

## **ABP revamps board exams**

By Thomas Taylor, D.D.S., M.S.D., F.A.C.P., ABP Executive Director

Substantive changes are being made to the oral examination process beginning in 2008. A new section of the examination called scenario based oral examinations will replace one of the current Part 2, 3 or 4 oral patient presentation examinations beginning in November, 2008. The scenario based oral examinations will involve the candidate being provided with different brief scenarios provided by the examining team and then being asked a series of structured questions to determine the level of candidate understanding of various clinical situations. The introduction of scenario based oral examinations is part of an ongoing attempt to better standardize the examination process and to ensure objectivity in grading the performance of the candidate. The scenario based oral examination will involve three ½ hour scenario based examination sessions during a one day period for a total 1½ hour examination. Each session will be given by a different examination team.

To minimize confusion during the transition period the various parts of the examination were renamed. Effective for 2008, the Part I written examination is now the Section A written examination given in April of each year at remote testing centers near the candidate's home. Section B includes the traditional oral patient presentation examinations (formerly Parts 2, 3 and 4). Section C includes the Scenario Based Examinations that replace one of the oral patient presentation examinations. During a transition period of several years candidates will have the choice of whether to take all three parts of Section B (the former parts 2, 3 and 4) or whether to take two of the oral patient presentation examinations plus Section C (three ½ hour scenario based oral examinations for a total of 1 ½ hours).

The Board has reviewed past patterns of success and failure in the written Section A (formerly Part I) examination and has determined that successful completion of the written examination should not be time limited but permanent. Candidates who have passed the written examination no longer need to be concerned that their success in that part will expire. This change is made retroactive for all candidates who have been successful in the written examination.

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## **New ABP examiner elected**



The Members of the Council for the American Board of Prosthodontics are pleased to announce that Dr. Donald A. Curtis has been elected as the new examining member of the ABP.

Dr. Donald A. Curtis received his D.M.D. degree from the Oregon Health & Science University School of Dentistry in 1981 and completed his Certificate in Prosthodontics at

University of Southern California School of Dentistry in 1983. He received his Certificate in Maxillofacial Prosthetics from UCLA School of Dentistry in 1985. Dr. Curtis is a professor at the UCSF School of Dentistry while maintaining a private practice limited to prosthodontics in Berkeley, California. He is President of the Berkeley Dental Society and a Delegate to the California Dental Association. Dr. Curtis is a member of ADEA, the Pacific Coast Society of Prosthodontics, IADR and ACP, among others.

The success of the election process is based on broad participation by the Diplomates of the American Board of Prosthodontics. The right to vote for the new examining member of the ABP is one of the key privileges of becoming a Diplomate of the specialty. The Council will continue to work on behalf of the specialty to search and help identify the best possible candidates for the American Board of Prosthodontics. The Council has an obligation to pursue qualified Prosthodontists as potential examiners for the American Board of Prosthodontics and is cognizant when considering the demographics of our specialty as represented in the diversity of all Prosthodontists. These goals reflect the mission statement of the ACP and reflect the goals and objectives of the American Board of Prosthodontics Examiners.

The members of the 2007 Council for the American Board of Prosthodontics were Dr. Stephen Cameron, Dr. Dale Cipra, Dr. Ronald Desjardins, Dr. David Eggleston, Dr. Robert Gillis, Dr. Debra Haselton, Dr. Peter Johnson, Dr. Carol Lefebvre and Dr. Lily T. Garcia, Chair.

Visit the ABP Web site, [www.prosthodontics.org/abp](http://www.prosthodontics.org/abp), for Board Certification Guidelines or to find a board certified prosthodontist.