The American Board of Neurological Surgery, Inc.  
Member Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties

The Mission of the ABNS is to improve public health care by developing and executing a sequence of certification activities to improve and maintain the educational and professional standards of neurological surgery.

The broad aim of the ABNS is to encourage the study, improve the practice, elevate the standards, and advance the science of neurological surgery, and thereby to serve the cause of public health.

ABNS Welcomes two new Directors to the Board

Judy Huang, MD, is Vice Chair of Neurosurgery, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Director, Department of Neurosurgery and Director of Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery, Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, Director, Neurosurgery Residency Program, Director, Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery Fellowship Program, Co-Director, Multidisciplinary Adult Cranioplasty Center, Co-Director, Chiari Center and Professor of Neurosurgery

Richard W. Byrne, MD is the Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Rush University. Dr. Byrne is The Roger C. Bone, MD, Presidential Professor, Rush Medical Center, Professor of Neurosurgery at the Rush Medical College and the Medical Director for Rush University.

New Requirement for Becoming & Remaining Board Eligible!

Neurosurgeons who complete training on or after June 30, 2021, will be required to register in the ABNS POST system prior to graduation from an ACGME approved residency training program. They must also submit 10 cases through ABNS POST within six (6) months of competing residency or approved fellowship. These cases will be reviewed to make sure they are entered properly and to assess for red flags. These cases may be used as the first ten cases in the candidate case log submission but do not have to be used as such.

ABNS RFP applications available on line!

ABNS RFP

ABNS RFP EXAMS will be offered on Friday, November 6, 2020

Neuroanatomy Exam for PGY 2 residents

The ABNS Neuroanatomy exam was released to all PGY2 residents the week of July 13th. All PGY2 residents are expected to complete this exam by the end of January 2021. The examination is based on the Rhoton Atlas (freely available to all residents) and two atlases will be provided by all programs to their residents. Residents have four attempts to pass the examination. Depending on the results achieved, the ABNS will decide how best to incorporate the examination into the certification process.
ABNS ORAL EXAMS to be conducted virtually

Due to the COVID 19 crisis, the ABNS was forced to cancel all in-person examinations for 2020. All candidates who were scheduled to take the spring oral exam have been extended an invitation to test virtually this fall. We are planning a mock virtual oral examination for early August which should allow us plenty of time to make adjustments prior to the first exam session that is scheduled to take place on Friday, October 30th. The goal will be to examine more than 200 candidates.

Is the inclusion of candidate cases in the oral exam proving successful?

Since inclusion of a case review session in the oral examination, the pass rate has ranged from 78.7-85.1%. Prior to the use of the case review, passing rates ranged from 80.7-93%. Following the 2019 fall examination, the ABNS hired a statistician to evaluate examiner and case severity specific to the use of candidate cases and the overall performance of the exam. By including candidates’ cases, the study revealed that the overall examiner reliability indices improved and there is greater measurement precision.

Contact us at:

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