



THE AMERICAN BOARD OF UROLOGY

2216 Ivy Road, Suite 210

Charlottesville, VA 22903

Phone: 434/979-0059 Fax: 434/979-0266

www.abu.org

TRUSTEES:

President

WILLIAM D. STEERS, MD
Charlottesville, VA

Vice President

RALPH V. CLAYMAN, MD
Orange, CA

President-Elect

TIMOTHY B. BOONE, MD, PhD
Houston, TX

Secretary-Treasurer

JOHN B. FORREST MD
Tulsa, OK

ROBERT R. BAHNSON, MD
Columbus, OH

GERALD H. JORDAN, MD
Norfolk, VA

BARRY A. KOGAN, MD
Albany, NY

MARGARET S. PEARLE, MD, PhD
Dallas, TX

MICHAEL L. RITCHEY, MD
Phoenix, AZ

PETER N. SCHLEGEL, MD
New York, NY

IAN M. THOMPSON, JR., MD
San Antonio, TX

J. BRANTLEY THRASHER, MD
Kansas City, KS

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Executive Secretary

STUART S. HOWARDS, M.D.

Administrator

LORI R. DAVIS

Manager, Information Systems

CAROL J. MONROE

Certification Coordinator

LINDSAY W. FRANKLIN

Recertification Coordinator

JAMES R. SURGENER

MOC Coordinator

AMY H. WOODSON



April 27, 2010

Gordon J. Kinzler, MD
President, Chicago Urological Society
20 North Michigan Avenue
Ste 700
Chicago IL 60602

Dear Dr. Kinzler:

I am writing in response to your letter of April 12, 2010, which was received in the ABU office on April 19, 2010. I hope it is acceptable to you that I am taking the liberty of responding to your letter on behalf of Dr. Koch, who is no longer President of the Board, effective February 28, 2010 when he completed his six year term as Trustee. The Trustees of the American Board of Urology certainly understand that the change in the fee structure for urologists with time limited certificates has caused some individuals to be concerned.

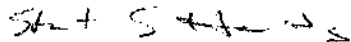
I want to clear up a possible misconception that you and/or some members of the Chicago Urological Society may have about the annual certificate fee. There is absolutely no requirement that any Diplomate with a time unlimited certificate pay the \$200 annual fee. We very much appreciate it if they would, the reasons for this being our financial needs and fairness to colleagues with time limited certificates who are required to pay the fee. I would also like to address some of the issues you raise in your thoughtful letter. First, I would like to point out that in spite of the \$200 annual fee, which as you mention replaces the \$1350 fee for the recertification examination, our fees for certification and recertification are lower than any other surgical specialty. This is in spite of the fact that for five successive years, we ran an operating deficit because of the increased demands and fees of the American Board of Medical Specialties, over which we have no control. The American Board of Urology has repeatedly voted against most of the measures that urologists in the Chicago Urological Society oppose. However, since we are repeatedly overruled by the large primary care boards which have many more votes, we are required to follow the ABMS mandates. If we do not follow the mandates, the ABU will be expelled and board certification of urologists by the ABU would not be recognized, which as you accurately pointed out, would interfere with their ability to practice in most hospitals. I trust you realize that our primary obligation is to the public; that is, we must assure the public that board certified urologists have met the requirements of the American Board of Medical Specialties. Because of these mandates, which are a problem not only for our Diplomates, but also for our office, we have had significant increases in effort, which have resulted in hiring additional staff and lead to an operating deficit. Therefore, we had no choice but to increase our fees, albeit modestly. Finally, I would like to point out that the Board office and the Trustees run a very tight fiscal ship. The Trustees of the American Board of Urology do not receive any reimbursement for their services, even though they spend roughly three

Kinzler
April 27, 2010
Page 2

weeks a year for six years working for the Board. I am sure you realize that this means they sacrifice considerable income with no compensation. Day to day operation of the Board is extremely cost effective. If the Board were not located in Charlottesville, Virginia but rather in a major city, expenses would be at least fifty percent higher, for rent, salaries, and maintenance of equipment. Any Diplomate of the Board with concern about expenditures is welcome to come to Charlottesville and review our financial records.

In summary, the fees that understandably have caused concern among your members were necessary in order to continue the operation of the American Board of Urology. The Trustees have made every possible effort to limit the demands of maintenance of certification consistent with remaining an ABMS board while running a cost-effective organization. If our office can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Stuart S. Howards, M.D.
Executive Secretary

SSH/lrd

cc: Michael O. Koch, M.D.