

September 21, 2018

President
Darryl L. Kaelin, MD
President-Elect
Peter C. Esselman, MD
Vice President
Michelle S. Gittler, MD
Secretary
Jonathan Finnoff, DO
Treasurer
Deborah A. Venesy, MD
Past President
Steve R. Geiringer, MD
Members-at-Large
Charlotte H. Smith, MD
D.J. Kennedy, MD
Robert J. Rinaldi, MD
Amy J. Houtrow, MD, PhD, MPH
Strategic Coordinating
Committee Chairs
Medical Education
Steve Flanagan, MD
Membership Committee
Michael Saffir, MD
Quality Policy Practice & Research
Scott R. Laker, MD
Ex-Officio Liaisons to
Board of Governors
Physiatrist In Training Council
Representative
Nathaniel V. Zuziak, DO
PM&R, Editor in Chief
Stuart M. Weinstein, MD
Executive Director
Thomas E. Stautzenbach, CAE

Dear AAPM&R Colleague:

Your Academy (AAPM&R) understands the time and financial burden Maintenance of Certification® (MOC®) requirements place on physiatrists. For the past 3 years, we have been actively advocating for a more meaningful, less arduous and less costly process on your behalf to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (ABPMR). This includes testifying to the ABMS Board of Directors and numerous meetings and phone calls with ABPMR leadership, voicing the frustration of our members. Despite all these efforts, we are not satisfied with the progress. We have identified specific opportunities for the ABPMR to make changes right now. AAPM&R wants to reiterate and clarify our stance on MOC.

- ABPMR and AAPM&R are **separate organizations**.
 - The ABPMR/ABMS sets certification and MOC requirements. Once those requirements are set, AAPM&R determines how it can support members in meeting the requirements successfully.
- **AAPM&R (Academy)** believes Board certification should not be a criterion for medical licensing nor a sole criterion for credentialing and/or privileging.
- **AAPM&R does not support MOC in its current structure.**
- We urge ABPMR to **immediately discontinue** the high stakes and expensive Part III exam.
- We urge ABPMR to **immediately suspend** Part IV/PIP.
- We support the **rapid implementation** of a longitudinal formative assessment in lieu of Parts II, III, IV.
- Implementation of the revised structure must:



- **be meaningful and demonstrate value** for physiatrists.
- **reduce the financial burden** on all physiatrists.
- **provide a path** for those who are currently MOC III eligible to transition so they are not penalized.

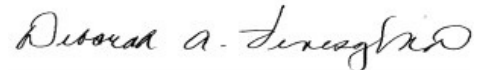
We urge you to join the Academy in advocating for changes by **contacting the American Board of PM&R** at office@abpmr.org or by calling (507) 282-1776.

Sincerely,

AAPM&R Board of Governors



Darryl L. Kaelin, MD,
FAAPMR
President



Deborah A. Venesy, MD,
FAAPMR
Secretary



Peter C. Esselman, MD,
FAAPMR
President-Elect



Jonathan Finnoff, DO,
FAAPMR
Treasurer



Michelle S. Gittler, MD,
FAAPMR
Vice President



Steve R. Geiringer, MD,
FAAPMR
Past President



Amy J. Houtrow, MD, PhD,
MPH, FAAPMR
Member-at-Large



D.J. Kennedy, MD,
FAAPMR
Member-at-Large



Robert J. Rinaldi, MD,
FAAPMR
Member-at-Large



Charlotte H. Smith, MD,
FAAPMR
Member-at-Large



Steven R. Flanagan, MD,
FAAPMR
Medical Education
Committee



Scott R. Laker, MD,
FAAPMR
Quality, Practice, Policy,
and Research Committee



Michael Saffir, MD,
FAAPMR
Membership Committee