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## Doctors must unite to take back control of medicine

Regarding “MOC recertifications are ‘cancers’ doctors should rally against” (Online, March 5, 2016): The aged, the poor and veterans are already covered under government plans which are the highest risk groups to insure, so only the working young and their families are left.

The AMA used to be one of the most powerful “unions” in America—the failing is not government or insurance but our inability as physicians to unite to confront those who have taken the control of medicine away.

Until we can follow our forefathers’ guidance of “out of many, one” or “united we stand, divided we fall” they will continue to pick us off one by one. Perhaps we need to copy the staff of Aesculapius and put it on a flag and write “Don’t tread on me!”

**Robert D. Jones, MD**

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

## ABMS has lost touch with members

Follow the money. I'm from Chicago and I know an extortion racket when I see one. However, the old Chicago Mafia would never treat physicians like the ABMS racket is treating us.

The American Board of Pediatrics replaced its multimillionaire director James Stockman with someone who sends out kindly emails, yet I'm sure his take home pay is triple what mine is. ABP moved its headquarters out of cold Chicago to North Carolina; they didn't say how many millions that cost.

When I passed my last ABP recertification and was told I would have to participate in MOC, I wrote to them about the fact that being a locum tenens physician and having a disability made it impossible to afford the costs and complete the clinical part, which is based on the now outdated institution of private pediatricians following their own patients. I wrote to them again last year, but all I got in response was a letter in February saying that my ABP certification had expired in December.

Part of these ABMS leaders' problems in dealing with the horror of MOC is that they are completely out of touch with the practicing American physician, yet still think they are doing something to help people. This delusion is unfortunately very common today in all aspects of academia and government.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is particularly filled with brainwashed advocates of big government medicine to the point that they promote junk science that is politically correct and have forgotten their role as an advocate for children. I remember some medical school professors claiming they saved patients from the "LMD," which means that they thought all private physicians were quacks and needed to be controlled by them.

The ABMS and academic physicians need to read the modern version of the Hippocratic Oath and understand why they are in violation of this ancient pledge.

**Nancy Henning Weres, MD**

HESPERIA, CALIFORNIA

# THE Vitals

Maintenance of certification

## Physicians fed up with MOC

It is safe to say that physicians are none too pleased with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and its maintenance of recertification (MOC) process.

Following two recent *Medical Economics* reports, physicians from around the country did not hold back their anger towards MOC, even calling for a national boycott of exams. The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) in particular has come under scrutiny. Below is a sample of comments from physicians regarding their feelings about MOC.

### David W. Allison, MD

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE  
SURGERY  
GAINESVILLE, VIRGINIA

"We need to keep up the pressure and continue to speak out against this tyranny. MOC and recertification is all about money and control administered by unelected, private corporations, otherwise known as 'the boards.' If more doctors could just come together and muster the courage to give these people the middle finger, there would be no stopping us! Stop sending these jerks your hard earned money!"

### Adam Lauer, DO

FAMILY MEDICINE  
BREWER, MAINE

"The way to stop ABMS and its specialty boards from making MDs re-certify could be as simple as every doctor refusing to re-certify. Thus, the revenue of these boards would dwindle and they would lose much of their lobbying power.

"If every doctor refused re-certification, would the nation's hospitals drop every doctor from their staff? No ... they would have to change their bylaws or close their doors."

### Edward Volpintesta, MD

FAMILY MEDICINE  
BETHEL, CONNECTICUT

"I knew that it would only be a matter of time before all specialties were encouraged by the show of outrage against the ABIM.

"Physicians are overburdened with work and many are either burned out or on the verge. This decomposition of spirit and joy in practice has been going on for at least a decade and it represents a crisis as great as any that doctors have been dealing with."

### James Lumeng, MD

INTERNAL MEDICINE / ONCOLOGY  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

"It is important that physicians who sit on the medical staff committee of hospitals begin to work towards not requiring recertification. There is no basis for the requirement. It does not mean that the physician is providing quality care. There are mechanisms in the hospital to ensure high quality of care is provided."

### Alan Shiener, MD

INTERNAL MEDICINE / CARDIOLOGY  
SHERMAN OAKS, CALIFORNIA

I am happy to see people revolting, but believe that revolting will ultimately fail. The ABIM will bide their time and over the next 5 years will ultimately prevail."