



American Osteopathic Board of Pediatrics

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Change

Webster's defines change as "to make or become different." Well, much change has occurred within the AOBP over the past several years. It begins with the development, appearance and content of this website. There is much information available to you ranging from applications, to exam dates and sites to an explanation of the complicated certification process. You can even review the Bylaws of the AOBP which have undergone extensive revision.

Those of you who have taken your certification and recertification exams over the past two years have experienced the change in our exams, hopefully for the better. The exams have been completely re-written and re-formatted. Information has been deleted, revised and updated. Items now reflect one correct answer providing a more accurate, efficient and effective means to test knowledge and the comprehension and application of that knowledge. The Board has created an item bank and 2010 will mark the first time the item bank software will be used to create our examinations. New written exams have been created in the sub-specialties of neonatology, adolescent medicine and allergy/immunology. New oral examinations have been developed for pulmonary medicine and endocrinology. A new job task analysis survey has been completed by osteopathic pediatricians and a new table of specifications will be generated from that survey. This will change the distribution of items used on the general pediatric exams to reflect what the general osteopathic pediatrician does in their practice today.

The Board has worked very hard to insure that the validity and security of the exam process meets the stringent standards established by the Standards Review Committee of the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialties. Frankly, we have done well. Last year the AOBP was found to be in compliance with all exam standards for general pediatrics and all of the sub-specialties certified by this Board. This is a very important achievement for the entire AOBP membership as it assures the excellence and quality of the osteopathic certification process in Pediatrics based upon accepted national standards.

In 2009, the board reduced the size of the general pediatric exams by twenty percent. Our plan is to administer the exams in a single day and reduce the travel expenses incurred by our candidates. In fact, if all goes as planned, we hope to offer our exams at computerized national testing centers in the near future. We are working closely with the NBOME in order to make this happen.

In 2008, the Board recommended that the certificate term be extended from seven to ten years. This was approved by the BOS this past April and it is expected that the AOA Board of Trustees will also approve the change. Candidates passing the exam in 2009 will be issued a time dated certificate which expires on December 31, 2019. All time limited certificates issued before 2009 will expire on December 31st seven years after the date of issue.

Many more changes will be forthcoming and very soon. You will be hearing much more about Osteopathic Continuous Certification. This new process will fundamentally change the way all osteopathic pediatricians maintain their certification. I plan to publish a detailed explanation of the process on this website soon. I also intend to mail this information to our membership by the end of 2009.

I hope to see you soon at the AOA/ACOP convention in New Orleans. Please stop me if you have comments or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fernando Gonzalez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "F" and "G".

Fernando Gonzalez, D.O., FACOP
Chairman, AOBP