



QUALITY IS OUR IMAGE

acr.org

June 12, 2020

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Valerie P. Jackson MD, FACR Executive Director ABR  
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The American College of Radiology has significant concerns regarding the impact of the ABR decision to further delay the ABR Core Exam and Certifying Exam until February 2021. We recognize the major logistical challenges posed by the COVID pandemic related to travel and group gatherings as explained in Dr. Mathews' recent letter but believe that a broader investigation into possible options, including employment or recruitment of appropriate proctors to permit exam administration in 2020, is both necessary and warranted. Such testing could potentially occur at widespread locations capable of the necessary high-resolution image display (e.g. off hours use of radiology departments).

We are in receipt of the multi-organizational letter (including the ACR Resident and Fellow Section [RFS] and Young and Early Career Professional Section [YPS]) sent to you in the past week outlining the hardships and potentially life altering impact of the delay of these examinations on our resident, fellow, and young professional members including those in diagnostic radiology, radiation oncology, interventional radiology, nuclear medicine and medical physics. We will not duplicate the specific challenges they described but agree that these are very significant and must be addressed and considered in your decision-making.

We urge you to utilize your Initial Certification Advisory Committee, with representatives of the resident fellow sections of several national societies, to ensure that their unique perspectives are recognized in the response to the challenges posed by the pandemic and beyond.

We fully support our RFS and YPS members and their concerns regarding the testing postponements. To address the anxiety of ambiguity, we urge you to establish a time-certain that testing will take place so that these new active and valued members of our profession can properly prepare for your examinations and plan their lives.

The ACR stands ready to work with you and all interested parties in finding a workable solution that both meets your needs for valid assessment of the candidates while allowing them to move ahead with their training and careers.

Respectfully,

Howard B. Fleishon MD, MMM, FACR  
Chair, ACR Board of Chancellors

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