



WELCOME BACK

THIS IS THE FIRST NEWSLETTER OF THE ABOP. LITIGATION THE PAST FEW YEARS HAS LIMITED OUR ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH OUR DIPLOMATES, BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AGAIN AND LEARN HOW IMPORTANT ABOP IS TO THE PROFESSION, TO OUR PATIENTS AND TO OURSELVES. LET'S UTILIZE THIS NEWSLETTER TO TALK ABOUT OUR PUBLICATION AND OUR BOARD. DON'T FORGET TO USE THE ABOP FORUM FOR DISCUSSIONS.

From the President

To the outgoing team:

Tony Schwartz has served as president of ABOP for nearly the past 5 years. As a previous president (2010-2012), he was asked to return when litigation challenged the integrity and existence of the Board. His leadership, devotion and fortitude of character took us through to where we are today. Tony is stepping down as president and will now be both immediate past president and liaison for handling the appeal by our adversaries, as the judge ruled strongly against them, but they continue an appeal. In addition, there are no words to thank Eva, his partner in life and in ABOP. Eva is a consummate professional when it comes to organizational law and regulations, working with several entities in the state of Maryland. Her credentials are impeccable and seeing how we were in dire straits, stepped up pro bono to become our executive director. Without either we would not have Tony, without both we would not have ABOP. Eva will continue as our pro bono Executive Director. Many thanks also to Laduni Akinpelu, who has assisted Eva with our IT needs, among other responsibilities.



Jeff Okeson now steps down as our immediate past president to enjoy the rolling bluegrass hills of Kentucky. He also served for the same period of time as did Tony. His time as president and his advice and counsel as immediate past president accounts for nearly 7 years of service to this Board. There are no words capable of expressing our gratitude to Jeff.

Board members rotating off this year are



Tony Schwartz Immediate Past President, Reny de Leeuw, President Elect, Gary Heir, President

Vanessa Benevent, Steve Hargitai and PF Lim. Jeff Crandall will stay as liaison to ABDS, the American Board of Dental Specialties. Pete Baragona will join Jeff as

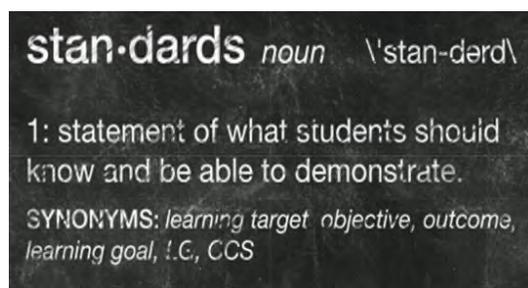
our liaisons, and a thank you to Jim Friction, who, along with Jeff Crandall have spent countless hours in making the ABDS what is has become, a respected entity in Dentistry. PF, Vanessa and Steve have served annually as proctors for our written exam and worked tremendously hard for ABOP. We thank Steve for his service in the United States Navy and all three for their service to the Board. PF rotates off from her position as treasurer. We will announce our new board members when all is finalized in the near future.

I would personally like to thank Reny de Leeuw for assuming the position of president elect. Reny, as you must all know, is the editor of the AAOP guidelines and one of our most respected members, not just of AAOP and ABOP but of the orofacial pain community. Tony and I are strengthened by her presence.

Also serving on the Board of Directors, and providing great service to ABOP, are Bernadette Jaeger, Ed Wright, Aurelio Alonso, and our Written and Oral Exam Chairs, Stan Markman and Brad Rindal.

A little history lesson:

It was 1994 when the American Board of Orofacial Pain was formed. Dentistry and especially the field of temporomandibular disorders were going through a tumultuous time. It was a period during which treatment of facial pain patients was largely anecdotal and by "what works for" me therapies. Diagnosis and treatments were based on pseudoscience and very little if any evidence. Care paths, guidelines, data, evidence; they meant little. We evolved from Costen's syndrome, occlusal disharmony, psychological disorders, myofascial pain, and a variety of treatments and diagnostic techniques, some of which burst on the scene as the panacea, only to have the life expectancy of a lightning bolt. Patients had difficulty finding consistent treatment. Data shows that the average orofacial pain patient required five years, numerous clinicians and spent thousands of dollars seeking treatment. We went through appliance therapies, occlusal adjustments, surgeries and watched our patients improve or continue to suffer without any prediction of where we were. Standards were lacking.



Stephen Graff-Radford and Bob Adler were visionaries seeing that something had to be done. They saw advances in knowledge and epidemiology, pain mechanisms, etiologies, treatment strategies, and above all safe and effective evidence-based

treatments. For those reasons, the American Board of Orofacial Pain was founded in 1994 under their guidance. It was in the response to the need for a valid certification process for orofacial pain dentists so that the public and healthcare professionals could have confidence that the clinicians who they saw or referred to for complex chronic orofacial pain disorders were properly trained and ethical. The result of these efforts is the existence of more than a dozen Commission on Dental Accreditation accredited two-year programs on orofacial pain at dental schools and universities throughout the country. Several states in the United States already accept completion of a two-year CODA approved program as meeting the requirements for licensure for orofacial pain clinicians while others recognize the ABOP diplomate status for declaration as Orofacial Pain specialty. Many of these programs have faculty or program directors who are ABOP Diplomates, with universities accepting that status as evidence of advanced training. It all began in 1994.

The first formal examination took place in 1995 and ABOP has been testing annually since over the past 24 years. To our existing Diplomates, welcome back, we are here, we are strong, and you represent the best in the field of orofacial pain. Your dedication and hard work places you at the highest echelons in this field. To our new diplomates who now join these ranks, welcome and be sure that you have joined the ranks of leaders in the field of orofacial pain who have molded the profession and in all probability influenced the quality of the clinician you are by their writings, teaching and research.

I am happy to report that despite going through turbulent times over the past few years, the field of dentistry will hopefully soon recognize orofacial pain as a specialty, as it has long deserved, with ABOP being recognized as the premier validating board.

There is no time in this first newsletter to discuss the mechanics of the construction of a psychometric examination. Many of our new candidates ask why does it take so long to process the scores? Constructing a psychometric examination is a multistep process that takes a full year of work by a dedicated team of experts in the field. Their work is assessed and processed by a

professional psychometric testing organization through no less than 14 steps to assure fairness and that the exam is representative of the field. Evaluating the exam after it is administered is another arduous process evaluating each question to assure once again fairness and accuracy. Poorly performing questions, or those with unusual responses are scrutinized carefully. At another time we might discuss the mechanics of constructing the exam and some of you might even volunteer to work on it in the future. It is only proper to thank and recognize all those who have worked (as volunteers) on our written and oral exams for the past 25 years.

For now we can say that ABOP is strong, our numbers are increasing, our worldwide

reputation is growing and if and when specialty in orofacial pain finally arrives, your Diplomate status will serve you well.

The future - It's in your hands.

ABOP is recognized around the world.

Encourage your students and faculty to become Diplomates.

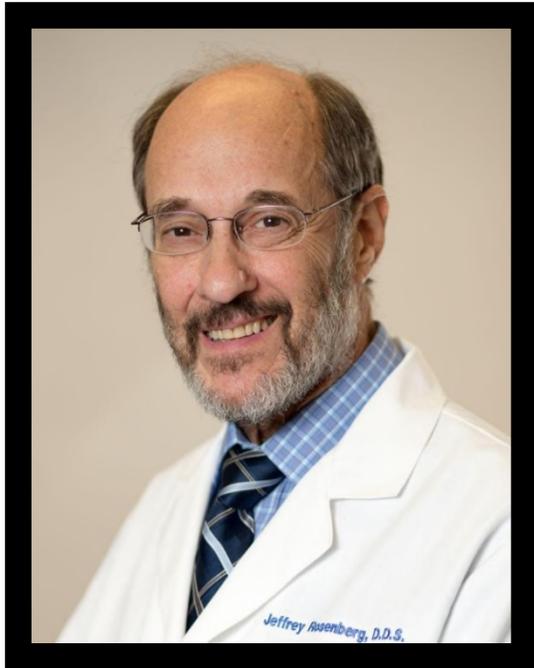
Tell your medical colleagues about the services you provide.

Let's put OROFACIAL PAIN and ABOP on the map!

Gary M Heir, Pres.



On a sad note, we mourn the passing of two of our distinguished members Bob Rosenbaum and Jeff Rosenberg .



Jeff Rosenberg, who was also an attorney
One of our original diplomates Known for his wry sense of humor and attention to detail.
He served as AAOP Parliamentarian.



Robert Rosenbaum, Past President American Board of Orofacial Pain
Great Clinician
Great Guy
Great Friend

Send comments, criticisms and items for inclusion in this newsletter to

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Place ABOP Newsletter in the subject line.