

2020 Qualifying Exam Q&A for Fellowship Program Directors and Managers

Webinar held on May 20, 2020

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Read FAQs about the 2020 QE [here](#).

GW – Dr. George Wendel

WL – Dr. Wilma Larsen

MT: Dr. Michael Thomas

CA: Cariel Apodaca

GW: Good afternoon. Thank you for taking the time to talk with us this afternoon about our 2020 Subspecialty Qualifying Exams. We just completed a phone call with the residency Program Directors and Program Managers. We're really pleased to get to talk to you about the 2020 examinations coming up.

As you know, we've had to make some changes pretty quickly and on very short order. We want to take this opportunity to give you an update on what happened, why we did what we did, and where we are, and then you have the opportunity to ask questions.

Before we start, I'd just like to introduce myself. I'm George Wendel. I'm the Executive Director of ABOG. I'm also joined by Dr. Wilma Larsen, our Associate Executive Director for Exams, and Cariel Apodaca, our Subspecialty Coordinator. I'd also like to give some thanks out to other folks on our team, Rachel and Sandra. Rachel Crawford and Sandra Hodgson also did a great deal to get this all set up, and Marsha Congleton too. Thank you to them for setting this up.

Wilma, do you want to go ahead and give them a quick update on where we are before we start taking questions?

WL: First, I'd just like to thank all of you for taking the time to speak with us today. We know that things have been fast and furious as far as the Qualifying Exams go, and we hope this will give us the opportunity to answer any questions you may still have about what's going on.

Hopefully, you're all aware that the Qualifying Exams, both for specialty and subspecialty, as well as the Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology, exams, are being moved, or have moved, from the end of June to the 16th of July. As the exam centers for our exam delivery partner were getting ready to open, they informed us that they would be opening at 50% capacity for infectious reasons. When they informed us of that, we started looking at all the different options of how we could deliver the exam to allow the most people, the largest number of candidates, to take the exam in 2020 if they wanted to. We explored a number of options.

Many of you were on our webinar with us just a couple weeks ago talking about client proctored delivery. We also looked at remote proctored delivery. We looked at opening up times throughout the course of the day, rather than just the 8 a.m. start time for the exam. We looked at having more than one exam date, so keeping the June exam date but also having an exam date in the fall. All of these options, unfortunately, we were running into difficulties in making a decision that would allow our candidates to all take the exam.

Last week, I believe it was Thursday, Pearson VUE contacted us and said that a large vendor that worked with them had contacted them and cancelled their nationwide exams. It was a very large exam being given throughout the country, and as a result of that cancellation, they offered us to move all of our candidates from the June exam date to the 16th of July. They were able to accommodate the movement of all those candidates to that date to include specialty, subspecialty, and Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology exams.

We had to make a decision quickly. They didn't give us a lot of time to make the decision because if we weren't going to take that date, they were going to offer it to other people that needed to move their tests. We did make that decision and started the communication out to the candidates. Hopefully, all of your fellows, and then as well as the residents and Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology candidates, and the Program Directors and Program Managers from both residency and fellowship received an initial email on Friday. This week, we've also been calling candidates, as well as sending secondary emails to make sure that nobody falls through the cracks and that everybody understands when the exams are being given and what they need to do to switch testing centers.

We realize that the changes were made very quickly. However, that was what we had to do to be able to give the exam to as many people as possible safely during 2020. We went forward.

GW: Thanks, Wilma. Before we move forward, I think it's important we want to apologize to everyone. We've apologized to the candidates. We want to apologize to you all, to the Program Directors and Program Managers, to the other fellows. We know that the schedules for June are made far in advance to allow people to study and get ready for examinations and coverages are arranged and vacations are arranged and family events are arranged around all of this, and we just changed all of that and we changed July, whether that would be going somewhere else to a new job or beginning a new position somewhere. This is not something that we normally

do and this is not how we usually do business. This is certainly not how you welcome someone into the process of voluntary certification. We want you to know how badly we feel about this.

We really have worked hard as we can to be transparent and accountable and to try to do the best we can for as many people as we can in a situation that unfortunately, we found, we have less control of than we thought or would like to have. We offer our apologies to you and to everything we've messed up in your scheduling and studying and preparations for July and August.

Having said that, this has also given us an opportunity to look at our exams for the future. I think this is the beginning of dialogue in what are the best ways to offer assessments in high-stakes situations like this. We were joking if this were giving an oral exam to somebody, and I was asked that I was planning on doing this exam in June and you all said that's fine, what's your plan if that doesn't work? We didn't have Plan B. Most boards don't have Plan B. Most boards are going through the exact same thing we are, understanding that they really didn't have a system that was amenable to unexpected events because it was very much set up to be defensible and have high security, but not to be flexible in case events like this happen.

Going forward, we will begin discussions with your division chairs and divisions and our board and probably the Program Director associations going forward about what is another way we could do this so that we have a Plan B for the future. We'll look at pros, we'll look at cons, we'll look at what are accommodations, what are compromises, what are strengths, what are weaknesses. This has been an eye-opening event for all 26 ABMS boards that have had their carts turned over and everything spilled out about the fragility of their system.

The one thing we can tell you is this was the beginning of dialogue about what to do for the future, and we look very much forward to your input and the input of the candidates as we figure out what's the optimal way to offer our Qualifying Exams going forward.

Again, I want to offer all of our sincerest apologies for this. This has weighed heavily on everybody in our building, our staff from top to bottom. As Wilma said, the first thing they said when we changed all this is, "We have to call everybody." Literally, every resident and every fellow that didn't contact us already got a phone call this week, apology, did you get the emails, have you made your arrangements, are you going to be able to take the test, what can we do to help?

I hope that in some way, that makes up for some of these changes. Otherwise, I hope that we can have other chances we can show them we can do a better job going forward for the future.

Would the fellows be asked to start on July 1st, considering that some will have exams on July 16, 2020? If they need time off, do they start late or use their vacation time for the exam?

GW: As I said, the cart of apples got upturned, so that everybody who used to study in June now is going to be hopefully continuing to study in June, but may be having some time off to study in July.

I would say that's an individual discussion between you and the candidates. We will not be tracking those dates as not being part of fellowship training. If you want to change your start date for your fellowship, that would be up to you. I would say that the easiest thing would be to start your day as you normally would in your fellowship training and allow folks to have a discussion with you about what's the appropriate amount of time they need to get ready for their examination. That's entirely up to you for your first year fellows.

We're not program administrators anymore, and don't set program standards, so that is almost an ACGME question rather than ours.

If there are specific issues that you're addressing or asking that we're not addressing, please feel free to write something else in in the QA link down there too.

Has the board considered surveying the candidates about examination options?

WL: What I would say to that is, unfortunately the way things played out, it didn't really give us an option of surveying the candidates.

First of all, as we looked at all the different options that we thought would be possible, we were finding that things were not as possible as we had hoped. It wasn't that we had a number of different options and we could ask a candidate which would you prefer and then actually give them what the majority preferred. The 16 July really came out of nowhere in that at the time we were offered that, Pearson VUE had been telling us that they did not have a date where we could offer as a second date and be ensured that all of our candidates that wanted to could take the exam.

When that date became available, we really had to jump on it quickly in order to give candidates that option and opportunity. There really was not an option to go ahead and survey the candidates. That would be ideal, however, in this case, it really was not something we could do practically.

GW: As I said, this has been an opportunity to look at all our processes and decide what are the optimal ways to do this going forward. As many of you have heard, other boards have moved and found partners to do remote or online proctoring on short order. We were unable to find a partner that could deliver on that sort of option for us with this amount of time. That was another reason why we were unable to do remote site proctoring.

It's interesting, if you were to ask the boards about remote site proctoring about a high-stakes exam like this, every single board last year would have told you, this is not an acceptable way to give a high-stakes exam. The exam answer this year is that may be an optimal way to give a high-stakes exam. There are compromises that boards are making that are doing these remote or online proctored exams. It's not hard to cheat on those. It's not hard to split the signal and send half of the test to another computer and then your entire exam is exposed and can be transmitted to other people for other means.

There's a whole host of things on the internet that tell you how to cheat on remote site proctoring because most places in most institutions use that testing for formative feedback for low-stakes exams. They can accept those challenges to the security and integrity of the process because it has other strengths about feedback and you're not making pass and fail certification exam decisions based on it.

There are a lot of issues that we will have to look into as we explore other options and decide what are the pros, what are the cons, what are accommodations we have to do, what do we have to change in our processes to potentially move forward with these, and is it reasonable to do that? I can pledge to you that those are discussions we'll have going forward, and they'll be transparent, and we'll need participation from you all as we figure out how to move forward with those.

Is there a possibility that the system by the American Board of Surgery might be used, which changes the exam to an at home, virtually proctored exam? You may also reference the ABS notice that was sent.

WL: Just to reiterate what George said, we absolutely looked into that as an option for our candidates. It's not an easy process to take your exam and transform it into a remote site proctored exam, and it's something that you obviously have to have a partner that can do that and who can provide the proctoring.

We looked into it. We considered it as an option for this year, but we were not able to find a partner that could help us to deliver the exam such that all of our candidates would be able to take it. That was something that we absolutely considered, but were not able to do.

GW: There are some other details about the issues about online proctored exams that make it difficult. You can't take break during exams because they either have Artificial Intelligence or live proctors looking at you. If you move too much, you signal that you may be trying to cheat or look under the table and the exam shuts down. You can't be interrupted. You can't have an exam longer than three hours.

You may notice that the American Board of Surgery's exam is now on two consecutive days. The reason for that is that it used to be a single eight-hour exam with a break in the middle. You can't offer two four-hour exams with remote site proctoring or online proctoring, so they had to make some changes and compromised in their exam to be able to deliver it in that format. Those were changes that were made on a one-time basis in an emergency. I'm not sure that the American Board of Surgery would be going forward with this model next year. I think they're going to learn a lot and have learned a lot already about the challenges of offering exams at home.

There are some real pluses to it, but there are some real challenges that it poses to some people who don't have a secure place to take an exam in the place they live. We will be discussing a lot of those things going forward as we try to explore other options for assessment in the future.

I'm happy for this latest development, but it opens up a new concern. How able is Pearson VUE to handle the requests for exam site changes?

WL: Fortunately, Pearson VUE is able to do that and actually for the majority of candidates, all they have to do is go into their own account on Pearson VUE and they can change their location themselves. Pearson VUE has been able to change over 300 candidates thus far. I would say that if you have a fellow who wants to change their location and hasn't been able to, if they tried on Monday, I would ask them to try again because as people continue to change, more sites become available across the country.

The reason they're able to do this, because this is not normally something that is able to be done easily, is because that 16 July was basically completely empty, which meant that there was capacity throughout the country, which would allow our candidates to have the opportunity take their exam, even in their new city.

We have definitely informed the candidates first by letters, and then when we called them, if they need to change a location, they should login and do so.

The one exception is if you have a fellow who either needs extra time for lactation or needs extra time to take the exam itself, so they have that accommodation, if they need to change their location, they do have to go through the Pearson VUE accommodations department. They cannot just change the location because the accommodation will drop out. They're the only group that if a person has an accommodation and they're going to take the test at the same site as they're originally scheduled, then there's nothing that they need to do. The accommodation goes with them. But for anyone that needs to change the site with an accommodation, you call the Pearson VUE accommodations department.

Unfortunately, that department's very busy right now because not only our test takers that are moving exam locations, but also because they are all of the candidates whose test seats got cancelled by Pearson on Monday and Tuesday of this week and they're trying to reschedule.

Unfortunately, I would expect to be a long wait on the phone, but that is how the people who have an accommodation have to reschedule.

GW: Wilma, unless I misunderstand one of the questions that was asked during the residency Program Directors session, one of the questions was, one of my folks got a 4 p.m. schedule. Is there an opportunity to check with Pearson VUE if I could get a different start time?

WL: Thanks, George. That's a really good point. Yes, the answer to that is yes. The initial schedule when they were moved over as many people as could be were scheduled at 8 a.m., but other people that if the center that they were moving to didn't have that, then they were either given a 12 or 4 p.m. start time, and some centers have 2:30 start times as well.

If your graduating fellow has a start time they're not happy with, they should get onto their Pearson VUE account and see if they can change that. If they're not successful the first time, I would encourage them to check again in a couple of days, because again, as people are moving their locations, more and more start times are becoming available.

The report that I have been monitoring, it's not a huge percentage, maybe about a third of the people that have gone in and changed something have changed their start time, not their location. People in both directions, people who had an 8 a.m. start time wanted to take it later moved back to noon, and then people who had a 4 p.m. start time changed it back to an 8 a.m. start time.

Originally, there was a plan to allow the option to take the exam as scheduled if able, or delay to a later time in the fall. There was a plan in place to avoid issues with testing security and it was my understanding it was in place.

GW: We were originally told this by Pearson VUE, and I'll apologize. We talked about it a little prematurely. It turned out that either we misunderstood, or we perhaps interpreted comments that there would be a second date that would be available and would accommodate everybody to take their exam a second date during this calendar year.

As the discussions continued and we finally were given some dates, it rolled out that that meant that these were alternates dates in settings that were already running at 50% capacity and it reduced whatever the load of exams was down already. We would see if we could fit in those centers without a guarantee that people would be able to reschedule. That option just

didn't pan out to be what we thought it was going to be, or perhaps what we thought we heard it was going to be as we began to talk to more and more management people at Pearson.

I apologize. We did tell you that was going to happen. We told you we were going to get a date, we were just waiting on it. It turned out there was pretty significant miscommunication on what I communicated and what we communicated in our letters was not exactly what Pearson VUE's version of offering a second date was. That ended up being an untenable option.

Will the scoring of the July exam take into account possible decreased scores due to interrupted studying or other COVID disruption?

WL: The short answer would be yes. If everybody performs as a group less well on this exam than would be anticipated, then that will be taken into account as we do the scoring for the exam. The exam isn't scored by saying beforehand you have to get 70%, let's say, in order to pass the exam. That's not how the cut score works. It's determined psychometrically. That allows us to take into account a lot of different issues that might be going on when we score the exam. We have things in place to try and make sure that generally, everyone gets a fair exam from year to year.

The short answer is yes.

GW: That's a very good question. It is important though that we want to communicate that the people who pass the exam this year will not be meeting a lower standard than other folks that have taken the test in the past. There is some degree of analysis that's done of the performance that takes into account this year's cohort compared to prior cohorts.

We want to make sure that people don't think that folks who passed the exam this year are less capable or less knowledgeable or met a lower standard. We will take the manipulations and assessments take into account what you mentioned.

Given the exams have been postponed to July 16, will the results also be delayed?

WL: The short to this one is yes as well. It normally, as you know, you take the exam at the end of June, you receive the results in the middle of September. The reason for that delay is the psychometric analysis on the items and the exam itself. That psychometric analysis will still have to happen. It generally takes us about that amount of time. We're going to get the exam results out as quickly as we possibly can, but we're currently thinking no later than the end of September, so two weeks later, just like the exam is two weeks later.

GW: We've also talked to the ACGME about that. We hope to be able to get the program reports and program data to them in October, which is our usual transmission of data target. We're working with our psychometricians and our data people to try and make sure there's not an undue delay in transmission of the data back to you as Program Directors in program reports, as well as back to the ACGME so that they can use these in program accreditation review and decisions.

Will each of the programs receive confirmation that their fellows have been moved to the new date?

WL: I can confirm, as of this minute, every single fellow has been moved. Every single candidate has been moved to the new date, as of actually it was earlier than this. I absolutely received position confirmation on that from Pearson VUE.

What are the options for graduating fellows that have planned vacation on July 16 and will be out of the country?

WL: What I would say is, if you have a fellow who's going to be out of the country on the 16th of July, please have them contact us. If possible, we will make an exception and allow them to take the test at a Pearson VUE center overseas. That is something that we don't normally do, but because of the unusual circumstances this year, we are making exceptions to that rule, but they do need to contact us and let us know where they're going to be, what country they're going to be in, where they would want to take the test, that sort of thing, so we can work with them.

The best way to contact us is to send an email to exams@abog.org. That's exams@abog.org.

One of the options discussed in the prior ABOG webinar was to fellow candidates to postpone their exam to next year. Is that still an option?

GW: The short answer is yes. One of the options has always been that you can choose not to take the exam this year and either have a refund or have your fees applied to next year's examination, and then you'll be able to take the examination next year.

The American Board of Ophthalmology is giving their oral exam virtually. Many have travel restrictions in place through the end of 2020. Is there an option to do this for our general and subspecialty orals? It would be extremely disheartening to cancel twice on those taking the subspecialty oral exams.

GW: That's a great question. I have to say that no one can predict what's going to happen in November right now. That is the challenge that every board has that has an exam this year in the fall or the winter. Things may be better, they may be the same, they may be worse. There may be areas of the country that are having different issues with COVID-19 and seasonal influenza as it begins.

We really don't know what's going to happen in November. What we do know is that we have commitments to hotels and contracts right now and we are assessing our 2020 plans for both oral exams. We're fully aware that there are candidates that may have travel restrictions. We're aware that there are examiners that have travel restrictions, and we're monitoring all of those, literally on a weekly basis.

It would be extremely disheartening to have your exam cancelled from April and then cancelled from November. I don't want to get ahead of some of our announcements, but we will be getting a group together of outside stakeholders, as well as board members, to help us look at this issue as we move forward. We hope to have a decision made, if we're going to make a change, as soon as it's reasonable and it's based on evidence and it's based on what's best for the candidates, our examiners, and our staff that are involved in these processes.

We're looking at that issue to figure out what's the best thing and what's the safest thing to do for 2020. Thanks for the opportunity to begin to tell you about that. That is, as we figure it out what to do on the Qualifying Exam moves to the back burner on the stove, this is moving to the front burner on the stove, and looking at what are other options and plans is in the forefront of our thoughts.

I think one thing we can say is the American Board of Ophthalmology is made the decision to give their oral exam virtually very, very reluctantly, and with a great degree of caution. If you will, this year is a test and a proof of concept. All I can say is that there are lots of communications we get as board executives about the process and what are the challenges right now and what are the struggles. There are a huge number of struggles with this. I'm not making excuses for why we've not already decided we could try to do a virtual exam this year for our candidates. One of the things about ophthalmology is their entire certification load for this year is about what we do for MFM alone. It's a small board. There aren't as many candidates, and they have a different process than we do, as far as the content and structure of their oral exam.

I can tell you we are looking at what we might be able to do in the future with this, but I don't know if we have a great answer at this point. This is going to be a big part of our discussions the rest of this year and into next year. Thank you again for the opportunity to bring this up.

Are there updates on the Certifying Exams for 2021, specifically regarding the case number requirements in light of elective surgeries are still not being performed in all regions of the country.

WL: Yes, there are updates. The 2020 Specialty Certifying Exam case list requirements have been lowered, and the bulletin has been updated to reflect that update. The 2021 Subspecialty Certifying Exam case list requirements have not been changed. If a candidate cannot meet the requirements, they should contact the Exams Department at exams@abog.org for assistance.

GW: I would highlight that another caveat that's very important in there is that those accommodations were written about a month ago almost. It's based on what we knew at that time about the reopening and re-engaging of clinical services in many programs. If that does not progress along the lines that one hopes for or anticipates, we'll clearly be revisiting that. We did have some conditions in there that even if one was able to meet the new case requirements, to please let us know and talk with us to see what might be able to be done in individual circumstances. That still stands.

What if the fellows traveling out of the country do not have a testing center locally, i.e. the Dominican Republic?

WL: Unfortunately, the candidate has to be in a country that has a testing center to take the test of the 16th of July. If they're in a country and there's simply no testing center available, there's really no way for them to take the exam on that date. They would have to delay until 2021.

Of course, they would be eligible for either a refund or the application of their 2020 fees to the 2021 exam. We would extend their eligibility by a year because of that. They have to be someplace where we can get them into a testing center in order for us to make an exception to allow them to take the exam.

GW: I would say also that in circumstances like that, perhaps contacting us might be an option, too, to see if there's something we can work out on an individual basis. We certainly can't offer that on a widespread scale to make an accommodation.

Is there a list of international countries that have a Pearson testing site?

WL: I believe that if you go to the Pearson VUE website, you can look at every country to see if they have a Pearson VUE site. They're not the same as the Pearson VUE sites in the United

States. They're not Pearson VUE owned and operated, they're what are called select sites. If you go on the website, you can determine where the Pearson VUE sites in the country that your fellow would be in, or if there are any.

GW: I think those would probably not be on the list of approved test sites for the ABOG exam at this point, but if there is a Pearson testing site in a country where someone is going to be, we could look into making a request that that center want to give our examination on a one-time basis. As Dr. Larsen said, we only use the Pearson center that Pearson VUE owns itself right now. Those are the highest quality security and are able to make accommodations under our contract.

They do have other levels of testing centers that are independent owned and franchises. That is what is the majority of the international country test sites. We don't have as much information about security and things like that, but we're assured that they follow all of the Pearson standards to be a testing center. On an individual basis, we could look into whether those individuals in foreign countries on that date could take the test at a foreign site.

We've done that already in several cases.

Any update on the rescheduled certification examination? I know you spoke to it. Is there anything else you'd like to add on?

GW: I would just say stay tuned. At this point, we're going to be having a more coordinated and broader look at the fall certification examinations. You'll hear more about that soon.

If arrangements are made for an international test site to be used, is there a fee that the candidate would be responsible for?

WL: I don't believe there's a fee for any of the Pearson test sites, but I'm not 100% sure about that. If you send us an email at exams@abog.org, we can check and just make sure of that. Again, I believe that any site that's affiliated with Pearson VUE can be used if they agree to administer our test without any additional fee, but we will check on that for you if you just send us an email please.

GW: I would say, if somebody is taking an exam there, and there is an extra fee, please tell them to let us know and we will cover that fee or make sure that we can pay it. Nobody should have to pay extra because of the COVID-19 pandemic and all of these disruptions. If there's an extra fee to take it at a center, that should be something that ABOG absorbs, and we would be

happy to do so. Please don't everybody schedule to go out of the country and take your exam now though.

I think, one of the benefits albeit not expected of COVID is it's great to have these virtual meetings, is really informative and ABOG doesn't need to wait for the annual Program Director's meeting to give updates to Program Directors.

GW: We couldn't agree more. We have always felt that just communicating to you at Program Director meetings is not optimal, and that's been one of the things that we have tried to do is improve our communication between those sorts of meetings and we had the same impression, that travel is going to be restricted for the future and it may be internal, it may be external, and we have an obligation and an opportunity to improve our communications in real time. I hope that we do a better job of doing that going forward. This has really shown us that you really can communicate pretty effectively like this. You'll see more of these, I think, as we go forward, both with the opportunity for you to ask us questions and help us improve on what we're doing, as well as to be able to get your feedback on proposed changes.

I think this COVID-19 pandemic has really exposed some of the fragility of some of the requirements that we had for certification. If you had planned to do something and you only have a one-time opportunity to do it, and it happened during the last four months, you just missed it. While there are great pluses to some of our requirements as they're written, this has exposed some of the vulnerabilities and fragility of those standards.

I can pledge to you that the divisions will be looking at those, our standards and those requirements, this summer at their meetings and discussing things. If there are issues that you have concerns about, and I know, Winston, you have voiced some of those to us, please bring them up to your Division Chairs, and we will be looking at those this summer at our meetings.

Some of the new requirements may need more flexibility for people to meet those than as they're written. I think this is a good opportunity for us to say how can we get what we proposed that those requirements gain as far as knowledge, judgement, and skills, in a more flexible manner so that we don't have too much compartmentalization that leads people in awkward situations if they just lost four months of their fellowship and has been asked, who knows when some of these things are going to get reopened again this academic year.

I think we're particularly concerned about what's the effect going to be on reopening research labs, and what about next year's graduates if they are unable to complete their theses. We're really using this as an opportunity look at what's really important and how do we make sure that we have standards that help people get the knowledge, skills, and abilities to go out and practice. If we need to rewrite stuff and re-conceptualize them, that's what we're going to do this year.

MT: I was just saying, I wanted to again thank Wilma, George, and Cariel for working so hard in getting a lot of things together in such a short amount of time. I know that we were disappointed that things couldn't be done on schedule, we had to make a number of changes, and I hope and look forward to getting our Certifying Exam in November and helping out with the other Certifying Exams, but I just think that behind the scenes, the crew at ABOG has done a good job from someone who's sort of seeing it at the level of, that they've done a great job in trying to do the best we can under the circumstances.

GW: Other comments, questions? If not, again, I want to leave with how we started. We're sorry. This is not how we do business. This is not how we operate. I hope we have an opportunity to regain some people's trust and confidence that may not have it in the same way they did in the past going forward. We look forward to an exam on July 16, assuming nothing else happens with COVID-19 in the United States.

We look forward to a broad discussion about the fall exams coming in the next few weeks, too, as we make decisions about that. We appreciate you taking your time from your busy schedules today.

Finally, thank you for everything you're doing in training the fellows in each of your subspecialties across the country.

Thank a lot.

CA: Dr. Wendel, if I might, I was asked to remind everyone that they can visit our COVID-19 updates page on abog.org for any updates and changes to requirements and dates. All of the information is available there.

GW: Good point. To follow up on Dr. Campbell's comment, Winston, thank you so much for bringing up the concept of making sure we communicate important things between the meetings. We've had some issues with residency director turnover and Program Manager turnover. It's really vitally important that if there are new emails addresses or new people or associate Program Directors that you want to receive our communications, please let us know so that we can add them into our mailing list and then they'll be able to be receiving the same communications in the same time that you do.

If you can keep your email addresses up-to-date with us, it helps us communicate in real time with you.

If nothing else, again, thank you for your time and efforts. We look forward to speaking again soon.