



## MONDAY MORNING OUTREACH

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### **Interested in the Board Certification and Maintenance Programs?**

One of the most common misconceptions is that the ASA and the American Board of Anesthesiology are one and the same. When the system was designed many years ago, they were intentionally developed to be quite independent of each other, with separate boards, separate financials and even headquartered in separate cities in two different time zones. Every board and professional association or academy works a little differently, but for the most part there is clear delineation of the two.

Needless to say, the board certification – or more so, the maintenance process – has been undergoing some significant public scrutiny over the past few years. The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) is the umbrella organization over the various boards. They are sort of like the “certifying body of certifying bodies.” The member boards must be in line with the rules and regulations of the ABMS.

The ABMS is now creating a Stakeholder Council. I quote the ABMS: *“The ABMS Stakeholder Council is to ensure that the ABMS Board of Directors makes decisions that are grounded in an understanding of the perspectives, concerns, and interests of multiple constituents and stakeholders who may be impacted by the work of ABMS. The Council is responsible for reviewing strategic initiatives, policies, certification program reviews, and pilot-program reports, and providing written recommendations to the ABMS Board of Directors.”*

There will be 10 active diplomate positions on the Stakeholder Council. The requirements are:

- Be certified by an ABMS Member Board (i.e., ABA).
- Be participating in the maintenance of certification program.
- NOT be in leadership in any ABMS board, Associate Member or specialty society (i.e., ASA).

By the rules, none of your ASA officers are eligible, but I encourage our members, especially those with a passion in this area, to learn more about this opportunity to serve and have a strong voice in our certification processes.

This is the very definition of it being far better to be at the table – giving your input, moving the agenda forward – than merely reacting.

If you have ANY interest in our certifying process, please visit the [ABMS website](#) to see the requirements, expectations and application process. Applications are due August 30.