


Status Of Cardiology's Independent Board For Cardiovascular Medicine: What Will Be Its Impact On Vascular Surgery And How Would An Independent Vascular Surgery Board Counteract This

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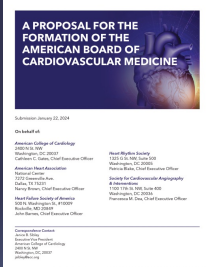


Disclosures Relevant to This Presentation:

- Chair, American Board of Vascular Surgery
- Member, SVS Task Force Free Standing or Federated Board
 - The opinions expressed in this presentation are my own and do not represent those of the Task Force at large

American Board of Cardiovascular Medicine (ABCMV)
Application to ABMS

- ❖ Submitted Jan 22, 2024
- ❖ 157 pages in length
- ❖ Supported by the ACC, AHA, HFSA, HRS, SCAI




ABCMV Application
ABMS Timeline

- ❖ Submitted Jan 22, 2024
- ❖ April 24 - July 24, 2024 (90 day public comment period)
 - ❖ All stakeholders ie: clinicians, patients, societies, etc. - invited to comment
 - ❖ SVS and all national and regional vascular societies sent letters to ABMS
- ❖ ABMS final decision
 - ❖ Expected to take months up to 1 year post Open Comment Period
 - ❖ Decision expected: Feb 2025
 - ❖ Any modifications application likely made prior to decision

SVS Letter to ABMS Advisory Council
re - ABCVM Application

Extracted comments:

- “We believe that proof of a quality training paradigm for vascular disease includes a focus on PAD, cerebrovascular disease, venous disorders, and many other areas. That proof is not met within the current application.”
- “It would damage the public confidence in board certification if health care providers can be board certified in ‘vascular’ but not able to offer open surgery.”
- “Society for Vascular Surgery supports the efforts for the establishment of an independent board of Cardiology. ...revision of the application is imperative ...”



ABCMV Application Approval
Impact on Vascular Surgery

- If approved
 - 1st new ABMS board in >30 years
 - Coverage in lay and medical press and social media = unpaid Organic Marketing
- If approved **Existential threat to Vascular Surgery?**
 - Certification of cardiologists as experts in the diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases
 - ->shift of vascular patients to cardiologists-
 - Will confuse patients
 - Diminish Vascular surgery/psyche of vascular surgeons



Independent (Free-standing) VSB
Would it Counteract an ABCVM?

- Yes!
 - Establish a standard for ABMS membership in this specialty domain that will be difficult to duplicate by other specialties
 - Much stronger application re vascular certification than ABCVM
 - Recognition that VS are the experts in **all aspects** of vascular disease management by virtue of education, training and certification
 - Increased visibility of specialty
 - May enhance marketing and branding efforts
 - Pride felt by all vascular surgeons → Feel more visible: inestimable value

ABCVM without independent VSB → unacceptable!

Independent (Free-standing) VSB
What are the next steps?

Prepare application to ABMS now!

- ABMS accepts ABCVM application
 - Would make it difficult for ABMS to reject VSB application
 - Minimize ABCVM head start on VSB application
- ABMS rejects ABCVM application
 - 2 year waiting period for reapplication
 - Opportunity for VSB to be 1st new ABMS board
 - Quality of VS application will set elevated benchmark for new applicants in the vascular domain

Secure the survival and a less embattled future for our specialty

Thank you for your attention

The Vascular World Is Coming Together In New York
In November 2024
And You're Invited!

Frank J. Veith, MD



SVS Letter to ABMS Advisory Council
re - ABCVM Application

Extracted comments

- "The prevalence of vascular disease far surpasses the ability of specialized cardiologists to diagnose and manage the multitude of vascular pathology."
- "We believe that proof of a quality training paradigm for vascular disease includes a focus on PAD, cerebrovascular disease, venous disorders, and many other areas. That proof is not met within the current application."
- "significant risk that cardiologists, who will refer to themselves as "cardiovascular specialists" will provide inadequate or non-comprehensive care for patients with vascular disease"
- "It would damage the public confidence in board certification if health care providers can be board certified in "vascular" but not able to offer open surgery."
- "Society for Vascular Surgery supports the efforts for the establishment of an independent board of Cardiology. ...revision of the application is imperative ..."

Cardiovascular Medicine
What does that mean?

- An anachronistic term
 - 1941 - name given to new ABIM specialty
 - Diseases of the heart including the vessels of the heart
 - Vascular surgery as a specialty did not yet exist
 - Now serves to confuse patients and even many physicians as to who is best equipped to treat those with peripheral vascular diseases
 - A causative factor in the anonymity of our specialty today

ABCVM Application Approval

Impact on Vascular Surgery

- If approved without modification:
 - Certification of cardiologists as experts in the diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases
 - Will confuse public
 - Diminish Vascular surgery/psyche of vascular surgeons
 - Effect on possible future VSB application?
- 1st approved ABMS board in >30 years
- Marketing
 - Organic
 - Coverage in lay and medical press, social media
 - Paid

Existen t to Vascular

Independent (Free-standing) VSB

Could it Counteract an ABCVM?

- Yes!
 - Establish a standard for ABMS membership in this specialty domain that will be difficult to duplicate by other specialties
 - Much stronger application re vascular certification than ABCVM
 - Recognition that VS are the experts in **all aspects** of vascular disease management by virtue of education, training and certification
 - Increased visibility of specialty?
 - Organic – especially if we are 1st new ABMS board
 - Pride felt by all vascular surgeons – Feel more visible == Inestimable value

Secure the survival and a less embattled future for our specialty

Independent (Free-standing) VSB Application

Windows of opportunity

Best scenario:

- ABMS outright rejects ABCVM application
 - 2 year waiting period for reapplication
 - Could indicate ABMS not accepting any new boards?

Next best Scenario:

- ABMS delays decision - requests ABCVM revise application
 - How much time to revise?
 - Remove vascular procedures from application?
 - Change board name to leave out any mention of vascular?

Least favorable scenario:

- ABMS accepts ABCVM application
 - Gives ABCVM ~ 2 year head start on VSB application
 - Silver lining: Would make it difficult to reject VSB application

Prepare application now!

Independent (Free-standing) VSB

Windows of opportunity for application

Best scenario:

- ABMS outright rejects ABCVM application
 - 2 year waiting period for reapplication
 - Opportunity for VS to be 1st new ABMS board
 - But could indicate ABMS not accepting any new boards?

Next best Scenario:

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Prepare application now!