



The Diplomat

The American Board of Endodontics Newsletter
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Editors

Dr. Scott B.
McClanahan

Dr. Cindy
Rauschenberger

Dr. Clara Spatafore

The ABE 2017

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McClanahan

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abe@aae.org
aae.org/board

The President's Message:

by Dr. Craig Noblett

Recently at the end of dinner with friends, I broke open my fortune cookie to reveal the message: "Make your life an exclamation, NOT an explanation". This sentiment, albeit from a most unexpected source, truly represents the spirit and attitude of those that attain Diplomat status. By voluntarily going above and beyond the minimal and accepting the challenge of Board Certification, our Diplomates not only achieve a lofty personal goal; they have accepted responsibility for the future of our specialty. Recognition and gratitude for this effort is the responsibility of every endodontist.

For myself, as a Director of the ABE, the most exciting and rewarding event of each year has always been the Grossman Ceremony where our newest Diplomates are recognized for their accomplishment. This year in New Orleans we will present pins and extend our congratulations to 85 new Diplomates who have not only helped secure our future as a specialty, but indeed hold it in their hands. This event represents the culmination of years of study and effort as well as great personal sacrifice. However, this journey cannot be made alone, so on behalf of our new Diplomates, I extend our gratitude to friends, family members, spouses, significant others, and especially educators and mentors for your support and your own sacrifices in helping them reach their goal. On behalf of the Directors of the ABE, I would also like to thank the College of Diplomates for their outstanding educational presentations and their mentoring program, both of which have served as valuable resources to many candidates during their journey.

In the twenty years since I became a Diplomat, the Board has taken significant steps toward making the process more approachable while still maintaining the high standards set by our founders. This ongoing process of review and modification has served to remove many of the obstacles once cited as reasons for not pursuing ABE certification. These include offering the written exam earlier in the year toward the end of the candidate's graduate program, and the administration of the exam at local testing centers across the country. This has

done away with the annual pilgrimage to Chicago in November to sit for the written exam. Allowing the candidate to choose the order in which the exams are challenged has also made the process more user-friendly, and permits each person to select the order that makes the most sense

for that individual. The capacity for the oral examination has been increased by relocating the exam to the American Board of Orthodontics testing center in St. Louis. This facility allows us to conduct 10 exams concurrently, and examination of up to forty candidates per day. Currently our schedule provides the opportunity for 200 candidates to sit for the oral examination each year. The advent of the digital case history portfolio in 2015 represents the most recent improvement, and now allows concurrent grading by the examiners, speeding up our process while removing the anxiety and delays associated with shipping a hard copy of one's portfolio.

Another important change is the acceptance of all successful exams in perpetuity, regardless of when the exam was taken. For those candidates who may have dropped out of the process, you can now simply pick up where you



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Attention Candidates

You can now submit your Case History Exam online!
Visit www.amboardendo.org to register, download instructions and guidelines, and to submit your exam. Questions?
Contact Ivana Bevacqua at ibevacqua@aae.org.

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Meet the New Diplomates

The main objective of each issue of *The Diplomat* newsletter is to recognize the achievement of each of our newly Board Certified members -- the newsletter is even named in their honor! In what has become a rite of passage for each new Diplomat, the ABE asks them to submit a short bio, a photo, and to answer to the following question: What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat? Congratulations to them all, and may their enlightening, thoughtful, humorous and inspiring words encourage us in all of our challenges.

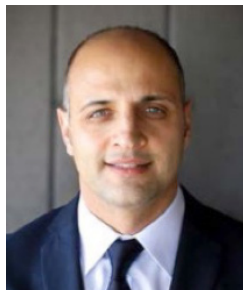


Chelsea P. Accardo
New Orleans, LA
Endodontic Program:
Louisiana State University
Graduated: 2012
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat of

the ABE?

Earning Diplomat status has been a personal goal of mine. I found the process to be both an opportunity and obligation for improvement. To be a Diplomat means to strive for continued betterment through critical evaluation for our patients, peers and the profession. This achievement also serves as a "thank you" to my mentors who have very much encouraged and guided me.

Sam Alborz
Knoxville, TN
Endodontic Program:
Boston University
Graduated: 2007
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat of the ABE?



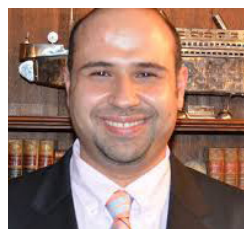
Board Certification has been an honor of the highest level. With this certificate, I feel that I have reached the pinnacle of my specialty and feel comfortable that I'm providing the best possible care for all my patients. I owe much of this to my mentors, friends, and my very patient and understanding family--thank you all.

Abdullah A. Alkandari
Redlands, CA
Endodontic Program:
University of Southern California
Graduated: 2014
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat of the ABE?



It was a dream that became true! I am very pleased and honored for achieving this highest level of recognition. Being a Diplomat has deepened my appreciation of our specialty. The process and preparation were certainly challenging and put me out of my comfort zone, but it was undeniably valuable and the experience was unforgettable. I would like to extend my gratitude to my family, friends and mentors for their support and encouragement to become an ABE Diplomat.

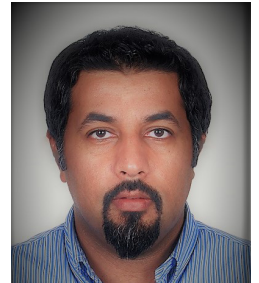
Ghyath S. Alkhalil
Milton, MA
Endodontic Program: Boston University
Graduated: 2012
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat of the ABE?



I am very honored to be recognized as a new Diplomat. The process to achieve this status reflects the knowledge, hard work and dedication it takes to reach the pinnacle of our profession. I always strive to provide the best evidence-based care to my patients. I also feel a responsibility toward the profession to serve as a role model to those who wish

to become endodontists and encourage them to pursue their Board Certification. Achieving Diplomat status is another stepping stone in the lifelong journey of learning and improving. I am very thankful to my family, friends and staff for their help and support throughout the Board Certification process.

Faisal Almoghaisseeb
Ann Arbor, MI
Endodontic Program:
University of Michigan
Graduated: 2015
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat of the ABE?



It is a great sense of fulfillment to have achieved the ultimate professional accomplishment in our field. It is a great honor to be included in a group of endodontists that I have long admired and respected. Although, the road was long and hard, I didn't get here alone. I am grateful to every person that added to my knowledge and who challenged me to be here. Thanks to the love of my life, my wife, Rania for the sacrifices, the unconditional support and motivation. To my greatest blessing and joy: the lady, Erena (age 8) and, the man, Ryan (age 6). Finally, I am grateful to the AAE, the ABE's directors and staff for all their work and the dedication to our specialty. Let the journey begin to push the boundaries for new heights and a lifelong pursuit of excellence in the art and science of endodontics!

Ahmad Alnatour
Brentwood, CA
Endodontic Program: Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Graduated: 2012
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat of the ABE?



It has always been a goal of mine to further my training and achievements in endodontics. Being a Diplomat represents the pinnacle of

Meet the New Diplomates

that pursuit. It will hold me to the highest standards and make me strive to conduct myself in the most professional manner. It also gives my patients the confidence in my skills and credentials. I feel very proud to belong to a distinguished group of endodontists that sought and achieved this highest of honors.

Haider AlZubaidi
Lakeland, FL
Endodontic Program: University of Florida
Graduated: 2007

Nicholas J. Anders
Madison, WI
Endodontic Program: University of Minnesota
Graduated: 2012



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

It means that my patients, referring dentists and I can feel confident that I have the desire and drive to be the best and most knowledgeable endodontist that I can be. I also take pride that my work and effort to obtain Diplomate status will help our profession to strengthen its credibility as an important and recognized specialty.

Michael A. Aregbesola
Washington, DC
Endodontic Program: Tufts University
Graduated: 2015



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Becoming a

Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics is a great honor. This is the highest achievement in the field of Endodontics and now I can say with great pride that I was able to accomplish this goal and earn this distinguished title. Words cannot even begin to describe how much this accomplishment means to me. Being a Diplomate means that I have taken

the time to acquire the knowledge and clinical skills that puts me at the forefront of this field. Embarking on this process has aided in my professional growth both educationally and clinically. This would not have been possible without the great mentors I was fortunate to have during my residency. Special thanks to Dr. Robert Amato, Dr. Daniel Green, and the rest of the amazing faculty at Tufts Endodontic residency program.



Moji Bagheri
Anaheim, CA
Endodontic Program: Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Graduated: 2014

What does it mean to you to

be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate of the ABE was a goal for me since the early days of residency. The journey that I took to reach the pinnacle of my profession and the countless hours of studying and preparation has set the foundation of my commitment to excellence. Becoming Board Certified brings a great sense of responsibility toward my patients to treat them with the highest standard of care. It has made me obligated to continuously educate myself in my field with the latest in the evidence-based endodontics and to promote the ABE mission to further advance my specialty so it will have a thriving future. I would like to thank my mentors, Dr. Marc Gimbel and Dr. Gary Hartwell, for their unconditional support along this journey, and, last but not least, my wife for her constant encouragement and support, and for putting up with my overwhelming schedule around the exams!

Nicole S. Barkhordar
Hillsborough, CA
Endodontic Program: Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Graduated: 2013



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

I am so grateful to be a Diplomate of the ABE. It has been an aspiration and goal of mine since childhood; listening to conversations that my father, Dr. Rahmat Barkhordar, would have with his mentors including Dr. I.B. Bender and Dr. George Stewart. My father and his mentors became American Board of Endodontics examples for me to aim towards, both professionally and personally, as impossibly high as they were then and still are today. I am thankful for my family, friends, and for my dental educators that have helped me reach this milestone in my life.



Scott T. Baur
Bonita Springs, FL
Endodontic Program: University of Florida

Graduated: 2007

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate

of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics was a personal goal. The process was challenging and very much a learning experience. Revisiting the classic literature and brushing up on the current literature was very much like a mini-residency program for me. The process reassured me that my clinical approach to endodontic treatment is firmly based in the scientific literature. Although becoming a Diplomate was a personal goal, I also feel that it demonstrates gratitude to my instructors and mentors who have helped me reach this goal. To me, being a Diplomate demonstrates a commitment to the utmost standard of patient care and a dedication to the Endodontic profession.

Priti Beniwal
Duxbury, MA
Endodontic Program: University of Southern California
Graduated: 2012
What does it



Meet the New Diplomates

mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Attaining a Diplomate status is a huge professional and personal accomplishment for me. The knowledge procured during the process has made me more confident and analytical as an endodontist. It inspires me to keep learning in order to stay amongst the best in the years to come. I would really like to thank my husband Ajay, daughter Anya and my parents for their love, understanding and support during this challenging process. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the wonderful faculty at the USC Endodontic Program for inspiring and preparing me for the Board Certification process, and my mentor Dr. Raphael Garofalo for his valuable help.



Anu Bhalla
Toronto, ON
Endodontic
Program:
University of
California, Los
Angeles
Graduated:
2013
What does it
mean to you to
be a Diplomate

of the ABE?

I feel honored and privileged to have been accepted as a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. For me, achieving this status is the beginning of a journey where I can represent my specialty at its highest level. I am excited to be part of this distinguished group of clinicians and want to thank the ABE for the opportunity.

Steven W. Black
Ocean Springs, MS
Endodontic Program: Keesler Medical
Center
Graduated: 2012

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

To me, being a Diplomate feels like the end of a challenging journey that brings me to the beginning of an exciting future. Through the process of attaining Diplomate status, I recognize that



good things happen through hard work, persistence, and trusting in God's plan. It really is satisfying to have accomplished something so difficult, but I also recognize that without considerable help from others, it never would have happened. I had amazing instructors at LSU and Keesler Medical Center. How fortunate for me to be surrounded by mentors who instilled in me a desire to keep learning, keep progressing, and continue my education after graduation. I hope to honor them by following their example and help others on their path. Thank you to my family who supported me through the process. I wake up every day grateful not only to have a job, but to have a job I love. I would like to express heart-felt gratitude to Dr. Brian Bergeron, who helped me believe I could accomplish more than I imagined possible.

Joseph M. Blondin
Fishkill, NY
Endodontic
Program:
University of
Connecticut
School of
Dental Medicine
Graduated:
2014



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Achieving Diplomate status was important to me to assure my patients and dental colleagues that I am able to reach the highest level attainable in the field of endodontics, and that I will continue to strive to provide them with the highest level of care possible. Receiving validation from my peers (who I must add are tough graders!) that my knowledge and treatment skills are on the highest level was a goal that have I strived for since residency. Also, on a personal level, it means that I can maintain focus and persevere through the very challenging certification process. I would like to thank Dr. Safavi, Dr. Kaufman, and the staff at UCONN Endodontics, as well as my mentor Dr. Denise Assonga, and my wife, Tina, for assisting me in obtaining Diplomate status.

Scott A. Brezinsky
Appleton, WI
Endodontic
Program:
University of
Minnesota
School of
Dentistry
Graduated:
2014



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Board Certification is an achievement that marks the beginning of a commitment to a lifetime of learning.

Nadia K. Budhani
Irving, TX
Endodontic
Program:
Boston
University
Graduated:
2008



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate of the ABE is one of the greatest honors of my professional career. That being said, it has been a long and challenging eight-year journey. During my residency at Boston University, I was encouraged to pursue Board Certification by our program director, Dr. Jeffrey Hutter. I always knew that this was my ultimate goal. After completing my residency and working in the "real world", it was a significant challenge to get back into the student mindset and study again. I had to remind myself that education is a lifelong process and one cannot simply be complacent and rest on his or her laurels. All the hard work has paid off and I am humbled to join this group of endodontists that I have so much respect for. I would like to thank my husband, Dr. Aamir Budhani, our children Amber and Aydin, my parents, and the rest of my family for believing in me and supporting me unconditionally through this journey. Also, I would like to thank all of the colleagues that helped me through this process, especially Dr. Jenny He and Dr. Kavita Doddamane for their support and mentorship. There is no greater privilege in endodontics than to achieve Diplomate status and I will do my best to make my profession proud.

Meet the New Diplomates



Jeffrey R. Burroughs
Leawood, KS
Endodontic Program:
Keesler Medical Center
Graduated: 2012
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate

of the ABE?

It is a wonderful feeling knowing you have reached the pinnacle of our profession. I would like to thank my residency director, Dr. Brian Bergeron and all other endodontic educators who have helped me along the way, championing for Board Certification. And to my family: no one knows better than you of the time and effort it took for me to achieve this accomplishment. I can't thank you enough for your support.

Yangpei Cao
Los Angeles, CA
Endodontic Program:
University of California, Los Angeles
Graduated: 2015

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

I am grateful to be recognized as a Diplomate. I was privileged to have faculty members at UCLA that were very influential and encouraging since residency. Becoming a Diplomate is a significant personal and professional achievement. It affirms the commitment to our specialty and the highest standard of endodontic care. I would like to thank my family and colleagues for the support throughout the process.



Victor Caronna
Lake Charles, LA
Endodontic Program:
Louisiana State University
Graduated: 2013
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

I am proud to join this tier of our specialty. Being Board Certified gives our referring doctors and patients both confidence and peace of mind in knowing that they are in the hands of a specialist that has voluntarily gone beyond the minimum requirements to be an endodontist.



David G. Carter
Toledo, OH
Endodontic Program:
Lutheran Medical Center
Graduated: 2010
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics is a tremendous honor for me and my family. It is the result of many years of commitment, hard work, study and reflection and has inspired me to continue learning throughout my career. I will forever be indebted to my wife, Jeni, and my children, Hutch and Ellis, as my journey into the Board Certification process required sacrifice on the part of each member of my family. Additionally, it is a testament to the ideals and standards I was taught by all the attending doctors who so generously took the time to guide me during my residency at Lutheran Medical Center, especially Dr. Goldberger and Dr. Kunin. I would strongly encourage anyone interested in obtaining Board Certification to begin the process, as it benefits the practitioner, their patients and the profession. I found it to be an uplifting experience, both personally and professionally, to embark on this path of continued self-improvement.

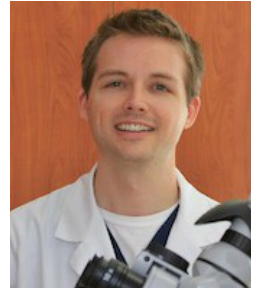


Mary M. Chien
Hacienda Heights, CA
Endodontic Program: University of Southern California
Graduated: 6/30/2007

Jake W. Collins
Austin, TX
Endodontic Program: Saint Louis University
Graduated: 2008

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

All the sections of the Board Certification process provided a different challenge. The written exam was a review of the material learned in residency. The difficulty of the cases in the portfolio showcased the possibility of treatment outcomes. The oral portion reiterated how research applies to our treatment. Becoming a Diplomate means that you enter an exclusive group of endodontists that are committed to providing high quality, evidence-based patient care. The level of care established and recognized by the Board defines our specialty as endodontists.



Meghan T. Cooper
Boston, MA
Endodontic Program:
Harvard School of Dental Medicine
Graduated: 2014
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate has been a fulfilling process personally, deepening my knowledge and ability to deliver high quality patient care. In addition, I view it as a way to further my commitment to the specialty as a whole, helping to ensure its bright future.

Meet the New Diplomates



Matthew G. Del Mastro
Maple Grove, MN
Endodontic Program: Tufts University
Graduated: 2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat

of the ABE?

To me, achieving Diplomat status is the culmination of a long journey that began in my residency. There is a considerable sense of relief to end the cycle of being humbled and exalted. I am grateful for this rigorous process however, because despite what your motivation for pursuing Board Certification is, the end result is unique growth. I am honored to join my colleagues as a Diplomat and I accept the responsibility of what this represents – a responsibility to continue to push ourselves to master the knowledge and skills necessary to practice the highest level of endodontics. I am grateful for the support of my wife and kids throughout this process and I want to thank Drs. Dan Green, Bob Amato, Charles Rankin and Tom Winkler at Tufts who cultivated my interest in endodontics and the pursuit of Board Certification.

Saman Deljoui
San Diego, CA
Endodontic Program: Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Graduated: 2015

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat of the ABE?

From the very first day of residency, I set a personal goal to become a Board Certified endodontist. Achieving this goal, Diplomat status, is a tremendous honor that has elevated me to the pinnacle of my specialty. Although the process is challenging, it reminds me of how much there is to learn and what it takes to excel as an endodontist, both clinically and didactically. I would like to thank my dedicated faculty, especially Dr. Marc Gimbel, who spent countless hours of mentorship, so I could become the best I can be in my field. As a Diplomat, I



hope to contribute to my profession while providing the best quality of care to my patients.

Nathan C. Dewsnap
Prescott, AZ
Endodontic Program: University of Florida
Graduated: 2009

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomat of the American Board of Endodontics is a great honor. I feel blessed to have been mentored and taught by so many amazing people. I am grateful for the support from family and friends who encouraged me to pursue this goal. My objective from day one of my residency was to be the best I could be and to reach the pinnacle of the endodontic profession. Being a Diplomat means that I have fulfilled my commitment to my mentors, my program directors, and to myself. The process was challenging, but so rewarding. I feel a greater confidence, an increased motivation to continue learning and improving, and an overall desire to strive for excellence both personally and professionally.



Joseph M. Dutner
Evans, GA
Endodontic Program: US Army Dental Activity, Ft Bragg
Graduated: 2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat of the ABE?

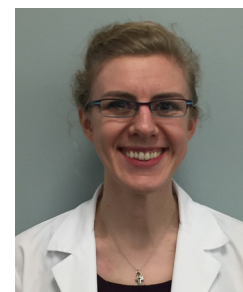
For me personally, the process of becoming a Diplomat isn't a quest to learn all the answers. Rather, it is a means of demonstrating that you care enough to ask the questions. It involves understanding the historical and contemporary attempts to further the understanding of our small niche in the universe, the dental pulp. While on this path, I believe I became better at recognizing my own biases while accepting that the best current evidence is



never perfect and that there is no idea that should be sheltered from scientific scrutiny. I am humbled by and thankful for my many mentors, colleagues, and family for their endless support and encouragement.

Ameir A. Eltom
West Chester, PA
Endodontic Program: University of Pennsylvania
Graduated: 2012
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomat of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomat is without a doubt a momentous achievement, but it is only a milestone in a lifelong journey seeking knowledge and education. It is a recognition by colleagues and an encouragement to let me know that I am on the right path. I owe it all to my parents, my wife as well as my mentors at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. Thank you for your continued support.

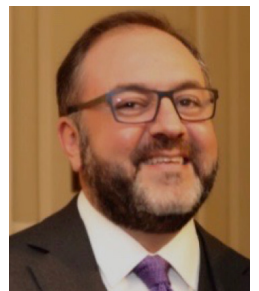


Carla Y. Falcon
Basking Ridge, NJ
Endodontic Program: Rutgers School of Dental Medicine
Graduated: 2015
What does it mean to you to

be a Diplomat of the ABE?

To be a Diplomat is to have the privilege and the responsibility of upholding the highest standards of Endodontics to which all others will be measured against. I am now a recognized & designated ambassador for my specialty.

Reza Fardshisheh
Chevy Chase, MD
Endodontic Program: Boston University
Graduated: 2007



Meet the New Diplomates

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

A Diplomate is a clinician who has reached the pinnacle of his/her profession. Becoming a Diplomate has always been a goal of mine, and attaining this status represents the most significant achievement of my professional career. Even though the path to Board Certification was challenging, the support systems provided by the College of Diplomates and ABE, namely the sponsored board review courses and the mentorship program, were a significant help that made the process less daunting. While satisfying in many ways, becoming Board Certified also reinforces my commitment to our specialty. It is imperative that more endodontists become Board Certified in order to continue our recognition as a distinctive dental specialty.

Hani M. Ghabbani
Medina, Saudi Arabia
Endodontic Program:
University at Buffalo
Graduated: 2015
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?



Being recognized as a Diplomate of the ABE is a great honor for me. It means I have reached the highest level of recognition in our specialty. It also means deep commitment to continued lifelong learning. I am very thankful for all the support from my family and mentors in University at Buffalo.



Julee Plastow Gil
Macungie, PA
Endodontic Program: Tufts University
Graduated: 2012
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate for me has both professional and personal significance. Professionally, it is the acme of certification and distinction in the endodontic

specialty. Beyond just a prestigious label, however, I think it signifies a level of knowledge and appreciation for the science behind endodontic treatment that inevitably results from preparation for each segment of Board Certification. It highlights my commitment to providing high quality, ethically sound, evidence-based care to all of my patients. Furthermore, the process of Board Certification has bolstered my interest in learning and staying current in literature, materials, and treatment techniques. In that way, it represents not a culmination of effort but rather a dedication to continuing that effort as both a clinician and a member of the endodontic specialty as a whole. On a personal level, becoming a Diplomate has been especially satisfying. I feel proud and ultimately fulfilled to achieve Board Certification after much hard work, many late nights, and extensive studying. More importantly, however, I think it reflects the example that I would like to set forth for my family. There is a quote that says "Your influence as a mother is powerful. Don't waste it. Little eyes are watching you." I want the "little eyes" that are watching me to see the importance of always doing your best and constantly working for the betterment of the things about which you are passionate. I would like to specially thank Dr. Daniel Green and Dr. Robert Amato at Tufts University for instilling in me the desire for Board Certification in the first place, and my husband, Dr. Jose Gil for always being my biggest cheerleader. Finally, I'd like to thank my "little eyes," I hope they someday know how much they have motivated me.

Matthew P. Godfrey
Chubbuck, ID
Endodontic Program: University of Missouri - Kansas City
Graduated: 2013
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?



Becoming a Diplomate is a proud achievement for me and my family. It represents many hours of hard work and discipline in striving to become the best Endodontist that I can be. I

hope it serves to strengthen the specialty of Endodontics and helps patients and colleagues realize my commitment to provide high quality care. I am truly honored to become a Diplomate, and feel humbled to be counted as one of such dedicated clinicians and people.

I'd like to thank my many instructors, mentors and co-residents; especially my program directors, Dr. Kulild and Dr. Frick. And lastly, I'd like to thank my wife Amy, and our children, for their patience and support throughout this journey.



Manuel R. Gomez
Coralville, IA
Endodontic Program: University of Iowa
Graduated: 2005
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate

of the ABE?

To be a Diplomate means a great personal and professional achievement. It means commitment to my patients, my specialty and myself to practice endodontics with high quality standards using current evidence-based knowledge and state of the art technology.



John O. Green II
Richmond Hill, GA
Endodontic Program: US Army Dental Activity, Ft Bragg
Graduated: 2013
What does it mean to you to

be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate has been my most proud individual professional accomplishment. The process is arduous, but the satisfaction of completion and recognition as an elite member of the specialty is unmatched. The process has made me a better clinician and reinforced my commitment to providing top notch, evidence-based endodontic care to my patients. Thank you to my program directors, mentors, and especially my wife who encouraged and supported me through each of the phases.

Meet the New Diplomates



Jeremiah J. Hawkins
Kennewick, WA
Endodontic Program: Loma Linda University
Graduated: 2014
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

I have shown to myself, to my colleagues and to my patients that I will not stop short of my highest level of performance. The Board Certification framed upon my wall shouts to me, "Press forward towards perfection!"

Bernard H. Hofmann
San Diego, CA
Endodontic Program: Naval Postgraduate Dental School, Bethesda
Graduated: 2003
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

It *only* took me 13 years to do it, but I'm very proud and relieved to have finally achieved this milestone in my professional career. I am very much a procrastinator at heart, and what I have learned is that this stems from fear and doubt.



My advice to new endodontists is to not let these same things be a roadblock to you. Take that plunge! Step out of your comfort zone and, like myself, you'll be amazed by how much you know and what a skilled provider you have become. Diplomate status does not only just look nice on a resume, but it is also the glue that keeps our specialty together. It is that confirmation that the service we provide has value and is a great benefit to the overall health of our patient population. It asserts our importance amongst the other specialties and in the overall practice of dentistry. Personally, it motivates me even more so to stay current in my own practice. I would like to express my gratitude to my family, friends, mentors, as well as fellow practitioners who never allowed me stray from this goal and who always believed in me. Cheers and Thank You!



Blake C. Ishikawa
Honolulu, HI
Endodontic Program: University of Texas at San Antonio
Graduated: 2012

the exception!" I have aspired to become a dentist since the age of eleven, and knew that my success would largely be determined by committing myself to excellence, discipline and hard work, in combination with unconditional support from those who believed in me. Achieving Diplomate status embodies the epitome of endodontic excellence, a nexus of clinical, didactic, and patient care platforms. Having reached this professional pinnacle is a direct reflection of my effort and passion, moreover the encouragement and leadership I have received from family, mentors, teachers and colleagues. I love what I do and have been so overwhelmingly blessed to have found my professional calling. The Lord has blessed me so that I may be a blessing to others. I only look back to see just how far I have come, and never with regret. I continue to gaze into the future with a romantic optimism realizing my highest goals can be achieved, and that in itself is enough motivation to foster opportunities to lift as I climb in the same fashion it has been done for me.

Arielle Chassen Jacobs
Scarsdale, NY
Endodontic Program: Tufts University
Graduated: 2012

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

I am honored and privileged to have become a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics.

I have a tremendous sense of pride that I have been able to accomplish this feat and it stands as the culmination of a very long (and sometimes tedious) journey. For me, this is not only a landmark in my career which proves the hard work and dedication that I have shown toward our field, but also serves as motivation to everyday provide the best care and treatment that I can to my patients. I have always strived for excellence in both the clinical and academic aspects of our field and will continue to do so in the future. I am so thankful for all the help I have received along the way, especially my mentors, Dr. Daniel Green, Dr. Robert Amato and Dr. Louis Rossman. I am so proud to be part of this amazing field and group of people I call my friends and colleagues.



Marcus D. Johnson
New York, NY
Endodontic Program: Case Western Reserve University
Graduated: 2011

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

"Excellence must be the standard, never



Jeffery W. Keippel
Tucson, AZ
Endodontic Program: University of Nebraska
Graduated: 2012

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

A goal for many years, achieving Diplomate status has been a major accomplishment in my professional journey. Without hesitation I can attest that the Board Certification process has been a beneficial and transformative experience. It has helped me be a better endodontist. If anyone reading this is considering going through the process or questioning the value of Board Certification, don't second guess yourself. Go for it! You will not regret it. The future of endodontics as a specialty lies in our individual and collective commitment to clinical excellence and scientific inquiry. In my opinion, one of the best ways to support these efforts is going through the Board Certification process. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me along the way, my faculty at UNMC, my mentors and my wife and children who for many hours allowed me to dedicate myself to the pursuit of professional excellence.



Meet the New Diplomates

Greg Y. Kim
Las Vegas, NV
Endodontic Program:
University of Pennsylvania
Graduated: 2013
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?



For me, it was striking and memorable that every examiner that walked into my room during the Oral Exam thanked me for just being there to take the exam. The show of appreciation, and the sincerity in it, caught me by surprise and turned the whole event into an overwhelmingly positive experience. The examiners' "thank you" tells me that they work for advancement of our specialty because they love it and they care about it. I have a deep feeling of gratitude for our predecessors for reflecting this enthusiasm back to the younger generation of endodontists, and it is a tremendous privilege to be able to continue on this same path that they have led us on for years.

I would also like to express the deepest gratitude to my wife Diana for always doing the real work with love and grace, for postponing her own personal goals so that I could pursue mine, and for always being the single greatest force of strength in our family throughout good and bad times.



Jong Ryul Kim
Newtown Square, PA
Endodontic Program:
University of Maryland
Graduated: 2014
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the

ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontist has completed my personal goal achieving a great feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction, which I have wanted from the beginning of my residency training. I am proud of challenging myself to meet the highest expectations of the specialty and accomplish this pinnacle of profession. I would like to thank all faculty, friends and family who have mentored and supported me throughout this journey.

Kevin C. Kosco
Boca Raton, FL
Endodontic Program:
University of Florida
Graduated: 2012
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?



Becoming a Diplomate is an important achievement for myself as well as those around me. It represents the achievement of reaching the academic peak of my profession. As a Diplomate, I am dedicated to continuing my practice of doing what is scientifically and clinically proven to be the best possible treatment for the patient. Achieving the status of Diplomate is as important for those close to me as it is to myself. My family, professors, mentors, staff, and friends have helped me along the way to reach the pinnacle of my profession. By achieving the status of Diplomate, I am passing along this honor to them as well. I am a Board Certified endodontist because of those around me. They have molded me into the person I am today. Finally, achieving the status of Diplomate is not only an honor, but a responsibility. It carries with it the requirement to be a lifelong student, researcher and clinician. In my opinion, it requires the utmost respect for family, patients, and my profession. I am proud to be a Diplomate and carry on the legacy that so many before me have built.

Matthew M. Kruszewski
Tampa, FL
Endodontic Program: University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry
Graduated: 2015
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?



It's a ceaseless reminder of the humbling reality that the more I know, the less I understand. A handful of questions accompany every new discovery, slowly peeling back the layers of the elusive unknown.

Pacharee Kulwattanaporn
Pak Kred, Nonthaburi, Thailand
Endodontic Program: University of Pennsylvania
Graduated: 2015

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Board Certification is one great accomplishment in this profession and everyone has earned this title with their perseverance. Being a Board Certified endodontist reminds me to strive for the best quality of care and keep up with present research and technologies. Board Certification is crucial since it calibrates our knowledge and treatment concepts which is very important to maintain our standard of care in endodontics. All in all, this eventually results in the highest benefits for our patients.



Sanaz Lavasani
San Jose, CA
Endodontic Program: University of Minnesota School of Dentistry
Graduated: 2015
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?



Achieving Diplomate status to me means reaching the pinnacle of our profession. Being a Board Certified endodontist requires lifelong commitment and dedication to the highest quality

of care. I'm so grateful to my mentors at University of Minnesota for their guidance, support and encouragement to achieve this goal and to my family for always believing in me.

Meet the New Diplomates

Kerri L. Lawlor
Highlands Ranch, CO
Endodontic Program:
University of Missouri - Kansas City
Graduated: 2009



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

The process of Board Certification was an extremely rewarding experience. There is tremendous satisfaction in extending oneself above and beyond what is "required" to practice endodontics and there were plenty of times when I wondered if it was worth it. It was. I am so grateful to my mentors for encouraging me to take this journey from the very first days of my residency. It's never too late!

utmost excellence of care for my patients. It is an expression of my lifelong pursuit of knowledge, understanding and mastery of endodontics. For me, becoming a Diplomate marks a beginning, as opposed to the pinnacle, of my career. It is a beginning that will continue to give me the ability to transform and evolve with the ever-changing practice of endodontics. I look forward to the future and to where the specialty ultimately takes me.

David Z. Liu
Buffalo Grove, IL
Endodontic Program: Naval Postgraduate Dental School, Bethesda
Graduated: 2010



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Being a Diplomate is the minimum I can do for my patient, my profession, and myself; my patients deserve the best care, I am standing on the shoulder of giants who paved the way for our profession, and I am thrilled and honored to achieve Diplomate status.

2. Pulp biology, Anatomy and darn Immunopathology
 Study up boy or you end up a baloney wannabee dichotomy.
 The great Torabinejad, Bakland, Handysides and Shabahang
 Join the giants you'd be glad, lad or end up with a boomerang bang
 3. So I was sighting the writing of Tamse, Naccache and Hithersay
 Lining up the cases, by the way, is no child's play, I say.
 Document all but pen ten of the best to be the Zen man
 You need x-ray vision provision with precision on the podium to stand.

Obianuju R. Mbamalu
New York, NY
Endodontic Program: University of Pennsylvania
Graduated: 2011



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

What is most significant about being a Diplomate is the responsibility of upholding the highest standards of our field and the honor of joining its most prestigious practitioners. My decision to pursue Diplomate status is reflective of a lifetime commitment to learning the science and skills to become the best possible clinician. I have a profound understanding that the science of Endodontics will continue to shift and that we all must evolve with it. At the same time, I remain motivated by the aspirations that made me so excited and humbled to become a dentist in the first place. I'd like to thank God, my husband, and my family for being patient with me throughout my journey.



Andrea D. Lisell
Washington, DC
Endodontic Program: Naval Postgraduate Dental School, Bethesda
Graduated: 2014

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate

of the ABE?

Diplomate status means holding yourself to the highest standards of the profession, being an advocate for the specialty, and being a role model for students. This has been a long and challenging journey but one I am honored to have completed.

Michael Lisien
Pittsburgh, PA
Endodontic Program:
University of Pittsburgh
Graduated: 2010



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics means dedication to my specialty, to my patients, and to my professional development. It is an outward sign of my determination to provide the



Victor Luikham
Edinburg, TX
Endodontic Program: Loma Linda University
Graduated: 2012

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

REACH THE

HEIGHTS (Rap to Juju on the Beat)

1. Yo mate! why you wanna transfigure into a Diplomate?

Is it your fate, trait or did they bait you to dedicate,

A huge chunk of yo' life to spelunk in dark libraries, no families!

to regurgitate Tsukiboshi, Kobayashi, Kakehashi and contemporaries?

CH: Kids neglected, wife dejected, social life ejected

Mentally affected, friends rejected.

But why you so cynical? Ev'ryone says you reached the pinnacle

Rabbinical heights of your clinical spectacle!



Jason McDaniel
Fort Belvoir, VA
Endodontic Program: US Army Dental Activity, Ft Bragg
Graduated: 2015

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate

of the ABE?

Meet the New Diplomates

Diplomate status means that I am to dedicate myself to uphold a standard of excellence in patient care, learning, and ethics. I believe achieving Diplomate status is not the end of the road, but the beginning of a more challenging one. I would like to thank Colonel Pete Mines, Colonel Mike Apicella, Colonel "Andy" Anderson, and Lt. Colonel Dan Kersten, some of the best clinicians and mentors I have known. I would also like to thank all those that have raised the bar and pushed the boundaries of our specialty, in particular, Dr. Gary Carr and Dr. John Khademi.

David G. Meier
North Platte, NE
Endodontic Program:
University of Iowa
Graduated: 2014
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?



Becoming a Diplomate has fulfilled a goal I made following graduation from residency. It was a challenging process that has increased my knowledge of endodontics and has provided a foundation for my continued pursuit of excellence in the field. I would like to thank the University of Iowa faculty and colleagues for their support throughout the process.

Bradley C. Morrison
Apple Valley, MN
Endodontic Program: US Army Dental Activity, Ft Gordon
Graduated: 2010
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

To be a Diplomate means a humble submission to the practice and profession of Endodontics. The seemingly endless hours of studying and preparation for all the components of the exam without a guarantee of increased monetary reward may seem like a futile endeavor. However, the dedication to the literature, the respect of the hard work of those involved, and the bonds

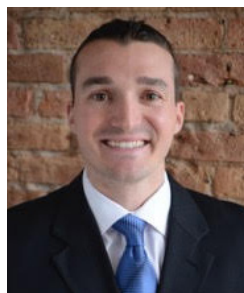


formed with other colleagues strengthens and expands the profession greater than any other process. Overall, being a Diplomate means an offering of precious time and comfort to treat my patients with the best care, and to strengthen the profession that has been such an unbelievable blessing to me.

Michael P. Munaretto
Chicago, IL
Endodontic Program:
University of Illinois at Chicago
Graduated: 2013

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

General dentists are electing to perform more of their own endodontic therapy and referring fewer cases to endodontists. As endodontists, we need to demonstrate to the public and to other dentists that we are superior to general dentists in both didactic knowledge and clinical endodontic skills in order to avoid being marginalized as a specialty. Completing the ABE Board Certification process is a clear and comprehensive way to do so. I would like to thank Drs. Brad Johnson and Chris Wenckus at UIC Endodontics who instilled in me pride and motivation towards pursuing ABE Board Certification. I would also like to thank my wife, Marta Demski DDS, for her love and support throughout the very lengthy process.



Nathaniel T. Nicholson
Galesville, MD
Endodontic Program:
West Virginia University
Graduated: 2014

What does it mean to you to

be a Diplomate of the ABE?

I achieved a goal I set for myself during endodontic residency. The journey was difficult, but I feel I'm a better endodontist because of it. I can now deliver a higher level of care to my patients. After countless hours of work to get to this point, I can finally say I am a Diplomate. I would like to thank my family, colleagues,

mentors and friends for all of their support during this process. I'm going to Disney World!

Ali Nosrat
Bethesda, MD
Endodontic Program:
University of Maryland
Graduated: 2015

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

The process of Board Certification helped me to better understand evidence-based endodontics and, as a result, provide care for my patients with an evidence-based approach.



Valerie I. Okehie
Waldorf, MD
Endodontic Program:
University of Texas at Houston
Graduated: 2015

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

"I believe that this residency program will provide me the opportunity that I seek to sharpen my skills in the field of endodontics. I look forward to taking on a wide variety of challenging and complex cases, while enhancing my knowledge in this field of dentistry. I bring with me the eagerness and will to learn, an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, a strive for constant self-improvement, and a drive to become the best at anything that I do. I have come very far in life in order to get here and I am aware of the distance that lies ahead of me. Where is my destination, you may ask? It is that peace of mind, the satisfaction with the way that I have lived my life, the content of knowing that I have given back to a society that has made me who I am today and that, to quote Emerson: One life has breathed easier because I have lived". The above words are taken directly from the personal statement that I submitted along with my residency application to UTHSC in the year 2012. I achieved Diplomate Status within one year of my graduation from



Meet the New Diplomates

endodontic residency. This achievement is confirmation to myself and to every faculty and colleague that played a key role in my journey, that I have never wavered from my goal since the date I penned this essay. I have always sought to do that which is necessary to become the best at anything I do. I took this approach in my endodontic career because I believe that the entrusting of a patient into one's hands is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. My achievement of Diplomate status symbolizes to me that I have indeed made all the necessary strides to prepare myself for this great responsibility of caring for, treating, and advising patients on matters relating to endodontics. Undergoing this process forced me to ensure that I achieve that level of understanding that allows me to confidently embrace this honorable task of treating and caring for my endodontic patients.



Cristina T. Olarov
Naperville, IL
Endodontic Program:
University of Illinois at Chicago
Graduated: 2014

What does it mean to you

to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

I have been a Diplomate for a few months now, but it had been a two-year journey of becoming a Board Certified endodontist, so, I feel more competent in saying what it meant for me becoming a Diplomate, than actually being a Diplomate. When people ask me what I am, in terms of doing for a living, I answer, "I'm part time endodontist and full time mom". To the question what it means to become a Diplomate, I could easily respond, hard work, dedication, determination, journey of a lifetime, adventure, etc., but, what rings the truest, is, "The little engine that could". The two year odyssey felt a lot like the little blue engine that kept on saying "I think I can!, I think I can!, I think I can!", that eventually became "I thought I could, I thought I could!, I thought I could!" It has been a fascinating quest and now I'm looking forward for the next adventure, the one of being a Diplomate, keeping abreast with the newest discoveries, the latest achievements, and continuously striving for better, more predictable treatment options

for my patients.



Emmanuel D. Paguio
Lakewood, CO
Endodontic Program:
University of Detroit Mercy
Graduated: 2013
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate

of the ABE?

It is a great honor to be recognized as a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. Becoming Board Certified was challenging, humbling but also one of the most rewarding things I've accomplished in my career and life. You learn a lot about yourself along the way and I believe the determination, motivation and endurance to the process makes you a better endodontist. You don't get Diplomate status "just because"; you get it because you earned it! It's never taken for granted after you pass and the personal pride you feel is beyond words. I am also proud that as a Diplomate, I immediately earned the respect and trust, not just with my peers but also from general dentists and other specialties. There is an unspoken level of respect from other Board Certified specialists that know what you've accomplished. As a Board Certified endodontist, I also recognize there is a commitment to continue the learning process for my practice, patients and our specialty. I feel a greater obligation to carry our specialty into the future by helping and encouraging others to become Board Certified. I'm looking forward to this new journey and the doors it has opened for me.

Jeremiah J. Parker
APO, AE
Endodontic Program:
Keesler Medical Center
Graduated: 2015
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?



I'm humbled to be named a Diplomate in this profession that has come to mean so much to me. This honor is a reflection on the wonderful mentors, colleagues, and family who have stood by me and helped me throughout the process.



Susan B. Paurazas
Rochester Hills, MI
Endodontic Program:
University of Detroit Mercy
Graduated: 1998
What does it mean to you to

be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics is an achievement that has been a personal and professional goal. It represents my continued commitment to provide the highest level of patient care, integrating evidenced-based knowledge and technical skill. Achieving Diplomate status demonstrates my desire to be a lifelong learner in the exciting and evolving profession of Endodontics. Board Certification inspires me to serve as a mentor to others in pursuit of excellence. I would like to thank my colleagues for their continued encouragement, and especially thank my husband and daughter for their support during the process. It is an extremely rewarding accomplishment.

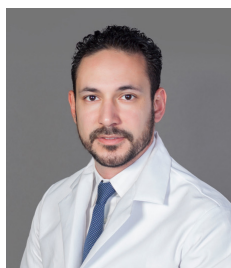
Meet the New Diplomates

Jose I. Perea
Los Angeles, CA
Endodontic Program:
University of Southern California
Graduated: 2014



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

I thank God for giving me the opportunity and strength to follow this path. To my wife Claudia, my children Emma and Tomas, thank you for walking it with me. Being a Diplomate is an honor; it means that the learning experience is a passionate lifelong journey, where endodontic education can be mastered and is fueled by the desire to discover new ways of integrating our vast literature with our clinical experience. "In every root canal is a lifetime. A lifetime of learning, mastery, experience and education, all to provide the highest standards of precision, integrity and excellence."



Amr H. Radwan
Dallas, TX
Endodontic Program:
Columbia University
Graduated: 2013

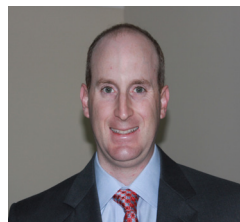
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of

the ABE?

It is an honor to be part of such an elite group of doctors. Specialists who invest in learning and strive to provide the best possible care for their patients. Becoming a Diplomate is the culmination of years of effort and practice in the field of endodontics. It is not only an honor, but also a promise to my patients that they can expect the highest standard of care from myself and my team. Becoming a Diplomate will be a constant driving force in my pursuit of excellence in the field of Endodontics.

Richard J. Rauth
Santa Monica, CA
Endodontic Program: University of California, Los Angeles
Graduated: 2011

Ross A. Rickoff
Tucker, GA
Endodontic Program:
Medical University of South Carolina
Graduated: 2013



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate is a fantastic honor representing the culmination of a rigorous professional and intellectual challenge. Though this marks the end of the formal certification process, it is merely the continuation of a commitment to the highest technical and ethical standards of our profession, as well as an engagement in continued learning.



Ramon G. Roges
Los Angeles, CA
Endodontic Program:
University of Southern California
Graduated: 2005

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of

the ABE?

Being Board Certified means a lot of things. For me, it is reaching the pinnacle of the endodontic specialty. The journey and the process of becoming Board Certified was demanding, rewarding, and worth it. Personally, this journey was a means of improving myself as a professional, something I continually pass on to my patients and students. The College of Diplomates was extremely important to me throughout the journey. Ultimately, my goal as a full-time faculty member at the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry of USC is to promote and encourage our endodontic residents to become Board Certified, and leading by example is the best way.

Manpreet S. Sarao
Greenwood Village, CO
Endodontic Program:
Virginia Commonwealth University
Graduated: 2013



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

It is truly an honor and a privilege to be awarded the highest recognition as a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. To me, becoming Board Certified is exhilarating both at a professional and personal level. It further reiterates my commitment towards constantly striving to improve my skills so that I can continue rendering the highest standard of care for my patients. As they say, "there is no elevator to success, one must climb the stairs". This journey has also humbled me in many ways, particularly because it gave me an opportunity to associate myself with some of the most distinguished professionals dedicated to excellence in Endodontics. I feel accomplished and I would like to share my success with all my mentors and colleagues who were pivotal in providing me expert guidance and who dedicated their time and effort to my professional growth. I would like to especially recognize my program director, Dr. Karan Replogle, for training me to pursue perfection and inspiring me to achieve the highest level of distinction as an endodontist. I must also express my heartfelt gratitude for all the unconditional support and encouragement I received from my wife, Kiran, and our daughter, Simran, during this time. The journey was long and arduous, but the rewards are so worth it!

Robert S. Schneider
Cincinnati, OH
Endodontic Program:
University of Michigan
Graduated: 2013



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate to me means reaching the pinnacle of my profession.

Meet the New Diplomates

This may seem like a rather cliché statement, but it is especially meaningful to me. My road to becoming an endodontist was long and rocky. In fact, I was told by several program directors that I would not make it into a residency program given the level of competition that is seen among applicants. After four years of applications to many programs, Dr. McDonald and the University of Michigan gave me a chance. I devoted myself to the program and the rest, as they say, is history. I hope the story of my journey will inspire others in our profession to look at applicants as a whole and not just a class rank. There are always diamonds in the rough waiting for their chance to shine.



Nathan Schoenly
Fairfax, VA
Endodontic Program:
University at Buffalo
Graduated:
2014
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate

of the ABE?

A Diplomate is an endodontist who practices based on current, best practices founded upon our specialty's wealth of peer-reviewed literature. I find that everything I do in private practice has its foundation in our specialty's literary evidence. Preparing for the oral exam helped to center my thoughts and take a step back to truly reflect upon myself and my practice. An endodontist certified by the Board balances the science underlying our specialty with the art of our methodologies. It is both a privilege and an honor to be among the ranks of other Diplomates that have come before me.

Benjamin D. Scott
Knoxville, TN
Endodontic Program: University of Illinois at Chicago
Graduated: 2008

Scott Seago
Newport News, VA
Endodontic Program: Keesler Medical Center
Graduated:
2014

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Being recognized as a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontists is the culmination of both my academic and professional careers thus far. Obtaining Diplomate status is often seen as an achievement. However, it is more importantly a pledge to continue striving to be at the pinnacle of our specialty.



program director, and he was an amazing advocate for Board Certification. I truly understood the value of the process, and of the Board, during my residency, and that has only been solidified by my years in practice. Becoming a Diplomate also had a somewhat competitive motivation for me. I could not be content knowing that there was a major benchmark in my profession that I had not achieved. I am honored to call myself a Diplomate, and I am grateful for all the support that I had along the way, particularly encouragement from Dr. Reader, and advice and constant friendship from Dr. Melissa Drum.



Jelena C. Seibold
Eagle River, AK
Endodontic Program:
Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center
Graduated:
2015
What does it mean to you to

be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Achieving Diplomate status shows your dedication to providing excellent, evidence-based, ethical care for your patients and affirms your commitment to the endodontic specialty. While becoming a Diplomate seemed to be a lofty goal when I first began the process, I am grateful to have undergone the challenge. I could not have accomplished it without the help of my mentors, family, and friends.

Kerry R. Stein
Marion, OH
Endodontic Program: Ohio State University
Graduated:
2006

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

I believe that being a Diplomate means truly being a practitioner of evidence-based endodontics, as well as demonstrating a commitment to the specialty. Dr. Al Reader was my



Matthew Tangredi
Garden City, NY
Endodontic Program: Stony Brook State University of New York
Graduated:
2013

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Achieving Diplomate status has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Since the beginning of my training in endodontics, I have strived to attain this prestigious honor. With hard work, persistence and support from my family and mentors, this once distant goal has become a reality. As a Diplomate, I am committed to remain current and relevant in an ever-changing field, by applying science, technique and new technology to my practice.

Arjang Vahidnia
Dublin, CA
Endodontic Program: University of Southern California
Graduated:
2014

What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

I am proud and honored to be a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics. Reaching the Diplomate status is the result of many years of hard work, self-motivation and commitment to excellence. It truly is the pinnacle of our specialty and a way to represent and preserve it. My goal is



Meet the New Diplomates

to continue the learning process and to provide exceptional care to my patients. I am also proud to be a part of an elite group of clinicians and researchers that maintain a high level of expertise and strive to enhance the standards of our specialty.



Prashant Verma
Chevy Chase, MD
Endodontic Program:
University of Maryland
Graduated:
2014
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate

of the ABE?

Becoming a Diplomate signifies to me the transition from factual knowledge to wisdom and judgement. It may not be difficult to store up in the mind a vast quantity of facts within a comparatively short time, but the ability to form judgement required the severe discipline of hard work and the tempering heat of being examined by the giants in my chosen field. It is an honor and a privilege to become a Diplomate and it would not have been possible without the support of my mentors and my family. I am truly grateful to them.

Brian C. Warner
Brooklyn, NY
Endodontic Program: New York University College of Dentistry
Graduated:
2014



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

Being named a Diplomate of the American Board of Endodontics is a goal I am proud to have achieved. It represents a commitment to lifelong learning and continued excellence in patient care. I am honored to join an esteemed group of colleagues and look forward to continued growth within the endodontic profession.



Kelly N. West
Grafton, WI
Endodontic Program:
Marquette University
Graduated:
2009
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

To me, being a Diplomate shows commitment to being the best endodontist that you can be. Your endodontic training program teaches you how to do quality endodontic therapy, but the Board Certification process examines why we do the things that we do. For me, the process gave me a lot more confidence when explaining things to patients and referring dentists. Being a Diplomate shows that you have dedicated the time and effort to learn and practice the skills to be at the top of your profession.

Rustin A. West
Germantown, WI
Endodontic Program:
Marquette University
Graduated:
2008



What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate of the ABE?

It was truly an honor to achieve my Diplomate status. Diplomates, to me, are the top of our profession. While it was a difficult process, the exams all help you understand why we do what we do. I can communicate my knowledge with patients more clearly and with more confidence.



Anne E. Wiseman
Sioux Falls, SD
Endodontic Program:
University of Washington
Graduated:
2011
What does it mean to you to be a Diplomate

of the ABE?

It is a professional milestone that

represents dedication to my profession and to myself, to be the best I can. Becoming a Diplomate is personal validation that I am willing and open to better myself, and better my understanding of Endodontic science and practice. Although I am proud of this achievement, I do not wish it to be an end, but rather a benchmark along the journey. Becoming a Diplomate was on my bucket list, so I'm overjoyed that I can cross it off!

President's Message

left off, once eligibility is re-established. That is as easy as submitting a new application. In addition to these improvements, the Board will continue to review our process, to identify possible modifications that will encourage participation by all endodontists while still preserving the high standards established and respecting the efforts and accomplishments of those already certified. Through these constant efforts, we hope to make Board Certification an expectation rather than an option.

As the recertification of our specialty is now visible on the horizon, increasing the number of Board Certified endodontists is an important step in successfully renewing our recognition. The ADA guidelines for specialty recognition not only require the establishment of a certifying board, but also the "testing and certification of a significant number of dentists identified with the specialty". The recent increase in the number of candidates and Diplomates is a heartening trend that truly helps satisfy this requirement. The Directors of the ABE as well as our wonderful staff will continue to work hard to encourage continued participation at this level and beyond.

In order to accommodate the increase in candidates seeking Board Certification, the number of directors is increasing by one additional director each year, beginning last year in 2016. In 2018, we will reach the new complement of twelve directors to better execute the responsibilities of the ABE. This year, we will welcome two new directors, Dr. Melissa Drum and Dr. Fabricio Teixeira. Dr. Asgeir Sigurdsson will also be starting his second term. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as a Director of the ABE, and I am humbled by the opportunity to serve as President. The camaraderie and dedication of the board members has truly been an inspiration for which I am grateful. On behalf of the entire Board, I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to our Chief Operating Officer, Margie Hannen, and our Communications Manager, Ivana Bevacqua. Their support and dedication to the mission of the ABE are unparalleled and vital to our efforts, and we could not function without them.

In conclusion, it is my hope that the evolution of the ABE and the certification process will go far toward encouraging many more endodontists to make the decision to pursue Diplomate status, thereby making their lives, and their careers an exclamation.



The Diplomat

American Board of Endodontics Newsletter

Editors: Dr. Scott B. McClanahan, Dr. Cindy Rauschenberger &
Dr. Clara Spatafore

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