



American Board of Family Medicine, Inc.

Policy for External Collaborations with the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) Research Department

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the ABFM is to promote excellence in medical care through educational and scientific initiatives. Through certification and Maintenance of Certification (MOC) programs the ABFM pursues its mission by establishing, maintaining, and measuring high standards of excellence in the specialty of Family Medicine. The primary research mission of the ABFM is to investigate the association between participation in MOC and the quality of health care delivered by ABFM diplomates. The ABFM Research Department has an ambitious internal agenda but remains open to collaboration with external investigators to further the mission of the ABFM. Any proposal for external collaboration should focus on MOC and the quality of health care and also consider social determinants of health whenever possible. However, other projects that are highly relevant to the specialty of family medicine will be considered based on their merits.

ABFM Policy on Data Sharing

The ABFM values the privacy and sensitive nature of our diplomates' data. To protect our diplomates' privacy any analyses requiring our proprietary data will be conducted in-house by a member of our research team in collaboration with external partners.

ABFM Policy on Authorship

As one of our team will be conducting a significant portion of the analyses, authorship for that person will be expected. Further, to ensure ABFM data are being accurately represented in the scientific literature, any publication using ABFM data must be reviewed by the ABFM prior to submission.

APPLICATION PROCESS

First, submit a 1-2 page executive summary of the proposed project to lpeterson@theabfm.org. Please detail project objectives, the relationship to MOC, and the need for ABFM data. Second, proposals will be vetted monthly by the Research Department. If the Department believes the proposed project aligns with our objectives, interests, and resources we will then request a more detailed proposal that must contain a detailed budget; note sources of funding sought or assured, if applicable; note a target date for completion of the project; agree, in writing, to abide by the applicable ABFM policies and procedures; and submit a written summary or evaluation at the end of the project.

If you would like to discuss any possible collaborations, or if you have any questions regarding this policy please email the ABFM Research Director, Lars Peterson, MD, PhD, at lpeterson@theabfm.org.