Certification in Vascular Neurology
A New Subspecialty in the United States

Harold P. Adams, Jr, MD; José Biller, MD; Dorthea Juul, PhD; Stephen Scheiber, MD

In 2003, the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) received approval from the American Board of Medical Specialties to issue subspecialty certificates in vascular neurology. Recognition was requested by the American Academy of Neurology. The new certificate acknowledges those ABPN-certified neurologists and child neurologists who have developed special expertise in the field of vascular neurology. The new subspecialty reflects the growth of cerebrovascular disease as an independent area of medical expertise and the related development of professional organizations such as the Stroke Council of the American Heart Association and the Stroke Section of the American Academy of Neurology. It also denotes the high level of scholarship in the area of vascular diseases of the central nervous system, as evidenced by the success of numerous journals such as Stroke, that focus on experimental, epidemiological, translational, and clinical research in this field.

Simultaneously, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) endorsed postgraduate (fellowship) training in vascular neurology, which will be discussed in a separate report in Stroke. After the 2009 examination, only those neurologists who have successfully completed an ACGME-accredited program in vascular neurology will be eligible to become certified in this subspecialty. In the interim, applications will be accepted from those ABPN-certified neurologists or child neurologists who have had training in a non-ACGME accredited stroke fellowship or who devote at least 25% of their practice time to the diagnosis and treatment of persons with stroke. Information about the requirements and the application process is found at the ABPN website (www.abpn.com). The new certificates are valid for a 10-year period, which means that to retain certification status, certified physicians will periodically have to complete an ABPN maintenance of certification process including taking another examination.

Test Development
The ABPN appointed a 12-member committee to develop the content outline for the examination, to generate questions, to assemble the examination, and to set pass/fail standards. The members of the committee were selected to include a range of expertise in vascular neurology, and they participated in an independent certification process by writing essays. The examination for candidates consists of 200 multiple-choice questions that address the following topics: basic science aspects of vascular neurology, epidemiology, risk factors for stroke, prevention of stroke, clinical features of cerebrovascular disease, evaluation of patients, causes of ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke, treatment of patients with vascular diseases, and rehabilitation. The detailed content outline is posted on the ABPN website.

First Examination
The first examination was administered May 9–13, 2005, at a nationwide network of computer test centers. The internal consistency of the examination was robust, with a reliability of 0.89. The committee-determined pass/fail standard for the examination was 68%. The candidates’ mean correct score was 82% (SD=7%). Of the 238 neurologists taking the examination, 225 (95%) passed. The names of those who passed will appear in the 2006 edition of the Official American Board of Medical Specialties Directory of Board Certified Medical Specialists. In addition, a listing of the neurologists who are certified in vascular neurology can be found online at http://stroke.ahajournals.org.

Future Examinations
The next examination is scheduled for June 2006. The deadlines for application for that examination are posted at the ABPN website. It is anticipated that many more ABPN-certified neurologists and child neurologists who are actively involved in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with cerebrovascular diseases will seek this recognition.

Appendix
Diplomates of American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in the Subspecialty of Vascular Neurology May 9, 2005—239 Diplomates
Nada G. Abou-Fayssal, MD, Hoboken, NJ
Aninda Bhat Acharya, MD, University City, MO
Walter J. Koroshetz, MD, Boston, MA
Bangaruwamy Vijaya Kumar, MD, Victoria, TX
Eugene Francis Lafranchise, MD, Savannah, GA
Mariah Patricia LaMonte, MD, MSN, Baltimore, MD
Dennis M. Landis, MD, Cleveland, OH
Rodney Owen Leacock, MD, Greenville, NC
Nora Sheray Lee, MD, West Hartford, CT
Dana Leifer, MD, New York, NY
Enrique Carlos Leira, MD, Iowa City, IA
Michael Joseph Leslie, MD, Wadsworth, OH
Steven Richard Levine, MD, New York, NY
Steven Lester Lewis, MD, Highland Park, IL
Bernardo Liberato, MD, New York, NY
Richard Benjamin Libman, MD, New Hyde Park, NY
David Sigmund Liebeskind, MD, Los Angeles, CA
Paxton John Longwell, MD, Corpus Christi, TX
George Arthur Lopez, MD, PhD, Houston, TX
Dana Leifer, MD, New York, NY
For-Shing Lui, MD, Sacramento, CA
Gwendolyn Faye Ford Lynch, MD, Uniontown, OH
John Roborg Lynch, MD, Durham, NC
Arshad Majid, MD, Haslett, MI
Salman Nazir Malik, MD, Togus, ME
Marc David Malkoff, MD, Phoenix, AZ
Pitchaiah Mandava, MD, PhD, Houston, TX
Louise Deborah McCullough, MD, PhD, Avon, CT
Robert Edwin McCraney, MD, Terra Ceia, FL
Nedra Margarita Mendiola-Brugueras, MD, Guaynabo PR
Steven Lee Meyers, MD, Skokie, IL
Victoria Ann Mifsud, MD, Valletta, Malta
Panayiotis D. Mitsias, MD, Detroit, MI
Jay P. Mohr, MD, New York, NY
Majaz Moonis, MD, MRCP, DM, Shrewsbury, MA
David Francis Moore, MD, PhD, DIC, Winnipeg, MB Canada
Sajjad Mueed, MD, Natchez, MS
William Stuart Musser, MD, Cape May Court House, NJ
Andrew Mark Naidech, MD, Chicago, IL
Thambirajah Nachandra, MD, Glen Head, NY
Paul Alan Niyquist, MD, MPH, Baltimore, MD
Lourence Concepcion Ocaña, MD, Elmhurst, NY
Annee Elizabeth O’Duffy, MD, Nashville, TN
Bruce Izeokhai Ovbiagele, MD, Santa Clarita, CA
Nikolaos I.H. Papamitsakis, MD, Hoboken, NJ
Jennifer Kay Pary, MD, Dakota Dunes, SD
Laura Lee Pedelty, MD, PhD, Chicago, IL
Candice Jean Perkins, MD, Stony Brook, NY
Luther Creed Pettigrew, Jr MD, Lexington, KY
Maria Carissa Pineda, MD, Haddonfield, NJ
Paithri Piyawat, MD, Bangkok, Thailand
Maciej Poltorak, MD, PhD, Greenbelt, MD
William John Powers, MD, Saint Louis, MO
Adnan Iqbal Qureshi, MD, Newark, NJ
Alejandro Abraham Rabenstein, MD, Rochester, MN
Venkatakrishna Rajasekhar, MD, Chennai, India
Tarakad S. Ramachandran, MD, Jamesville, NY
Atta Ur Rehman, MD, Las Cruces, NM

Merrell D. Reiss, MD, Elk Grove Village, IL
David Anthony Rempe, MD, PhD, Rochester, NY
Jose Gabriel Romano, MD, Miami, FL
Daniel Mark Rosenbaum, MD, Bronx, NY
Steven Henry Rudolph, MD, New York, NY
Sean Duane Rutland, DO, Chicago, IL
Jeffrey Lawrence Saver, MD, Los Angeles, CA
Michael Joel Schneck, MD, Maywood, IL
Alexander Taro Schneider, MD, Asheville, NC
Andrews Peter Schoeck, MD, Bremen, Germany
Magdy Hamdy Selim, MD, PhD, Boston, MA
Souvik Sen, MD, Chapel Hill, NC
Pramodkumar Pishorilal Sethi, MD, Greensboro, NC
Zubair Ahmed Shaikh, MD, MBBS, Mount Pleasant, MI
David G. Sherman, MD, San Antonio, TX
Cathy Ann Sila, MD, Cleveland, OH
Brian Silver, MD, Detroit, MI
Isaac Edward Silverman, MD, Hartford, CT
John Randall Sims II, MD, Belmont, MA
Iqbal Singh, MD, Henderson, NC
Andrew P. Sliwka, MD, Columbus, OH
Michael Allan Sloan, MD, Charlotte, NC
Don Benson Smith, MD, Englewood, CO
Rodney Duval Soto, MD, Pensacola, FL
Heather Alissa Stanko, MD, Green Bay, WI
Barney Joel Stern, MD, Baltimore, MD
Jose Ignacio Suarez, MD, Bradenton, OH
Sophia Sundararajan, MD, Concord, OH
Reid Defaramess Taylor, MD, Asheville, NC
Charles H. Tegele, MD, Winston Salem, NC
Henry Tellez, MD, Pinehurst, NC
John Brooks Terry, MD, Kansas City, KS
John Stephen Thomas, MD, Cartersville, GA
Gretchen Elizabeth Tietjen, MD, Toledo, OH
David Lawrence Tirschwell, MD, Seattle, WA
Margaret Fairchild Tremwell, MD, Fort Smith, AR
Stanley Tuhrim, MD, New York, NY
Roekchai Tulyapronchote, MD, Bangkok, Thailand
Ken Uchino, MD, Pittsburgh, PA
Victor Cruz Urrutia, MD, Doral, FL
Anand Girish Vaishnav, MD, Lexington, KY
Antenor Pierre Vilceus, MD, Valley Stream, NY
David Zheng Wang, DO, Peoria, IL
Wee Wang, MD, Lafayette, IN
Lawrence Richard Wechsler, MD, Pittsburgh, PA
Jesse Weinberger, MD, Scarsdale, NY
Elzbieta Jadwiga Wirkowski, MD, Glen Cove, NY
Melvin Chung Wah Wong, MD, Aiea, HI
Bradford Burke Worrell, MD, Charlotteville, VA
Marcella Ann Wozniak, MD, Mount Airy, MD
Wendy Lynn Wright, MD, Atlanta, GA
Andrew Rathnasamy Xavier, MD, Jacksonville, FL
Osama Othman Zaidat, MD, Milwaukee, WI
Pierre George Zalzal, MD, Brooklyn, NY
Richard Marc Zweifler, MD, Mobile, AL

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