. Vandersea
John W. Clemenza	Alan R. Hecht	Hal J. Levine	Anthony L. Ragonese	Jonathan L. Voiner
Stephen A. Coffey	John A. Helmkamp	Craig L. Levine	Bashar Rajab	Douglas A. Von Kaenel
Ruben Cohen	Brent J. Henriksen	Wendy P. Liao	Cyrus A. Ramsey	Peter L. Wagner
Lisa S. Cohen	Kathleen E. Herb Brower	John L. Lignelli	John R. Rayher	John D. Wallace
Harry R. Cole	Adam T. Hershkin	Jennifer Juo-Tzu Liu	Lance A. Read	Russell S. Warren
Matthew T. Comiskey	Riley J. Hicks	Michael P. Logue	Edward I. Reinish	Damon Omar Watson
John A. Contino	Paul Ho	Brian C. Low	Robert J. Riggs	Brian C. Weaver
Jeremy Cull	Stephen Holm	Joshua Lubek	Leonardo Rios-Andersen	Caroline M. Webber
David R. Cummings	Donald P. Holzhauer	Michael A. Lypka	Steven F. Robertson	Lee M. Whitesides
Russell Drew Cunningham	K. Marcus Hopkins	Tyson E. Marrs	Wayne D. Roccia	Robert A. Whittaker
Matthew D. D'Addario	Mehran Hossaini-zadeh	Richard Joseph Martin	R David Roden	Russell T. Wible
Christopher S. Daniel	Joseph R. Howard	Pablo Martinez	Theodore Rodich	Fayette C. Williams
Shawn B. Davis	Linda L. Huang	Christopher P. Mcaboy	Ronald Roholt	Paul L. Wolf
Charles N. DeWild	Lloyd A. Hudson	John M. McElroy	David M. Rombach	Granger B. Wong
Jason A. Dewitt	Steven C. Hunter	Kerry M. McEntee	John J. Rydlewicz	Justin M. Young
Sukhdeep S. Dhaliwal	R. Beryl Hunter	Grant B. McGann	Daniel E. Sampson	Babak Zargari
Amit Dhameja	Gregory J. Hunter	Christopher M. Meyer	Noah A. Sandler	Kenneth J. Zouhary
Leslie H. Diamond	Rickey L. Hurst	Samira Meymand	James D. Savage	
Jasjit K. Dillon	Mirwais Hussainy	Denis Dax Miller	Natalie J. Schafer	

Diplomates Making a Difference

Each year, all of our Diplomates perform extraordinary work on a daily basis. The following is a list of just a few of our Diplomates who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in others' lives. Thank you, Diplomates!



Roger Alexander serves as a volunteer Ambassador and Veteran Coordinator for Patriot Paws Service Dogs, a charitable organization that raises, trains, and certifies service dogs who are donated at no cost to disabled U.S. military veterans. He also serves as the Clerk for his church's ruling body of Elders, assisting the pastor administratively and maintaining the church's 167 years of historical records. He also volunteers for Helping Hands Thrift Store of Rockwall County, TX, where profits support their full-service Medical Clinic for indigent patients.

Christopher R. DeSesa founded his community-wide COVID-19 Task Force, streamlining important information to the dental community regarding the impact of the pandemic on dental offices and ways they can support each other. He also provided care to the underserved communities at his local health center, the Holyoke Health Center, while also providing free virtual medical and surgical training to the NYU pediatric dental residents. Additionally, he was the secretary, social chair, and chair of the ethics committee of his dental society, providing support to his members.





Daniel Klemmedson is recognized as a leader in the oral surgery community. As the president of the American Dental Association, he has led the dental profession through the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout his career he has selflessly helped his patients and referring doctors and has served in leadership at the local, state and national levels. He volunteered as an instructor in oral pathology, educating dental hygienists. He serves on the craniofacial team and donates his time to serving those in need. He also contributes his time to Give Kids a Smile, Mission of Mercy, and several local charities.

Justine Moe organized the Collaborative OMFS Virtual Inter-Institutional Didactic (COVID) Program, which provided multiple weekly lectures to over 80 OMFS programs across the country and world, via Zoom, so that residents could take the opportunity to learn from some of the thought leaders in our specialty during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021 she led a team of surgeons and residents to organize the 3rd Annual Women in OMFS Symposium, held as a webinar. The symposium had almost 300 attendees, including those who were women dental residents contemplating a career in OMFS.





Marc Rothman has been volunteering to take care of Holocaust survivors by providing free dental surgical care. They have experienced unspeakable horrors in their lives and many of them are indigent and cannot afford dental implants or prosthetics, so the service has been a beautiful way for him to share compassion and love during their last few years. The program was established in partnership with the Alpha Omega Dental Society, Henry Schein Cares, the Claire Friedlander Foundation and a special governmental unit led by Joe Biden when he was Vice President.

Grant Stucki teaches others through his podcast, "Everyday Oral Surgery: Surgeons Talking Shop." He has published over 50 episodes, in which he interviews other surgeons and discusses the things they have learned during their careers. The stories they tell are inspiring and the techniques they discuss provide a springboard for other oral surgeons to learn and grow. Dr. Stucki spends several hours each week setting up the interviews, interviewing the surgeons, and editing and publishing the podcast episodes.



Natalie Tung started the Athena Mentoring Group to inspire and empower female students to achieve greatness. She covers a broad range of topics, from financial literacy to leadership to emotional intelligence. Since starting the group this past year, they now have 80 women. As a full-time director of predoctoral OMFS, she also quickly adapted to giving OMFS Zoom lectures to students during the COVID-19 pandemic and continued to give full-scope didactic lectures to the Oral Surgery Study Club over Zoom.

Keeping Informed

Certification Maintenance (CM)

If you have not yet completed your 2021 CM, you have until December 31, 2021. This is required for all Diplomates, regardless of when you last took the Recertification Examination. Visit your Diplomat profile to view and complete your requirements.

Annual Registration (AR)

As of last year, AR now runs on a calendar-year basis, from January to December. This means that we no longer will request AR in October. 2022 AR will instead be collected in January through March. You will not be able to pay 2022 AR if you have not yet completed your 2021 Certification Maintenance requirements, so please be sure to complete those by the end of the year.

Become an ABOMS Examiner!

Interested in joining the ABOMS Examination Committee? Applications open August 3 through Diplomat profiles and will remain open until October 5. You may be eligible to apply if you have been an active Diplomat for at least three years. Along with your application, you will be required to submit an evaluation form from two current or previous Examination Committee members. Applicants will be notified next spring for the 2022-2023 year. Newly appointed Examiners, also known as Junior Examiners, serve as item writers for the ABOMS computer-based examinations and Certification Maintenance processes. A Diplomat must serve as a Junior Examiner for a minimum of two years before being considered to serve as an OCE Examiner. Visit www.aboms.org/diplomates/examination-committee for more information.

Examination Committee

Each spring the Board of Directors selects a group of Examiners to serve on its current year's Examination Committee. This group of exceptional individuals aid in the development of the ABOMS computer-based testing (CBT) examinations and Oral Certifying Examination (OCE). Committee members are responsible for submitting questions and cases for specific examinations and, at times, assigned to leadership positions within the Committee. The Board recognizes the time and commitment spent as an ABOMS Examiner and thanks our dedicated members in advancing the specialty.

Newly appointed Examiners, also known as Junior Examiners, serve as item writers for the ABOMS CBT examinations and Certification Maintenance processes. Individuals who serve in this role have the opportunity to be appointed as an Examiner to the OCE based on their performance as a Junior Examiner. A Diplomate must serve a minimum of two years as a Junior Examiner to be considered for a role as an OCE Examiner. Junior Examiners are marked with an asterisk on the Examination Committee listing below. Newly appointed Junior Examiners are marked with a double asterisk. Welcome, new Junior Examiners!

Edward Adlesic	David Dattilo	Courtney Jatana*	Robert McNeill**	John Shroyer
Tara Aghaloo*	Dean DeLuke**	Douglas Johnson	Edward Miller	Jonathan Shum**
John Allen	Valmont Desa	Robert Julian	Brian Murphy	Constantine Simos*
John Alonge	Robert Diecidue	Karen Keith	Gregory Ness	Paul Smith
Suganya Appugounder*	Jasjit Dillon	Brian Kelley**	Brandon Newell*	Randall Stastny
Michael Beckley	Donita Dyalram	Kevin Kempers	Robert Nustad	Martin Steed
Mark Beehner*	Nathan Eberle**	Kelly Kennedy	Wayne Ozaki**	Larry Stigall
Richard Berger	Jeffrey Elo	David Kim	Neeraj Panchal**	Richard Szumita
Gary Bouloux	Hany Emam**	King Kim	Chan Park	Richard Tannyhill*
Sidney Bourgeois	Michael English**	JD Kisella	Daniel Perez	Daniel Taub
Todd Brandt	David Fallah*	Alia Koch	Leonel Perez*	Thomas Teenier
Tuan Bui	Elie Ferneini	Antonia Kolokythas	Julia Plevnia	Jayson Terres
Curt Cain	Luis Ferrer-Nuin	Jack Krajekian**	Lee Pollan	Jayini Thakker**
Ronald Caloss	Bud Fidler	Deepak Krishnan	Jason Portnof	Tibebu Tsegga*
Lionel Candelaria	Elda Fisher*	Benjamin Kur**	Kathlyn Powell*	Ashok Veeranki*
Vincent Carrao	Steven Fletcher	Carl Labela*	John Ray*	Christopher Viozzi
Angelle Casagrande	Pedro Franco	Edward Lahey	Gwendolyn Reeve**	Brent Ward
Paul Casmedes	Michael Gentile	Janice Lee	Shravan Renapurkar**	James Ward
Guillermo Chacon	Tamer Goksel	Susie Lin	Cory Resnick	Thomas Weil
Srinivasa Chandra**	Christopher Haggerty	John Lupori*	Ramon Ruiz	Dean Whitman*
Radhika Chigurupati	Michael Han**	Killian MacCarthy	Sara Runnels	Monty Wilson**
Nam Cho	Earl Hasegawa	Stephen MacLeod	Michael Safian*	Melvyn Yeoh
Joli Chou**	James Henderson*	Amir Marashi	Salam Salman*	
Joseph Cillo	Jon Holmes	Michael Markiewicz**	Thomas Schlieve	
Paul Ciuci	David Hunter	Nima Massoomi**	Nathan Schroeder	
Eugene D'Amico	Raza Hussain	Suzanne McCormick	Joshua Segal*	

Leadership

Examination Committee members are selected by the Board to serve in leadership roles through the development and administration for both our CBT examinations and OCE. The individuals listed exude the highest level of professionalism and exceptional knowledge in the specialty. The Board of Directors graciously thanks each of these individuals for their time and commitment to the specialty.

Co-Chairs

Surgery Section I

Kelly Kennedy
Killian MacCarthy

Surgery Section II

Nathan Schroeder
Jayson Terres

Surgery Section III

Joseph Cillo
Tamer Goksel

Section Editors

Surgery Section I

Michael Gentile

Surgery Section II

Vincent Carrao

Surgery Section III

Radhika Chigurupati

Content Experts

Gary Bouloux
Todd Brandt
Curt Cain
Jasjit Dillon

Luis Ferrer-Nuin
Pedro Franco
Tamer Goksel
Antonia Kolokythas

Janice Lee
Robert Nustad

Certification Maintenance

CM Co-Chairs

Sydney Bourgeois
Suzanne McCormick

CM Section Editor

Todd Brandt



CAQ Comittee

The following Diplomates are members of the ABOMS Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) Examination Committees. We thank them for their work in building our exams in preparation for the next administration in 2022.

CAQ in Head and Neck Oncologic and Reconstructive Surgery

Kevin Arce
Allen Cheng
David Kang

Ashish Patel
Brian Schmidt
Ramzey Tursun

Fayette Williams
Brian Woo

CAQ in Pediatric Craniomaxillofacial Surgery

John Caccamese
Bernard J. Costello
Sean Edwards

Michael Gentile
G.E. Ghali
Bonnie Padwa

Ramon Ruiz
Kevin Smith

CAQ Item Editors

Brian Schmidt—Head and Neck Oncologic and Reconstructive Surgery
Ramon Ruiz—Pediatric Craniomaxillofacial Surgery



Examination Statistics

2020 CAQ in Head and Neck Oncologic and Reconstructive Surgery

Time Taken	Total Taking Examination	Total Passing Examination	Pass Rate
First Time Candidates	9	8	88%
Repeat Candidates	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total/Overall	9	8	88%

2020 CAQ in Pediatric Craniomaxillofacial Surgery

Time Taken	Total Taking Examination	Total Passing Examination	Pass Rate
First Time Candidates	21	20	95%
Repeat Candidates	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total/Overall	21	20	95%

2021 Qualifying Examination

Time Taken	Total Taking Examination	Total Passing Examination	Pass Rate
Fast Track (Senior Residents)	138	136	99%
First Time Candidates	249	240	96%
Repeat Candidates	23	14	61%
Total/Overall	410	390	95%

Upcoming Examinations

2021 Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

Postponed due to COVID-19.

Now taking place August 23–27, 2021

Raleigh, NC

2022 Qualifying Examination (QE)

January 8–15, 2022

Important Dates: Applications open now through September 24, 2021

2022 Oral Certifying Examination (OCE)

January 31–February 4, 2022, Raleigh, NC

Important Dates: Applications open now through September 24, 2021

2022 Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery In-Service Training Examination (OMSITE)

March 12–26, 2022

Important Dates: Applications open November 16, 2021

Joseph E. Cillo Jr., DMD, PhD



I am profoundly grateful to be selected by my peers as a nominee for Director of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. It would be with great pride, dedication and determination that I would perform my duties if given the opportunity to serve as ABOMS Director to preserve the integrity, excellence, and high standards to patient safety and surgeon care that comes with board certification. In this endeavor, I have been privileged to serve ABOMS on the examination committee and have valued my roles as a horizontal rotator, Section editor, and currently, junior Section Co-Chair.

I completed my dental degree at the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine followed by a residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Parkland Memorial Hospital/University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, TX. This was followed by a fellowship in Maxillofacial Tumor and Reconstructive Surgery under Dr. Robert Marx at the University of Miami in Miami FL. I am currently Division Chief, Residency Program Director and Director of Research for the OMFS residency program at Allegheny General Hospital, a Level I trauma center, in Pittsburgh, PA. While maintaining these busy full-time positions, and in my endeavor to become a better educator, leader, and researcher, I concomitantly completed master's (MPH) and PhD degrees in Public Health.

My leadership roles as President of Pennsylvania Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, and positions on the Committee on Research, Planning and Technology Assessment, the Committee on Education and Training, and currently Chair of the Faculty Section Executive Committee, and other experiences in education, research, and organized dentistry have provided me with skills to further promote and protect our specialty through the board certification process. I would be greatly honored to serve as a Director of ABOMS and hope to earn your vote in Nashville.

Martin B. Steed, DDS



I am profoundly humbled by the decision of the Examination Committee to nominate me, for a third time, for the Board of Directors of ABOMS. The opportunity to serve within the board remains the most fulfilling endeavor of my professional life. It is important work. The world is changing faster than ever these days and leading certifying boards will need to evolve and be anticipatory to meet these challenges. I have seen firsthand the innovative adaptations our board and other surgical boards have implemented by taking an active role in providing educational support for residents beyond just assessment. The ABOMS leadership builds bridges with leading national organizations in both surgery and dentistry to keep our specialty at the forefront. I would strive to uphold and further the objectives of ABOMS, namely to elevate the standards of oral and maxillofacial surgery through

a certification and maintenance of certification process that fosters excellence and encourages learning, thus promoting the delivery of superior surgical care.

Within the ABOMS examination committee, I have experienced a number of leadership roles from content expert, horizontal rotator, Section Co-Chair, to senior mentor for new board examiners. As a surgeon educator, I prepare residents for the real world challenges the board exam replicates. To see them successfully complete the certification process offers persistent assurance that we are introducing another generation of safe, well trained, and thoughtful surgeons into clinical practice.

My view of our specialty's scope has developed through involvement across its spectrum nationally. I have served the specialty on AAOMS committees focused on education and training (CET), the committee on dental accreditation (CODA) as review committee member, as well as leadership roles within the IADR/AADR, AACMFS, ADEA, OMSNIC, and state level society leadership in both Georgia and South Carolina. This has provided me with insight into the challenges and opportunities facing surgeons and surgical residents today. It has emphasized to me what a vital role the ABOMS plays in maintaining the highest patient care standards through improving the knowledge and skills of our diplomates. I sincerely thank my colleagues for the chance to contribute.



Jayson J. Terres, DDS, MD



“Every person that you meet knows something you don’t; learn from them.”

—Author, H. Jackson Brown Jr.

This quote sums up why it is such an honor to be nominated by my colleagues—because it is through them that I have been able to grow personally and professionally, and now am afforded a chance to reinvest the education as a director for the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. The possibility of serving our specialty in this capacity is not only a humbling honor, but a tremendous opportunity to represent our specialty and my peers outside of the operating room and clinical settings.

In 2005, I completed a fully accredited six-year MD integrated Oral and Maxillofacial Surgical residency program at The University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio. Over the last sixteen years, a life in private practice has afforded me the opportunity to provide comprehensive patient care involving a true, full-scope practice of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery including trauma, major reconstruction, full facial cosmetics, pathology and dentoalveolar. Today, my practice, Tyler Oral and Facial Surgery Center is a leading provider in East Texas, where I also have served as a surgical director for Christus Trinity Mother Frances Hospital; a level-two trauma center; and the University of Texas Health Science Center of East Texas, a major level-one trauma center servicing over 3 million people. Because educating others in our specialty is tantamount to its progress and my personal calling, in 2017, I established an ADA/AMA certified learning center through our doors with live surgery and full interaction. I’ve also had the distinct honor in serving as the United States Army OMFS Resident Trauma Program Director, where leadership, education and collaboration are helping to ensure our specialty persists even outside of the civilian realm. Being in private practice has also made it possible for me to advance our specialty by refining techniques in the OR through the creation of multiple innovative medical device patents to aid in procedural approach and quicker patient recovery.

I have found great satisfaction shaping future OMS minds in various capacities serving ABOMS Examination Committee for seven years, as Section Two Co-Chairman for the past three years, and as a content expert for the cosmetic surgical section. Because my view of our specialty has been seen through a unique hybrid lens, as a private practitioner and as an administrator in a teaching capacity—I understand the need to continually evolve in all areas of our specialty for the benefit of future candidates who will serve in both worlds. To that end, it will be my primary goal as a board of director to continue to implement a collaborative and comprehensive exam that will ensure those who attain our certification are at the highest level in standardization of care, as possible. Of all of my accomplishments in life, becoming board certified, was my crowning achievement, and I want future members of our specialty to be able to feel the same—continuing to push the boundaries of OMS’s success in the healthcare front.