

# ABFM Emblem

---



The Emblem of the American Board of Family Medicine embodies the story of the Specialty of Family Medicine.

The upper half of the Emblem pictures a palm tree. The lower half is divided into two parts: on the left-hand side is a representation of the mythological bird, the Phoenix, rising out of its nest of fire; on the right-hand side of the lower half is the standard of medicine, the Staff of Aesculapius.

The palm tree is the Phoenix Dactylifera, the Latin name for the date palm, so called because of the ancient idea that if this tree is burned down or if it falls through old age, it will rejuvenate itself and spring up fairer than ever. This symbolizes our specialty arising directly from its general practice heritage.

The Phoenix, the fabulous Arabian mythological bird, lives a certain number of years, at the close of which it makes a nest of spices, sings a melodious dirge, flaps its wings to set fire to the pile and burns itself to ashes and comes forth with new life. This, of course, symbolizes our periodic recertification.

Immediately below the Emblem are the Latin words, "Palnam Qui Meruit Ferat"--"Let him bear the palm who has earned it". This refers to the Roman custom to give the victorious gladiator a branch of the palm tree, the palm leaf being a sign of attainment of victory--symbolizing for us the attainment of Diplomate status by examination.

*Nicholas J. Pisacano, M.D.  
Founding Executive Director, ABFM*

## **Visit us on the Web**

The American Board of Family Medicine invites you to visit its Web site at

*<http://www.theabfm.org>*

The site includes the following topics:

- Requirements for residency training
- Requirements for certification
- Requirements for recertification
- Requirements for Certificates of Added Qualifications in Geriatric Medicine and Sports Medicine
- Future examination dates
- Information on ABFM publications including the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine* and ABFM Reference Guides
- A listing of current and past Boards of Directors
- A staff listing and telephone directory
- The meaning of the ABFM emblem
- Official definitions and policies
- A brief history of the specialty
- Access by city and state to names of ABFM-Certified Family Physicians

We welcome your comments and suggestions.

### **American Board of Family Medicine Inc.**

---

1648 McGrathiana Parkway,  
Suite 550,  
Lexington, Kentucky 40511-1247

(859) 269-5626  
888-995-5700  
FAX: (859) 335-7509

