

Board of Directors

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
AND POSSIBLE ACTION REQUIRED**

To: Students of graduate programs in medical physics wishing to be certified by the ABR

Date: July 15, 2010

Re: Information regarding 2012/2014 ABR Board eligibility changes

Dear Medical Physics Student:

As you may be 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 are important to you if you intend to become ABR-certified and pursue a career as a clinical medical physicist.

This letter outlines the deadlines that apply to programs and to students and the actions that should be taken to meet the upcoming changes in eligibility. 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 mean that you would not be able to become an ABR-certified clinical medical physicist or else would be delayed in the process of obtaining board certification. For information on the ABR requirements of each

state, please see the AAPM website on state licensure and registration:
http://www.aapm.org/government_affairs/licensure/default.asp.

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 more difficult to compete for a residency slot than PhD students, 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.

(3) Actions to take

Students wishing to sit for the ABR exam must ensure that they meet the deadlines posted at the end of this document.

- (a) For students of CAMPEP-accredited graduate programs: If your graduate program is already CAMPEP-accredited, then you are prepared for the 2012 board eligibility changes. However, you must apply no later than September 30, 2012 for the 2013 exam in order to avoid the new requirements regarding a residency that take place in 2014.
- (b) For students of graduate programs that are not CAMPEP-accredited: If your program is not CAMPEP-accredited, then you should contact your program director and discuss the possibility of your program becoming CAMPEP-accredited before you graduate. If your program becomes CAMPEP-accredited before you graduate, then you may meet the 2012 requirements. You can meet the deadlines by completing an application to take Part 1 of the examination no later than September 30, 2010 (or later, if you graduate from your current program between September 30 and December 31, 2010). Or, you can meet the new requirements by completing a CAMPEP-accredited residency.

- (c) Other eligibility requirements: 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 undergraduate and graduate coursework).

(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 you graduate, then you should meet the new requirements as long as you complete your application 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 you graduate, then you should meet the new requirements as long as you complete your application 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 30, 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 who later attend 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.
- (e) The September 30 deadlines listed above may be extended to October 31 with the payment of a late application fee.
- (f) If a student will finish required classes or graduate between September 30 and December 31, consult the ABR for special arrangements.

We hope that this information is helpful to you. Please discuss any questions you may have with your program director. 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 students 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. 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 large initial "J" and a stylized "D".

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