Why Vascular Surgery Needs An Independent ABMS Approved Board Now: How Can We Get There

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• Conflicts - many

Historical References


Jeffrey Hsu, M.D.
SCVS President Alan Dietzek, M.D. 2017-2018
First Leader in 10 Years to Publically Challenge

• Vascular Surgery: The best kept secret in medicine and thoughts on how to change it

Really?
This is Where We Are - October 8, 2018

Who Should I Turn to for Vascular Surgery?
As the primary care doctor of the vascular system, vascular surgeons do more than just surgery.
**Come On Man**

**Definition Independence**

Definition - freedom from the influence, control, or determination of one another or others

There are 3 Intertwined Issues for Vascular Surgery Independence

1.) Patient Welfare
2.) Independent Board Certification:
   - It's more than just a piece of paper
3.) Protect our species – survival of the fittest

**Which Specialty Has Their Own Separate Board?**

- Otolaryngology - 1933
- Orthopedic Surgery – 1935
- Urology – 1935
- General Surgery – 1937
- Plastic Surgery - 1941
- Colon and Rectal Surgery - 1949
- Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery - 1971
- Genetics - 1991 last one approved -
- No Vascular Surgery -

**The Importance of an Independent Vascular Surgery Board Certification: Why? Patient Care**

1. Branding: for patient care and public awareness. This is promoted by ABMS along specialty lines (ex colon cancer screening for CRS).
2. Hospital resources: hospitals organize service lines in accordance with the ABMS represented specialties. Hospital administrators follow this for resources and privileging. The average vascular surgeon make 2mm for hospitals (Lombardi et al J Vasc Surg. 2012 Jun;55(4):283-5)
3. ABVS: Having an independent board gives us a "Big Picture" of increased IDENTITY and VISIBILITY.

**How Can We Get There? Innovate and Focus on Patient Care**

- Obtain SVS Buy In:
  - Keep it academic!!!!!! Do not make this an internal fight, make it an external fight.
  - Enlist the masses, particularly millennials and Gen X....
  - Which national leader has the fortitude to take it on
- Obtain APDVS Support and Buy In
- Educate our residents and fellows on the history
- Perhaps start by letting a revived ABVS govern the certification for 0-5.
- Our own independent departments.
How Can We Get There

Innovate and Focus on Patient Care

- Start National advertising -
  - New PAC to increase dollars
- Get more women involved
- American College of Vascular Surgery
  - Initiated by past presidents of SVS
- Procreate – We need more for volume of voice.
  - Every program in the country increase their training number by at least 1 spot.
  - 0-4 program – think outside of the box.
- Appeal to patients
- Legal – recent lawsuit

Summary

Russel Sampson, MD

- This is not merely a matter of pride. The repercussions impact all aspects of what vascular surgeons can do, where they do it, who they treat and how they are paid.....
- An independent ABVS would then certify vascular surgical excellence, not the AHA. Who determines patient care, the AHA or vascular surgeons.......
- More importantly, patients will be assured that their vascular surgeon is the most appropriate physician to treat their condition.

NBPAS Gets Department of Justice Support to Challenge ABMS

U.S. Department of Justice
Antitrust Division

Libby Square Building
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20004

September 10, 2018

The Honorable Dan B.cohen, M.D.
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 362
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Mahoney:

In response to your request dated August 17, 2018, the United States Department of Justice, Antitrust Division (“Division”) has seized the opportunity to share our views on Maryland House Bill 997 (“HB 997”), currently under review by a Maryland Health Care Commission (“MHCC”) workgroup. You have indicated that the focus of this review is on the use by hospitals, insurers, and others of certification programs for physicians in medical specialties and, in particular, the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program as currently implemented by the American Board of Medical Specialties (“ABMS”) and its

The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.
Thomas Paine

Let the Masses Be Heard