



Dear members of the rheumatology community:

Certification in rheumatology has been a significant area of concern for our members, and the ACR has undertaken many efforts to address issues related to maintenance of certification (MOC) with the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM).

Since seeking your feedback and publishing the [survey results](#) about whether rheumatology initial certification and MOC should remain with ABIM or move to ABAI with the formation of a new combined board of Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology, there have been significant changes.

The most significant change is ABIM's announcement of the [longitudinal](#) assessment pathway for MOC. ACR representatives had the opportunity to meet with the ABIM Rheumatology Board last month and were encouraged by ABIM's new direction.

The ACR has long advocated for an MOC model based on the principles of physician self-regulation that allows for assessment while providing the ability to improve knowledge in a manner that enhances patient care. While many of the details related to the new pathway are currently being developed, we believe the model that ABIM is now considering will address the majority of recommendations the ACR has advocated for, including:

- Options in which the breadth of rheumatology is not being covered in a high-stakes assessment;
- Expanded open-book options to allow access to any reference material (physician preference);
- Extended time to ensure the benefit of open book is realized;

- Security options that are based on attestation and secure login; not webcam or testing centers;
- Detailed feedback reports that will allow physicians to identify specific knowledge gaps; and
- Offering immediate remediation or the option to test within the next “testing window.” Physicians should not have to wait for the next scheduled interval, i.e., 2 years.

We anticipate ABIM will be able to share details and the timeline for the longitudinal assessment early next month.

Annual Meeting Rheumatology Board Certification Update

To learn more, please plan to participate in the [Rheumatology Board Certification Update session](#) that will be held Tues, Nov. 12 at 8:30 am. This session is designed to provide you with the most current information. We hope to be able to engage with you about your views of the ABIM longitudinal assessment. To help address some of our members' immediate MOC needs, new this year – Annual Meeting attendees can earn over 50 MOC points in addition to CME credit.

As ACR leaders listen to our members talking about concerns affecting our profession, few issues have engendered as much impassioned debate as MOC. The ACR has been actively engaged in the discussion of developing meaningful change in MOC as rheumatologists have repeatedly reaffirmed that the rheumatology community wants a different and better certification program. The ACR remains committed to improving MOC for rheumatologists and the patients they serve.

Thank you in advance for your continued engagement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Marchetta", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paula Marchetta, MD, MBA
ACR President