



# AMERICAN BOARD OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY-HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

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## **Oral Certifying Exam Candidates Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery 2020 Exam Update**

July 29, 2020

On July 2, 2020 the American Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (ABOHNS) communicated with you that the in-person Oral Certifying Exam (OCE) for Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery scheduled October 11- 13, 2020 was canceled and being changed to a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ABOHNS has completed an analysis of the effort and coordination needed to develop and administer the virtual OCE for primary board certification. Based on this analysis, the **OCE is now scheduled for Saturday, Sunday and Monday, February 6 - 8, 2021.** The third day was added in consideration for the possible additional time needed for this first-time process. It is possible that the ABOHNS will be able to complete the examinations over the first two days. We will notify you when the dates are finalized allowing for specific scheduling by each candidate.

The basic format of the virtual OCE will remain the same as the in-person exam with the exception of the physical location of the candidates and the examiners. As we continue to develop the technical aspects of the virtual format, the ABOHNS will communicate to you the necessary information technology requirements as well as the conditions needed for examination integrity to include your physical location during the exam. We are also considering virtual training sessions prior to the exam weekend to ensure a successful interface with each candidate and examiner.

### **Scheduling, Board Eligibility, and Credentialing**

The ABOHNS will be communicating with you in approximately 3 months about candidate scheduling for the February OCE.

As a reminder, board eligibility periods have been extended by one year for all candidates who were scheduled to take the 2020 Oral Certifying Exam. We can provide formal verification of this if needed. Candidates may need to undergo recredentialing prior to the administration of the exam due to the length of time since this process was last completed. For example, this process may include re-attestation of state medical board status and acknowledgement of the ABOHNS application agreement form.

### **Deferment Option Reminder**

We understand that some candidates may wish or need to defer from taking the February 2021 virtual oral exam and instead prefer to wait until the next in-person examination is scheduled. A deferral can be requested at no additional cost. While it is uncertain when an in-person format will be viable from a public health perspective, the ABOHNS will extend a candidate's eligibility for one (1) additional year if a deferral is requested. Please contact Rosa La Neve at [RML@ABOHNS.ORG](mailto:RML@ABOHNS.ORG) if you wish to request a deferral.

We are also steadfast in our commitment to assist you as you navigate in this unprecedented time and encourage those needing assistance to contact Rosa La Neve, Certification Coordinator, at [RML@ABOHNS.ORG](mailto:RML@ABOHNS.ORG). On behalf of all of us at ABOHNS we thank you for your patience and understanding and hope that you, your colleagues, and your families remain safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Nussenbaum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Brian Nussenbaum, MD, MHCM  
Executive Director