Message from the Chair

Gholam Reza Berenji, MD – Chair, American Board of Nuclear Medicine

Dear ABNM Diplomates

I hope that you and your loved ones have had a safe, healthy, and restful summer. After two years of travel restrictions and limits on group activities, we welcome the gradual return to in-person family and academic engagements. In July 2022, ABNM also took advantage of the lifted restrictions and conducted the 107th Board meeting in person, which afforded us the pleasure to finally meet and greet the new board members who joined us the past two years: Drs. Ponisio, Bodei, Lai, and Osman.

Earlier this year, the FDA approval of 177Lu-PSMA, along with the nationwide expansion of PSMA imaging, have opened up exciting and momentous horizons in the practice of Nuclear Medicine. The Board is very excited about these emerging practice opportunities, which will raise interest in our field and boost recruitment.

During the 107th ABNM meeting, we successfully utilized our new database, which allowed real-time assessment and editing of new questions during review sessions by exam subcommittees. This yielded better efficiency and more accurate editing on-the-fly, which immensely reduced the administrative workload for ABNM staff. Additionally, this meeting afforded the first opportunity for the newly formed exam subcommittees to meet in person and review questions. Our restructuring of exam subcommittees from 9 to 12 groups proved to be very practical and streamlined our questions review process. New to this meeting was a CertLink®-specific session to review and discuss new questions and poll all board members. This helped us provide high-quality questions for next year’s longitudinal assessments. We hope to continue similar CertLink reviews in upcoming board meetings.

During the July meeting, the Board also discussed new ABMS requirements for MOC and recertification, including necessary modifications for compliance. We will share details of these changes in the coming months.

In this year’s annual reunion dinner, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the ABNM in Vancouver. It was a well-attended event by our board members, including SNMMI leadership. ABNM staff also attended the SNMMI annual meeting and connected with participants at the ABNM exhibit hall booth. Additionally, the ABNM executive committee met with SNMMI leadership to discuss updates on CME requirements, workforce pipeline, and therapeutic training and was brought abreast of the new SNMMI initiative for the Nuclear Oncology fellowship.

In closing, I would like to thank our board members, and the ABNM Staff, Drs. Segall and Frey, Maria Watts, Patrick Murphy, and Monica Frye, for their excellent and enduring support during these challenging times. These efforts resulted in the seamless operation of ABNM in the past two years. I also take this opportunity to thank all diplomates and wish you a safe and healthy rest of the year.

Gholam Reza Berenji, MD
Chair