

Board News

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The Board of Directors and the staff of the American Board of Family Practice have been devoting significant efforts to adapt to the sudden loss of Dr. Nicholas Pisacano. At its latest meeting, the Board of Directors adopted a policy to authorize the development of a lasting memorial to the founding Executive Director and Secretary. The intent of the Board is to develop a mechanism for continuing support of young physicians committed to family practice as a career. The precise form of this memorial will be announced at the earliest appropriate time.

In the interim, the staff of the Board office continues to function smoothly, largely due to the organization and discipline established by Dr. Pisacano. The staff is striving to achieve and maintain quality standards of performance as it has in the past.

In other business, the Board of Directors authorized the expansion of the Board office in Lexington in order to accommodate increasing activity. This expansion had been planned prior to Nick's death. The expansion will provide additional space for editing of tests and publications and for maintenance and storage of valuable documents.

There have been some major changes in the publication of the *Journal of the American Board of Family Practice*. Recently, the Board appointed John Geyman, M.D., of Seattle, WA, to assume the responsibilities of Editor. Dr. Geyman, until very recently, has served as the Editor of the *Journal of Family Practice*. He founded that journal 17 years ago and has served as a leading editor in our specialty since that time. He will retain his office in Seattle. Drs. Stephens and Brucker will continue as Associate Editors, and I will serve as Managing Editor. Beginning in January 1991, the *Journal* will be published bimonthly. The purpose of the *Journal* will be unchanged, and it will continue to be published by the Publishing Division of the Massachusetts Medical Society in Boston.

The examination for *Added Qualifications in Geriatric Medicine*, sponsored jointly by the ABFP and the American Board of Internal Medicine,

was conducted on April 20, 1990. Fifteen sites throughout the United States were utilized to provide the examination to approximately 1600 candidates. The next geriatrics examination will be given in 1992.

The *Certification and Recertification Examinations* were conducted on July 13, 1990. There were 2664 candidates for the Certification Examination and 4856 candidates for the Recertification Examination. These results are expected to be mailed in early September. The next Certification/Recertification Examination will be given on July 12, 1991.

The annual *In-Training Examination* will be given to residents on November 2, 1990. This examination will incorporate a new type of question format. In addition to the standard multiple choice and true-false questions, there will be some questions that are "uncued." In the latter form, the examinee is given clinical data in the "stem" with a word or phrase omitted. The examinee is also given several hundred words or phrases from which he or she must choose the correct answer. This format is intended to minimize guessing. "Uncued" questions have been tested on smaller groups of examinees. If it proves successful psychometrically and practically, consideration will be given to incorporation of this method into the Certification/Recertification examination.

The ABFP is authorized to develop and implement a certifying process for *Added Qualifications in Sports Medicine*. Joining the ABFP in this effort are the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Pediatrics. Currently, a joint committee is working on the definition of the scope of the certificate and, therefore, the topics to be included on the examination. Cooperation among the three boards has been excellent and mutually beneficial. It is too early in the course of development to predict when the first examination will be given, but it certainly will not be before 1992.

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