

The Diplomat Review

President's Message

Becoming a Trustee - the future of the ABCS.

In October, the ABCS will be conducting its strategic planning meeting. Here, ideas of the future will be created and vetted. Our strengths and weaknesses evaluated. Our energy and actions properly directed.

One action the board has elected to take now is a change in its bylaws to give you the opportunity to participate at a greater level.

Many diplomates have voiced a desire or inquired about having greater involvement with the board. To that end, effective immediately, any ABCS diplomate in good standing, may self nominate him or herself to the Board of Trustees.

With your self nomination, include a statement as to why you should be considered, what you offer to the board, and any ideas and thoughts you have that would strengthen your candidacy.

Furthermore, current Trustees who are eligible for an additional term will also submit a statement for consideration to serve an additional term.

With this change, it is the Boards goal to motivate and raise leaders within our organization to positions of action. New faces, new thoughts, greater actions, greater results. Be a part of it and nominate yourself today.

Submit all self nominations to the ABCS Board of Trustees to the [home office](#).

Samir Pancholi, DO

Be Proud!

One of the simplest and easiest ways to boost the credibility and relevance of your certification is to link your website to the ABCS website.



Ask your webmaster to place our logo on your website and link it to www.americanboardcosmeticsurgery.org

September 2014



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Online Payment System

To help you make your life a little easier, you can now pay your dues online!

Simply go to www.americanboardcosmeticsurgery.org, click on Surgeons: Join Us, select Member Login, then choose Pay Your ABCS Membership Dues after logging in.

This will also be a great time to update your profile.

For those of you desiring to pay by check, you may continue to send them to the home office!



EXAMINATION 2014

CERTIFYING EXAM DALLAS, TX

Application Deadline

- April 1, 2014

Oral Examination

- October 18, 2014

Written Examination

- October 19, 2014

Maintenance of Certification Examination

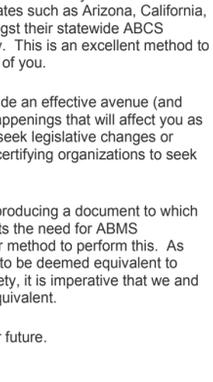
- October 19, 2014

[Full Examination Details](#)

Featured Diplomat: Suzan Obagi, MD

If you were to have a career in something other than medicine what would that be?

It's an interesting question and one that I ask myself from time to time. I think I have been truly blessed to be doing what I absolutely love in a practice comprised of patients that make each day enjoyable. The main thing, whether I am doing surgery, injecting neuromodulators & fillers, and using my lasers, is that I have come to the conclusion that I love doing things with my hands. I think this is why I enjoy gardening and watching my hard work turn into a beautiful garden. However, I don't think I would pursue another career outside of my current one but I would pursue more of these activities that allow me to express my creative side.



You have been actively involved teaching cosmetic surgery fellows, dermatology residents, and plastic surgery residents. What do you feel is vital for your graduates to possess/understand to have success as they start a new practice?

I have been involved in teaching since I completed my fellowship. I have taught 8 fellows and numerous residents through these 15 years. It is an absolute given that proper training is essential to one's success. However, one of the things that strikes me is that no matter how talented they are or well trained they are, there is a certain fear or a type of intimidation that occurs when they go out on their own. This comes about due to the realities of setting up a practice and actively managing the business aspect of a medical practice. Success comes from understanding the market you are opening in, the types of patients in this area, and the best devices to introduce into your practice early on. I think the medical education system does not do an adequate job in teaching us the "business" of medicine. I encourage all residents and fellows to pay attention to the details of a well-run office and to attend lectures and courses that discuss the management side as well.

Your training and practice places a significant emphasis on surgical procedures compared to that of many of your dermatology colleagues. How has this helped and/or hurt your relationships with them and/or competing specialties?

When I opened our first center in Pittsburgh, people thought that we would not succeed due to the large number of local dermatologists and the incorrect perception that Pittsburgh patients were not interested in cosmetic surgery, neuromodulators, and fillers. Through the years, I have lectured to our local dermatologists at our local society meetings and I have always been open in teaching them fillers and neuromodulators if they were interested. Through this collaboration, many doctors send us patients for cosmetic surgery and laser procedures for conditions that they do not treat. We have had a nice collaboration as well with our oculoplastic, facial plastic, and general plastic surgeons.

What do you find to be most rewarding about practicing cosmetic surgery?

It may sound cliché, but the true joy I see is the transformation that takes place in the patient's self-confidence after we have addressed an issue that has bothered them for years. It can be as basic as resurfacing someone's skin and seeing the joy on their face as they get compliments for the first time in their lives!

What value do you find from your ABCS certification?

I have always felt that it was a must to be board certified by the American Board of Cosmetic Surgery in addition to my primary board in dermatology. ABCS certification shows that I have taken extra steps, extra training, and put in an extra effort to stand out as someone well trained in cosmetic surgery. Furthermore, I am a perfectionist and a perpetual student thus it was only logical to seek certification.

Suzan Obagi, MD serves at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center as an Associate Professor of Dermatology, Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery, and the Director of the UPMC Cosmetic Surgery and Skin Health Center.

GETTING RECOGNIZED

As we look forward to increasing the number of states with which the ABCS is deemed ABMS equivalent, we look to you, our membership, to lead the way in your state.

Of initial importance is the banding together of ABCS diplomates within your state to provide for a unified voice and power in numbers. Many states such as Arizona, California, and Texas have formalized the collegial relationships amongst their statewide ABCS diplomates by forming a state academy of cosmetic surgery. This is an excellent method to be collectively present when there is a concern affecting all of you.

Secondly, preferably as group, securing a lobbyist will provide an effective avenue (and more affordable as well) to keeping apprised of political happenings that will affect you as an ABCS diplomate. It will also allow the group to actively seek legislative changes or legislative introductions for the ABCS and similar qualified certifying organizations to seek ABMS equivalency.

To assist our diplomates in doing so, the ABCS is actively producing a document to which you may present to your lobbyist to which concisely presents the need for ABMS equivalency for boards such as the ABCS and a pathway or method to perform this. As allowing recognition of certifying boards such as the ABCS to be deemed equivalent to ABMS boards does nothing short of maintaining public safety, it is imperative that we and other similar boards be represented as nothing less than equivalent.

We look forward to your active participation in the very near future.

Starting a Fellowship?...Get Help

To receive assistance in starting an American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery (AACCS) approved fellowship, contact the AACCS at 312.981.6760 or reach them [here](#).

Employment Opportunities

Cosmetic Surgeon – Bellevue, WA or Fresno, CA

Athenix Body Sculpting Institute, www.AthenixBody.com, is seeking a motivated, Board Certified Cosmetic Surgeon for our fully accredited surgery center in Bellevue, WA or Fresno, CA.

We are a leading provider of elective cosmetic surgery procedures that is rapidly expanding and preparing to open new locations throughout the Western U.S.

Our practice is focused on body sculpting offering a range of both surgical and non-surgical treatment options for our patients. Our surgeons perform a significant number of body contouring procedures such as liposuction and abdominoplasty using advanced techniques and technologies. We also perform a complete range of breast augmentation and enhancement procedures.

Most importantly, we are committed to our values of safety and outstanding patient outcomes. Our practice is all about the satisfaction of our patients and employees; we are seeking a Surgeon with the same values.

Ideal Candidate

Board Certified Cosmetic Surgeon - The ideal candidate will possess both outstanding communication skills and surgical skills to perform surgery and build a practice as if it were their own. He or she will also have superior communication skills to build long term relationships with patients and staff. The ability to bond with patients is a must. Our surgeons are committed to delivering beautiful patient outcomes and an overall positive experience with our practice. The ideal candidate will also embrace innovation with the objective of advancing patient outcomes,

safely. The ideal candidate enjoys performing surgery and creating happy patients, but doesn't want the headaches or responsibility associated with the administrative aspect of running a practice.

Compensation

Our compensation plan is very competitive and surgeons are able to make a substantial income without the headaches, overhead, and financial risk of managing a practice. They can enjoy a healthy personal and work life balance.

Contact:

James Haefner,
Athenix Body Sculpting Institute
Jhaefner@athenixbody.com
949.600.9931

Practice Opportunities

The ABCS is proud to present a medium for those seeking ABCS certified surgeons and ABCS certified surgeons seeking employment opportunities to get together.

Just email the following information to ambrdcs1@sbcglobal.net and we will have your opportunity posted next month!

Have an Opportunity?

- Practice Description
- Specific Qualification?
- Contact person
- Contact phone number
- Contact email
- Location

Desire an Opportunity?

- Surgical Focus
- Years in Practice
- Fellowship training?
- Contact phone number
- Contact email
- Location

Questions or comments? Email us at ambrdcs1@sbcglobal.net or call 219.836.8585.