



ABOP NEWSLETTER

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Message From The Board President:

Dear Diplomates:

For those of you who are also members and/or Fellows of the American Academy of Orofacial Pain, you probably already saw the announcement from the AAOP Council.

It reads,

“IT IS OUR HONOR TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON RECOGNITION OF DENTAL SPECIALTIES AND CERTIFYING BOARDS HAS REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED THE APPLICATION FROM THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OROFACIAL PAIN (AAOP) TO MAKE OROFACIAL PAIN THE NEWEST SPECIALTY OF DENTISTRY. ”

The history of our application process goes well beyond a few decades, countless hours of work and a significant financial investment. Until now, previous applications have been rebuffed, but ...



Now is the time. This is our moment



ALTHOUGH WE HAVE PASSED TWO OUT OF THREE HURDLES ON OUR WAY TO IMPROVE THE FIELD OF EVIDENCE BASED DENTISTRY AND OROFACIAL PAIN, THERE IS STILL ONE HURDLE LEFT (MARCH 2-3, 2020). THEN, WE WILL HOPEFULLY BE RECOGNIZED AS PARTNERS WITH OUR MEDICAL COLLEAGUES IN PAIN MANAGEMENT.

Before final approval, the Commission is inviting public comment on the application.

ABOP, in concert with the efforts of AAOP, needs your support.

The Board of Directors of ABOP encourage you to send a letter of support for OFP as a specialty field in Dentistry.

Please take the time to submit your comments to the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards.

Post to:

https://www.ada.org/~media/NCRDSCB/Files/Orofacial_Pain_Specialty_Application.pdf

A sample letter to facilitate your personalized letter is provided.

The deadline for written comments through 5:00 p.m. (central daylight savings time (CST)) on **October 28, 2019**. Your letter in support of specialty recognition should be addressed to:

Ms. Catherine Baumann

Director of the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and
Certifying Boards

baumannca@ada.org

...or mailed to the following address:

The National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying
Boards

211 East Chicago Avenue, 6th floor
Chicago, IL 60611

The National Commission will review letters and discuss recognition of Orofacial
Pain for final approval at their next meeting on March 2-3, 2020 at the American
Dental Association Headquarters in Chicago, Illinois.

Each letter must be personal and unique.

The National Commission will not accept form letters.

**Please personalize your letter on your stationary and send (or e-mail)
before October 28th, 2019 to Ms. Catherine Baumann at the address
indicated below.**

SAMPLE LETTER (Must be personalized and unique prior to sending)

Catherine Baumann

Director, National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and
Certifying Boards
American Dental Association
211 E. Chicago Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

baumannca@ada.org

Dear Ms. Baumann and Commissioners;

Thank you and the Commissioners for your hard work as part of the American
Dental Association's (ADA) National Commission on Recognition of Dental
Specialties and Certifying Boards. I am responding to your request for
comments regarding recognition of Orofacial Pain as a new dental specialty.

As a practicing *dentist* and leader in *dental organizations* including
_____, I am writing to express my strong support for recognition of
Orofacial Pain as a Dental Specialty. The reasons for approving Orofacial Pain
as a new dental specialty are clear. A dental specialty in Orofacial Pain will;

1. ensure the public is served and protected through recognition of an evidence-based standard of care for patients with orofacial pain conditions as provided by both Orofacial Pain Specialists as well as dentists and other health professionals.

2. increase access to care for patients with orofacial pain conditions by expanding the number of advanced education programs in Orofacial Pain, train more dentists and other health professionals in Orofacial Pain, and encourage more dentists to pursue a career in Orofacial Pain.

3. benefit the profession of Dentistry by broadening the scope of practice to maintain a high profile in the rapidly evolving field of pain management and encourage integration and collaboration with other health professionals within the broader healthcare system.

In addition, in reviewing the Orofacial Pain application for specialty status, it is clear that the field meets all of the ADA's requirements for specialty status;

- Requirement 1. Orofacial Pain is represented by a sponsoring organization, CODA-accredited advanced education programs and a well validated high-quality certifying board.
- Requirement 2. Orofacial Pain, like Pain Medicine, is clearly a distinct and well-defined field which requires unique knowledge and skills beyond those commonly possessed by dental school graduates.
- Requirement 3. Orofacial Pain requires advanced knowledge and skills separate and distinct from any recognized dental specialty including Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Endodontics.
- Requirement 4. Orofacial Pain is scientifically documented with knowledge and skills that use valid and reliable statistical evidence from federal, state and privately sponsored research studies, has a journal that publishes refereed scientific articles each month and has scientific meetings to present new science in Orofacial Pain.
- Requirement 5. Orofacial Pain has direct benefit for clinical patient care.
- Requirement 6. Orofacial Pain also has 12 formal advanced education programs of 2 years and accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

In summary, in reviewing the need to improve access to care for the public with these conditions, broaden the profession on Dentistry, and meet the ADA standards for dental specialties, Orofacial Pain has clearly met all of the requirements for a dental specialty. Let's move forward to do so now.

Sincerely,
Your name
Your clinic and/or institution

Gary Heir, DMD, President, Editor-in-Chief

Manvitha Kuchukulla, BDS, MDS, Associate



Please use this section of the newsletter to recruit associates for existing practices, and for recent grads seeking positions.

- To post a position/desire for a position, please contact us at [*abopmanagement@gmail.com*](mailto:abopmanagement@gmail.com)
- A recent graduate from Rutgers OFP program is seeking a position in Louisiana. Contact Gary Heir at [*heirgm@gmail.com*](mailto:heirgm@gmail.com). Details on request. Highly recommended.

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