



## Newsletter to Diplomates May 2024

*The mission of The American Board of Plastic Surgery, Inc. is to promote safe, ethical, efficacious plastic surgery to the public by maintaining high standards for the education, examination, certification and continuous certification of plastic surgeons as specialists and subspecialists.*

### **87 years in the Public Trust**

*Included in this Newsletter is the Board's expressed appreciation for our diplomates who support the Board in its mission.*

## Report from the Chair of the Board Joan E. Lipa, M.D. Toronto, Canada



*This year's 30-question Self-Assessment Activity is available for completion from May 3rd through June 14th. Detailed information will be sent separately from the Board Office.*

*I thank all diplomates of the ABPS for allowing me the great opportunity to serve for the last seven years as Director and from 2023-2024 as Chair of the Board.*

## ABPS Continuous Certification Program

The ABPS Continuous Certification Program is a hallmark of Board Certification, providing the public with a standard credential while providing value to you, the Diplomate, and supporting ongoing learning needs as you continue to evolve in your career of Plastic Surgery.

The ABPS Continuous Certification Program has changed to align with the new Standards of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) effective January 1, 2024. As such, the Board is moving to a 5-year certification cycle. It is important to note that this will **not** entail any extra work for ABPS Diplomates since the requirements will essentially stay the same. The ABPS will split all current 10-year requirements evenly into two 5-year cycles.

It is important to note that individual **current certification cycles will be preserved**. For instance, if your current 10-year certification cycle is due to be completed in 2027, you would continue as you are and only be entered into the new 5-year cycle upon recertification.

The first “**new**” cohort of 5-year cycle Diplomates will include those who recertify at the end of this year (current certificate expires 12/31/2024, or previously expired) and those new diplomates who pass the upcoming Oral Examination. The first 5-year certificates will be issued from 2025 through 2029.

In the new format, new Diplomates will receive a certificate printed with an initial certification date only. As Diplomates complete a 10-year certification cycle, they will also receive a new certificate that no longer has a printed expiration date. Beyond the first certificate with a five-year cycle, no new printed certificates will be issued. Current certification cycles and status will continue to be available on the Board's website for patients and credentialers. The Board also offers auto-generated Verification of Status letters on the diplomate tracking page to provide to credentialers as needed. The Board has made great efforts to maintain its high standards while providing a smoother, more user-friendly pathway to ABPS Continuous Certification for the busy practicing plastic surgeon. Refer to the [Board's website](#) for further details regarding the new format.

The Board will continue to administer the annual 30-question Self-Assessment Activity. Diplomates are strongly encouraged to complete the assessment annually. Look for more details in the Executive Director Report later in this Newsletter.

## Competency Based Medical Education

The American Board of Medical Specialties and the ACGME are moving towards Competency Based Medical Education (CBME). Discussions include the implementation of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs). With these developments training requirements may change, and impact Board eligibility of future Diplomates and Diplomates involved in residency training programs. It is important for the ABPS to participate in the development and implementation of CBME.

A model of CBME, including EPAs in Plastic Surgery is already in effect in Canada, implemented by The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) in 2020. Given the potential to learn from this Canadian experience, the ABPS has embarked on a formal arrangement for a Director of The American Board of Plastic Surgery and a Member of the Specialty Committee in Plastic Surgery of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada to attend each other's Board Meetings. This will allow an opportunity to observe each other's processes and to benefit from an exchange of ideas. Carolyn Levis, MD, the Chair of the RCPSC Specialty Committee in Plastic Surgery, and Michele A. Manahan, MD, ABPS Director, will be the first to serve in this liaison capacity for this important development in plastic surgery residency training.

Please visit the [Board website](#) for details surrounding these changes.

If you have questions, please reach out to the Board Office at [staff@abplasticsurgery.org](mailto:staff@abplasticsurgery.org).

## Message from the ABPS Executive Director

**Keith E. Brandt, M.D.**



The American Board of Plastic Surgery is constantly seeking ways to improve the Diplomate experience within the ABPS Continuous Certification Program. To this end, ABPS has negotiated with a new online vendor to deliver the 30-question Self-Assessment Activity. Concurrent with this change in vendor, the ABPS has also redesigned the Self-Assessment format. The goal of the ABPS Self-Assessment has always been for the Diplomate to be able to demonstrate learning. To demonstrate learning, the Diplomate is first exposed to the item and asked to answer, drawing on baseline knowledge. Whether the Diplomate answers the item correctly or not, they are presented with the rationale, as the ABPS intentionally includes additional information within the rationale beyond what is necessary to answer the question correctly. If the Diplomate answers the question incorrectly, they are given a second chance to demonstrate that they have learned the new knowledge.

In the old format, the rationale was not immediately available while reviewing the item for the second time. Thus, the Diplomate was not able to compare the information in the rationale to the possible answers for the item. The assessment has been redesigned such that in the second attempt assessment, the rationale is now displayed along with the question so that the Diplomate can deduce the answer based on the information within the rationale.

Along with the rationale, the references for the item are also available through links immediately below the rationale. Those Diplomates looking for further information on a particular subject can click the link, review the reference, and then return to the assessment.

The Diplomate's final score for the assessment will be based on the second attempt/final responses. Please be sure to complete **both** attempts when completing your annual 30-question Self-Assessment Activity.

The answers provided during the first presentation of the items represent the baseline knowledge of the Diplomate. This performance is evaluated to identify the knowledge gaps of the individual Diplomate and also of the total group. Adult learning research has demonstrated that if an individual is repeatedly exposed to their knowledge gaps, they will eventually learn the material and be able to retrieve it quicker. To facilitate this learning, the ABPS will present Diplomates with clone items of their knowledge gaps in future years to accomplish this repeated exposure and eventual learning. The knowledge gaps of the total group are shared with the plastic surgery societies to help guide their programming and provide additional resources to work toward correcting these gaps across the specialty.

Subspecialists within plastic surgery such as hand and craniofacial surgeons, should understand that each year the ABPS includes core items that the Board determines are particularly relevant to all Plastic Surgeons. These core items are designed to present current information that focuses on patient safety.

Another improvement this year will include an extended testing window allowing diplomates six weeks to submit the assessment. **The 2024 assessment window will remain open until June 14th.** Diplomates should participate annually in the 30-question Self-Assessment Activity

These improvements required a small change in the format of the exam. Diplomates will still choose one module in their preferred subspecialty from the four subspecialty exams: Comprehensive, Cosmetic, Craniofacial, and Hand. The Diplomate will then complete the entire 30-question Self-Assessment Activity. Only the items that were answered incorrectly will then be presented in a second attempt assessment immediately after the first. In the second attempt, the rationale will be displayed along with items to assist with learning.

administration to avoid any backlog or overdue Continuous Certification requirements.

The Board is focused on making the 30-question Self-Assessment Activity a meaningful exercise for all Diplomates. By remaining current in the best practices within plastic surgery, our patients will be better served, and we can continue to distinguish ourselves from competing boards. This will benefit all ABPS board certified plastic surgeons. The Board Office welcomes feedback from Diplomates on the assessment content and new platform.

Visit the [Board's website](#) for more information about the Self-Assessment Activity, including an instruction manual and announcement video.

## Attention Plastic Surgery Program Directors

### ABPS Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form

Please be sure all residents in your program, both Integrated and Independent, complete this process.....

The ABPS Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form is an online process that is required to be completed by all **Integrated residents** by the end of their PSY-1 year. This process can be found on the [Board's website](#) under the Resident Tab [Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form](#). To gain access to the Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form, residents must first complete the Registration link here [ABPS Registration](#). If all fields match the information in the Board's records, the resident will be taken directly to the Resident Registration and Evaluation of Training Form. If the information entered does not match the Board's records, an ABPS representative will reach out to the resident within 48 hours to confirm the request and provide additional information to access the form.

Once the form is submitted to the Board, if the resident's training meets the Board's requirements, the resident will be sent an ABPS Confirmation Letter.

**Independent residents** are required to complete this process when applying to the SF Match.

### ABPS Personal Leave Policy

The Board has established an optional 12 weeks of Personal Leave that is available to residents in Integrated, Independent and Competency-Based plastic surgery residency training programs. **Personal Leave taken by a resident must be approved by the Board prior to the resident taking the leave. [View the Board's Personal Leave Policy](#)**

*Coming soon.....*

*The Board will be implementing a "Personal Leave Template" for program directors to complete and submit to the Board for approval of residents personal leave. The Board will provide the Personal Leave Template when available.*

### International Rotations

International rotations must be approved by the Board **and** the ACGME/RRC-PS prior to the residents trip. Requests for approval must be sent to the Board **at least 90 days** before the start of the rotation.



## Resident Transfers

Programs should not accept any resident as a transfer into their program **without Board approval**.

Residents **cannot** transfer from one Independent Program to another Independent program. All 3 years of plastic surgery residency training must be completed in the same Independent program.

For additional information and requirements on International Rotations and Resident Transfers, please refer to the ABPS Booklet of Information. **View the 2023-2024 ABPS Booklet of Information**. Inquiries can be directed to [info@abplasticsurgery.org](mailto:info@abplasticsurgery.org).

## Joint Plastic Surgery Hand Surgery Program Accelerated Hand Fellowship

The American Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) is piloting an Accelerated program that would allow an Integrated plastic surgery resident to complete both their plastic surgery residency training and an ACGME-accredited Hand Fellowship within 6 years. The ABPS has worked together with the American Council of Graduate Medical Education Review Committee (ACGME-RC) to create an Accelerated pilot program that allows a qualified plastic surgery resident to finish their Integrated Plastic Surgery residency training in 5 years. This program will allow the resident to pursue an ACGME-accredited one-year Hand Fellowship at the same program. After completing 5 years of plastic surgery residency training, and one year hand fellowship training the resident would have satisfied the training requirements for both primary Plastic Surgery Certification and Subspecialty certification in Hand Surgery through the ABPS.

Because of the pilot status of this program, the Joint Plastic Surgery Hand Surgery (JPSHS) program is limited to only ACGME-accredited Plastic Surgery Integrated programs that have a Plastic Surgery ACGME-approved Hand Fellowship at the same institution. The qualified resident must complete both their plastic surgery and hand surgery training at the same institution. Only one resident may participate in the pilot program from each Integrated program per year. If the ACGME and the ABPS determine that the program has sufficient hand cases, the program may keep its current compliment of Hand Fellows. The resident would be an additional Hand Fellow.

The resident participating in the JPSHS pilot program is required to successfully complete the Plastic Surgery Operative Log (PSOL) minimums and Milestones by the end of their PSY-5 year of plastic surgery training. The JPSHS resident must be identified and approved by the ABPS at the beginning of their PSY-IV year of Integrated plastic surgery residency training before advancing into the accelerated pilot program. This provides adequate time to complete the necessary deficiencies in the PSOL or Milestones.

Details of the pilot program are outlined here: **Plastic Surgery Hand Surgery Fellowship**. If you feel your plastic surgery program has enough hand cases and would like to explore more about this JPSHS pilot program, please email the Board Office at [info@abplasticsurgery.org](mailto:info@abplasticsurgery.org).

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### The Board Office moved in June 2023

Five Penn Center  
1601 Market Street  
Suite 900  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Phone number remained the same  
215.587.9322



**Joan E. Lipa, M.D.**  
*Chair*

**Jeffrey D. Friedman, M.D.**  
*Chair-Elect*

**Gabriel M. Kind, M.D.**  
*Vice-Chair*

**Steven L. Moran, M.D.**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

**Keith E. Brandt, M.D.**  
*Executive Director*

[View 2023-2024 Directors of the Board](#)

[View Advisory Council Members](#)

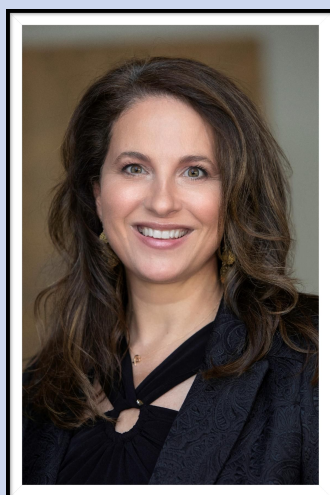
## **Thank You to the Advisory Council Members, Oral Examiners and Item Writers**

The Board would like to acknowledge the Advisory Council Members, Oral Examiners and Item Writers for their continued dedication, hard work and significant contributions throughout the year. These individuals are crucial to the development of the Written, Oral, and Hand Examinations, as well as the Self-Assessment Activities.

## **Congratulations to the New ABPS Directors!**

In May 2023, the Board elected three new Directors who were nominated by one of the 20 Sponsoring Organizations of the Board. Drs. Gosman, Hultman, and Perdikis will serve from May 2023 to May 2029, unless elected as Chair. The Chair of the Board serves a 7-year term.

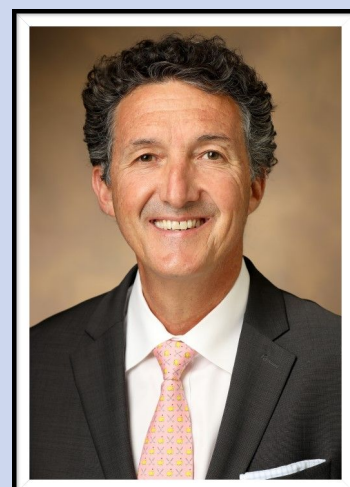
### **Drs. Gosman, Hultman and Perdikis Bios**



**Amanda A. Gosman, M.D.**  
San Diego, CA



**C. Scott Hultman, M.D.**  
Raleigh, NC



**Galen Perdikis, M.D.**  
Nashville, TN

# Special Recognition

Thank you to our past Chair of the Board,  
who completed his term of service in May 2023



**Michael W. Neumeister, M.D.**

*2016-2023  
Springfield, IL*

**Officer of the Board:** Chair 2022-2023,  
Chair-Elect 2021-2022, Vice-Chair 2020-2021

**Committees:** Credentials and Requirements Chair, Oral Exam,  
Hand Surgery Exam, Budget and Finance, Joint Committee of  
Surgery of the Hand, Liaison Representative to the American Board  
of Surgery

Thank you to our Directors who completed  
their terms of service in May 2023



**Felmont F. Eaves, III, M.D.**

*2017-2023  
Atlanta, GA*

**Committees:** Ethics Chair, Credentials  
and Requirements, Oral Exam, Aesthetic,  
Budget and Finance



**Peter J. Taub, M.D.**

*2017-2023  
New York, NY*

**Committees:** Oral Exam Chair, By-  
Laws and Publications, Continuous  
Certification, Aesthetic, Budget and  
Finance, Liaison Representative to the  
American College of Surgeons - Advisory  
Council for Plastic and Maxillofacial  
Surgery, Representative to the Residency  
Review Committee for Plastic Surgery

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**2024 Examination Dates and Locations**

## Self-Assessment Activity

May 3, 2024 through June 14, 2024

(Continuous Certification and Hand Surgery Recertification)

## Written Examination

May 7, 2024, Tuesday

Computer-Based Test at Prometric Test Centers throughout the United States and Canada

## Hand Surgery Examination

August 5, 2024, Monday

Computer-Based Test at Pearson Test Centers throughout the United States and Canada

## Oral Examination

November 14, 15, 16, 2024, Thursday, Friday, Saturday in Phoenix, Arizona

### [View 2023 Oral Examination Examiners](#)

## 2024 Potential Examination Candidates

The Board will review comments regarding the suitability of any candidate for certification. Please direct written comments on official letterhead, signed and received in the Board Office by June 1, 2024. If you are aware of a potential candidate omitted from this list, please send an email to [written@abplasticsurgery.org](mailto:written@abplasticsurgery.org) or [oral@abplasticsurgery.org](mailto:oral@abplasticsurgery.org).

[2024 Potential Written Examination Candidates](#)

[2024 Potential Oral Examination Candidates](#)

## Congratulations to our New Board Diplomates

The ABPS certified 206 diplomates in November 2023.

The total number of ABPS Board Certified Plastic Surgeons since 1937 is 10,481.

Approximately 7,728 diplomates are in active practice as of May 2024.

Of the total active diplomates, 1,411 are Female (18.3%) and 6,317 are Male (81.7%).

[2023 New Diplomates](#)

## Diplomates who successfully completed Continuous Certification cycle

In 2023, 372 diplomates successfully completed their Continuous Certification cycle requirements to renew their primary plastic surgery certificates.

In April 2023, a total of 4,039 diplomates completed the Self-Assessment Activity, with a total pass rate of 99.42%.



A total of 5,463 diplomates are currently participating in the Continuous Certification Program.

## Continuing Medical Education

Starting in 2022, the ABPS annual Continuous Certification fee includes the granting of CME credits through the AMA. Diplomates who renewed in 2022 and after will be granted 60 Category 1 credits for completing the ten year cycle. The Board will facilitate this process with the AMA on behalf of diplomates. All requirements must be current in order to receive the credits.

### 2023 Continuous Certification

## Diplomates Certified in the Subspecialty of Hand Surgery

In 2023, the ABPS newly certified 31 diplomates in Hand Surgery, and 29 diplomates completed their Continuous Certification requirements to renew their subspecialty certificates in Hand Surgery.

To date, the ABPS has issued 1,009 certificates in Hand Surgery.

### 2023 Hand Examination and Recertification

## [View Examination Statistics](#)

## Thank You to Our Diplomates!

The Board values each of our diplomates and appreciates your support in carrying out the Board's mission to protect the public and to distinguish ourselves as safe, ethical, efficacious plastic surgeons who have met high standards in order to achieve ABPS Board Certification.

The Board actively communicates with our major plastic surgery and regional societies to maintain a strong presence and to gain support in our mission.

We are proud of what the ABPS Certificate represents.

The Board encourages all diplomates to display the ABPS Diplomate Logo on their advertising materials. The logo can be downloaded once logged into the Board's website.



CERTIFIED BY  
**The American Board  
of Plastic Surgery Inc.™**

## [ABPS CONSUMER SEARCH](#)

The public may search for ABPS Board-Certified Plastic Surgeons by name or within a specific area by city, state, and zip code. Certification history and current status will also be reported here.

## REVOKED ABPS CERTIFICATION

The Board began revoking certificates in 1988. Revocations are submitted to ABMS and reported

on the Board's website. To date, a total of 109 certificates have been revoked. The Board revoked 6 certificates in 2023.

**Katharine R. Grawe, M.D. - Dublin, OH**  
**Susan E. Kolb, M.D. - Atlanta, GA**  
**Gerald L. Schneider, M.D. - San Diego, CA**  
**Joel B. Singer, M.D. - New York, CT**  
**Michael Stephanides, M.D. - Nashville, TN**  
**Jon P. Ver Halen, M.D. - Westlake, TX**

## **SUSPENSION OF ABPS CERTIFICATION**

The Board began suspending certificates in November 2015 and began reporting suspended certification status on the Board's website. Suspensions are reported to the ABMS.

## **ABPS CERTIFICATION ON PROBATION**

The Board began placing certificates on Probation and reporting probation certification status on the Board's website in November 2019.

## **Board Staff**

**Melissa A. Karch, MBA**  
Executive Administrator

**Maria K. D'Angelo**  
Test Development Manager/Examination Editor

**Gwen A. Hanuscin**  
Written Examination and Projects Coordinator

**Melissa M. Hill**  
Oral Examination Coordinator

**Stephanie L. Kash**  
Continuous Certification Program and  
Hand Surgery Examination Coordinator

**Cassandra Kosielowski**  
Ethics Coordinator and Examination Associate

**Sarah S. Praul**  
Credentialing Specialist and Examination Associate and

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Website

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