Report to the GLAO Board of Directors

American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) Update

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Board Representation and Future Nomination Process

My term on the American Board of Orthodontics (ABO) Board of Directors will conclude in May 2028. The Great Lakes Association of Orthodontists (GLAO) will be responsible for identifying and submitting three to five director nominees by Fall 2027. The ABO will interview the nominees and select the next director from among those candidates.

The ABO offers several opportunities for members to contribute to the specialty while enhancing their professional development, including:

- Examiners and Consultants
- Practice Analysis Panel Members
- Directors
- ABO Ambassadors

Members interested in serving, or those wishing to recommend qualified colleagues, are encouraged to contact me directly.

ABO Awards

The GLAO is encouraged to identify and nominate deserving colleagues for the following ABO awards:

Ketcham Award

Recognizes individuals who have made notable contributions to the science and art of orthodontics.

Wade Award

Recognizes exemplary senior clinicians and board-certified orthodontists for clinical excellence and/or teaching.

Each constituency may submit one nomination per award. Eligibility criteria and nomination details are available through the ABO Awards website.

Examination Updates

2025-2026 Examination Results

Examination	Examinees	Pass Rate
Written Examination (April 2026)	460	95%
Scenario-Based Clinical Examination (September 2025)	482	79%

2026 Clinical Examination

The Clinical Examination was administered on September 16, 2026, with 512 registered candidates. This represents the highest clinical examination registration in ABO history.

Pathway Program and ABO Ambassadors

The ABO Ambassador Program continues to expand its outreach efforts. Key accomplishments include:

- 75 presentations delivered to date.
- More than 50 orthodontic programs have requested presentations.
- Program directors and chairs may request presentations through their ABO accounts.
- Two presentation formats are available:
  - *The Pathway to Board Certification: Overview*
  - *The Pathway to Board Certification: Clinical Examination*
- Virtual presentations are available to all registered examinees before each examination administration.
- ABO Ambassadors represent every constituency and participate in annual in-person training provided by the ABO.

Questions regarding the program may be directed to Nicole Huson, Certification Coordinator.

Certification Renewal Modernization

The ABO is advancing a comprehensive modernization of its certification renewal process. This initiative is informed by research, member survey feedback, and changes occurring throughout healthcare and dental specialties, while remaining focused on lifelong learning.

The revised approach centers on four strategic priorities:

1. Continuous Learning
2. Technology
3. Flexibility

4. Value and Engagement

Introducing MyABO

A major component of the certification renewal redesign is the introduction of **MyABO**, a new framework built around three pillars:

- Clinical Advancement
- Innovative and Patient-Centered Care
- Professional Excellence

Key Change

The most significant change is the transition from a traditional **10-year recertification model centered on a high-stakes pass/fail examination** to a **5-year self-directed continuous learning journey**.

This new approach:

- Utilizes shared educational resources with the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO).
- Emphasizes professional growth and development rather than periodic testing.
- Reflects member feedback.
- Aligns with trends across medical and dental specialty boards that are moving toward continuous learning and competency-based professional development.

Member Feedback Supporting Change

Survey results indicate strong member support for modernization:

- 82% support a more flexible, competency-based renewal process.
- 91% believe continuous learning is essential to delivering high-quality patient care.

Current Development Activities

The ABO has entered the development and implementation phase, which includes:

- Finalizing program components.
- Contracting with a new technology platform.
- Developing a competency-based framework.
- Aligning processes with current best practices.
- Continuing stakeholder engagement through focus groups and pilot programs.

Communication and Member Engagement

Board-certified orthodontists are encouraged to stay informed through ABO communications and social media channels. The ABO continues to promote its **“Behind the Smile” Orthodontist Spotlight Series**, which has been a successful member engagement initiative. Members interested in participating may submit their information through the ABO's online application form.