Message from the Chair

Ruth Lim, MD – Chair, American Board of Nuclear Medicine

Dear ABNM Diplomates,

I hope that you and your loved ones have continued to stay safe and healthy since our last issue of Tracers. The rollercoasters of the pandemic, natural disasters, and humanitarian crises continue to churn around us. Hopefully our professional communities can provide some grounding and support as we navigate these challenges. Those who depend on you are grateful, whether it’s expressed or not, so do take a moment to feel proud of all that you do.

In-training Nuclear Medicine physicians face their own unique challenges, and the ABNM is pleased to have updated its Leave Policy for trainees. Details of the policy can be found on the ABNM website, which also includes an FAQs sheet. As in the past, the ABNM continues to support the use of an individual educational plan in situations requiring compensation for lost educational time.

In other exciting news, the ABNM’s transition to a new question database system is well underway. The first noticeable change will be the conversion of the In-Training Examination (ITE) from paper to electronic delivery beginning in 2022. We hope that this change will lead to not only an improved experience for trainees, program directors, and ABNM staff, but it will also be one step toward greener operations and a smaller carbon footprint.

The ABNM recently “met” for our 105th Board Meeting, which was the third meeting to be conducted remotely due to Covid-19. One of the more meaningful tasks during the meeting was the selection of new board members. This year, we received 28 nominations for 3 open positions. The nominees were all exceptionally talented, highly qualified individuals from the U.S. and Canada. We conducted detailed, thoughtful discussions, and nonetheless found it very challenging to narrow the list of nominees to only 3 names. For the nominees who were not selected this cycle, please be assured that this result is not a reflection of your ability or accomplishments. The needs of the board are dynamic: changing based on the expertise and demographics of the out-going members. We strive for a board membership that mirrors the characteristics of our diplomates, and that possesses expertise in the entire range of nuclear medicine sub-topics. As such, our selection process is based predominantly on balancing the board’s composition rather than selecting nominees with the most impressive CVs. We are looking forward to welcoming our 3 newest members in February and extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who made the effort to submit their nominations. Your contributions to our specialty are recognized and valued.

In closing, I share with you my hope that we will be in a position to meet in person again in the coming months. Until that time arrives, we will continue to make the most of things while wishing good health to our diplomates and their loved ones.

Ruth Lim, MD
Chair