Volunteer Spotlight

In this Volunteer Spotlight, we’d like to introduce you to Stephen Simoneaux, MD, a diagnostic radiologist at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Emory University, who has volunteered for the ABR for more than 10 years. During that time, Dr. Simoneaux has been an image asset coordinator for pediatric radiology, an oral examiner, and an item writer for the CAQ (subspecialty) exam and the MOC exam. He has also served on the Category Steering Committee, as chair of the CAQ (Subspecialty) Committee, and on the Written Exam Committee-all in pediatric radiology. Years ago, he was also a proctor for the written exam.

When asked about his motives, Dr. Simoneaux said that volunteering for the ABR offers many rewards: opportunities to meet radiologists from other disciplines; the challenge of writing questions that are clearly understood, useful in discriminating between candidates, and interesting; an opportunity for service to the public by evaluating candidates for board certification; and a chance to impact the field of radiology for years to come by enhancing asset and item development for the board. He particularly enjoys meeting other radiologists and seeing interesting cases.

Dr. Simoneaux understands the unique contribution that volunteer service makes to advancement of the ABR mission. The content expertise that volunteers share in the process of serving could never be provided by any other means. It makes the process of candidate evaluation possible, and it ensures that quality exam materials will be available for future exam developers.

With respect to changes in the ABR exams, Dr. Simoneaux stated, “I am saddened to see the demise of the oral exam. The reasons for its replacement I understand, but selfishly, I will miss the collegiality of the interactions in the category and panel meetings, the casual interactions over afternoon cookies, and the reminiscing over the day’s activities during the evening social hour and the following dinner.”