Strategic Engagement in Research

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American Board of Surgery
Introduction

• ABS Mission Statement
  • The American Board of Surgery serves the public and the specialty of surgery by providing leadership in surgical education and practice, by promoting excellence through rigorous evaluation and examination, and by promoting the highest standards for professionalism, lifelong learning, and the continuous certification of surgeons in practice.

• Why should the ABS engage in research?
  • Critical to fulfilling mission
  • Providing leadership in surgical education and practice; rigorous evaluation and examination
    • Requires evidence-based decision making
    • Need to be informed if practices are working and if not, how to change them
    • Obligation to use ABS data to improve education and practice
    • Current environment demands that ABS study value of certification
ABS Strategic Engagement in Research

- Should engage in research that aligns with overall mission
  - Develop research mission statement to align with mission
- Need to work with governance/leadership to ensure that value of research is clear
ABS Strategic Engagement in Research

• ABS Strategic Plan
  • Setting vision for the ABS for future direction
  • What role should research play?
    • Created research subcommittee to address role of research
    • Committee makeup
      – Staff (psychometrics, surgeon)
      – Governance
  • Committee endorsed investing and engaging in research
Issues to address

• What issues should we address with research?
• What resources do we want to dedicate to research?
• What is our research agenda?
• Should we be proactive in seeking research partners?
• Should we share data with outside partners?
ABS Strategic Engagement in Research

ABS Research Mission Statement

The American Board of Surgery (ABS) will conduct research, both internally and collaboratively, to assess the value of initial and continuous certification and to understand the relationship of certification to surgical training, clinical practice, lifelong learning, and assessment.

ABS Research Goal

To disseminate high-quality, important, and informative research
Projects should address:
» Investigations to optimize value of ABS certification
» Residency training (operative experience, factors related to exam success, focused practice issues)
» What do surgeons do in practice (operative experience)?
» Evaluation of new Continuous Certification program (surveys/outcomes)
» Psychometrics (evaluating psychometric processes for defensibility)
ABS Strategic Engagement in Research

ABS Research Policy

I. ABS Research Mission Statement

The American Board of Surgery (ABS) will conduct research, both internally and collaboratively, to assess the value of initial and continuous certification and to understand the relationship of certification to surgical training, clinical practice, lifelong learning, and assessment.

II. Procedure for Submitting Research Proposals

The ABS accepts proposals from outside individuals and organizations requesting ABS data and/or analysis support from the ABS. Priority will be given to requests that align with the mission of the ABS and its research agenda. Projects that are not necessarily aligned with the ABS research agenda may be considered on an individual basis. The ABS considers the following topics to be high priorities for research:

- The value of ABS certification (linking board certification to external criteria)
- Residency training (operative experience, competency, factors related to exam success, focused practice)
- What do surgeons do in practice? (operative experience)
- Evaluation of new Continuous Certification program (surveys/outcomes)
- Psychometrics (evaluating psychometric processes for defensibility)

Proposals must be submitted to the ABS with a summary of the proposed project via the Research Request Form. The ABS Research Committee will meet quarterly to evaluate proposals and make a determination regarding ABS approval for the project. All proposals will be subject to a Data Use Agreement (DUA) and the ABS may also require remuneration for projects that require staff resources.
ABS Strategic Engagement in Research

ABS Research Request Form

The American Board of Surgery (ABS) receives many requests to partner with outside researchers to conduct a variety of scientific studies. To address the requests that we receive, we have developed a standardized process by which interested parties should submit their proposals to the ABS. To be considered for a research partnership, please complete the following steps:

- Please complete the sections below with a proposal that is 1-3 pages in length.
- Please complete the application below. If you have questions, please contact Andrew Conde, Ph.D., Director of Psychometrics (ajconde@absurgery.org).

The Research Committee consisting of ABS Directors along with ABS psychometric and surgery staff will review your proposal. The ABS will notify you of the decision about a research partnership in writing. With approval additional data sharing or other agreements may be required.

The name and photo associated with your Google account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form. Visit ajconde@absurgery.org for additional questions.

* Required

Name *

Your answer:

Institution *

Your answer:
Research Project Evaluation

» Establish a Research Review Committee
  › Directors
  › Staff (Psychometrics, IT, surgeon)
  › Ad-hoc members
» Quarterly meetings

Research Project Evaluation

- Alignment with ABS research mission
- Alignment with ABS research agenda
- Utilization of staff time and resources
- External group expertise
- Quality of Proposal
ABS Strategic Engagement in Research

• Resources
  • Have hired additional staff member
    • Psychometric Data Analyst
ABS Strategic Engagement in Research

• Issues to be addressed
  • Additional resources
    • Ad-hoc committee members/consultants
  • Data sharing
  • More details on external partnerships
    • Collaboration/RFPs
    • Societies/Foundations
  • Defining structure of permanent committee
Strategic Engagement in Research

• Bob Phillips, MD MSPH
• American Board of Family Medicine
ABFM Research & Evaluation Strategy and Process

• Board Member-driven Research Committee
  • Authority given to Research Division to share data (with parameters)
  • Research Director or VP does initial review of research requests, Committee second pass
  • Internal and ABFM Foundation funding of research relationships
• Close Collaboration with Specialty Society Health Policy Research Center (Robert Graham Center), Academic Family Medicine, Visiting Scholars
• Several Big Data research collaborations evolving
  • Exploring secure data sharing service with agreements, restrictions, tracking
• Contract IRB and FWA agreements with other research organizations
• Dissemination via Peer-review, presentations, policy fora, embassy series, NAM
Mission & Vision

ABFM Research Department Vision Statement
Clear understanding of effective, high value primary care.

ABFM Research Department Mission Statement
To further the ABFM’s mission by discovering evidence for improvement.

We will achieve our vision by assessing the effectiveness and impact of Family Medicine Certification activities on the quality of care family physicians provide. Further, we strive to understand the environment in which family physicians deliver health care and how factors such as health care market forces, practice organization, social deprivation, and health care policy may influence a family physician’s ability to provide high quality care to the public.
Timeline and Milestones of the Research Department

2007  **Strategic Planning meeting** Investigating value of MC-FP was #1 priority of Board

2010  Robert Graham Center partnership begins lines of inquiry using ABFM, other data

2012  Research Director, Research Assistant, and Vice President of Research and Policy hired

2012  **Strategic Planning meeting** investigating value of MC-FP remains #1 priority

2013  Hired medical anthropologist, Began Visiting Scholars program

2016  STFM “Best Research Paper” Award; health services researcher starts; Dr. Peterson receives NAPRCG “New Investigator” Award

2016  PRIME Registry launched

2018  Virtual Data Research Center begins drawing CMS claims data Center for Professionalism and Value in Health Care launched
ABFM Research and Psychometric Departments

• Lars Peterson, MD, PhD Research Director
• Aimee Eden, PhD, MPH Medical Anthropologist
• Bo Fang, PhD, MS Research Assistant
• Ming Dai, PhD Health Services Researcher
• Audrey Brock, MS Qualitative Research Assistant
• Vice President for Research and Policy (vacant)
• Bob Phillips, MD, MSPH Executive Director, Center for Professionalism and Value in Health Care
• Tom O’Neill, PhD Vice President of Psychometric Services
• Michael Peabody, PhD Senior Psychometrician
Long History of Collecting Data for Business Purposes

1986

(A) Do you have a computer?
   ○ Yes  ○ No

(B) If “A” is yes:
   ○ Home?  ○ Office?

(C) If “B” is “Office”, Do you use it for:
   ○ Administration  ○ Medical Information  ○ Both

(D) You would like to see computers used in education of Family Physicians (C.M.E., etc.)?
   ○ Yes  ○ No

(E) If yes to (7-A), Do you think you would like programs that can be helpful in Office Record Review?
   ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ Not sure

1999

(A) Do you have a computer?
   ○ Yes  ○ No

(B) If “A” is “Yes”:
   ○ Home?  ○ Office?

(C) If “B” is “Office”, do you use it for:
   ○ Administration  ○ Medication Information  ○ Both

(D) If “A” is “Yes,” what type of computer?
   ○ IBM/compatible  ○ Apple/Macintosh  ○ Other
   ○ Do you have a CD-ROM drive attached to your computer?
     ○ Yes  ○ No

(E) Do you have the capability to access the World Wide Web?
   ○ Yes  ○ No

(F) If “E” is “Yes”, would you find it useful to use the World Wide Web to obtain information from the ABFP?
   ○ Yes  ○ No
Contemporary ABFM Data Collection

- Introduced 2014
- Introduced 2016
- Introduced 2018
- Revised 2013
- Introduced 2019

RTM System
Initial Cert Survey
Graduate Survey
“Late Stage” Survey
Re-Cert Survey
“Late Stage” Survey

- ~3,100, 100%
- ~2,100, 67%
- ~9,000, 100%
- ~30,000, <100%

Name, gender, DOB, medical school, residency training
ABFM Research and Data

Research
- ITE
  - Practice intentions
- Burnout
  - MOC satisfaction PI
  - Scope of practice
- Cost Performance Measures

Data
- RTM
  - Cert Survey
  - Graduate Survey
  - Re-cert Survey
  - MOC feedback, performance report
  - Medicare claims, AMA Masterfile
Recent Graduates Largely Employed (Residency Program Report)

Survey of all 2013 Family Medicine Residency graduates, 67% response rate

40% say they could not find broad scope jobs

- No official ownership stake (100% employed)
- Sole owner
- Partial owner or shareholder
- Self-employed as a contractor (including locums)
Proportion of Family Physicians Practicing Maternity Care
2008 - 2010

Legend
% Practice Maternity Care
- 2.82% - 5.26%
- 5.27% - 8.34%
- 8.35% - 13.16%
- 13.17% - 23.08%
- 23.09% - 44.55%

Data source: ABFM Demographic File
Burnout Rates (State Chapter Reports)
Does FMC improve the care I provide?


- Diplomates who combined PQRS reporting with a PPM had slight but significant improvement on process and outcome measures than either alone. Phillips, RL et al. AJMC, 2016, Vol. 31(3) 217-223
Associations of Certification and License Action

- Ever received a disciplinary action
  - Odds if ever certified $OR=0.35$ ($0.30$-$0.40$)

- Certified at the time of license action
  - Odds of somewhat severe action $OR=0.26$ ($0.23$-$0.30$)
  - Odds of very severe action $OR=0.08$ ($0.07$-$0.10$)

- Not certified at time of license action
  - Odds of somewhat severe action $OR=1.26$ ($0.81$-$1.94$)
  - Odds of very severe action $OR=3.71$ ($2.24$-$6.13$)
PRIME Registry (~900 practice, 49 states)
Social Determinant Data

Population Health Assessment Engine With PHATE™, practices can connect demographic information, along with disease concentrations and deprivation levels, to bring deeper insight into your patients’ health situations, and provide local resources for improved outcomes.

Patient Data Linked to PI

The Performance Improvement (PI) Activity dashboard app allows ABFM Diplomates to complete a Performance Improvement activity using data from their EHR and earn points toward certification.

Federal Reporting & Measure Development

The CPC+ app supports CPC+ reporting needs, and accommodates Patient Empanelment, Risk Stratification and assigning Care Teams, with a Patient Reported Outcomes feature to be added in late 2018.

MIPS Web Tool

To accommodate practices without EHRs or without compatible EHRs, the MIPS Web Tool App is now available with a Manual Entry subscription plan, at a lower cost than the full PRIME Registry dashboard.

PrimeRegistry.org  1-877-223-7347  prime@theabfm.org
Strategic Engagement in Research

• Adam Turner, MPH, PMP
• American Board of Pediatrics
Data at the ABP

- Training information
- Demographic data
  - Age, race, gender, medical school location
- Exam scores
- Longitudinal assessment info
- Address information
- Survey data
  - Practice patterns
  - Program evaluation info
- Certification information
  - General and subspecialty
  - Maintenance of certification status
  - Years
  - Course of training
- Quality improvement info
- More
Major groups involved in ABP Research

- ABP Foundation
- ABP Internal Staff
- Research Advisory Committee
- External Collaborators
ABP Foundation’s Mission

The ABP Foundation supports the mission of the ABP to ensure excellence in the education of pediatricians and the delivery of pediatric care.

The Foundation achieves this goal by
1. pursuing rigorous research,
2. convening collaborators in health care,
3. developing and disseminating collective expertise, and
4. promoting innovation, ultimately fostering the health and well-being of children and families.
History of the ABP Foundation

- Founded in 1986
- Supporting organization of the ABP
- Board of Directors overlaps with ABP BOD
- Staffed by ABP Staff
- Sets and prioritizes focus areas for work
Foundation’s Strategic Plan

• ABP Foundation, with Research Advisory Committee input, sets strategic focus areas for work (prioritize funding)
• Moving towards a 3 year planning cycle to follow ABP BOD

Focus Areas
1. Child and Family Health
2. Trainee Education and Assessment
3. Lifelong Learning, Assessment, and Practice Improvement
4. Healthcare and Workforce Trends
5. Special Initiatives
History of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC)

- First meeting in 1999
- Group made up largely of pediatric researchers
- Role to review, advise, and rank research & evaluation projects and proposals
- Overall strengthen the quality of research evaluation the ABP is undertaking
ABP Foundation’s and RAC’s Strategic Focus

Foster and conduct focused, rigorous, high quality research that:
  • Is actionable and informs the mission of the ABP
  • Aligns with ABP values
  • Provides a return on investment
  • Evaluates the value and outcomes of our processes
    • Training
    • Certification
    • MOC
  • Promotes internal and external research
  • Enhances our relationship with stakeholders (eg, public, diplomats, specialty societies, other boards, policymakers)
ABP Staff

Research

• Laurel Leslie, MD, MPH
  Vice President of Research

• Adam Turner, MPH, PMP
  Research Program Manager

• Ashley Tucker, MPH
  Program Coordinator

Psychometrics

• Linda Althouse, PhD
  Vice President of Psychometrics & Assessment Services

• Andy Dwyer, PhD
  Director of Psychometrics

• Robert Furter, PhD
  Psychometrician

• Ying Du, PhD
  Psychometrician

CBME

• Carol Carraccio, MD, MA
  Vice President of Competency-Based Assessment
Current (Major) Areas of Research, Evaluation, and Convenings

Research
• EPA’s and Milestones
• Workforce Reporting and Census Surveys

Evaluation
• Longitudinal Assessment (MOCA-Peds) Evaluation
• Practice Improvement Modules (PIM) Evaluation

Groups & Convenings – Often with substantial deliverables including research surveys
• Family Leadership Advisory Group
• Global Health Task Force
• New Century Scholars
• Convening to discuss launch of a Sickle Cell Learning Network
• Several projects oriented around child behavioral & mental health
Interactions in Practice

To RFA or Not RFA?

ABP Internal Staff

Research Advisory Committee

Proposal + RAC’s Review, or Modified Proposal

External Collaborators

Either one Proposal + RAC’s Review, or Modified Proposal

ABP Internal Staff

External Collaborators

Work
4 Common Approaches Identified For Conducting Research

1. Build capacity within the Board
2. Disseminate requests for competitive proposals
3. Develop contractual relationship with a single research group/organization
4. Develop relationship with numerous research groups/organizations

Or a hybrid of the above
Structuring the Approach to Completion

1. Build capacity within the Board

*Advantages*
- Total control over the research operation.
- Utilize own quality control measures regarding analysis and results.
- Data required for some projects already reside at the Board.

*Disadvantages*
- Possible difficulty in hiring/attracting/maintaining staff appropriate to conduct the work.
- Possible lack of internal expertise in specific research methods for some projects.
- Possible lack of space to house research operation.
- Additional managerial and supervisory role required.
2. Disseminate requests for competitive proposals

**Advantages**
- Competitive proposals will likely yield quality work
- Competition on cost as well as research design
- A variety of areas of expertise will be required by the Board research agenda

**Disadvantages**
- Time and financial resource consuming endeavor for the Board - delayed work
  - formal writing of RFA
  - review of multiple proposals for each project.
- Possible difficulty in maintaining reviewer base
- No relationship with specific team for greater understanding of Board needs.
3. Contractual relationship with a single research group/organization

**Advantages**
- Developed relationship so work tailored to Board needs
- Expedite time from project request to actual completion (no time required for review of multiple proposals)
- Specific team with known expertise available for questions, consultation, advice
- Can serve as liaison to other research groups

**Disadvantages**
- Lack of competitive mechanism for each project
- May be viewed as “insider network”
- May require subcontracts for some projects if all expertise not available from contractor
- Board still must act as middle-men to get final, desired product in some projects
IRB Relationship and Policy Implications

• ABP Contracts with Adverra (previously known as Schulman Associates IRB)
• Research/ethics training required (CITI Training)
  • All staff engaged in research
• ABP requires all human subjects research (internal and external) to go to IRB
  • What constitutes research? Human subjects research?
  • Operational vs. Non-Operational
  • Policy on Systematic Investigations
• How will the IRB rule?
Managing Data Requests

• Refer to appropriate policy immediately
  • Data Sharing, Privacy, Systematic Investigations

• Requestor asked to fill out form

• Contract/MOU and Data Use Agreement always required

• Track all requests
  • Shows trends over time
  • Find Patterns where there may be information gaps that could be addressed publicly
Recent ABP Focal Point - Dissemination

Infographics
Dashboards
Website
Journal Articles
Recent ABP Focal Point - Dissemination

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