



American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology

ANNUAL REPORT



abog.org



2024



Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-------|
| About ABOG, Mission, OB/GYN Health+ _____ | 3 |
| Letter from ABOG Leadership _____ | 4-5 |
| Five-Year Strategic Plan _____ | 6 |
| ABOG's Foundational Values _____ | 7 |
| OB-GYN Leadership Organizations _____ | 8 |
| News Highlights _____ | 9 |
| Meet ABOG's Newest Leaders _____ | 10-11 |
| ABOG Podcast Updates _____ | 12 |
| 2024-25 Board of Directors _____ | 13-17 |
| Enhancing Volunteer Engagement _____ | 18 |
| Volunteers _____ | 19-31 |
| Initial Certification Overview _____ | 32-37 |
| 50th Anniversary of Subspecialties _____ | 38 |
| Continuing Certification (CC) Overview _____ | 39-44 |
| Diplomate Data _____ | 45-47 |
| Publications and Presentations _____ | 48 |
| Education Grants _____ | 49-50 |
| Financial Overview _____ | 51 |
| 2024-25 Staff _____ | 52-55 |



About ABOG

The **American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG)** is a non-profit organization that board certifies obstetricians and gynecologists (OB-GYNs) and offers continuing certification to OB-GYNs in the United States and Canada. Board certification is a voluntary process for those physicians who choose to pursue certification.

Our Mission

Our mission is to define the standards, certify obstetricians and gynecologists, and facilitate continuous learning to advance knowledge, practice, and professionalism in women's health.



ABOG also offers a public website called **OB/GYN Health+**. Its mission is to serve as a resource for OB-GYN patients, inspired by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology's quest to help them live their best lives. The purpose of the site is to educate, energize, and empower patients with information and resources across a broad spectrum of health topics.

OB/GYN Health+ also offers beneficial information about the importance of seeing a board-certified OB-GYN provider and provides access to an online tool to verify whether an OB-GYN is board-certified in the specialty, as well as in any subspecialty.



Scan the QR code or visit [OB/GYN Health+](#) to learn more about this resource.

Letter from ABOG Leadership

Dear Diplomates, Candidates, and Patients,

It is with great enthusiasm that we present our **2024 Annual Report**. As many of you will recall, last year we shared our inaugural report, highlighting key updates and progress from 2023. As we continue to evolve ABOG to better serve you, we are happy and excited to share strides and milestones from 2024.

Our organizational objectives of **Mastery**, **Connection**, and **Voice** remain at the heart of both our current and forthcoming initiatives. Earlier this year, we unveiled our **Five-Year Strategic Plan**, a comprehensive roadmap meticulously developed in 2024. This plan outlines the strategic priorities and actions we are undertaking, each initiative thoughtfully designed to support our objectives. It may be helpful here to reiterate the specifics behind each objective:

» **MASTERY** | ABOG will set not only the minimum standards for our specialty through assessment but will also provide ongoing educational activities to promote and incentivize mastery for our diplomates.

» **CONNECTION** | ABOG will serve as a connector and build identity for our diplomates as obstetricians and gynecologists.

» **VOICE** | ABOG will provide a calm, reliable, influential voice, for our specialty and for diplomates, promoting safe care for women.

As an organization, we remain deeply committed to keeping you informed of our ongoing and future efforts. While this report primarily reflects the highlights of 2024, it also offers a glimpse into the future, with early plans already in motion

for 2025 and beyond.

2024 Highlights

In addition to unveiling our Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2024 was marked by a series of transformative milestones that will sustain our objectives for years to come:

» **Volunteering with ABOG** | The Board broadened the criteria for self-nomination, creating an inclusive process that opens volunteer opportunities to a wider, more diverse group of diplomates. In our continued efforts to streamline volunteer engagement, the new Volunteer Compact was launched in 2024.

This initiative simplifies the process for eligible diplomates, requiring the submission of necessary documents and attestations only once, facilitating a more efficient experience for those dedicating their time to ABOG.

» **An Important Name Change** | Reflecting the updated standards of the American Board of Medical Specialties, our Maintenance of Certification program is now known as Continuing Certification (CC).

Effective January 2025, this name change better reflects ABOG's commitment to supporting the ongoing pursuit of mastery in the OB-GYN specialty and its subspecialties.

» **Certifying Exams** | In April 2024, ABOG successfully administered 324 subspecialty certifying exams, followed by 1,523 specialty certifying exams between October and December. These exams were

conducted in person at the ABOG National Center for Certification and Continuing Education.

»» **Research** | Our research team made significant contributions in 2024, including published works in the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology (AJOG)*:

- *Physician Preparation for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Qualifying Examination*
- *Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Fellowship Research*

Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to visit our Research page, where you'll find the citations and links to our published works.



»» **Leadership** | Two new senior leaders joined our team (bios are available on subsequent pages):

- Gabriella G. Gosman, MD, joined as Associate Executive Officer and Chief of Medical Affairs in November 2024
- Kenneth H. Kim, MD, MHPE, FACOG, FACS, joined as Associate Executive Officer and Chief of Medical Practice and Certification Innovation in September 2024

Looking Ahead

2025 holds great promise with several exciting initiatives on the horizon. Among these is a research study to inform development of ABOG values, as well as gauge perceptions on the value of certification and on ABOG as a certifying entity. Additionally, we are in the planning stages for the Amplified Continuing Education (ACE) Pilot, with a targeted launch of 2026. The pilot will support our Mastery objective by facilitating compliance with several ABMS standards and further strengthening ABOG's Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment component.

We also look forward to continuing to work with our colleagues at all of the OB-GYN professional societies. We want to recognize and thank all of them for the roles they play to further our collective goal of advancing women's health.

In closing, we express our deepest gratitude to all our esteemed stakeholders—residents, fellows, candidates, and diplomates—for your unwavering commitment to the specialty and your ongoing pursuit of mastery.

As OB-GYN providers ourselves, we understand the complexities that challenge the practice setting and the delivery of care. Yet, with your expertise, compassion, and dedication, you continue to rise above these challenges and provide high-quality, evidence-based care to your patients.

Rest assured, you have our steadfast support as you navigate the ever-evolving landscape of our field.

Warmest regards,

Amy E. Young, MD

Chief Executive Officer



George A. Macones, MD, MSCE

President

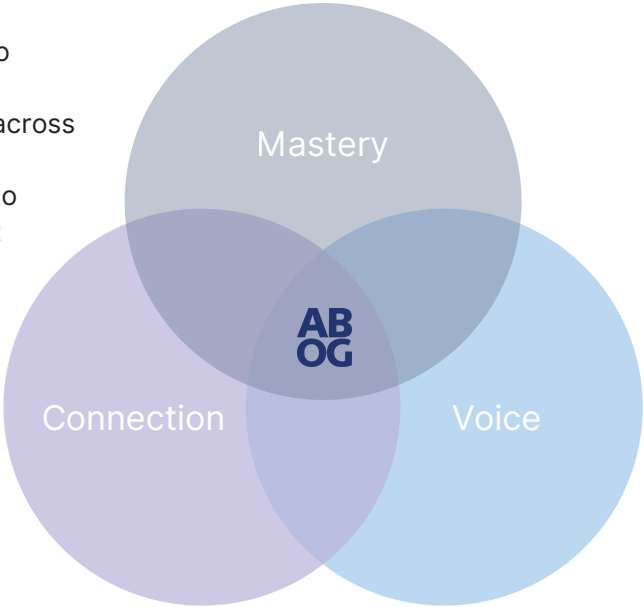


Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to provide feedback to ABOG about certification-related topics.

Five-Year Strategic Plan

In 2024, ABOG developed its **Five-Year Strategic Plan** to guide our initiatives from 2025 to 2030. This plan outlines the strategic priorities and actions we will undertake, each initiative thoughtfully designed. The plan represents a collaborative effort involving ABOG’s Board of Directors, senior leadership, and staff.

At the core of the plan are our three foundational objectives: **Mastery**, **Connection**, and **Voice**. Each strategic priority, approach, and tactic are designed to support one or more of these objectives, ensuring a cohesive and aligned approach. Our ultimate goal is to evolve as an organization—working more efficiently, effectively, and collaboratively through partnerships across the specialty—to better serve our candidates and diplomates throughout their careers, from residency to retirement, and empower them to provide the highest quality patient care.



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to view our full-length Five-Year Strategic Plan.



»» Strategic Priorities

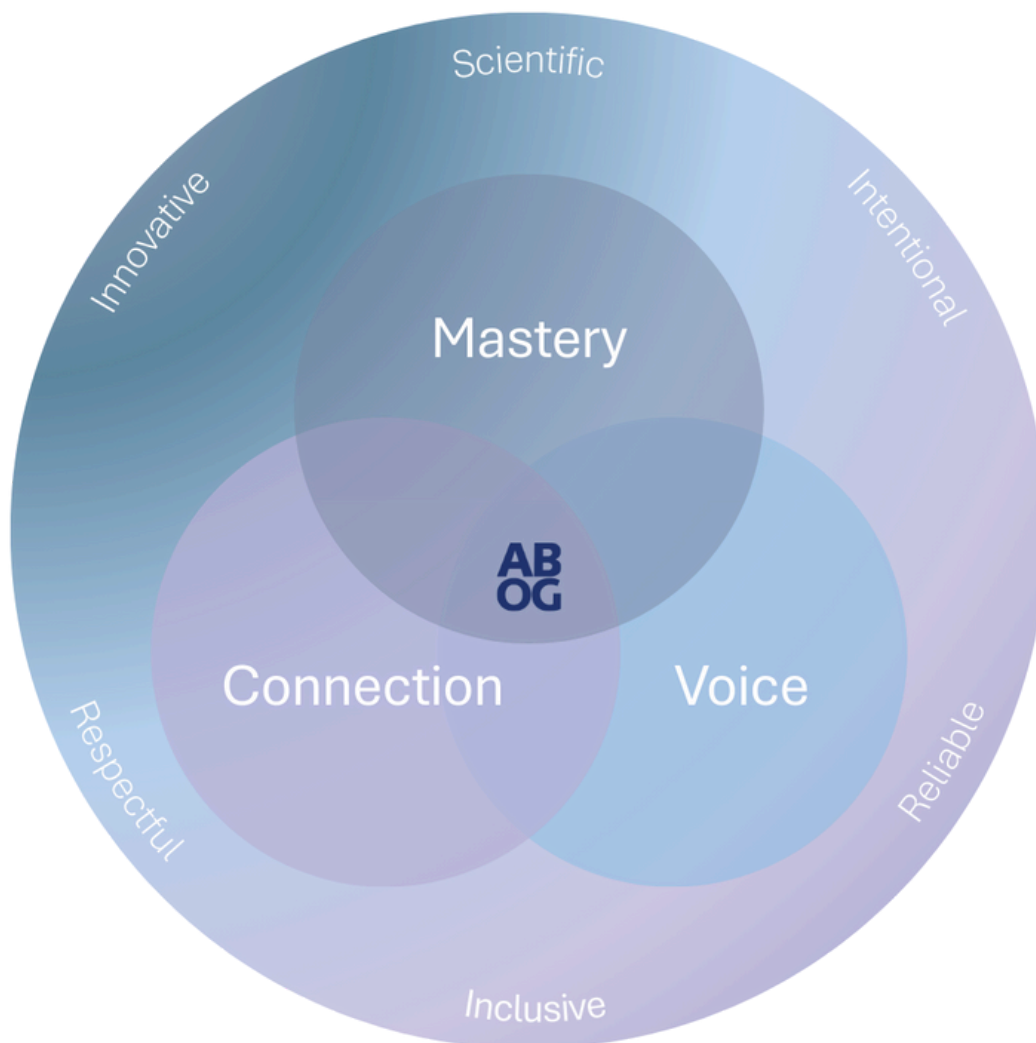
| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Strengthen Partnerships | Evolve partnerships with stakeholders and professional organizations through meaningful collaboration that positively impacts patient care |
| Elevate Certification | Innovate and transform initial and continuing certification processes to promote mastery from residency to retirement and ensure assessment validity |
| Advance Research | Conduct investigations related to board certification and deliver actionable insights to improve assessments, demonstrate certification value, and advance women’s health care |
| Optimize Performance | Propel ABOG’s operational performance through improved infrastructure and processes to maximize the impact of ABOG’s mission |

ABOG's Foundational Values

In late 2024, following the approval of **ABOG's Five-Year Strategic Plan**, the organization initiated a two-phased comprehensive research study. The purpose of this study was to gain deeper insights into stakeholder perceptions of ABOG as a certifying body and to engage diplomates, board members, and staff in identifying foundational values that would best guide ABOG's future service and support in relation to certification.

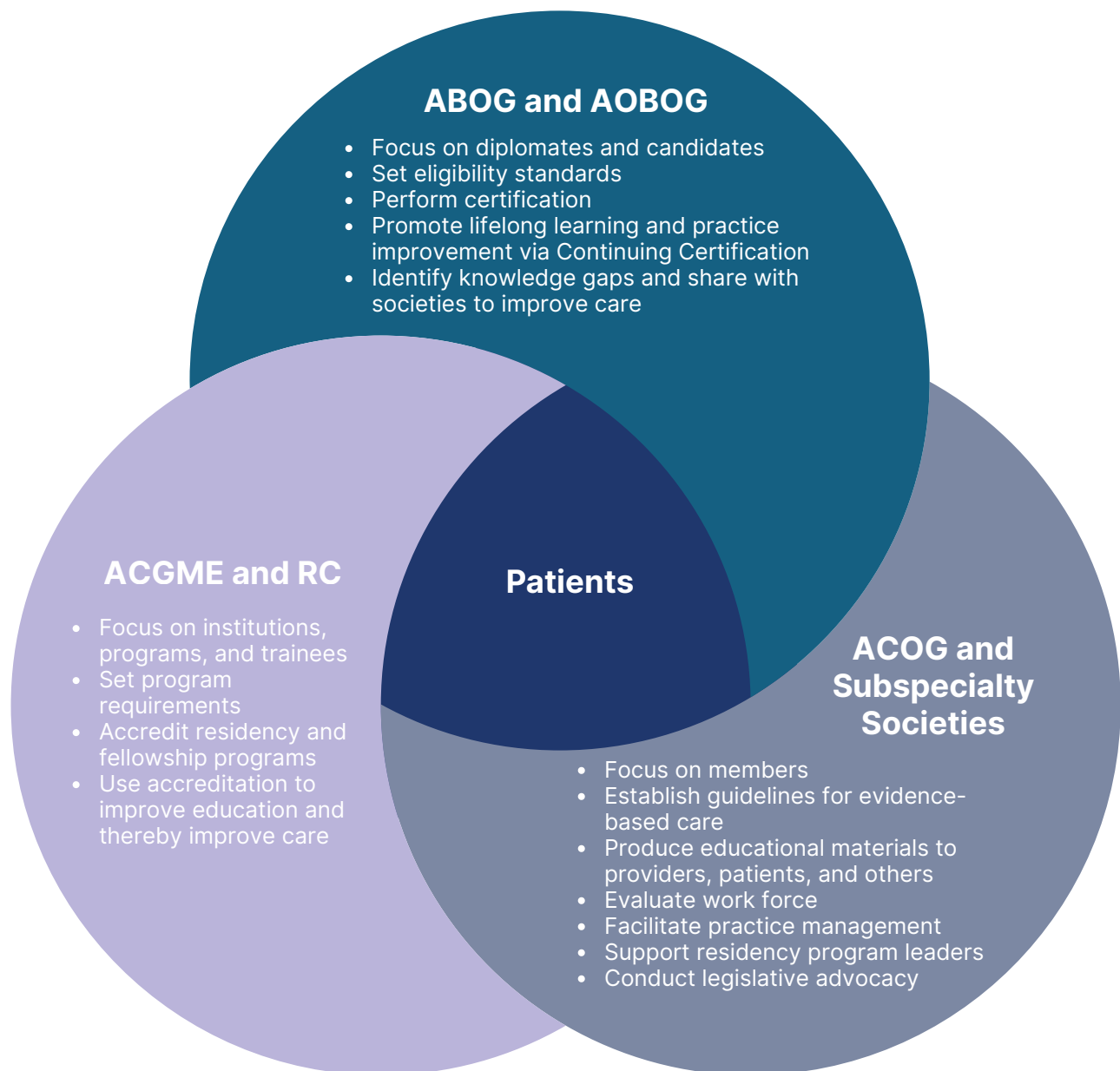
Phase 1 included surveys and focus groups, followed by several working sessions to analyze the research findings. As a result, the Board of Directors formally approved the Values outlined below by mid-2025. We are pleased to share these Values with you.

Phase 2 of the study will involve additional surveys aimed at further evolving and refining brand direction and opportunities to better serve residents, fellows, candidates, and diplomates.



OB-GYN Leadership Organizations

ABOG, with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and additional subspecialty societies, plus the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, fulfill independent but collaborative functions to advance the specialty and support its physicians.



News Highlights

»» Susan M. Ramin, MD, Departs as Associate Executive Director

Susan M. Ramin, MD, departed ABOG as the Associate Executive Director of Maintenance of Certification, on April 19, 2024. Dr. Ramin started her seven-year career at ABOG on March 1, 2017. Prior to joining ABOG as a full-time staff member, she served as an ABOG specialty and subspecialty examiner, Division Member, and Director of the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division. She was also a member of the Board of Directors from 2009 to 2017.



During her time at ABOG, Dr. Ramin served as Chair of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Standards Task Force for continuing certification standards and the Committee on Continuing Certification. In addition, she served as the Secretary-Treasurer on the ABMS Board of Directors and on the Executive Committee, as well as the chair of the Finance Committee of the ABMS Board of Directors, member of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee, and member of the Committee on Continuing Certification.

Dr. Ramin demonstrated unwavering commitment to fulfilling our mission, and ABOG appreciates her contributions to the OB-GYN continuing certification process and women's health. In 2025, she was selected to serve as Chair-Elect of the ABMS Board of Directors for the 2025-2026 term.



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to read more.

»» Barbara L. Hoffman, MD, Departs as Assistant Executive Director of Assessments



Barbara L. Hoffman, MD, retired from ABOG as the Assistant Executive Director of Assessments, on June 30, 2024. During her time at ABOG, Dr. Hoffman played a vital role in overseeing content development for certification processes in the OB-GYN specialty and subspecialties. Her expertise in medical education, test development, and assessment has been invaluable in furthering ABOG's mission to uphold high standards in obstetrics and gynecology.

Dr. Hoffman has been a respected figure in the field for over three decades, serving as a generalist at UT Southwestern Medical Center and holding the Distinguished Professorship on behalf of F. Gary Cunningham.

Her impact on ABOG extended beyond her role on staff. She also served as an active member of the Maintenance of Certification Gynecology Committee and a longtime examiner for the Certifying Exam. ABOG thanks Dr. Hoffman for her service to the organization and the broader OB-GYN community.

Meet ABOG's Newest Leaders

»» Kenneth H. Kim, MD, MHPE, FACOG, FACS

Associate Executive Officer and Chief of Medical Practice and Certification Innovation (COPI)



"I'm truly excited to work with Dr. Young and the entire team at ABOG. I look forward to working diligently for our candidates and diplomates and to evolving our processes and initiatives for the greater good."

Kenneth H. Kim, MD, MHPE, FACOG, FACS, joined the ABOG executive leadership team as the Associate Executive Officer and Chief of Medical Practice and Certification Innovation (COPI) on September 30, 2024.

Formerly a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Kim now works as a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UT Southwestern.

He serves as a strategic talent for ABOG to proactively drive innovation on multiple fronts, including further modernizing and transforming certification practices for OB-GYNs.

Kim earned his medical degree at the Medical College of Ohio, completed OB-GYN residency at The Ohio State University, and completed a fellowship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in Gynecologic Oncology. He also earned a Master of Health Professions Education

through the University of Cincinnati. Kim has held national and international leadership roles at the society level as well as at multiple large leading academic institutions across the United States.

As the COPI, Kim works in a dyad partnership with ABOG's Chief of Assessments Pooja Shivraj, PhD, and in collaboration with CEO Amy Young, MD, the Board of Directors, and staff to develop and deliver advanced, rigorous, and equitable certification products to foster increased levels of practice mastery within the OB-GYN specialty and subspecialties. A current initiative he is working closely with the Assessments team on is the Amplified Continuing Education (ACE) Pilot, set to launch in 2026.



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to watch a special introduction from Dr. Kim, where he shares insights about his role as COPI, his vision for the future, and a fun fact.

»» Gabriella G. Gosman, MD

Associate Executive Officer and Chief of Medical Affairs (COMA)



“This is such an important time to focus on the health of patients and communities served by ABOG diplomates and candidates. I am honored to join this talented and visionary ABOG team to work toward our shared mission.”

Gabriella G. Gosman, MD, joined the ABOG executive leadership team as the Associate Executive Officer and Chief of Medical Affairs (COMA) on November 1, 2024.

In her role, Gosman works to continue establishing and automating credentialing standards for ABOG diplomates, as well as further enhance relationships with internal and external constituents to ABOG, including our partners at the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), and with OB-GYN specialty societies. She aims to streamline volunteer engagement to maximize impact and ensure alignment with ABOG's strategic goals and mission.

Working alongside the organization's CEO, Amy Young, MD, and with Board of Directors members and staff, Gosman serves as a strategic leader, applying innovative thought and her medical affairs and graduate medical education expertise to OB-GYN practice standards, professionalism, and credentialing processes.

Gosman comes to ABOG from a five-year tenure as Vice President, Medical Affairs at UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital. She also has had a highly accomplished career as a clinician educator by virtue of her work as a professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Additionally, Gosman chaired the ACGME Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology from 2021-2024 and served as Associate Designated Institutional Official for UPMC Medical Education from 2010-2024.

Gosman earned her medical degree from Yale School of Medicine, and she completed her OB-GYN residency and fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to watch a special introduction from Dr. Gosman, where she shares insights about her role as COMA, her vision for the future, and a fun fact.

ABOG Podcast Updates

In 2024, ABOG began developing two podcast series, and in early 2025, kicked off production. Amy Young, MD, ABOG Chief Executive Officer, and Kenneth Kim, MD, Associate Executive and Chief of Medical Practice and Certification Innovation (COPI), are hosts of: **"Talking Women's Health with Amy Young, MD"** and **"Plugging In with Kenny Kim, MD."**

"Talking Women's Health with Amy Young, MD" is an insightful and informative podcast where OB-GYN leaders discuss current topics that impact patient care. So far in 2025, four episodes have been released, each spotlighting key themes and voices shaping the OB-GYN field:

- » The History and Value of Complex Family Planning
- » Chatting about Leadership and Surgical Training
- » Professionalism in the Workplace
- » Increasing Outreach, Clarity, and Unity Across the OB-GYN Landscape

Dr. Amy Young, CEO of ABOG, engages with experts in the field to share observations and

Have a suggestion for future podcast episodes? Scan the QR code or [click here](#).



critical perspectives on subjects within the specialty and its subspecialties. In its role as a national certifying body, ABOG collaborates with several OB-GYN organizations to ensure its certification offerings reflect evidence-based medical data and evolving standards of care.



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to watch the latest episodes of "Talking Women's Health with Amy Young, MD."

"Plugging In with Kenny Kim, MD" will start production soon. Episodes will feature discussions on ABOG's initiatives that enhance the assessments and continuing certification (CC) processes.

"These podcasts reflect ABOG's commitment to providing high-quality, informative content that address important topics within obstetrics and gynecology," said Amy Young, MD. "This initiative allows ABOG to support its pillars of Connection and Voice, ensuring that expert knowledge is shared widely to benefit both OB-GYNs and their patients."



ABOVE: Behind-the-scenes photos of "Talking Women's Health with Amy Young, MD" with special guests Uta Landy, MD, Phil Darney, MD, Courtney Schreiber, MD (left), Allen Ghareeb, MD (middle), and Ronald Alvarez, MD, MBA (right).

2024-25 Board of Directors

Officers & Executives

»» George A. Macones, MD, MSCE

President



George A. Macones, MD, MSCE, has served as President of ABOG since 2022. In addition to his role as President, he serves as a Subspecialty Examiner and previously served on the Certifying Exam Development Committee (CEDC). He also served on the Maternal-Fetal Medicine Division from 2007 to 2014 and was the Division Director from 2011 to 2014.

Dr. Macones is the Executive Vice Dean at Dell Medical School and the Chair and Professor in the Department of Women's Health. He is board-certified in both Obstetrics and Gynecology and Maternal-Fetal Medicine. He previously served on the Board of Directors for the American Board of Family Medicine and is the deputy editor for obstetrics for the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

Throughout his career, he has held leadership positions with the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine. In 2016, he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. An internationally recognized researcher, Dr. Macones has authored over 400 publications. He is renowned for his work on the safety of vaginal birth after Cesarean section and for developing innovative guidelines for fetal monitoring during labor.

»» Seine Chiang, MD

Vice President

Seine Chiang, MD, became Vice President of ABOG in 2024 after serving as a Board Member since 2021. She has been an active Specialty (OB-GYN) Examiner since 2009 and previously served on both the Qualifying Exam Development Committee (QEDC) and the Certifying Exam Development Committee (CEDC).



Dr. Chiang is a Professor in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of Washington School of Medicine, and she also serves as Division Chief of the Women's Health UW Medical Center. She is board-certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and holds a Focused Practice Designation in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (MIGS).

Dr. Chiang specializes in managing complex benign gynecologic conditions through minimally invasive surgical approaches, including vaginal, laparoscopic, and robotic techniques. Dr. Chiang also serves as a member of the ACGME Review Committee (RC) for Obstetrics and Gynecology.

»» Ronald D. Alvarez, MD, MBA

Treasurer



Ronald D. Alvarez, MD, MBA, has served as Treasurer of ABOG since 2022, following his role as at-Large Director. He has been an active Subspecialty Examiner since 2002 and previously served on the Qualifying Exam Development Committee (QEDC) and the Certifying Exam Development Committee (CEDC).

Dr. Alvarez is the Chairman and Clinical Service Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Betty and Lonnie S. Burnett Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He is board-certified in both Obstetrics and Gynecology and Gynecologic Oncology.

A leader in gynecologic oncology, Dr. Alvarez served as President of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology in 2013 and was Director of the Gynecologic Oncology Division of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology from 2014 to 2018. He previously served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Council of University Chairs of Obstetrics and Gynecology (CUCOG) and is the Immediate Past President of the American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society (AGOS).

His research focuses on developing novel therapeutics for ovarian cancer and strategies for cervical cancer screening and prevention. He has received multiple NCI and industry grants, and led several clinical research initiatives. Dr. Alvarez has published over 250 peer-reviewed articles and served on the editorial board of *Gynecologic Oncology*. Additionally, he has served on study sections for the NCI Clinical Oncology Section and the Department of Defense's Ovarian Cancer Research Program.

»» Emily S. Jungheim, MD, MSCI

Subspecialty Committee Chair

Emily S. Jungheim, MD, MSCI, became Subspecialty Committee Chair of ABOG in 2023. She has been an active Subspecialty Examiner since 2015, a member of the QEDC, and Division Chair of the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) Committee. She previously served on the Job Task Analysis (JTA) Committee.



Dr. Jungheim is Chief of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Edmond Confino, MD, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine. She is board-certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI).

She also serves as Medical Director of Northwestern's Fertility and Reproductive Medicine Center and is a member of the American Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. Dr. Jungheim specializes in infertility, recurrent pregnancy loss, polycystic ovary syndrome, fertility preservation, and preimplantation genetic testing for the prevention of heritable diseases.

Board Members



**Joseph R. Biggio, Jr.,
MD, MS**
New Orleans, LA



**Marlene M. Corton,
MD, MSCS**
Dallas, TX



**Abimbola O.
Famuyide, MBBS**
Rochester, MN



Rajiv B. Gala, MD
New Orleans, LA



**Joseph M. Gobern,
MD, MBA**
Wynnewood, PA



**William "Tom"
Gregory, MD**
Portland, OR



**William A. Grobman,
MD, MBA**
Providence, RI



**Sadia Haider,
MD, MPH**
Chicago, IL



**Kimberly S.
Kenton, MD, MS**
Chicago, IL



**Margareta D.
Pisarska, MD**
Los Angeles, CA



Steven C. Plaxe, MD
La Jolla, CA



**Courtney A.
Schreiber, MD, MPH**
Philadelphia, PA



**Jeanne S. Sheffield,
MD**

Baltimore, MD



**Megham Twiss
MDiv, MAT, MSSA**

Public Member,
June 2021-April 2025

Chicago, IL

The Public Member is a full voting member of the Board but is not an OB-GYN physician. Their role is to provide an external perspective, ensuring that the Board's decisions consider the interests of the broader community, including patients, the public, and other stakeholders. By bringing insights from outside the medical field, the Public Member helps promote transparency, accountability, and public trust in the certification process and the advancement of women's health care.



ABOVE: 2024-25 ABOG Board of Directors during the January 2025 Semi-Annual Meeting.

Retired Board Members

ABOG extends its deepest gratitude to our Board of Directors Members who retired from the Board in 2024. Their dedication, expertise, and service have played a vital role in advancing the certification process and upholding the highest standards in obstetrics and gynecology. We appreciate their invaluable contributions and lasting impact on the field.



**Wanda K. Nicholson,
MD, MPH, MBA**
Former Vice President
Washington, DC



Andrew J. Satin, MD
Former Immediate Past President
Baltimore, MD



Susan M. Ramin, MD
Former Associate Executive
Director of MOC
Dallas, TX



**Matthew D. Barber,
MD, MHS**
Former Subspecialty
Committee Chair
Durham, NC



Mary E. Norton, MD
Former Member
San Francisco, CA

Enhancing Volunteer Engagement

Every year, board-certified OB-GYNs generously dedicate their time and expertise to support ABOG's OB-GYN certification and Continuing Certification (CC) processes. Their unwavering commitment upholds the highest standards within the specialty, furthering safe and high-quality care for women.

At ABOG, we deeply value the dedication of our volunteers and work to foster an engaging and supportive environment. We continuously seek ways to enhance the volunteer experience by refining processes, increasing transparency, and promoting a culture of collaboration and respect.

»» Self-Nomination Process

In the fall of 2022, ABOG launched a new self-nomination process for recruiting volunteers interested in becoming a certifying examiner for ABOG Specialty (OB-GYN) Certifying Exams.

This marked a significant shift from the previous peer nomination system and provides a more inclusive and accessible opportunity for a broader range of interested diplomates.

Under the new process, potential volunteers are empowered to take the initiative and submit their own candidacies. This change not only opens up the selection process but also encourages greater participation from diverse communities.

Since 2022, self-nomination has expanded in scope to include other volunteer roles including:

- »» Board of Directors Member
- »» Subspecialty Division Member
- »» Subspecialty Certifying Examiner
- »» Assessment Development Subcommittee (ADSC)
- »» Continuing Certification Development Committee (CCDC)

Eligible diplomates can self-nominate within their ABOG portal by accessing the Self Nomination Form. Giving a voice to more practitioners who

are passionate about making a difference will further enrich an already diverse pool of volunteers.



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to determine eligibility and when self-nominations can be submitted.

»» Volunteer Compact

To streamline the volunteer experience, ABOG introduced a standardized package of required forms that needs to be completed only once per year, regardless of the number of roles for which a physician volunteers. This set of documents and agreements, referred to as the Volunteer Compact, helps ABOG assure that our volunteer processes uphold high levels of professionalism and ethics.

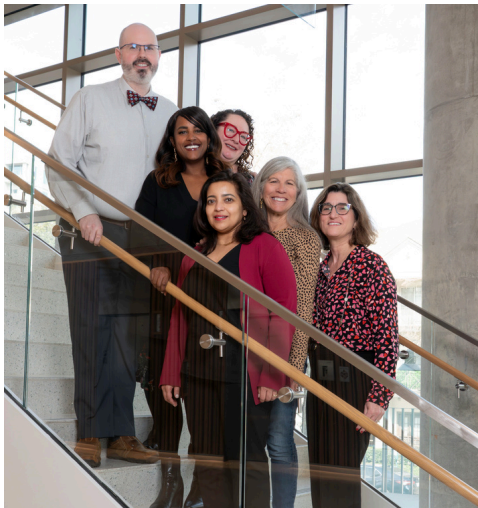
Rather than filling out repetitive forms for each event or committee opportunity, our volunteers can now focus on what truly matters—helping maintain the highest standards in OB-GYN certification and continuing certification. The annual forms are made available to volunteers in their ABOG portals to easily review, sign, and submit.

Volunteers

»» Subspecialty Divisions

Subspecialty Divisions provide oversight and expertise in their respective subspecialties. Comprised of experienced subspecialists, these divisions ensure that certification standards, assessments, and policies remain rigorous, relevant, and reflective of the evolving landscape of the OB-GYN field.

Complex Family Planning



Sadia Haider, MD, MPH

Chair



Eve Espey, MD, MPH



Aileen Gariepy, MD, MPH, MHS



Aaron Lazowitz, MD, PhD, MS

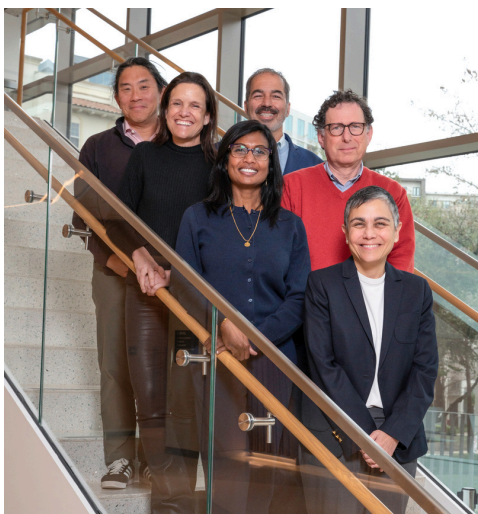


Biftu Mengesha, MD, MAS



Stephanie Teal, MD, MPH

Gynecologic Oncology



Steven Plaxe, MD

Chair



Kian Behbakht, MD, MBA



Stephanie Blank, MD



Marcela del Carmen, MD, MPH



Warner Huh, MD



Jayanthi Lea, MD

Maternal-Fetal Medicine



Joseph Biggio, Jr., MD, MS
Chair



Shani Delaney, MD



Lisa Foglia, MD



Brenna Hughes, MD, MSc



Judette Louis, MD, MPH



Lynn Simpson, MD, MS

Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility



Emily Jungheim, MD, MSCI
Chair



William Catherino, MD, PhD



LaTasha Craig, MD



Clarisa Gracia, MD, MSCE



Erica Johnstone, MD, MHS



Erica Marsh, MD, MSCI

Urogynecology & Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery



William "Tom" Gregory, MD
Chair



Catherine Bradley, MD, MSCE



Felicia Lane, MD



Gina Northington, MD, PhD



Lieschen Quiroz, MD



Gary Sutkin, MD, MBA

»» Retiring Subspecialty Division Members

ABOG extends its gratitude and appreciation to the following volunteers, who concluded their terms of service as Subspecialty Division Members in 2024. We also honor the memory of Subspecialty Division Members who passed away in recent years. Their enduring legacy and commitment to excellence continue to inspire the work we do.

Complex Family Planning

Courtney Schreiber, MD, MPH
Amy (Meg) Autry, MD
Gretchen Stuart, MD, MPH

Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Mary Norton, MD

Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery

Matthew Barber, MD, MHS

In Memoriam

Wendy Brewster, MD, PhD, served on our Gynecologic Oncology division from July 2022 through mid-2023. Her research focused on early cancer detection, prevention, and approaches to improve health equity. Her dedication and commitment to educating the future generations of physicians were unwavering.

Michael Frumovitz, MD, MPH, served as a member of our Division of Gynecologic Oncology from 2021-2024. He dedicated his career to providing excellent patient care and teaching fellows in Gynecologic Oncology. His research focused on cervical cancer, mucinous ovarian cancer, and rare gynecologic tumors.

»» Specialty Examiners

Specialty Examiners play a crucial role in administering the Specialty Certifying Exam to assess candidates' knowledge, clinical skills, and decision-making abilities, evaluating performance based on established criteria to ensure consistency and fairness, and maintaining the integrity of the examination process through accurate and objective assessment.

Tova Ablove, MD
Marisa Adelman, MD
Lindsay Admon, MD, MSc
Alexandriah Alas, MD
James Alexander, MD
Jay Allard, MD
Jennifer Allen, MD
Rebecca Allen, MD, MPH
Meredith Alston, MD
Kajal Angras, DO

Danielle Antosh, MD
Tirsit Asfaw, MD
Kristin Atkins, MD
Amy (Meg) Autry, MD
Stephen Bacak, DO, MPH
Teresa Baker, MD
Heather Barbier, MD, MPH
George Barnett, MD
Allison Barrie, MD
Breton Barrier, MD

Samuel Bauer, MD, MBA
Anitra Beasley, MD, MPH
Nicole Bender, MD, MS
Lori Berkowitz, MD, MBA
Taylor Bertschy, DO
Kelly Best, MD
Sarah Betstadt, MD, MPH
Joseph Biggio, Jr., MD, MS
Amy Bilyeu, MD
Shan Biscette, MD, MS, MBA

Stephanie Blank, MD
 Susan Bliss, MD
 Holly Bolger, DO
 Nadim Bou Zgheib, MD
 Natalie Bowersox, MD
 Gloria Bowles-Johnson, MD
 Leslie Boyd, MD
 Daniel Breitkopf, MD
 Cynthia Brincat, MD, PhD
 Alison Brooks, MD
 Jubilee Brown, MD
 Kevin Brown, MD
 Oluwateniola Brown, MD
 Irina Burd, MD, PhD
 Anne Burke, MD, MPH
 Stephen Bush II, MD
 Jennifer Butler, MD
 Teresa Byrd, MD, MSCI
 John Byrne, MD, MPH
 Damali Campbell, MD
 Sukhkamal Campbell, MD
 Catherine Cansino, MD, MPH
 Sarah Morgan Carpenter, MD
 Ilana Cass, MD
 Mario Castellanos, MD
 Ann Chang, MD
 Stephanie Chang, MD
 Stephen Chasen, MD
 Sum Cheung, MD
 Seine Chiang, MD
 Lubna Chohan, MD
 Betty Chou, MD
 Christina Chu, MD
 Camille Clare, MD, MPH
 Erin Anne Clark, MD
 Robaab Cocco, MD

Christie Cooksey, MD, MS
 Marlene Corton, MD, MSCS
 David Crownover, MD
 Meredith Cruz, MD, MPH, MBA
 Carrie Cwiak, MD, MPH
 Adrienne Dade, MD
 Christina Dancz, MD, MPH
 Brittany Davidson, MD
 Sandra Dayaratna, MD
 Nirupama De Silva, MD
 Christina DeAngelis, MD
 Julie DeCesare, MD
 Emily DeFranco, DO
 Angela Dempsey-Fanning, MD, MPH
 Candice Dersch, MD
 Christopher DeSimone, MD
 Erin Deverdis, MD
 Juan Diaz Quinones, MD, MBA
 Kathryn Dielentheis, MD
 Charles Dietrich, MD
 Paul DiSilvestro, MD
 Arthur (Mitch) Dizon, MD, MSCR
 Robert Dodds, MD
 Jennifer Domingo-Mihalko, MD
 Georgios Doulaveris, MD
 Rita Driggers, MD
 Gena Dunivan, MD
 Jenny Duret-Uzodinma, MD
 Elaine Duryea, MD
 Denicia Dwarica, MD, MS
 Jennifer Eaton, MD, MSCI
 Rasha Ebeid, MD
 Mitchell Edelson, MD
 Renee Eger, MD
 Mark Einstein, MD
 Hana El Ado Mikdachi, MD

Christopher Ennen, MD
 Darlene Esper, MD
 Eve Espey, MD, MPH
 Stephanie Estes, MD
 Vineeta Estes, MD
 Eduardo Estrella, MD
 Rebecca Evans, MD
 Abimbola Famuyide, MBBS
 Linda Fan, MD
 Rongrong Fan, MD
 Dana Farabaugh, MD
 Maureen Farrell, MD
 Elizabeth Ferries-Rowe, MD
 J. Stuart Ferriss, MD
 Tanaz Ferzandi, MD, MBA
 Kaycee Fiaseu, MD
 Matthew Finneran, MD
 Nelli Fisher, MD
 Timothy Fisher, MD, MS
 Rebecca Flyckt, MD
 Michael Flynn, MD
 Kimberly Fortner, MD
 Raymond Foster, Sr., MD, MHS, MS
 Russell Fothergill, MD
 Recia Frenn, MD
 Marilyn Fudge, MD
 Nancy Gaba, MD
 Nagaraj Gabbur, MD
 Rajiv Gala, MD
 Aileen Gariepy, MD, MPH, MHS
 Anne Garrison, MD
 Etoi Garrison, MD, PhD
 Kimberly Gecsi, MD
 Alan Gehrich, MD
 Laura Glaser, MD
 Joseph Gobern, MD, MBA
 Jennifer Goedken, MD
 Radhika Gogoi, MD, PhD
 Deborah Goldfrank, MD
 Susan Goldsmith, MD
 Toni Golen, MD
 Christopher Goodier, MD
 Dana Gossett, MD, MSCI
 Beverly Gray, MD
 Caron Gray, MD
 Scott Graziano, MD
 Jocelyn Greely, MD
 Isabel Green, MD, MEHP



Being an examiner has really demystified the certification process for me and has opened my eyes of the efforts to be equitable and fair. That, of course, inspires me to come back.”



Ruby Cocco, MD

Specialty Examiner, 2021-Present



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to watch the full interview.

William "Sam" Greenfield, MD, MBA
 Marsha Guess, MD, MS
 Saketh Guntupalli, MD
 Priya Gursahaney, MD, MS
 Julie Gutierrez, MD
 Patricia Habak, MD
 David Hadley, MD
 Jennifer Hamm, MD
 Ibrahim Hammad, MD, MSCI
 Erica Hammer, MD
 Maya Hammoud, MD, MBA
 Gerald Harkins, MD
 Teresa Harper, MD
 Amy Harrington, MD
 Bryna Harwood, MD
 Mae Healy, DO
 Jason Heaton, MD
 Martin Hechanova, MD, MPH, MBA
 Jessica Heft, MD, MS
 Ryan Heitmann, DO
 Celeste Hemingway, MD, MHPE
 Heather Hipp, MD
 Mark Hiraoka, MD, MSCR
 Wilbur Hitt, Jr., MD
 Samantha Hoffman, MD
 Lisa Hofler, MD, MPH, MBA
 Stefanie Hollenbach, MD, MS, PhD
 Erica Hope, MD
 Matthew Hopkins, MD
 Tera Howard, MD, MPH
 Jennifer Howell, MD
 Megan Huchko, MD, MPH
 Patricia Huguelet, MD
 Andrew Hundley, MD
 Joseph Hwang, MD
 Jerrelyn Inocencio-Diaz, MD, MPH
 Tracy Irwin, MD, MPH
 Christine Isaacs, MD

Ronald Iverson, Jr., MD, MPH
 Randa Jalloul, MD, MS
 Peter Jeppson, MD
 Amy Johnson, MD
 Isaiah Johnson, MD
 Candice Jones-Cox, MD
 Justin Junn, MD, MBA
 Bliss Kaneshiro, MD, MPH
 Shivika Trivedi Kapadia, MD, MSc
 Nicole Karjane, MD
 Leah Kaufman, MD
 Kiran Kavipurapu, DO, MPH, JD
 Jennifer Keller, MD, MPH
 Michael Kelly, MD
 Martin Keltz, MD
 Bronwyn Kenny, MD
 Kimberly Kenton, MD, MS
 Erin Keyser, MD
 Nahla Khalek, MD, MPH, MScEd
 Fareesa Khan, MD
 Kimberly Kho, MD, MPH, MSCI
 Kareem Khozaim, MD
 Jessica Kiley, MD, MPH
 Charles Kilpatrick, MD, MEd
 Elizabeth Kim, MD
 Kristopher Kimball, MD
 Jessica Kingston, MD
 Felisha Kitchen, MD
 Marcia Klein-Patel, MD, PhD
 Belinda Kohl-Thomas, MD
 Swapna Kollikonda, MD
 Michael Krychman, MD
 Suchetha Kshetry, MD
 Zachary Kuhlmann, DO
 Maggie Kuhlmann, MD
 D. Yvette LaCoursiere, MD, MPH
 Lisa Landrum, MD, PhD
 Justin Lappen, MD

Eduardo Lara-Torre, MD
 Lisa Lau, MD
 Phyllis Lawani, MD
 Shari Lawson, MD, MBA
 Aaron Lazowitz, MD, PhD, MS
 Catherine Leclair, MD
 Rebecca Lee, MD
 Carolyn Lefkowitz, MD, MPH, MS
 Susan Leong-Kee, MD
 Virginia (Jennie) Leslie, MD
 Margaret Liang, MD, MS
 Julie Lo, MD
 Elizabeth Lokich, MD
 Jerry Lowder, MD, MSc
 Lauren MacAfee, MD, MS
 Sangeeta Mahajan, MD
 Anita Malone, MD, MPH
 Mark Manning, DO
 Maria Manriquez, MD
 Melissa March, MD
 Miriam Marcum, MD
 Jose Martin, MD
 David Marzano, MD
 Jason Massengill, MD
 Julio Mateus Nino, MD, PhD
 Kristen Matteson, MD, MPH
 Donna Mazloomdoost, MD
 Tamarin McCartin, DO, MBA
 Laurie McKenzie, MD
 Francine McLeod, MD
 Dana Meaney-Delman, MD, MPH
 Gabriel Medrano Valle, MD
 Melanie Meister, MD, MSCI
 Elizabeth Melendez, MD
 Hector Mendez-Figueroa, MD
 Thomas Mendise, MD
 Biftu Mengesha, MD, MAS
 Andrew Menzin, MD, MBA



ABOVE: Specialty Certifying Examiners during Week 4 of the 2024 Specialty Certifying Exam in November at the ABOG National Center.

Laura Mercer, MD, MPH, MBA
 Kate Meriwether, MD
 Isuzu Meyer, MD, MSPH
 Chad Michener, MD
 Shana Miles, MD, PhD
 Russell Miller, MD
 Steven Minaglia, MD, MBA
 Amy Mitchell, MD
 Ghazaleh Moayed, DO, MPH
 Evelyn Mok-Lin, MD
 Tiffany Moore Simas, MD, MPH, MEd
 Pedro Morales Ramirez, MD
 John Moroney, MD
 Katherine Moxley, MD, MS
 Margaret Mueller, MD
 Tristi Muir, MD
 John Myers, DO
 Kelly Nagy, MD
 Ramzy Nakad, MD
 Mariam Naqvi, MD
 Amber Naresh, MD

Holly Olson, MD
 David Ouyang, MD
 Joseph Ouzounian, MD, MBA
 Michelle Owens, MD
 Sarah Page-Ramsey, MD
 Apurva Pancholy, MD
 Marc Parrish, DO, MBSc
 Meghan Patel, MD
 Joseph Patruno, MD
 Jaimey Pauli, MD
 Christina Penfield, MD, MPH
 Erika Peterson, MD
 Logan Peterson, MD
 Bruce Pier, MD
 Michael Pirics, MD
 Margareta Pisarska, MD
 Kristen Plastino, MD
 Steven Plaxe, MD
 Torie Comeaux Plowden, MD, MPH
 Catherine Pokropek, MD
 Michael Polin, MD

Sireesha Reddy, MD
 Kimberly Resnick, MD
 Courtney Rhoades, DO, MBA
 Janine Rhoades, MD
 Debra Richardson, MD
 Rebecca Rieck, MD
 Katherine Rivlin, MD
 Barrett Robinson, MD
 Frederico Rocha, MD
 Rachel Rodell, MD
 Ashley Roman, MD, MPH
 Bryan Rone, MD
 Dario Roque, MD
 Stephen Rose, MD
 Lauren Roth, MD
 Kay Roussos-Ross, MD
 Zachary Rubeo, MD
 Bunja Rungruang, MD
 Lynne Saito-Tom, MD, MS
 Jennifer Salcedo, MD, MPH, MPP
 Catherine Salva, MD, MEd
 Amber Samuel, MD
 Roopina Sangha, MD, MPH, MBA
 Stephanie Saposnik, MD, MSCI
 Olga Sarkodie, MD
 Jonathan Adam Schaffir, MD
 Jessica Schechtman, DO, MAS
 Ashley Schiliro, MD
 Peter Schnatz, DO, MBA
 Courtney Schrieber, MD, MPH
 Frank Schubert, MD, MS
 Christina Scifres, MD
 Katherine Scruggs, MD
 Harish Sehdev, MD
 Sangeeta Senapati, MD
 Divya Shah, MD, MME
 Dara Shalom, MD
 Jessica Shank, MD
 Vidya Sharma, MD
 Kate Shaw, MD, MS
 Karin Shih, MD
 Jean Siedel, DO, MS
 Melissa Simon, MD, MPH
 Shireen Sims, MD
 Rupali Singh, MD
 James Small, MD, MEd
 Meredith Snook, MD
 Tammy Sonn, MD
 Melissa Spiel, DO



What motivates me to volunteer as a board examiner for ABOG is to maintain the integrity of the specialty and the expertise of the specialty. I really want to give back to the examinees to make sure they have a really good experience.”



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to watch the full interview.



Chemen Neal, MD
 Specialty Examiner, 2018-Present

Chemen Neal, MD
 Shelby Neal, MD
 Baharah Nejad, MD
 Cecil (Tripp) Nelson, MD
 David Nelson, MD
 Keith Nelson, MD
 Lauren Nelson, MD
 Farida Nentin, MD
 Anh Nguyen, MD
 Erin Niemasik, MD
 Cara Ninivaggio, MD
 Christopher Nold, MD
 Jamie North, MD
 Erica Oberman, MD
 James O'Brien, MD

Florencia Polite, MD
 Lisa Pompeo, MD
 Kristin Powell, MD, MS
 Tana Pradhan, DO
 Sarah Prager, MD, MAS
 Beth Rackow, MD
 Nandini Raghuraman, MD, MSCI
 Steven Ralston, MD, MPH
 Kavitha Ram, MD, MS
 Christina Ramirez, MD
 Gautam Rao, MD
 Charles Rardin, MD
 Chadburn Ray, MD
 Andrei Rebarber, MD
 Madhuri Reddy, MD

Monique Spillman, MD, PhD
Trimble Spitzer, MD
Barton Staat, MD
Joanna Stacey, MD
Kathryn Stambough, MD
Jonathan Steer-Massaró, MD, MPH
Alyssa Stephenson-Famy, MD
Jody Stonehocker, MD
Ashley-Ann Storms, MD
Molly Stout, MD, MSCI
Eric Strand, MD
Heather Straub, MD
Ashley Stuckey, MD
Akila Subramaniam, MD, MPH
Scott Sullivan, MD
Gary Sutkin, MD, MBA
Peter Takacs, MD, PhD, MBA
La'Nasha Tanner, MD
Christopher Tarney, MD
Maryam Tarsa, MD, MAS
Laura Tatpati, MD
Vasiliki Tatsis, MD, MS, MBA
Stephanie Teal, MD, MPH
Sean Tedjarati, MD, MPH, MBA

Deanna Teoh, MD, MS
Krishnansu Tewari, MD
Hong-Thao Thieu, MD
Holly Thomas, MD
Elizabeth Thomason, MD, MPH
Amy Thompson, MD
Jennifer Thompson, MD
Arthur Thorpe, Jr., MD, MBA
Stephen Thung, MD, MSCI
Rebecca Todd, MD
Jean Tornatore, MD
Sandra Torrente, MD
Paul Tulikangas, MD
Nichole Tyson, MD
Renata Urban, MD
Heather Urrego, DO
Sevan Vahanian, MD
Kartik Venkatesh, MD, PhD
Ada Ventura-Braswell, MD, MBA
Neelam Verma, MD
Clifford Wai, MD
Stacey Wallach, MD, MBA
Despina Walsworth, MD
Erica Wang, MD, MAS

D. Gregory Ward, MD
Thaddeus Waters, MD
Larissa Weir, MD
Sara Whetstone, MD, MHS
Emily Whitcomb, MD, MAS
Nicola White, MD
Paula White-Prock, MD
Carrie Wieneke Broghammer, MD
Makeba Williams, MD, MSCP
Marvin Williams, Jr., DO
Ann Williford, MD
Ira Winer, MD, PhD
Cheung Wong, MD
Robin Wood, MD
Johnnie Wright, Jr., MD
Tonya Wright, MD
Belinda Yauger, MD
Brett Young, MD
Omar Young, MD
Eve Zaritsky, MD
Nikki Zite, MD, MPH
Paula Zozzaro-Smith, DO
Meggan Zsemlye, MD
Andrea Zuckerman, MD

»» Retiring Specialty Examiners

ABOG extends its gratitude and appreciation to the following volunteers, who concluded their terms of service as Specialty Examiners in 2024.

James Alexander, MD
Amy (Meg) Autry, MD
Susan Bliss, MD
Gloria Bowles-Johnson, MD
Jennifer Butler, MD
Elizabeth Buys, MD
Sandra Dayaratna, MD
Julie DeCesare, MD
Paul DiSilvestro, MD
Rita Driggers, MD

Renee Eger, MD
Michael Flynn, MD
Marilyn Fudge, MD
Nancy Gaba, MD
Maya Hammoud, MD, MBA
Eduardo Lara-Torre, MD
Andrew Menzin, MD
Erin Nelson, MD
Wanda Nicholson, MD, MPH, MBA
John O'Boyle, MD

Kristen Plastino, MD
John Pulvino, MD
Rini Ratan, MD
Sireesha Reddy, MD
Andrew Steele, MD
Eric Strand, MD
Scott Sullivan, MD
Meggan Zsemlye, MD

»» Subspecialty Examiners

Subspecialty Examiners play a crucial role in administering the Subspecialty Certifying Exam to assess candidates' knowledge, clinical skills, and decision-making abilities, evaluating performance based on established criteria to ensure consistency and fairness, and maintaining the integrity of the examination process through accurate and objective assessment.

Gynecologic Oncology

Nadeem Abu-Rustum, MD
Ioannis Alagkiozidis, MD
Ronald Alvarez, MD, MBA
Stephanie Blank, MD
Rebecca Brooks, MD
Jubilee Brown, MD
Yovanni Casablanca, MD
William Cliby, MD
Elena Diaz Moore, MD
Linda Duska, MD, MPH
Amanda Fader, MD

Colleen Feltmate, MD
Peter Frederick, MD
Ginger Gardner, MD
Saketh Guntupalli, MD
Monica Prasad Hayes, MD
Yevgeniya Ioffe, MD
David Kushner, MD
Lisa Landrum, MD, PhD
Carrie Langstraat, MD
Jayanthi Lea, MD
Charles (Trey) Leath III, MD, MSPH

Michael McHale, MD
Barbara Norquist, MD
Steven Plaxe, MD
Bhavana Pothuri, MD, MS
Matthew Powell, MD
Stephen Rose, MD
Ritu Salani, MD, MBA
Todd Tillmanns, MD
Christine Walsh, MD, MS
Shannon Westin, MD, MPH

Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Catherine Albright, MD, MS
Martina Badell, MD
Jason Baxter, MD, MS
Peter Bernstein, MD, MPH
Joseph Biggio, Jr., MD, MS
Alison Cahill, MD, MSCI
Judith Chung, MD, PhD
Shani Delaney, MD
Tania Esakoff, MD
Michael Sean Esplin, MD
Lisa Foglia, MD
Kimberly Fortner, MD
Manisha Gandhi, MD
Etoi Garrison, MD, PhD

Laura Goetzl, MD, MPH
Andrea Greiner, MD, MHA
William Grobman, MD, MBA
Cynthia Gyamfi-Bannerman, MD, MS
David Hackney, MD
Christina Han, MD
Lorie Harper, MD, MSCI
Brenna Hughes, MD, MSc
J. Igor Iruretagoyena, MD, MS
Anjali Kaimal, MD, MAS
Elizabeth Langen, MD
Deirdre Lyell, MD
Torri Metz, MD, MS
Michael Paglia, MD, PhD

Julie Phillips, MD
T. Flint Porter, MD, MPH
Priya Rajan, MD
Uma Reddy, MD, MPH
Patricia Santiago-Muñoz, MD
Christina Scifres, MD
Jeanne Sheffield, MD
Robert M. Silver, MD
Hyagriv Simhan, MD, MS
Lynn Simpson, MD, MS
Sindhu Srinivas, MD, MSCE
Methodius Tuuli, MD, MPH, MBA

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Bala Bhagavath, MD
Kathleen Brennan, MD
Richard Burney, MD, MSc
Erkan Buyuk, MD
William Catherino, MD, PhD

LaTasha Craig, MD
Eve Feinberg, MD
Clarisa Gracia, MD, MSCE
Karl Hansen, MD, PhD
Ryan Heitmann, DO

Anthony Imudia, MD
Erica Johnstone, MD, MHS
Emily Jungheim, MD, MSCI
Pinar Kodaman, MD, PhD
Ruth Lathi, MD



Volunteering provides an opportunity to assure the expectations of our practitioners for excellence. Volunteering supplies the safeguards that the process is fair, and that those seeking board certification can expect a high quality assessment of their skills. Volunteering gives me and my colleagues an opportunity to work together, improve assessment, and be responsive to the concerns of our patients, our specialty, and our society.”



William Catherino, MD, PhD

Subspecialty Examiner, 2013-Present
REI Division Member, 2016-Present

David Lee, MD
Monica Mainigi, MD
Erica Marsh, MD, MSCI
Elizabeth McGee, MD
Zaher Merhi, MD
Sara Morelli, MD, PhD
Genevieve Neal-Perry, MD, PhD
Lubna Pal, MBBS, MSc
Staci Pollack, MD, MS
Julie Rios, MD
Randal Robinson, MD, MBA
Ginny Ryan, MD, MA
Belinda Yaeger, MD

Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery

Matthew Barber, MD, MHS
Sylvia Botros-Brey, MD, MSCI
Marlene Corton, MD, MSCS
W. Thomas Gregory, MD
Peter Jeppson, MD
Kimberly Kenton, MD, MS
Felicia Lane, MD

Jaime Long, MD
Jerry Lowder, MD, MSc
Mikio Nihira, MD, MPH
John Occhino, MD, MS
Marie Paraiso, MD
Amy Park, MD
Lieschen Quiroz, MD

Olga Ramm, MD, MS
Gary Sutkin, MD, MBA
Christopher Tarnay, MD, MHA
Christine Vaccaro, DO
Anthony Visco, MD
Clifford Wai, MD
Tajnoos Yazdany, MD



ABOVE: Subspecialty Certifying Examiners during the 2025 Subspecialty Certifying Exam in April at the ABOG National Center.

» Retiring Subspecialty Examiners

ABOG extends its gratitude and appreciation to the following volunteers, who concluded their terms of service as Subspecialty Examiners in 2024.

Gynecologic Oncology

William Cliby, MD
Linda Duska, MD, MPH

Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Robert Silver, MD

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Elizabeth McGee, MD
Jared Robins, MD, MBA

»» Qualifying Examination Development Committee (QEDC)

The Qualifying Exam Development Committee (QEDC) is responsible for editing and finalizing the content of our Specialty Qualifying Exam. Additionally, the committee reviews content post-exam to ensure the exam is fair and free of bias for scoring and future use.

Anne Burke, MD, MPH
Shani Delaney, MD
Marygrace Elson, MD, MME
Amanda Fader, MD
Abimbola Famuyide, MBBS
Eve Feinberg, MD
Rajiv Gala, MD
Joseph Gobern, MD, MBA
Beverly Gray, MD
Celeste Hemingway, MD, MHPE
Emily Jungheim, MD, MSCI
Nicole Karjane, MD
Kimberly Kenton, MD, MS
Eduardo Lara-Torre, MD
Phyllis Lawani, MD

David Marzano, MD
Francine McLeod, MD
John Myers, DO

David Nelson, MD
Steven Plaxe, MD
Catherine Spong, MD



ABOVE: QEDC Committee members at the 2024 QEDC Meeting in the ABOG National Center in August 2024.

»» Certifying Examination Development Committee (CEDC)

The Certifying Exam Development Committee (CEDC) is tasked with creating and finalizing the content for our Specialty Certifying Exams, as well as constructing the exam forms.

Matthew Barber, MD, MHS
Cynthia Brincat, MD, PhD
Teresa Byrd, MD, MSCI
Marlene Corton, MD, MSCS
Dana Farabaugh, MD
Angela Gantt, MD, MPH
Aileen Garipey, MD, MPH, MHS
William Grobman, MD, MBA
Saketh Guntupalli, MD
Christine Isaacs, MD
Anjali Kaimal, MD, MAS
Erin Keyser, MD
Dineo Khabele, MD
Judette Louis, MD, MPH
Kristen Matteson, MD, MPH
Keith Nelson, MD
Mary Norton, MD

Margareta Pisarska, MD
Steven Plaxe, MD
Torie Comeaux Plowden, MD, MPH
Ritu Salani, MD, MBA

Courtney Schreiber, MD, MPH
Divya Shah, MD, MME
Vasiliki Tatsis, MD, MS, MBA
Hong-Thao Thieu, MD



ABOVE: CEDC Committee members at the 2024 CEDC Meeting in the ABOG National Center in May 2024.

»» Assessment Development Subcommittee (ADSC)

The Assessment Development Subcommittee (ADSC) plays a crucial role in developing content for Specialty and Subspecialty Initial Certification Exams by writing multiple-choice items for the Qualifying Exam (QE) or structured cases for the Certifying Exam (CE).

Specialty (OB-GYN) Qualifying Exam

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Amanda Adeleye, MD | Crystal Hammons, DO | Brian Nielsen, MD, MS |
| Shamsa Al Awar, MD | Elaine Hart, MD | Setul Pardanani, MD |
| Benjamin Beran, MD | Andrew Hundley, MD | Kathleen Pombier, MD |
| Lynn Boardman, MD | Leah Kaufman, MD | Valerie Ratts, MD |
| Ira Carl Chan, MD | Angela Kerr, MD | Heather Zuelene Sankey, MD, MS, MEd |
| Rebecca Cohen, MD, MPH | Alicia Kiszka, MD | Stuart Shippey, MD |
| Christine Conageski, MD, MSc | Maura Lofaro, MD | Michael Shu, MD |
| Jill Danford, MD | Caroline Markey, MD | Barbara Simmons, MD |
| David DeFilippis, MD | Oscar Martinez, DO | Sarah Smith, MD |
| Steven Dudick, MD | Kathryn McKenney, MD, MPH | Stephanie Tsai, MD |
| Marc Feldstein, MD | Pedro Morales Ramirez, MD | Anna White, MD |
| Susan Fong, MD, MS | Masaru Negi, MD | Brett Young, MD |

Complex Family Planning Qualifying Exam

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa Chen, MD, MPH | Vinita Goyal, MD, MPH | Siripanth Nippita, MD, MS |
| Angela Dempsey-Fanning, MD, MPH | Priya Gursahaney, MD, MS | Bethany Perry, MD |
| Colleen Denny, MD | Sabrina Holmquist, MD, MPH | Nikki Zite, MD, MPH |
| Melissa Figueroa, MD, MPH | David Kattan, MD, MPH | |

Gynecologic Oncology Qualifying Exam

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Christina Chu, MD | Tashanna Myers, MD | Andrew Wiechert, MD |
| Teresa Diaz, MD | Stephen Rose, MD | Ira Winer, MD, PhD |
| Megan McDonald, MD, MHPE | Cyril Spann, Jr., MD, MS | |
| Caela Miller, MD | Ryan Spencer, MD, MS | |

Maternal-Fetal Medicine Qualifying Exam

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Martina Badell, MD | Etoi Garrison, MD, PhD | Shivani Patel, MD, MBA |
| Stephen Contag, MD | Donna Johnson, MD | Julie Phillips, MD |
| Ryan Cuff, MD | Adam Lewkowitz, MD, MPHS | Anthony Sciscione, DO |
| Hai-Lang Duong, MD, MS | Anita Manogura, MD | |
| Tania Esakoff, MD | Joseph Ouzounian, MD, MBA | |

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Qualifying Exam

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Jennifer Dundee, MD | Helen Kim, MD | Elizabeth Puscheck, MD, MS, MBA |
| Bryan Hecht, MD | Winifred Mak, MD, PhD | Anna Sokalska, MD, PhD |
| Ryan Heitmann, DO | Sara Morelli, MD, PhD | Mark Trollice, MD, MBA |
| Zaraq Khan, MBBS | Lubna Pal, MBBS, MS | |

Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery Qualifying Exam

Sylvia Botros-Brey, MD, MSCI
Christopher Chung, MD
Casey Kowalik, MD
Emily Lukacz, MD

Catherine Matthews, MD
Mary McLennan, MD
Melanie Meister, MD, MSCI
Kamran Sajadi, MD

Jonathan Shaw, MD, MB, BCh
Clifford Wai, MD
Yasser Zeid, MD

Specialty (OB-GYN) Certifying Exam

Robert Altman, MD, MBA
Joy Anderson, MD
Brandon Bell, DO
Edwin Bello, MD
Pamela Berens, MD
Kevin Brown, MD
Teresa Byrd, MD, MSCI
Jose Carugno, MD
Helen Cejtin, MD
Christie Cooksey, MD, MS
Charles Dietrich, MD
Rita Driggers, MD
Dana Farabaugh, MD
Timothy Fisher, MD, MS
Nagaraj Gabbur, MD

Scott Graziano, MD
Dwight Hooper, MD, MBA
Matthew Hopkins, MD
David Howard, MD, PhD
Carrie Johnson, MD
Raksha Joshi, MBBS, MBA
Justin Junn, MD, MBA
Kelsey Kelso, MD
Charles Kilpatrick, MD, MEd
Melissa Lozano, MD, MA
Catherine Lynch, MD
Aliza Machevsky, MD
Dibe Martin, MD
Margaret Mueller, MD
Merit Nassif, MD

Anh Nguyen, MD
Holly Olson, MD
Lisa Pompeo, MD
Kristin Powell, MD, MS
Anna Reinert, MD
Enid Rivera-Chiauszi, MD
Lisa Rosenberg, MD
Celeste Susan Royce, MD
Stephanie Saposnik, MD, MSCI
Jonathan Adam Schaffir, MD
Mengyang Sun, MD, MS
Vasiliki Tatsis, MD, MS, MBA
Sandra Torrente, MD
Despina Walsworth, MD

Complex Family Planning Certifying Exam

Rebecca Allen, MD, MPH
Benjamin Brown, MD, MS
Grace Ferguson, MD, MPH
Leanne Free, MD, MSCI

Aileen Gariepy, MD, MPH, MHS
Katherine Glaser, MD, MPH
Melissa Kottke, MD, MPH, MBA
Erika Levi, MD, MPH

Ghazaleh Moayed, DO, MPH
Sheila Mody, MD, MPH
Ivana Thompson, MD, MSCI

Gynecologic Oncology Certifying Exam

Leigh Cantrell, MD, MSPH
Segundo Cardenas-Goicoechea, MD, MBA
Marina Frimer, MD
Carolyn Lefkowitz, MD, MPH, MS
Alexander Olawaiye, MD

Nonyem Onujiogu, MD
Teresa Rutledge, MD
Ritu Salani, MD, MBA
John Schorge, MD

Ashley Stuckey, MD
Christine Walsh, MD, MS
William Winter III, MD

Maternal-Fetal Medicine Certifying Exam

Martina Ayad, MD
Timothy Canavan, MD, MSc
Eugene Chang, MD
Donna Dizon-Townson, MD

James Edwards, MD
Teresa Harper, MD
J. Igor Iruretagoyena, MD, MS
Jeffrey Kuller, MD

Kavitha Ram, MD, MS
Amanda Trudell, DO, MSCI
Blair Wylie, MD, MPH

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Certifying Exam

Bala Bhagavath, MD
Jessica Chan, MD, MSCE
Jennifer Eaton, MD, MSCI
Emily Evans-Hoeker, MD

Sasha Hakman, MD, MS
Heather Hipp, MD
Patricia Jimenez, MD
Erin Masaba, MD

Manvinder Singh, MD
Belinda Yaeger, MD
A. Musa Zamah, MD, PhD

Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery Certifying Exam

Muhammad Aslam, MD, MBBS
Sara Cichowski, MD
Caroline Foust-Wright, MD, MBA
Joseph Kowalski, MD
Soo Kwon, MD

Jaime Long, MD
Michael Margolis, MD
Apurva Pancholy, MD
Charbel Salamon, MD, MBA, MS
Carmen Sultana, MD

Carolyn Swenson, MD
Steven Swift, MD
Sandra Valaitis, MD

»» Continuing Certification Development Committee (CCDC)

The Continuing Certification Development Committee (CCDC) is responsible for building and curating Continuing Certification content by selecting articles and writing article-based quizzes for Part II: Lifelong Learning & Self-Assessment, writing multiple-choice items for Part III: Assessment of Knowledge, Judgment, & Skills, and developing and reviewing practice improvement modules for Part IV: Practice Improvement.

Erika Banks, MD
Jubilee Brown, MD
Rajiv Gala, MD
Isabel Green, MD, MEHP

Barbara Hoffman, MD
Maria Manriquez, MD
David Nelson, MD
Samantha Pfeifer, MD

Sangeeta Senapati, MD
Mark Turrentine, MD

»» Division Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)

The Division Subject Matter Experts assist the division members in developing and finalizing content for the subspecialty certifying examinations.

Complex Family Planning

Anitra Beasley, MD, MPH
Catherine Cansino, MD, MPH

Gynecologic Oncology

Lisa Barroilhet, MD, MS
Paul DiSilvestro, MD
John Farley, MD

Maternal-Fetal Medicine

Kimberly Fortner, MD
Anjali Kaimal, MD, MAS

Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

Belinda Yaeger, MD
Jennifer Eaton, MD, MSCI

Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery

Gena Dunivan, MD

Initial Certification Overview

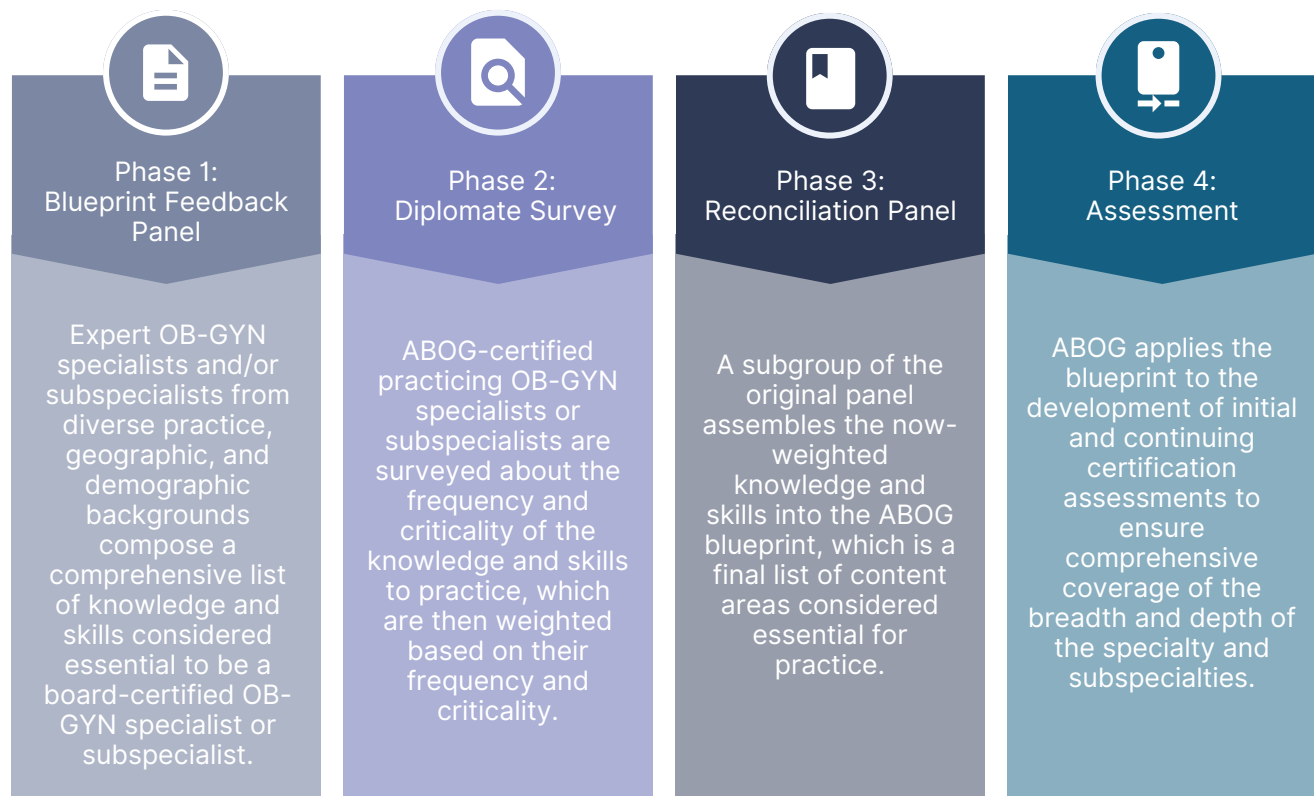
Certification demonstrates to the public that a physician and medical specialist meets nationally recognized standards for knowledge, experience, and skills and maintains their certification through continuous learning and practice improvement in order to provide high quality care in a specific medical specialty.

In 2024, ABOG administered Specialty (OB-GYN) and Subspecialty Qualifying and Certifying Exams to more than 3,800 OB-GYN physicians.

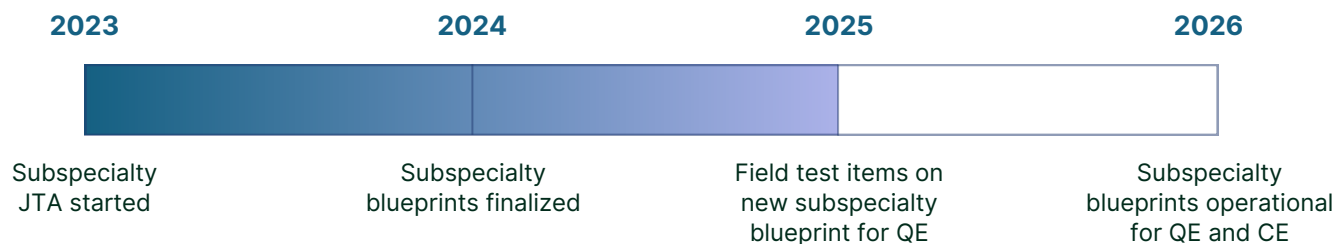
»» Job Task Analysis (JTA) Process

The **Job Task Analysis (JTA)** is a fundamental step in developing the blueprint for ABOG's two-step certification process. This rigorous, inclusive, and wide-reaching process ensures fair and valid certification decisions by assessing the knowledge and skills required to certify obstetricians and gynecologists.

It also ensures ABOG's certification standards remain relevant, practice-based, and reflective of the evolving landscape of women's health care and the OB-GYN field.



ABOG conducts a Job Task Analysis (JTA) for both its specialty and subspecialties approximately every 3 to 5 years. The blueprint for the most recent Specialty JTA was completed in 2023. Below is the timeline for the Subspecialty JTA, which began in 2023 and will conclude in 2026.



»» Initial Certification Process

ABOG board certification is a voluntary, two-step process designed to assess a physician's expertise beyond state licensure. Physicians who choose to pursue board certification in obstetrics and gynecology demonstrate their commitment to excellence in women's health care.

Step 1: Qualifying Examination (QE)

The first step in the certification process is the Qualifying Examination (QE). After completing residency, a physician can apply to take the QE, a written test assessing knowledge and skills in the medical and surgical care of patients.



Step 2: Certifying Examination (CE)

The second step is the Certifying Examination (CE), an oral exam administered by a team of national experts. This examination tests the physician's ability to apply knowledge in clinical scenarios, demonstrating skill and judgment in treating various conditions. The examiners also review physicians' case lists from the previous year to assess their clinical experience in women's health care.



»» Time Limitation for Eligibility

Eligibility for ABOG certification is time-limited. Physicians must complete the certification process within eight years after graduating from residency or fellowship. This timeline ensures that candidates are evaluated while clinical knowledge and experience are recent and relevant.



*An additional year of eligibility will be added for each year spent in fellowship as long as the fellowship is satisfactorily completed.

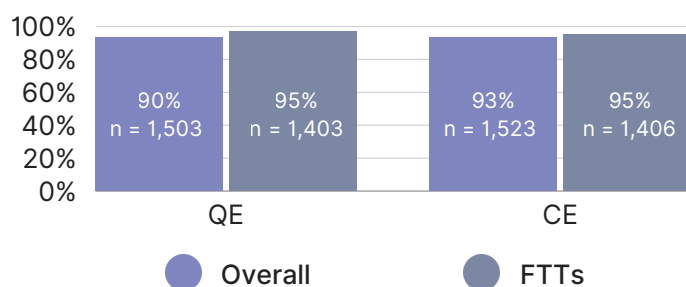
»» 2024 Exam Pass Rates

2024 Exam Takers



Specialty Qualifying and Certifying Exams

Pass Rates: Overall and First-Time Takers (FTTs)

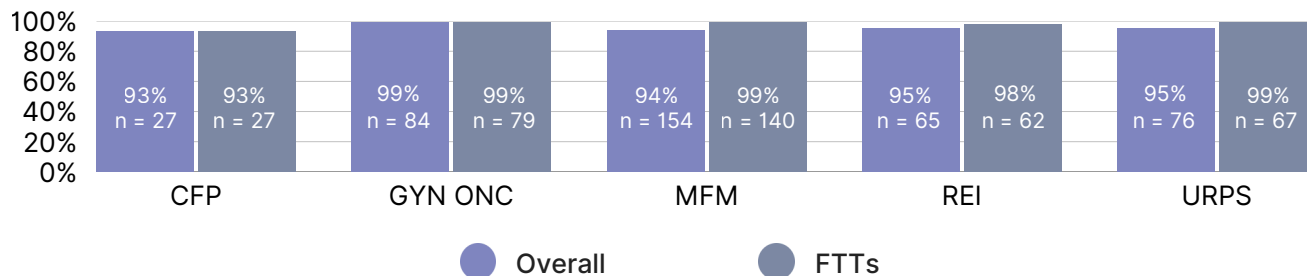


Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to access an interactive data visualization tool displaying 10-year trends in exam pass rates for Specialty and Subspecialty Qualifying and Certifying Exams.



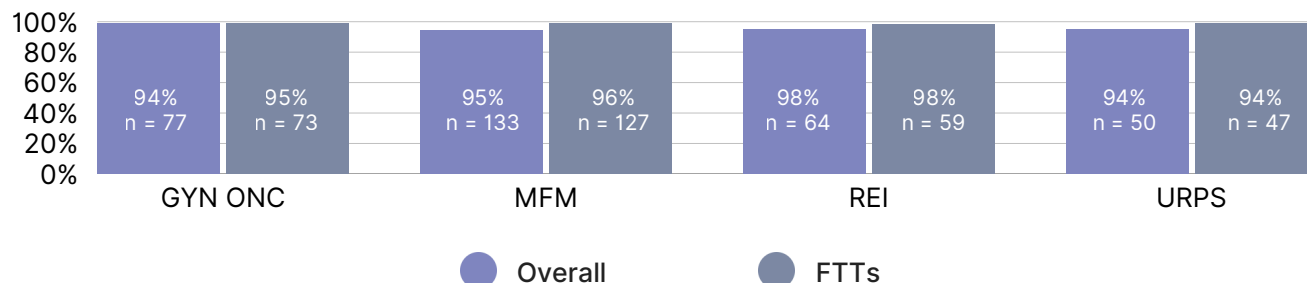
Subspecialty Qualifying Exams

Pass Rates: Overall and First-Time Takers (FTTs)



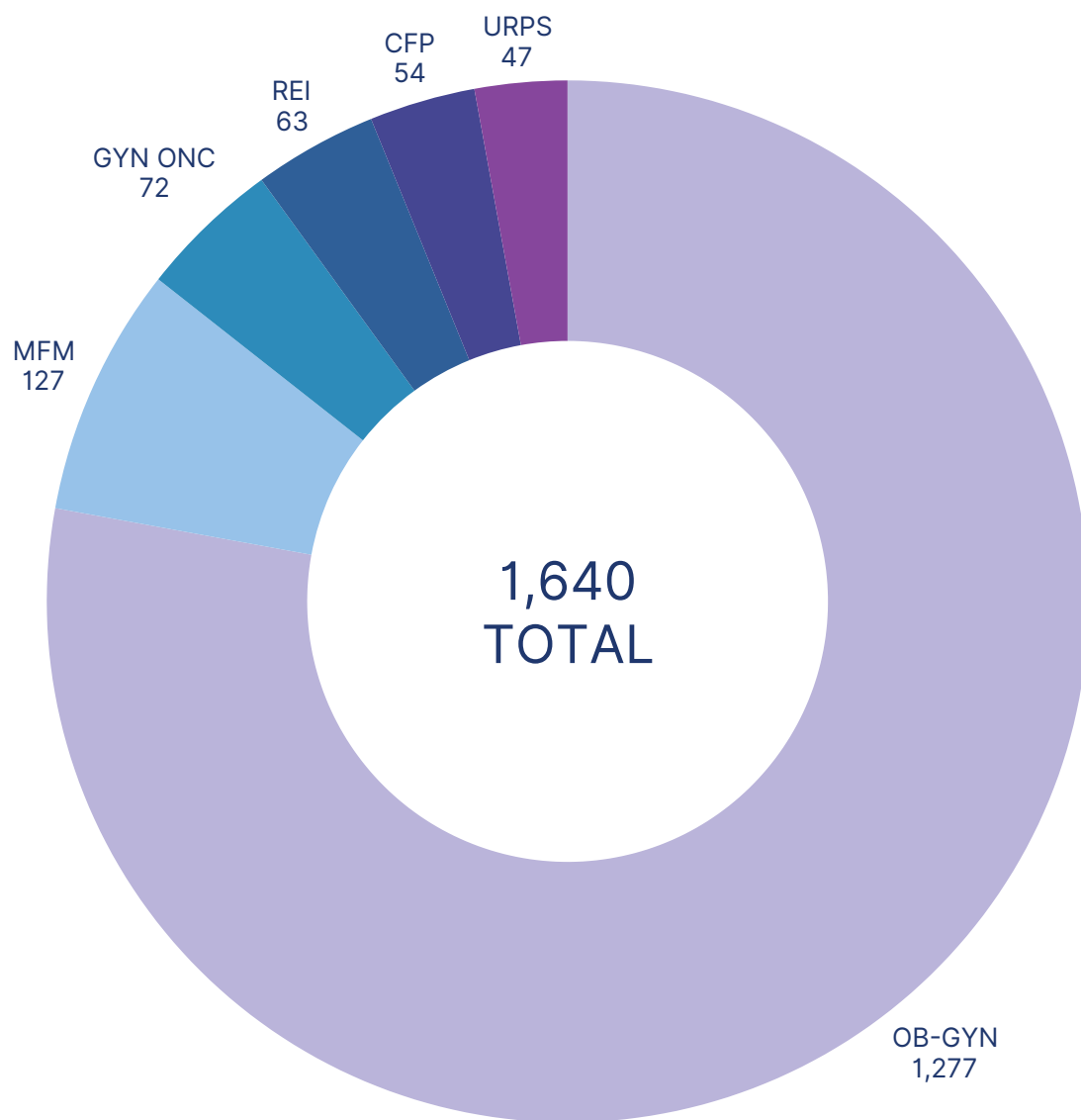
Subspecialty Certifying Exams

Pass Rates: Overall and First-Time Takers (FTTs)



»» Newly-Certified Diplomate Data

Distribution of Newly Certified Diplomates by Specialty and Subspecialty



»» Key Highlights and Achievements

Successful In-Person Exams at the ABOG National Center for Certification and Continuing Education

ABOG successfully hosted **1,847** in-person certifying exams at the new ABOG National Center in 2024. This allowed us to provide a controlled, standardized, and high-quality testing environment for candidates, ensuring the integrity and fairness of the examination process.

With extensive planning and coordination, we facilitated a safe and smooth experience for candidates and examiners, reinforcing ABOG's commitment to upholding the highest standards in exam delivery and the candidate assessment process.



ABOVE: Specialty Certifying Examiners at the ABOG National Center during the 2024 Specialty Certifying Exam in November

ABOG's First Super Division Meeting Creates Connections and Collaborations

In August 2024, ABOG hosted its inaugural Super Division meeting, bringing together all five subspecialty divisions—Complex Family Planning, Gynecologic Oncology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery—for a collaborative effort to innovate and improve subspecialty processes. Historically, division meetings were held separately.

Meeting Outcomes

- »» Agreement that the 12-month (or 6-month, as applicable) research period remain a crucial component of fellow education
- »» Successful thesis completion, a key outcome of the research year, will transition from a Certifying Exam eligibility requirement to a Qualifying Exam eligibility criterion
- »» Refinement of the thesis defense process to include an external reviewer
- »» Initial development of guidelines for the volunteer role of the external thesis defense committee

Administration of the First Complex Family Planning Certifying Exam

2024 included preparing for administration of the first-ever certifying examination for the Complex Family Planning (CFP) subspecialty, marking a significant milestone as CFP joins the ranks of other subspecialties.

The addition of the CFP Certifying Exam is the final step in establishing CFP as a subspecialty. This exam evaluates the candidate's approach to and rationale for the clinical care of various reproductive health conditions. A combination of standardized structured cases and candidates' case lists were used by examiners to assess candidates.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate a level of knowledge that allows them to serve as consultants to obstetrician-gynecologists and provide quality clinical care. CFP Certifying Exams were administered in April 2025.

50th Anniversary of Subspecialties

The 50th anniversary of three pioneering subspecialties—Gynecologic Oncology, Maternal-Fetal Medicine, and Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility—was marked in 2024. This milestone signifies half a century of advancements and dedication to specialized care in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

»» History of Subspecialties

The journey toward subspecialization began with “The Conference on Specialization within Obstetrics and Gynecology” held in December 1969. Called by ABOG, this landmark meeting gathered representatives from 18 national societies to discuss the future of specialization within Obstetrics and Gynecology. This conference laid the foundation for the development of subspecialties that would transform the field.

Following the conference, ABOG appointed a committee to:

- »» Define the subspecialties to be developed
- »» Recommend objectives, content, and training requirements for physicians aspiring to become subspecialists

The committee presented its report to the ABOG Board of Directors in September 1970. With the support of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and affiliated societies, three fellowship programs were later established: Gynecologic Oncology (GYN ONC), Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM), and Reproductive Endocrinology (RE). The RE subspecialty was later renamed Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) in 2004 to reflect its expanded scope.

The fellowship program for Gynecologic Oncology was established under the direction of Dr. John L. Lewis, Jr., with key contributions from founding members Drs. James H. Nelson, Jr., J. George Moore, Felix N. Rutledge, and

George C. Lewis, Jr. The fellowship program for Maternal-Fetal Medicine was established under the direction of Dr. Edward J. Quilligan, with key contributions from founding members Drs. Edgar L. Makowski, Harry Prystowsky, Joseph Seitchik, Donald L. Hutchison, and Frederick P. Zuspan. The fellowship program for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility was established under the direction of Dr. Kenneth J. Ryan, with key contributions from founding members Drs. C. D. Christian, T. N. Evans, Nathan Kase, and James C. Warren.

»» Reflecting on 50 Years of Progress

As we celebrate this significant milestone, we reflect on the profound impact these subspecialties have had on patient care and medical advancements. Over the past 50 years, subspecialists in GYN ONC, MFM, and REI have pioneered innovative treatments, improved patient outcomes, and contributed to the advancement of medical knowledge.

The dedication and expertise of these subspecialists have transformed the field of OB-GYN, ensuring that patients receive the highest quality care. As we look to the future, ABOG remains committed to supporting and advancing these subspecialties and fostering continued innovation and excellence in patient care. Additionally, we recognize the importance of our newer subspecialties, Complex Family Planning and Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery, which continue to enhance the scope and quality of care provided to patients.

Continuing Certification (CC) Overview



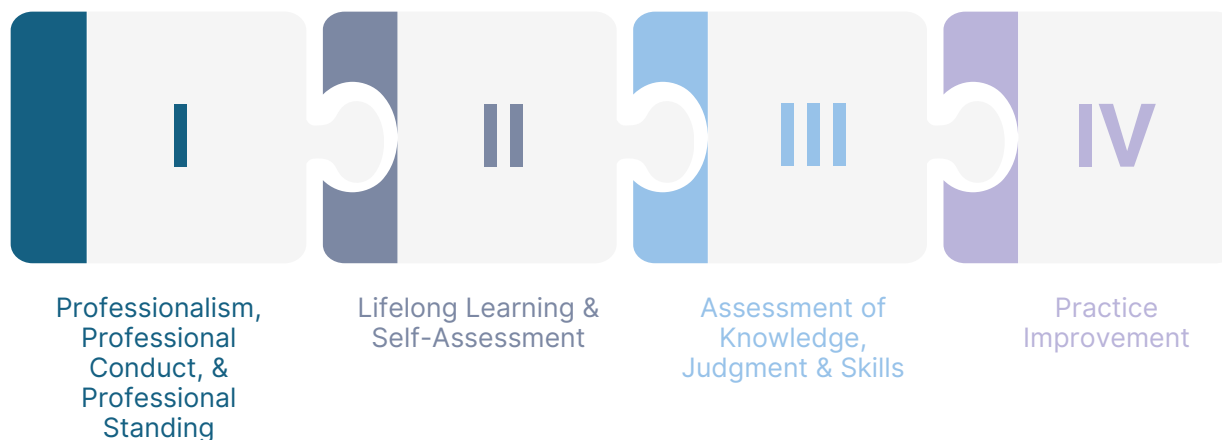
The Continuing Certification (CC) program is a continuous professional development process to ensure that ABOG-certified physicians maintain a high level of knowledge, judgment, and skills in their specialty and/or subspecialty throughout their careers.

The goals of the CC program are to:

1. Promote professional standards
2. Advance scientific knowledge and mastery by supporting lifelong learning
3. Foster improvements in health and health care

»» CC Four-Part Process

The goals of the CC program are achieved through a four-part process:



The CC program is structured over a 6-year cycle. However, diplomates must complete requirements annually. After completion of each 6-year cycle, a new cycle begins the following year.

»» Continuing Certification Program Modifications

In 2024, ABOG worked on several key changes applied to the 2025 program and its implementation:

- »» **Name Change** | Prompted by the American Board of Medical Specialties' (ABMS) updated standards for specialty boards, ABOG changed the name "Maintenance of Certification" to "Continuing Certification." This change more accurately reflects the ongoing process of knowledge and skill enhancement and aligns with our commitment to the continuous pursuit of mastery in the OB-GYN specialty and subspecialties.

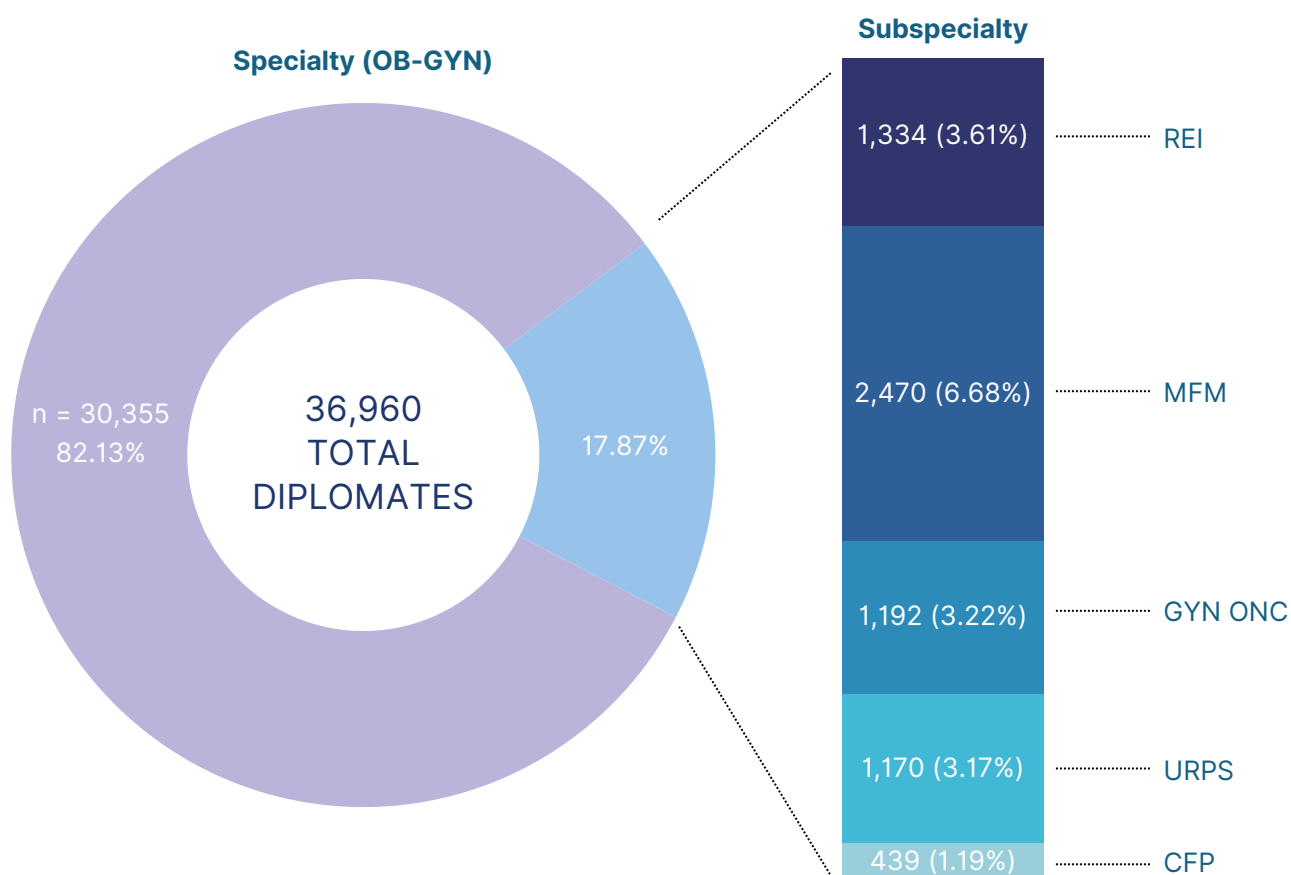
»»» **Application Deadline Adjustment** | Starting in 2025, the CC application deadline is moved to August. The requirements completion deadline remains November 15. The new application deadline allows additional and necessary time for processing and resolving credentialing issues before the end of the year.

»»» **Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment** | Work begun in 2024, which applies to 2025, included a change in the number of article releases from 3 annually to 2 (January and May). Based on diplomate feedback, this change provides a higher volume of articles to select from, facilitating more effective opportunities to complete article requirements.

»»» **CC Label** | ABOG is pleased to offer the CC label to diplomates who opt in to receive it. To conserve environmental resources, we will no longer automatically send labels to all diplomates who complete all annual CC requirements. Only diplomates who opt in to receive a label when applying for the CC program will receive it. Production and distribution of labels will commence after the final CC requirements deadline in mid-November, based on the confirmed list of diplomates who opted in to receive labels. This change became effective in January 2025.

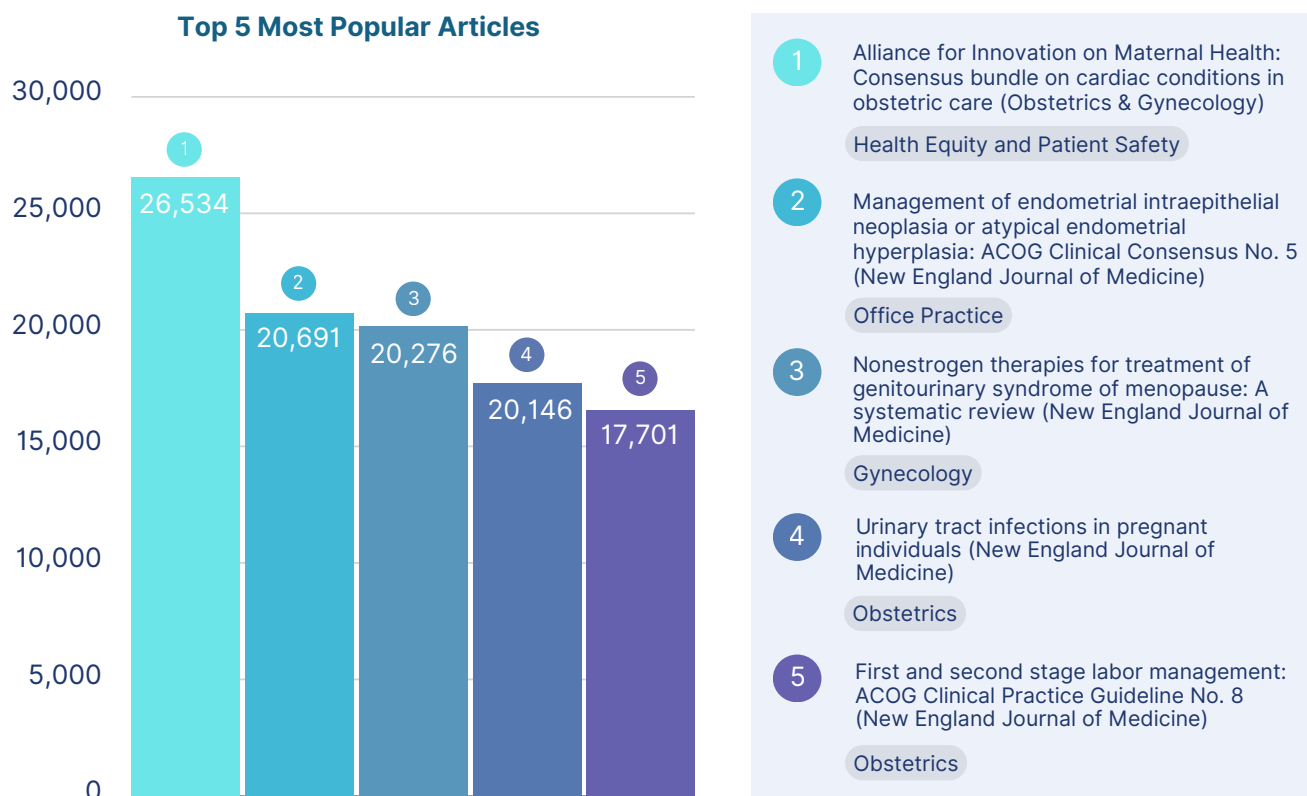
»»» Completion Data

A total of 36,960 diplomates completed the 2024 CC year. See the breakdown below of specialty and subspecialties. Additionally, 1,253 diplomates have Focused Practice Designations (FPDs) in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (MIGS) or Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology (PAG), indicating an added level of training or expertise.



»» Part II: Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment

Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment contributes to better patient care by requiring ongoing participation in high-quality learning activities that assess current knowledge in obstetrics and gynecology and its subspecialties. It consists of article-based assessments from peer-reviewed literature on clinically relevant patient-management information, best-practice guidelines, and important research and studies. Diplomates read 15 articles and complete assessments in the categories of Obstetrics, Gynecology, Office Practice, Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery, the five subspecialties, Health Equity and Patient Safety, or any of the other available article categories (for example, Emerging Topics).



Emerging Topics/Subjects of Interest

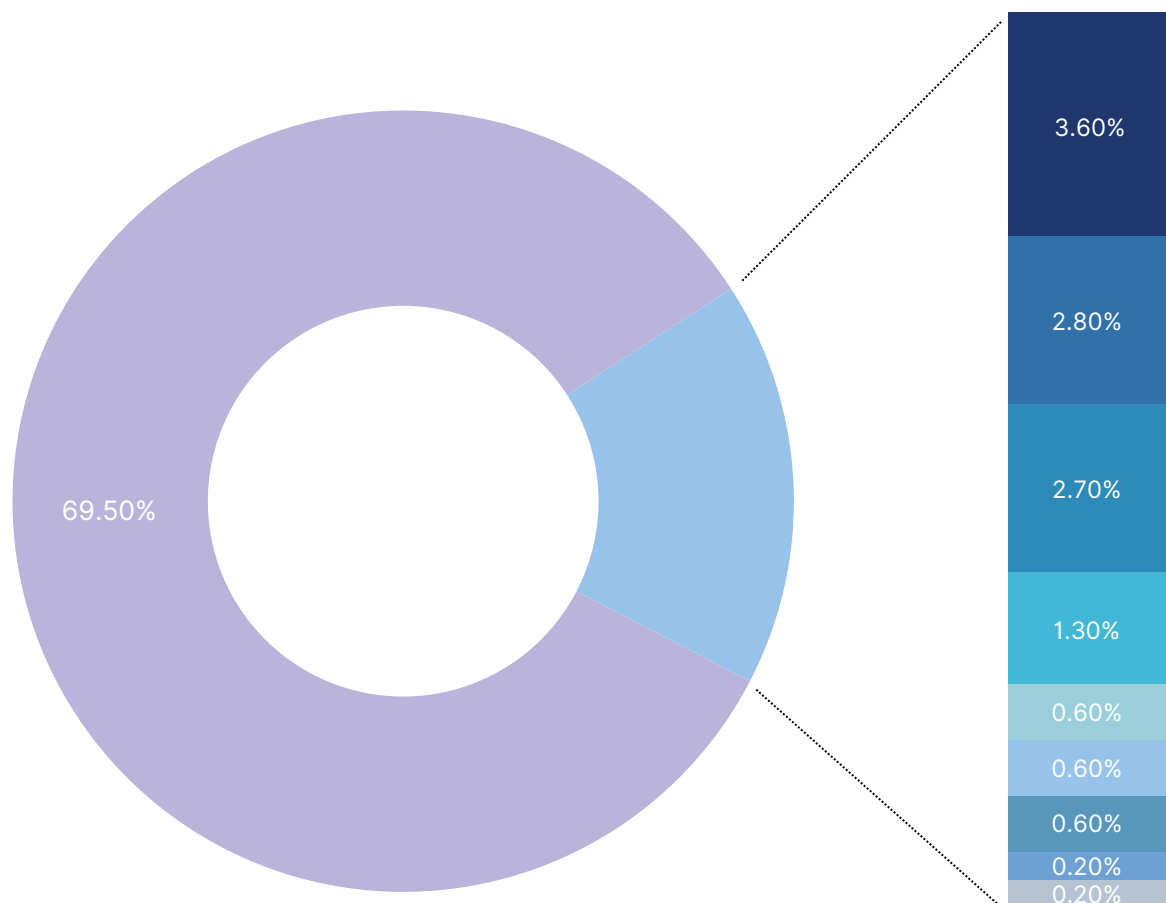
Below are articles that appeared in the Emerging Topics category in 2024 for diplomates to read as part of their Part II requirement. Among others, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is one source of articles in this category.

| Obstet Gynecol | Obstet Gynecol | Am J Obstet Gynecol | JAMA Pediatr |
|--|---|---|---|
| What U.S. obstetricians need to know about respiratory syncytial virus | Human trafficking: ACOG Committee Opinion, Number 787 | Going green in gynecology: a call to action | Maternal vaccine effectiveness against influenza-associated hospitalizations and emergency department visits in infants |

>>> Part IV: Practice Improvement

Part IV Practice Improvement focuses on enhancing patient care through ongoing assessment and improving care quality in practices, hospitals, health systems, and community settings. This includes activities aimed at achieving better patient or population health outcomes, improving access to health care, enhancing the patient experience (including patient satisfaction), and increasing the overall value of the health care system.

Part IV Practice Improvement Activities Chosen by ABOG Diplomates



● Modules

● QI Activity

● DEA Training Requirements

● Simulation (Courses in Fetal Monitoring, OB Emergency, etc.)

● AMA Ed Hub Online Courses

● Program Director/Assistant or Associate Program Director

● Clinical Registry (Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology)

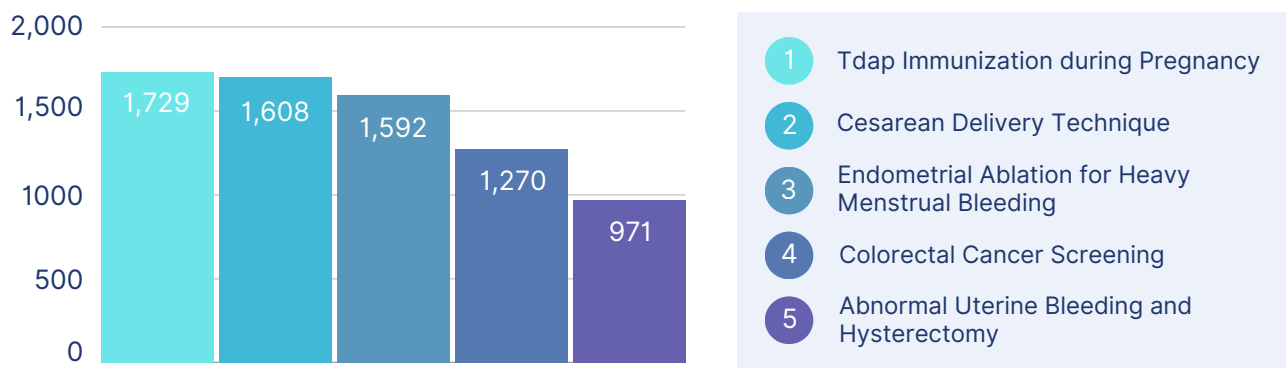
● Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support/Advanced Trauma Life Support

● Publications

● Poster or Presentation at National Meeting

Top 5 Modules

Practice Improvement Assessment Modules are the most popular activity choices for diplomates. The graph below highlights the top five most popular modules chosen in 2024.



»» Highlights and Achievements

Part IV Credit Expanded to New Groups in 2024

Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) and Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Initial Course Completion

Diplomates can now earn Part IV Practice Improvement credit upon completing the initial course in Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) or Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) training. These courses are essential for health care professionals involved in emergency and critical care.

Program Directors and Assistant/Associate Program Directors

A total of 227 diplomates, who hold positions as Program Directors or Assistant/Associate Program Directors, earned Part IV Practice Improvement credit due to their vital roles in overseeing and advancing educational programs.

Part IV Credit Awarded Again in 2024 for DEA Training

A total of 1,073 diplomates were awarded Part IV Practice Improvement credit after completing the comprehensive substance abuse training required by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for physicians renewing or obtaining their DEA license under the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act. This training program, which covers crucial topics such as recognizing substance use disorders, effective communication strategies, and appropriate interventions, is essential for enhancing understanding and management of substance abuse issues in clinical practice. Extending Part IV credit to diplomates for completing the DEA training program began in 2023.

»» A Glimpse of 2025

Part IV Credit for Examiners

In 2025, Specialty and Subspecialty Examiners will be awarded Part IV Practice Improvement credit in recognition of their valuable time and expertise dedicated to the examination process. This decision acknowledges the critical role examiners play in evaluating and ensuring that the next generations of board-certified OB-GYNs maintain the highest standards of care.

Amplified Continuing Education (ACE) Pilot Developmental Work and Planning

As part of ABOG's commitment to continuous improvement and innovation in certification, the Amplified Continuing Education (ACE) Pilot was developed as an innovative enhancement to the Continuing Certification (CC) program. ABOG is actively engaged in developmental work and planning for the pilot, which is set to launch in January 2026.

ACE is designed to integrate knowledge gap items into the annual CC process, offering a more complete picture of diplomates' evolving learning needs across the OB-GYN specialty and subspecialties. Through a low-pressure, feedback-driven format, diplomates will engage with 60 unscored ACE questions tailored to their clinical practice, alongside 60 scored questions tied to 10 selected articles.

ACE questions will not impact certification status and are intended to enhance learning and retention through targeted assessment. Diplomates will receive immediate feedback—including correct answers, references, and rationales—as well as end-of-year insights such as peer comparisons and performance summaries by ACE area.



ACE Pilot Highlights

The following are a few highlights but much more detail will be forthcoming this fall via email, our website, social media, and other resources.

»» **ACE Knowledge Gap Questions:** Because ACE questions are intended to identify knowledge gaps, they will be unscored and will not impact your certification.

»» **No Time Limit:** There will be no time limit on answering ACE questions.

»» **No Changes to Annual Performance Benchmarks:** 80% minimum score to pass CC Part II and 86% minimum score for Performance Pathway participants.

»» **Immediate Feedback:** Immediate feedback will be provided (correct vs incorrect answers).

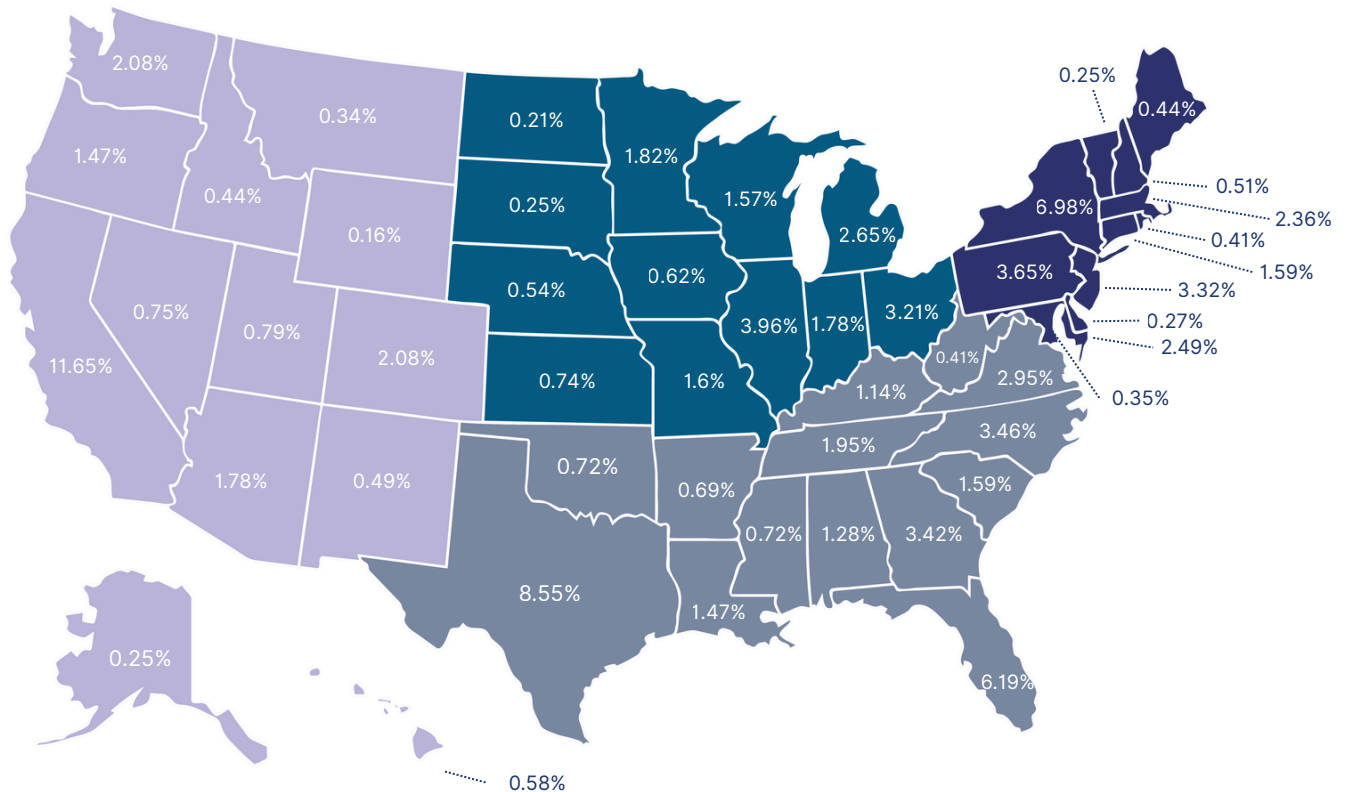
»» **Personalized:** Questions will be informed and customized by diplomate data collected during the CC application process.

»» **End-of-Year Feedback:** Includes peer comparison and overall feedback by category.

Diplomate Data

»» Geography

Specialty Diplomates



● South
35%

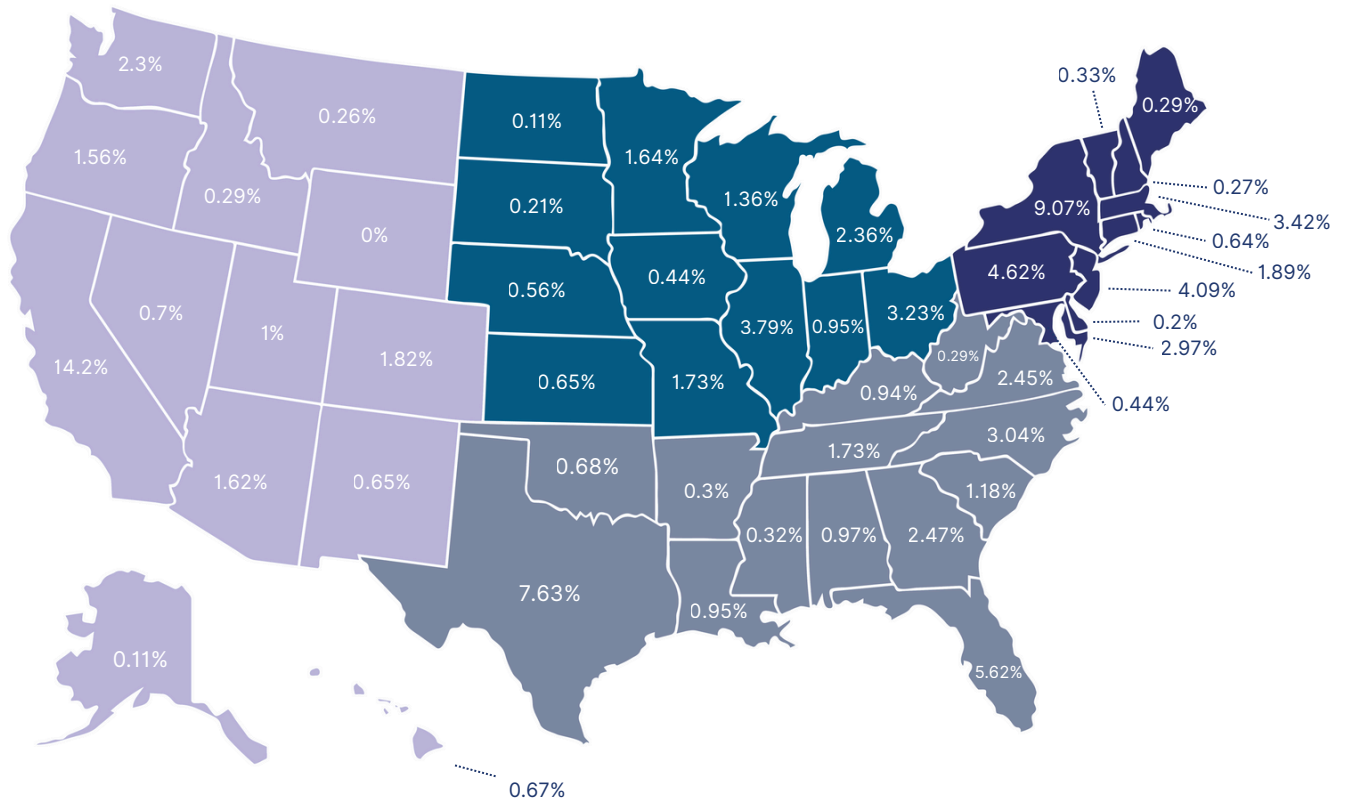
● Northeast
22.6%

● West
22.9%

● Central
19%

Note: 0.6% includes Canada, Rest of World, Armed Forces, U.S. Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam

Subspecialty Diplomates



● **South**
29%

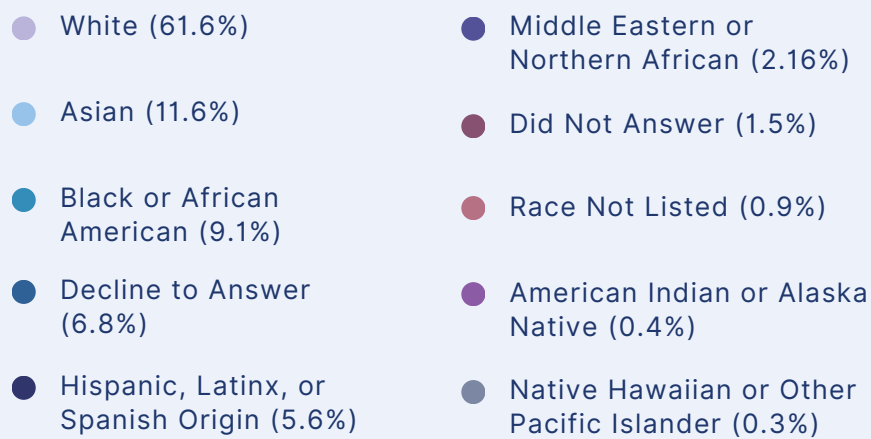
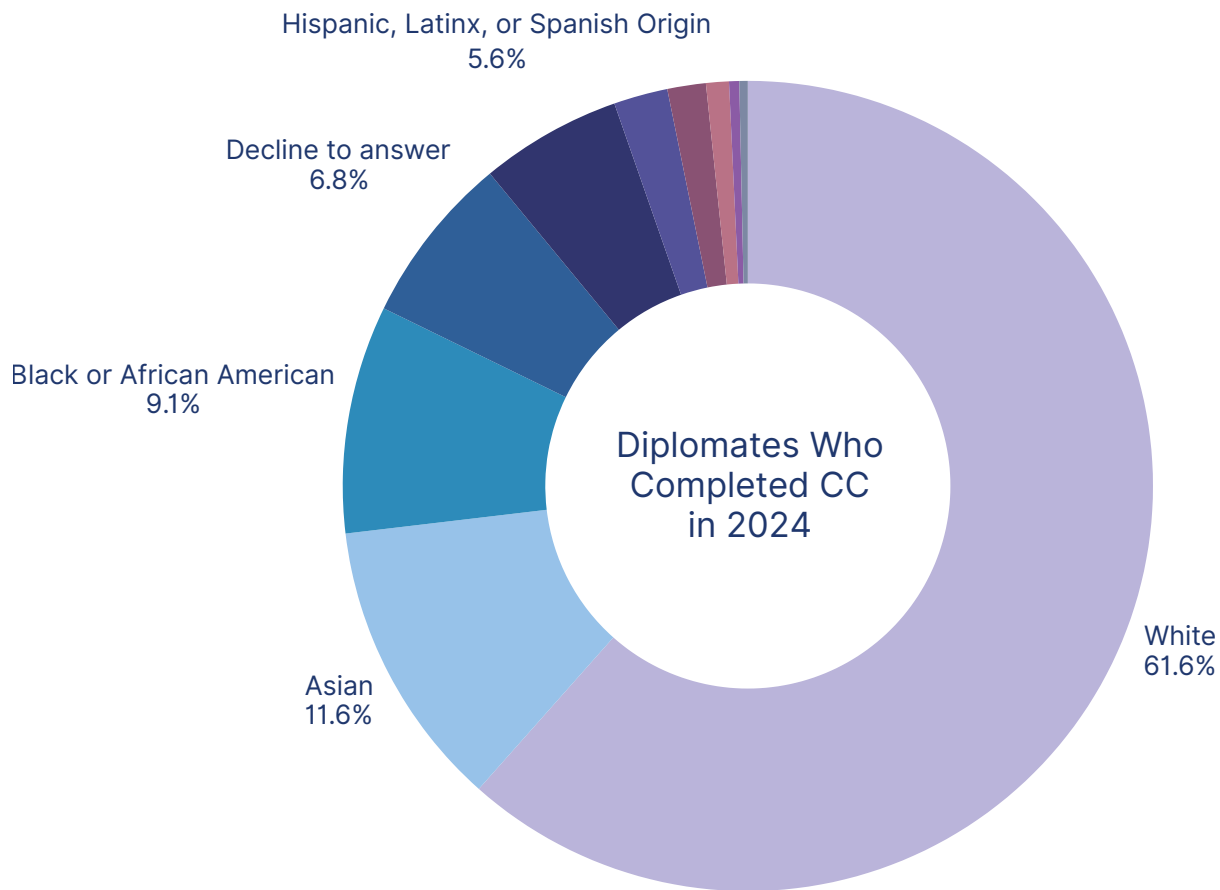
● **West**
25%

● **Northeast**
28%

● **Central**
17%

Note: 0.8% includes Canada, Rest of World, and Armed Forces Europe

Demographics | Ethnicity Breakdown



Publications & Presentations

ABOG conducts research, both internally and collaboratively with external partners, to assess the relevance and value of initial and continuous certification and to gain a better understanding of the relationship between certification, GME training, practice outcomes, and lifelong learning.

The following research papers, commentaries, and presentations were authored and/or presented by ABOG Executive Leadership and staff members from January 2024 through December 2024.

»» Publications

Shivraj, P., Kincaid, H., Chadha, R., Sparks, A., Wendel, G. D. (2024). Physician preparation for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology Qualifying Examination [Research Letter]. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, (2024). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2024.06.007>

Shivraj, P., Chadha, R., Kincaid, H., Sparks, A., Novak, A., Wendel, G. D. (2024). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on fellowship research [Research Letter]. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 231(1). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2024.02.294>

»» Presentations

Kincaid, H., Sparks, A., Shivraj, P., & Wendel, G. (2024, April). Ensuring knowledge in certification using natural language processing. Presented at the 2024 National Council on Measurement in Education Conference: Philadelphia, PA.

Pusic, M. V., & Shivraj, P. (2024, September). The science of certification: The year's top 10 research articles. Presented at the 2024 Annual American Board of Medical Specialties Conference: Chicago, IL.

Rankin, A., Diepenbrock, K., Young, A. (2024, September). Cultivating a Relationship with OB-GYN Residents through Early Interaction. Presented at the 2024 Annual American Board of Medical Specialties Conference: Chicago, IL.

Sparks, A., Kincaid, H., Shivraj, P., & Young, A. (2024, September). Evaluating the Utility of Two Large Language Models for OB GYN Article-Based Assessments. Poster presented at the 2024 Annual American Board of Medical Specialties Conference: Chicago, IL.

Sparks, A., Kincaid, H., Shivraj, P., & Young, A. (2024, September). Investigating the Internal Structure of the OB GYN Qualifying Examination. Poster presented at the 2024 Annual American Board of Medical Specialties Conference: Chicago, IL.

Sparks, A., & Shivraj, P. (2024, March). Ensuring Fairness in the OB GYN Board Certification Process. Presented at the 2024 CREOG + APGO Conference: San Antonio, TX.



ABOVE: ABOG staff presenting their posters and presentations at the 2024 American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Conference in Chicago.

Education Grants

For the 2024-2025 academic year, ABOG awarded a total of **\$410,000** in grants to fund research fellows and to provide assistance to scholars in their research and career development.

These philanthropic initiatives support educational opportunities, including scholarships and seminars relating to the obstetrics and gynecology field for physicians and students.

»» Reproductive Scientist Development Program (RSDP)

Launched in 1988, RSDP is a national career development program with the goal of developing a body of reproductive physician-scientists based in academic departments who employ cutting-edge cell and molecular technologies to address important problems in the OB-GYN field. In 2024, ABOG awarded **\$25,000** per scholar for 3 scholars (**\$75,000** total) for research-related expenses:



Rahul D'Mello, MD, PhD
Oregon Health & Science
University



**Kamaria Cayton-
Vaught, MD**
Johns Hopkins University



**Katherine Kurnit,
MD, MPH**
University of Chicago

Additionally, ABOG awarded **\$25,000** to underwrite the RSDP Annual Retreat.

»» American Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Foundation (AAOGF)

AAOGF's mission is to advance knowledge and care for women through the development of physician-scientists and innovative research in OB-GYN. In 2024, ABOG awarded **\$60,000** for research-related expenses and **\$10,000** for administrative support per scholar, for 3 scholars (**\$210,000** total).



**Shuk-On Annie
Leung, MD**
McGill University
Health Center



Melissa Frey, MD
Weill Cornell University



David Huang, MD
University of California,
San Francisco

ABOG also awarded AAOGF **\$85,000** to co-fund one Bridge Award. These are one-year awards which help empower promising women's health investigators who otherwise may have moved on to strictly clinical careers.

»» ABMS Visiting Scholars

The [ABMS Visiting Scholars Program™](#) offers a pathway for early-career physicians and research professionals to develop new skills and capabilities, demonstrating their ability to create impact, which could become central to career progression and institutional reputation. In 2024, two ABMS Visiting Scholars were announced: **R. Nicholas Burns, MD**, and **Abigail Ford Winkel, MD, MHPE, FACOG**. ABOG underwrote Burns' research, while Winkel's research was funded through grant dollars from the Moore Foundation.

Burns' research, *Evaluating the Relationship of ABOG Certification with Early Career Patient Outcomes in Obstetrics and Gynecology*, intends to add to a body of literature regarding the validity of the association between certification and safe patient care, which he notes, has not been previously evaluated in OB-GYN. ABOG will underwrite Burns' research with a \$15,000 scholar award to cover research and travel costs.



Seeing similar work in other specialties, I am confident given the breadth of obstetrics and gynecology, our initial certification process has the potential to inform a junior diplomate's early career development. I am thrilled that ABOG and ABMS are supporting this work to understand initial certification's potential role as a bellwether for early career practice outcomes."



R. Nicholas Burns, MD

Board-certified in OB-GYN and MFM

Burns earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Galveston and completed residency at the Women and Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, a teaching affiliate of the Warren Alpert School of Medicine of Brown University. He completed a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine (MFM) at the University of Washington in Seattle, and he is currently an assistant professor in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

Winkel's research will explore *Decision-Making on the Labor Floor: Assessment of Obstetrician-Gynecologists' Expertise Amidst Uncertainty*. Her focus on the labor floor is intended to illustrate the contrast between the reality of clinical practice decisions and the learnings therein to the current item-response modeling in assessing OB-GYN knowledge as part of the continuing certification process. ABOG is happy to support Winkel's efforts to advance her research in the form of collaborative assistance or information germane to her study topic.

She completed postdoctoral training in obstetrics and gynecology at New York Presbyterian, and she currently holds a faculty appointment as an OB-GYN professor at NYU Grossman School of Medicine.



After focusing my research on earlier points in an OB-GYN's education and training, it's exciting to look at how doctors in practice maintain their expertise. While mastery of OB-GYN requires a wide range of knowledge and clinical skills, we know that other aptitudes are also essential. Through this project with ABMS and ABOG, we will explore management of uncertainty in clinical decision-making and learn more about how to support physicians in that capacity."

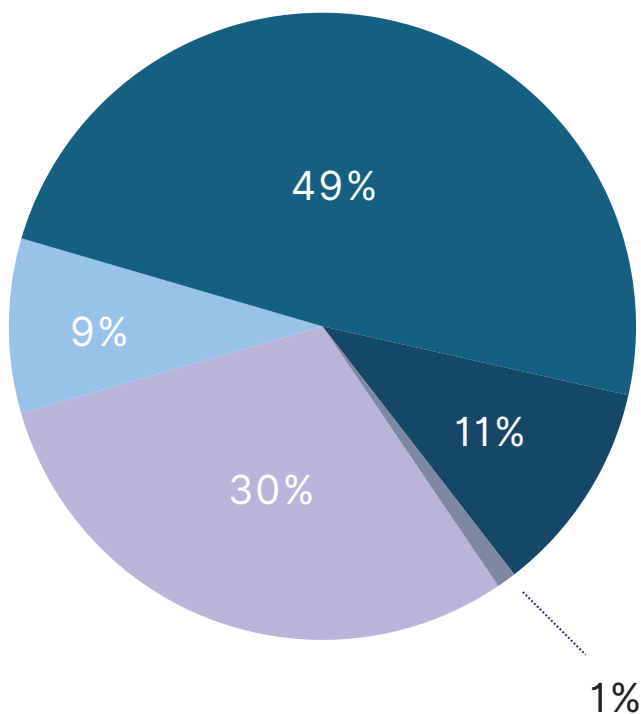


Abigail Ford Winkel, MD, MHPE, FACOG

Board-certified in OB-GYN

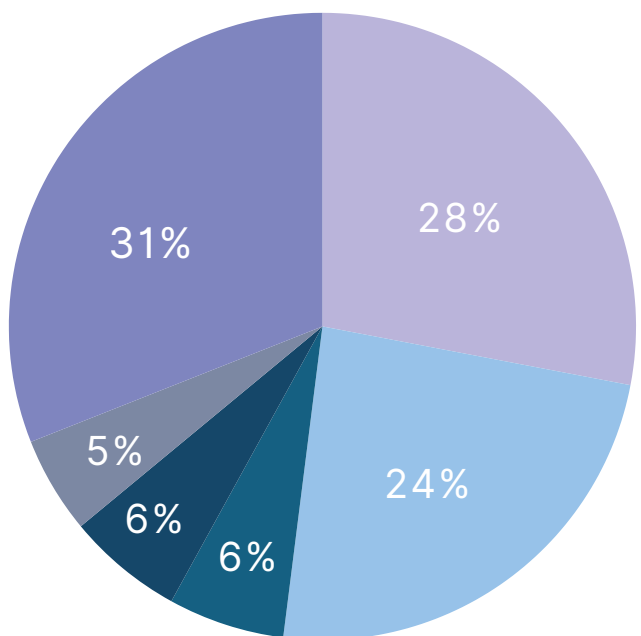
Financial Overview

»» Revenue



- Assessments - Specialty (30%)
- Assessments - Subspecialties (9%)
- Continuing Certification (49%)
- Investment Income, Net (11%)
- Other (1%)

»» Expenses



- Compensation and Benefits (28%)
- Program Administration (24%)
- Occupancy (6%)
- Professional Fees (6%)
- Depreciation and Other Program Expenses (5%)
- Management and General (31%)

2024-25 Staff

In 2024, ABOG operations underwent a reorganization and realignment to support our strategic priority to optimize performance and to more effectively serve our stakeholders.

»» Office of the Chief Executive Officer



Amy Young, MD
Chief Executive Officer



Sandra Hodgson, MA
Chief Communications Officer



Gracie Blackwell
Communications Experience
Specialist



Andrea Hernandez
Administrative Assistant &
Board Coordinator



Sherri Malkinson
Multimedia Specialist



Demita Villaruel
Administrative Assistant

»» Office of Medical Affairs



Gabriella Gosman, MD
Associate Executive Officer and
Chief of Medical Affairs (COMA)



Connie Barrera
Practice Improvement
Specialist



Marsha Congleton
GME & Subspecialty
Division Manager



Dawn Henning
Volunteer Experience
Manager



Alisa Mitchell

Administrative Assistant



Andrea Rankin, MSMH

Director of Certification
Standards & GME Affairs

not pictured:

Melissa Bagert

Eligibility & Credentialing Specialist

»» Office of Medical Standards and Assessments



Kenneth Kim, MD

Associate Executive Officer and
Chief of Medical Practice and
Certification Innovation (COPI)



Pooja Shivraj, PhD

Chief of Assessments



Sabera Arabi

Editorial Lead



Erika Bayro

Certification Specialist



Kimberly Berry

Manager of Assessment
Development



Minu Concha

Certification Specialist



Shelley Duke

Content Management Lead



Paul Goode, MA

Editorial Lead



Jenny James

Administrative Assistant



Heath Kincaid, MS

AI Research Lead



Jayci Molnar

Project Manager,
Assessments



Anthony Moreno-Sparks, PhD

Manager of Psychometrics
& Research



Christina Nava

Content Management
Specialist



Candace Thomas, MPH

Manager of Assessment
Operations



Enis Samardzic

Certification Administrator



Dylan Ward, MS

Junior Data Scientist

»» Office of Organizational Performance



Amanda Novak, MEd

Chief Operating Officer



Kirk Diepenbrock, MS

Chief Information Officer



Jim Kunko, CPA

Chief Financial Officer



Dennis Borgne

Manager of Human Resources



Scott Bracken

BI Engineer



Ryan Casey

Senior Data Engineer



Desiree Estrada

Systems Analyst



Lizzy Fountain

Meetings and Events Coordinator



Nicholas Gonzales

Facilities Maintenance
Technician



Lynda Kennedy

Product Manager



M'Lynn Kunkel

Executive Assistant to the COO



Ryan Malone

Facilities Operations Manager



Angela Martin

Product Manager



Jackie Olko, MS

Manager of Strategic Initiatives



Adnan Pajazetovic

Network and Security Manager



Denton Pfister

Software Architect



Anna Shafer

Accounting Specialist



Jessica Thomason

Manager of Meetings
and Events



Juanita Vazquez

Financial Analyst



Jose Villa

Security Operations Manager



Parker Wilson

.NET Developer

not pictured:

Steve Scruggs

Senior .NET Developer



LEFT: ABOG Executive Leadership team

RIGHT: ABOG Staff





abog.org/contact-us



214.871.1619



abog.org | obgynhealthplus.org

ABOG
American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology

