

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Enhancing Family Medicine Through Leadership Development and Education

As we near the end of another year, I hope that you and your family are doing well. We know this is a busy time for everyone, so we are taking this opportunity to share a few recent updates and enhancements that you may find beneficial as you complete your certification requirements and look to the start of a new year.

In this issue of the Phoenix, you'll learn about new certification activities. These include new Pain Medicine and Musculoskeletal Knowledge Self-Assessment activities, a new Health Administration, Leadership, and Management Certificate of Added Qualification currently in development, and a new Performance Improvement activity with a focus on augmented intelligence and machine learning. In addition, we're excited to release our first edition of the Family Medicine Factbook.



Warren Newton, MD, MPH
President and CEO

There are several recent leadership development announcements to recognize, including the [National Academy of Medicine \(NAM\) 2023 James C. Puffer/ABFM Fellows](#), as well as the 2023 class of [Pisacano Scholars](#) – a diverse group of remarkable young physicians doing important work. And just recently, ABFM Board Chair Dr. Gerardo Moreno was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. In an interview with Drs. Bob Phillips, Lauren Hughes, and June-Ho Kim, we share more about the [Essential Role of Primary Health Care for Health Security and Securing Health Conference](#) held in Washington, DC, this summer. Approximately 150 attendees from more than 20 countries attended to share ideas on implementing fit-for-purpose primary health care, encouraging partnerships with public health, promoting global health security, and improving health equity.

As part of our Health Equity in Action series, we'll share recent stories highlighted during Hispanic Heritage Month. These include a language concordance study developed through the ABFM Research Department with Pisacano Scholars, which analyzes the use of the Spanish language in hospital settings, and a focus on Dr. Emiliano Lemus, a family medicine resident in San Francisco serving Latine and LGBTQ patients. We are pleased to share these stories here, and we look forward to highlighting more unique stories of family physicians serving diverse communities across the country. Family physicians serve many different communities – ABFM honors both the commitment to service and leadership, as we learn from the variety of causes and communities that family physicians commit to.

Thank you for all you do.

Warren Newton, MD, MPH
President and CEO

Certification Updates

NEW! Pain Medicine Knowledge Self-Assessment

The new Pain Medicine Knowledge Self-Assessment activity is now available and can be accessed in your [MyABFM Portfolio](#). This activity focuses on:

- Diagnosing chronic pain syndromes in family medicine
- Identifying pharmacologic appropriate therapy for specific conditions including painful diabetic neuropathy, osteoarthritis, trigeminal neuralgia, and fibromyalgia
- Describing the use of active modalities such as exercise and physical therapy in the treatment of chronic pain
- Recommendations for the appropriate pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic options for treatment of functional chronic pain conditions
- Indications, risks, and monitoring recommendations for long-term opioid pain medications



Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act – Individuals who need to self-report time spent training to fulfill the requirement should note that the ABFM Pains Medicine Knowledge Self-Assessment has approximately two-thirds of the 60 total questions which address the topics of appropriate opioid prescribing, substance use disorders in those with concurrent pain, effective pain treatment planning, and substance misuse. The ABFM Pain Medicine Knowledge Self-Assessment offers up to 8 credits of accredited CME. Hours reported should reflect the time spent in the activity.

NEW! Musculoskeletal Knowledge Self-Assessment

The new Musculoskeletal Knowledge Self-Assessment activity is now available and can be accessed in your [MyABFM Portfolio](#). This activity focuses on:

- Management and treatment of common conditions of the spine
- Upper and lower extremities to maximize restoration of function
- Clinical features of musculoskeletal traumatic overuse injuries

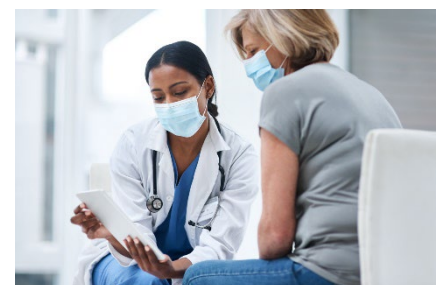


Knowledge Self-Assessment activities are worth 10 certification points each and contribute to your 3-year stage requirement.

COVID-19 Performance Improvement Activity – No Longer a Pilot

ABFM's COVID-19 Self-Directed Clinical Performance Improvement activity is now a permanent activity available in your [MyABFM Portfolio](#). This activity is an updated version of the COVID-19 Self-Directed Clinical pilot, which was phased out on June 30, 2023.

With this activity, you can share positive practice changes brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, along with supporting data with ABFM. Please note, the COVID-19 Self-Directed Clinical Performance Improvement activity requires baseline and follow-up data for the reported improvement measure.



If you still need to complete your certification requirements, log in to your [MyABFM Portfolio](#) to choose any of the new certification activities mentioned above. Performance Improvement activities are worth 20 certification points each and contribute to your 3-year stage requirement.

ABFM Releases First Edition of Its Family Medicine Factbook

ABFM is excited to present the first edition of the Family Medicine Factbook, a curated series of basic analyses intended to provide a broad perspective on family medicine and family physicians themselves.



ABFM conducts regular surveys of family physicians across multiple points in their training and practice careers, not only during and shortly after completion of residency training, but when they complete continuous certification cycles as well. Survey data have been pivotal in advancing funding for family physicians and primary care, a better understanding of the discipline and its needs, and improving patient and population health. Findings from these surveys tell us what family physicians are doing in practice, how it is changing over time, and who they are serving.

“Family Medicine is the largest primary care discipline and the physician specialty with the widest distribution and broadest scope of practice in America, and yet poorly understood in an increasingly fragmented and subspecialized health system, said ABFM Senior Vice President of Research and Policy Andrew Bazemore, MD, MPH. “The data that ABFM gathers and carefully stewards from its Diplomates, as reflected in our research and policy efforts, and this Factbook, are intended to advance understanding of our discipline and all that it can do to improve U.S. patient and population health.”

Learn more about the [Factbook](#).

NEW! Augmented Intelligence and Machine Learning Performance Improvement Activity

ABFM is proud to announce a new Performance Improvement activity related to augmented intelligence and machine learning.

“Augmented intelligence” emphasizes a complementary role for artificial intelligence in medical practice. This new activity provides a mechanism for meeting your Performance Improvement requirement by sharing ways you are using rapidly emerging technologies of augmented intelligence and machine learning in your practice or setting, regardless of your practice type or scope. A major focus of large health systems has been to use AI to reduce administrative burden for family physicians by helping with inbox management, prior authorization, and transcription, but we are interested in supporting all the ways family physicians are using augmented intelligence to improve care.



The Augmented Intelligence and Machine Learning Self-Directed Clinical Pilot Performance Improvement activity is now available in your [MyABFM Portfolio](#).

NEW! Health Care Administration, Leadership and Management CAQ Available October 2024

ABFM is a co-sponsoring board of the new subspecialty certification in Health Care Administration, Leadership, and Management (HALM). This new Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ), with a 5-year continuing certification cycle, is currently in development and the first qualifying exam will be offered in November 2024. This CAQ will focus on areas such as health care value, finance, population and community health, human resources, quality and patient safety, governance, regulation, change management and communication skills, professionalism, and health information technology.



The HALM CAQ will recognize physicians with significant leadership responsibility in a variety of settings including health systems, large medical groups, community practices, academic health centers, and health policy organizations. It will allow physician leaders to:

- Tailor their continuing family medicine certification to their current job responsibilities
- Provide a pathway to prepare up and coming organizational leaders for expanded leadership roles
- Provide portability of a leadership credential to different systems and settings

For the first seven years of the certificate, a “practice-only” pathway will be available to physicians with at least 36 months of verifiable leadership and management job experience. Family physicians with MBAs, MHAs, fellowship in the American College of Physician Executives or the American Academy of Physician Leadership, or training in certain longitudinal health system leadership programs may be eligible to take the HALM examination after 24 months of verifiable leadership and management job experience. In the future, graduates of Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) fellowships will also be eligible to take the examination.

As with all CAQs, family physicians are required to maintain their family medicine certification and many HALM CAQ activities will count towards certification requirements.

More information about the HALM CAQ will be provided in the coming months.

ABFM Board Chair Gerardo Moreno, MD, MSHS, Elected to the National Academy of Medicine

ABFM is pleased to announce the [election of Gerardo Moreno, MD, MSHS, to the National Academy of Medicine \(NAM\)](#). Dr. Moreno, chair of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Department of Family Medicine and professor at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, also serves as chair of the ABFM Board of Directors and was previously selected as NAM’s 2015-2017 Puffer/ABFM Fellow. The 90 new regular members and 10 new international members were named during NAM’s annual meeting earlier this month. Election to the Academy is considered one of the highest honors in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service. Learn more about this [recognition](#).



Gerardo Moreno, MD, MSHS
ABFM Board Chair

ABFM Stories of Family Medicine

Can We Better Serve Our Hispanic Patients Through Language Concordance?

The United States grows more diverse with each passing year, but is that diversity reflected in the care provided by the family medicine community? The United States Hispanic population grew to more than 62 million individuals in 2020, a 25% increase in 10 years. In that time span, the number of practicing Spanish-speaking family physicians has remained relatively stagnant, creating a disparity of care for those with limited English proficiency (LEP).

In recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month, The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) is sharing results from a recent study which analyzed language concordance among Spanish-speaking family physicians and their patients. Their findings may provide a foundation for more balanced patient care moving forward.



Andrea Banuelos, MD
2020 Pisacano Scholar

The “Practice and Characteristics of Board-Certified Family Physicians Who Provide Care in Spanish” study was crafted over an 18-month period by two Pisacano Scholars, Drs. Alberto Ortega and Andrea Banuelos Mota, Center for Professionalism and Value in Health Care (CPV) leadership, ABFM Board Chair Dr. Gerardo Moreno, and Robert Graham Center Director Dr. Yalda Jabbarpour.

“The fact that the number of family physicians who provide care in Spanish is not increasing tells me that, as a specialty, we need to enhance our recruitment and retention efforts for physicians who provide care in Spanish,” said Dr. Andrea Banuelos, a California-based family medicine resident and 2020 Pisacano Scholar who took part in the study. To read the full article, visit [ABFM’s Stories of Family Medicine](#).

Dr. Emiliano Lemus Advocates for Trans and Latine Communities in San Francisco

Throughout the year, ABFM has shone a spotlight on marginalized patient populations and the physicians who serve them. For October, at the intersection of Hispanic Heritage Month and LGBTQ+ History Month, we spoke with Dr. Emiliano Lemus (they/él).

“I was raised in a family and community where people weren’t accessing health care due to language barriers, documentation barriers, and the fear that seeking health care could lead to deportation,” Dr. Lemus said. “These days, two-thirds of my patients are Spanish-speaking immigrants. Probably half of them are undocumented, and I’m grateful to provide care and have a family history where I can understand some of my patients’ personal struggles.”



Emiliano Lemus, MD
2021 Pisacano Scholar

To read the full article, visit [ABFM’s Stories of Family Medicine](#).

From AAFP: Help Build a Best-in-Class Compensation Comparison Tool for Family Physicians

Help the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) build a robust career benchmark dashboard by completing a [short, completely anonymous survey](#) about compensation and work experience. AAFP members will be able to compare their salary, benefits and work satisfaction with that of family medicine peers. Users will be able to filter the data by state, gender, practice setting, or other factors to gauge how their compensation and work environment stack up. After completing the survey, share the link with your colleagues: www.aafp.org/worth.



Important Dates and Deadlines

Upcoming Exam Dates		
Family Medicine:	Spring: April 9-26, 2024 (excluding Sundays)	
Adolescent Medicine:	Spring: April 2, 2024 (Initial Certification)	Jan 22 – Sept 30, 2024 (Continuing Certification)
Geriatric Medicine:	Fall: November 21, 2024 (Initial Certification and Continuing Certification)	
Hospice & Palliative Medicine:	November 6, 2024 (Initial Certification and Continuing Certification)	
Pain Medicine:	Spring: September 28, 2024 (Initial Certification)	
Sleep Medicine:	October 10, 2024 (Initial Certification and Continuing Certification)	
Sports Medicine:	Summer: July 9-13, 2024 (Initial Certification and Continuing Certification)	
Family Medicine Certification Longitudinal Assessment Deadlines		
FMCLA 2023 Quarter 4 Deadline: December 31, 2023		
Longitudinal Assessment Deadlines for Added Qualifications		
Adolescent Medicine	Participation begins mid-January 2024	
Geriatric Medicine	Participation begins early January 2024	
Hospital and Palliative Medicine	Participation begins early January 2024	
Pain Medicine	Participation begins mid-January 2024	
Sleep Medicine	Participation begins early January 2024	
Certification Deadline		
Three-Year Stage End 2023	December 31, 2023	