



A Closer Look at
**The American Board of
Emergency Medicine**



What We Are

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) is one of 24 medical specialty certification boards recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). We certify emergency physicians who meet our educational, professional standing, and examination standards. ABEM is a public trust organization with a 501(c)6 tax status.

What We Do

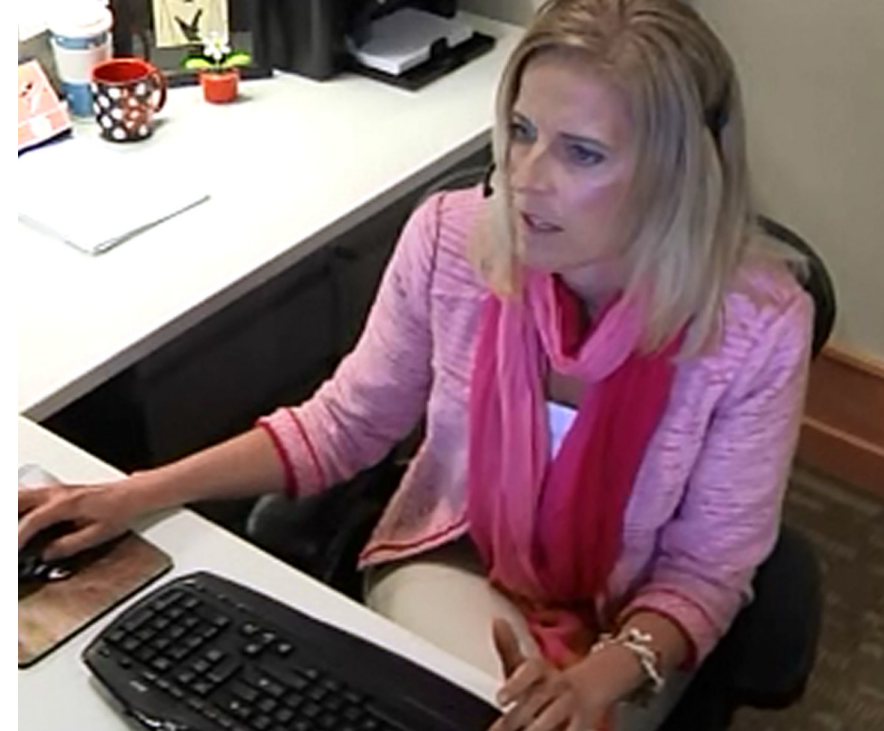
Certification

Our main priority is to help doctors achieve and maintain their ABEM certification. New emergency physicians who come out of their residency programs, seek certification voluntarily. They must take a qualifying exam and an oral exam which tests not only their practice knowledge, but their professionalism, and approach towards patients. Once they pass their exams and become certified, they can maintain their certification status with ongoing requirements.

What ABEM Certification Means

ABEM certification is an accomplishment in which emergency physicians can take pride. It represents their highest professional credential, reflecting that they have met an externally developed national standard. Those who participate in continuing certification demonstrate to the public that they are actively engaged in a program of continuous professional development that helps them deliver the highest quality and most current patient care.





Other Functions

ABEM doesn't just certify emergency physicians, we also partake in other functions such as:

- Continuing certification activities
- Additional credential opportunities such as subspecialties and focused practice designations
- Residency training interactions
- Research and Publications
- State Outreach
- Quality Measure Development and Review
- American Board of Medical Specialties activities
- Inter-organizational Relationships

Who We Are

Our passion for Emergency Medicine (EM), physicians in the field, and the dedicated staff that uphold our mission is the heart and soul of ABEM. Our history and the history of Emergency Medicine at large keeps that passion alive as we continue to move forward.

Early 1900s

After WWII, doctors learned trauma procedures on the field which translated to the creation of an emergency department (ED) at home. These were usually one room areas of a hospital basement, run day-to-day by anyone from first year interns to dermatologists.

1961

Doctors started to recognize the need for EM to be a new specialty. Groups in Alexandria, VA and Pontiac, MI started to develop EM in what is know as the Alexandria-Pontiac Plan.

1968

In Lansing, MI, eight physicians created the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), dedicated to educating physicians on EM.

1972

The American Medical Association officially recognized EM as a medical specialty.

1973

The federal Emergency Medical Services Systems was passed which funded EM services across the country paving the way for modern day EDs.

1976

ABEM was created and sought primary board status, but was rejected by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). A second attempt in 1989 would be successful.

1979

EM became the 23rd recognized medical specialty.

1980

ABEM offered the first EM certification exams and certified its first diplomates.

1990s

EM catches the public's eye with shows like "ER".

2019

ABEM moved from an in-person Oral Exam to an all virtual exam due to the pandemic. The virtual and hybrid exam models are currently in use.

2021

ABEM becomes accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) after meeting it's quality standards.

2021

ABEM launches MyEMCert, a module based platform that encourages learning. Continuing certification requirements changed from a high-stakes exam on a 10-year certification cycle, to more frequent MyEMCert modules during a 5-year cycle.

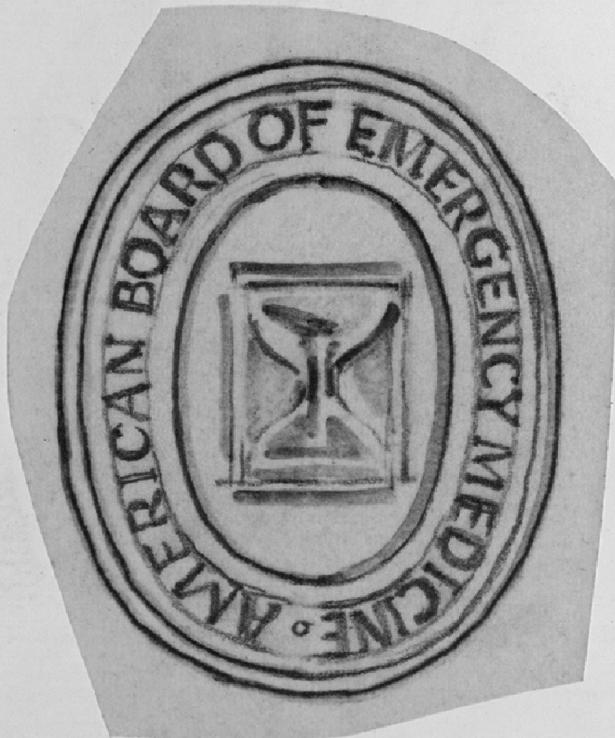


Our Logo

In 1976, ABEM was created and some of the first decisions to make were on a logo. As discussions on the logo progressed, the idea of time popped up as a theme. Comments about a specialty whose “time had come” emerged as a reference of the hard fought battle to be recognized by the boards as a primary specialty. Time was also a reference to a specialty that required time-sensitive care, and availability 24/7/365.

Eventually, the image of an hourglass was chosen as a representation of the dependability and uninterrupted care which has become the hallmark of Emergency Medicine.

At ABEM, you will see the meaning of the hourglass repeated in the artwork that adorn our walls, the constant care provided by our certified physicians, and the continuous dedication of our staff.





Our Environment

At ABEM, relationships matter. How we interact within the workplace and with those we serve reflects commitment to our mission and to each other. Recognizing that our people are what make the wheels at ABEM turn, we put people first and believe that taking care of them is a priority. We take pride in our team and strive to envelop a rewarding, supportive, and collaborative environment for everyone. Our team is a tight-knit community of around 50 talented individuals who are guided by our shared values:

Collaboration | Integrity | Trust | Wisdom | Empathy | Resilience



How We Operate

ABEM is a mission driven organization. Our employees, directors, and volunteers are all dedicated to the same purpose.

Mission

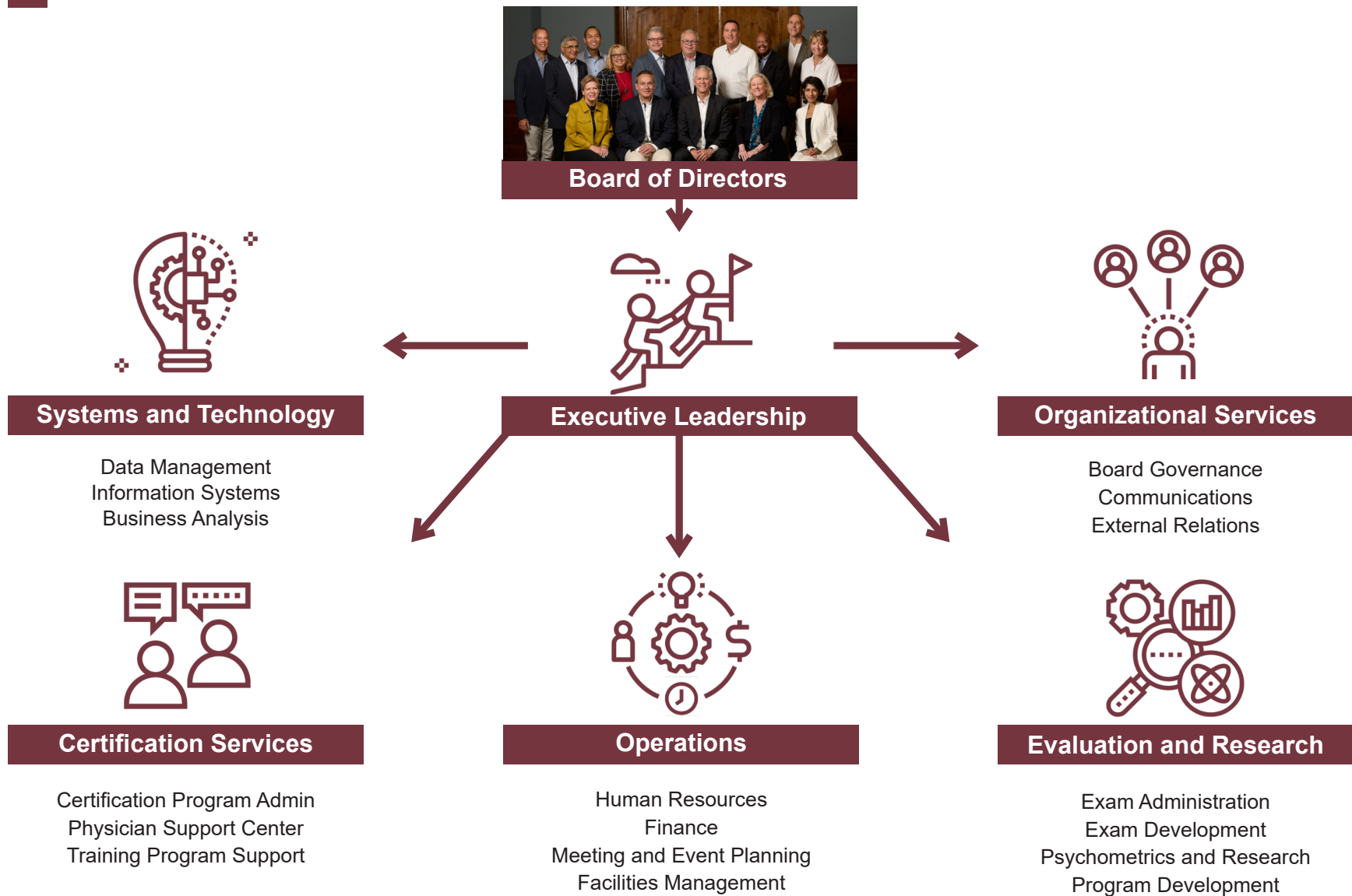
To ensure the highest standards in the specialty of Emergency Medicine.

Purposes

- To improve the quality of emergency medical care
- To establish and maintain high standards of excellence in Emergency Medicine and subspecialties
- To enhance Emergency Medicine education and related subspecialties
- To evaluate physicians and promote professional development through initial and continuous certification in Emergency Medicine and its subspecialties
- To certify physicians who have demonstrated special knowledge and skills in Emergency Medicine and its subspecialties
- To enhance the value of certification for ABEM diplomates
- To serve the public and medical profession by reporting the certification status of ABEM diplomates

ABEM Structure

ABEM has a Board of Directors which provide leadership and guidance to the rest of the organization which is split into teams. Board of Director members are voted in so leadership can change when their terms are complete.



What We Offer

Professional Development

At ABEM, your continuing development is a priority. We want you to feel and be your best by utilizing professional development opportunities that will allow you to:

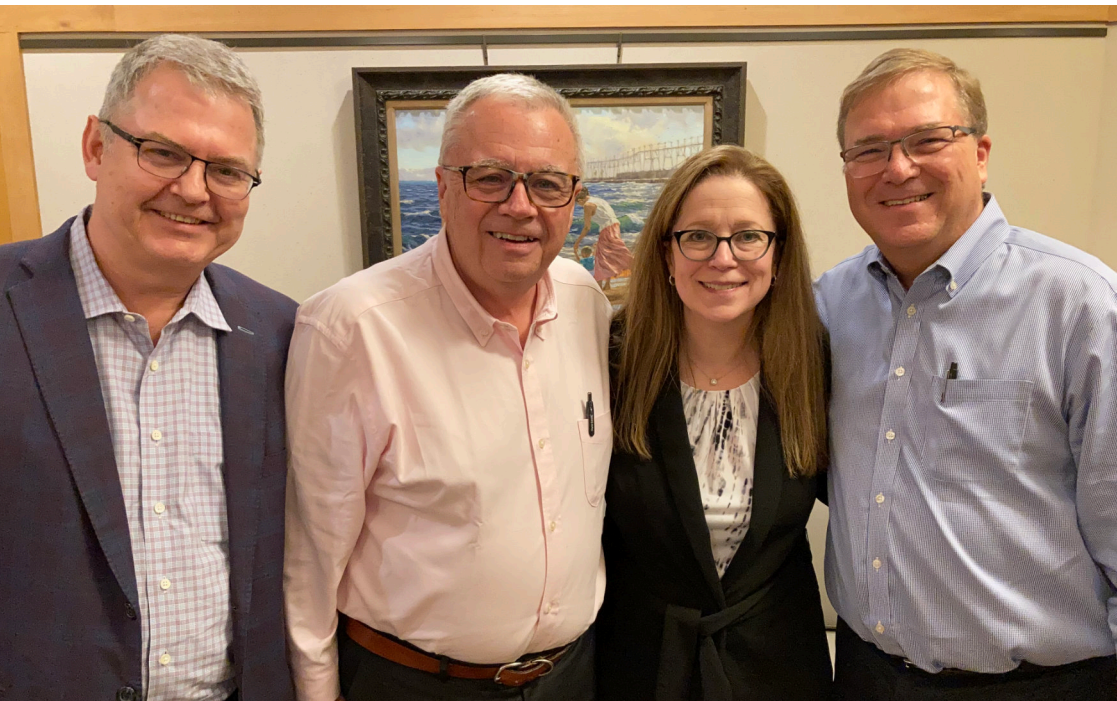
- Actively participate in our culture of continual learning
- Pick learning opportunities that work for you, based on your interests and responsibilities
- Align your goals with growth-oriented activities that expand your knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Document and track your growth over time
- Develop and refine your professional goals
- Facilitate your future career development



Comprehensive Benefits Package

Employees are the lifeline of our organization and we feel it is vital to provide the best benefits available. You and your dependents will enjoy a comprehensive benefits package that will include:

- Health insurance
- Health Reimbursement Account (HRA)
- Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- Dental, vision, and disability insurance
- Life insurance
- 401K program
- Child care, medical, military, and personal leave programs
- Professional Development Program
- Employee Assistance Program
- Wellness Program
- Paid holidays
- Generous paid time off





Health and Wellness Program

We promote mind and body wellness so all our employees can enjoy a balanced lifestyle. You are encouraged to take advantage of all the health tools we offer, including:

- Seminars, workshops, and classes
- Healthnet counseling services
- A break room for fitness and relaxation
- Individual and team challenges
- On-site health screenings
- Online portal to track your goals and progress
- Program incentives



The American Board of Emergency Medicine

*Ensuring the highest standards in the
specialty of Emergency Medicine*

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