

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
AND POSSIBLE ACTION REQUIRED**

Board of Directors

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To: Directors of graduate programs in medical physics

Date: July 15, 2010

Re: **Information regarding 2012/2014 ABR Board eligibility changes and its impact on your students and your program**

Dear Program Director:

As you probably are aware, the American Board of Radiology (ABR) has adopted changes in the eligibility requirements for individuals wishing to sit for the Board Examination in Radiologic Physics. These changes will potentially have an important impact on both your students and your program unless action is taken quickly to become accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Educational Programs (CAMPEP). Even if your program is already CAMPEP-accredited, you should begin informing your students right away about actions they should take if they wish to become board certified in the future.

This letter outlines the deadlines that apply to programs and to students and the actions that should be taken to avoid disadvantaging either students or programs. Please read it carefully.

(1) Nature of the Board Eligibility changes

Beginning in 2012, candidates taking the ABR Part 1 examination in Radiologic Physics for the first time must be enrolled in or have graduated from a CAMPEP-accredited educational program (e.g., MS, PhD, or residency). This requirement takes effect beginning with applications submitted in 2011 for the 2012 examination. Beginning in 2014, candidates taking the ABR Part 1 examination for the first time must complete a CAMPEP-accredited residency program before they will be eligible to take ABR Part 2 (i.e., graduation from a CAMPEP-accredited graduate program alone no longer qualifies for full ABR exam eligibility).

(2) Implications of the changes

(a) For students interested in a clinical career: If a student intends to practice clinical medical physics and ABR certification is required to practice in his/her state of residence, then it is essential to meet the deadlines listed below for board eligibility changes. Failure to meet these deadlines could have a negative impact on the careers and financial futures of the affected students.

Students not making the deadlines can always become eligible for the ABR examination by completing a CAMPEP-accredited residency, but there is currently an insufficient number of residency slots for all available students; MS students find it especially difficult to compete for a residency slot, although that situation may improve in the future as additional residency slots are developed.

Students need only meet eligibility to sit for Part 1 of the examination by the deadlines listed below. It is our understanding that once individuals have been accepted to take Part 1 of the exam by the deadlines, they are grandfathered in for taking the subsequent parts of the examination even if those subsequent parts take place beyond the deadlines. Students should confirm this understanding regarding Part 2 and the Oral exam with the ABR. Also, if candidates are accepted for Part 1 of the examination by the deadlines below but do not pass the examination on the first try, they are considered to be in the pipeline and will be eligible to retake the examination under the old requirements; if the candidate fails the examination multiple times, he or she should check with the ABR on eligibility rules under the new requirements.

- (b) For students not interested in a clinical career: If a student intends to work in academia, industry, or government labs without any clinical component, then these 2012/2014 board eligibility changes will not affect that student.
- (c) For graduate programs: If your graduate program is already CAMPEP-accredited, then you are prepared for the 2012 board eligibility changes. If your program is not CAMPEP-accredited, then you will likely see a significant drop in the number of applicants applying to your program in the near future, unless your program primarily enrolls students who do not wish to pursue a clinical career. Such a drop in applicants could have an obvious impact on the academic and financial viability of your program.

(3) Actions to take

- (a) For students: Students wishing to sit for the ABR exam must ensure that they meet the deadlines posted at the end of this document. Failure to meet these deadlines will mean that a student must complete a CAMPEP-accredited residency before being board eligible. Students should make certain that in addition to applying by the deadlines below they also meet all of the requirements for eligibility (including, for example, having the requisite coursework).
- (b) For program directors: You should immediately begin the process of becoming CAMPEP-accredited if you wish to educate students in the future who will need to sit for the ABR exam. Your program must become CAMPEP-accredited before your current students graduate in order for them to meet the 2012 requirements. Students graduating in May 2011 from a non-CAMPEP graduate program have already missed

the deadline for 2012 eligibility, and must complete a CAMPEP-accredited residency before they will be board eligible. You may be able to enable your students graduating in 2011 to meet the 2012 requirements if you become CAMPEP accredited before they graduate (you should confirm the deadlines for CAMPEP accreditation with the ABR). You should also see to it that your current and enrolling students are informed about these deadlines and the importance of their meeting them.

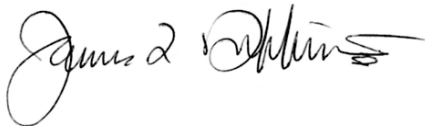
(4) What are the deadlines?

Students not affiliated with a CAMPEP-accredited program must graduate from their program before applying for the ABR exam. Students in a CAMPEP-accredited program may apply at any time after enrolling in their program.

- (a) MS students from a non-CAMPEP program must complete their applications no later than September 30, 2010 for the 2011 exam. Students enrolling in 2009 and later will likely not graduate in time to avoid the new requirements. If your program becomes CAMPEP-accredited before your current students graduate, then your current students should meet the new requirements as long as they complete their applications no later than September 30, 2012 for the 2013 exam or complete a CAMPEP-accredited residency.
- (b) PhD students from a non-CAMPEP program must complete their applications no later than September 30, 2010 for the 2011 exam. Students enrolling in 2006 and later will likely not graduate in time to avoid the new requirements. If your program becomes CAMPEP-accredited before your current students graduate, then your current students should meet the new requirements as long as they complete their applications no later than September 30, 2012 for the 2013 exam or complete a CAMPEP-accredited residency.
- (c) Students (either MS or PhD) from a CAMPEP-accredited graduate program must complete their applications no later than September 2012 for the 2013 exam to avoid the new requirements regarding a residency in 2014. Students enrolling in 2012 must apply immediately for the ABR exam to avoid the new requirements regarding a residency. For candidates in a CAMPEP-accredited program, a letter is required from the program director stating that the candidate is enrolled and in good standing within the program.
- (d) Students attending a CAMPEP-accredited residency do not need to take any corrective action. They already meet the new requirements.
- (e) Students attending a residency program that is not CAMPEP-accredited must meet the deadlines listed in (a)-(c) above, depending on whether their graduate degree is from an accredited or non-accredited program.
- (f) The September 30 deadlines listed above may be extended to October 31 with the payment of a late application fee.
- (g) If a student will finish required classes or graduate between September 30 and December 31, they should consult the ABR for special arrangements.

We hope that this information is helpful to you. Please note that while SDAMPP has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this information, no guarantee of accuracy is implied in this letter and you must communicate directly with the ABR for definitive statements on eligibility requirements. If you have questions about ABR requirements, please consult with the ABR (www.theabr.org). You should consult the ABR website for any periodic updates on these requirements. Questions regarding CAMPEP application should go to CAMPEP (www.campep.org). Any other general questions can be addressed to SDAMPP (at my email address below). Please let us know if SDAMPP can help you in any matter pertaining to your educational program.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James T. Dobbins III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

James T. Dobbins III, PhD
President, SDAMPP
(james.dobbins@duke.edu)