



American Board of Orofacial Pain

March 9, 2021

Dear Deans and Orofacial Pain Program Directors,

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As you are aware, in March 2020, the American Dental Association designated Orofacial Pain as a new specialty in dentistry. This recognition was more than 25 years in the making. The last leg of this journey is the recognition of the American Board of Orofacial Pain (ABOP) as the Official Certifying Board for the field. We urgently need your support and that of your students and residents to finalize and validate the position of Orofacial Pain as a specialty in dentistry.

The need for a certifying board is of course, critical to every specialty. It provides external validation of the training of specialists in every field. Since 1994, the ABOP has taken the responsibility of performing the duties of the certifying board, and has done so following best practices, demonstrated by exceeding psychometric standards of measurement in both the written and oral examinations.

There is now a 60-day period for public comments to the Commission. ABOP requests your support and submission of positive comments to the Commission supporting the application. ABOP also hopes that this request is passed on to students and orofacial pain postgraduate residents for their supporting comments as well. They are the groups most likely to benefit from the approval of the ABOP application.

The application and data of the psychometric reliability of the ABOP examination process is posted at the National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards' website at:

<https://www.ada.org/en/ncrdscb/who-we-are/news-and-meetings>

and then go to the link:

[The American Board of Orofacial Pain Application for Recognition \(PDF\).](#)

Comments (prior to May 3) should be addressed to Ms. Catherine Baumann, Director, National Commission on Recognition of Dental Specialties and Certifying Boards at:

[nationalcommission@ada.org.](mailto:nationalcommission@ada.org)

Thanking you for your support, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors and the Diplomates of the ABOP,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary M. Heir, D.M.D.", written in a cursive style.

Gary M. Heir, D.M.D.
President, American Board of Orofacial Pain

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