



National Commission News

Message from the Chair

Special points of interest:

- 2023 Self-Assessment
- Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards
- Approval of Draft internal Policies and Procedures Related to Subspecialty Designation
- Future Meeting Dates

The National Commission held its 6th Annual Meeting on April 24, 2023 at ADA Headquarters in Chicago.

The role of the National Commission is to review compliance with the *Requirements for Recognition* for the recognized dental specialty sponsoring organizations and their respective certifying boards. No new applications for recognition were considered.

Other business included approval of the National Commission 2023 Self-Assessment, development of initial strategies for the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan and adoption of the 2023

Annual Report of the Recognized Certifying Boards.

To ensure the National Commission is forward thinking and monitoring evolving trends in the profession, the Commission adopted draft internal processes related to subspecialty designation. The documents will remain as internally archived documents until the need for subspecialties has been established. The adoption of these internal processes puts the National Commission in a position to lead the profession if subspecialty designation becomes a reality.



Dr. Brian McAllister

The work and dedication of our current Commissioners has made chairing the National Commission a pleasure. I would like to thank all those on the Commission and our staff for their dedication to the Commission and our profession.

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National Commission Board of Commissioners Adopts 2023 Self-Assessment

At its April 24, 2023, the Board of Commissioners considered the National Commission 2023 Self-Assessment.

Resolution 1H-2013 requires all councils and commissions to undergo a self-

assessment on a rotating five-year cycle. The National Commission's five-year cycle started in 2018.

The National Commission's Self-Assessment has been included with the Commission's Annual Report to the

American Dental Association House of Delegates.

To review the 2023 Self-Assessment, visit the National Commission website at <https://ncrdscb.ada.org/>

Approval of Draft Internal Processes Related to Subspecialty Designation

In 2018, the National Commission was requested to consider the concept of subspecialty recognition. In 2020, the investigation of whether there is a need in dentistry for the recognition of other areas of clinical interest (subspecialties) associated with the recognized specialties was added to the National Commission 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

In 2022, the Board of Commissioners determined that as part of the investigative process, the National Commission needed to develop reasonable criteria, policy and processes. While the future of subspecialty designation remains unknown, it was determined the National Commission needed to act proactively and have processes and cri-

teria in place to ensure that if subspecialty designation ultimately occurs in the profession, it would be done under the umbrella of the American Dental Association by the National Commission instead of an external agency.

While the Board of Commissioners approved the draft internal processes as an initial step, the Board of Commissioners does not support the immediate release and use of the documentation. The draft documentation will remain as internally archived documents while the National Commission continues to do its due

diligence and further investigates whether subspecialty designation is a viable option for the profession, there is a need in the profession and whether acknowledging subspecialties is in best interests of the public and the profession.

Annual Report of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards

The information used to complete the *Annual Report of the Certifying Boards* is compiled from the Annual Survey of the Recognized Dental Specialty Certifying Boards that each certifying board is required to submit.

The purpose of the annual survey is to collect current information on the governance and operations of each of the recog-

nized certifying boards to ensure each certifying board's adherence to the *Requirements for Recognition of National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*.

The Annual Report contains information related to certification and examination data, certification pathways, examination procedures, validity and reliability, test construction and

evaluation, certification/recertification examination content, re-examination policies and recertification/certification maintenance policies.

To review the 2023 report, visit the National Commission website: <https://ncrdscb.ada.org/recognized-certifying-boards>

A close working relationship must be maintained between the sponsoring organization and the certifying board

Future Meeting Dates

The National Commission Board of Commissioners meets on an annual basis at the American Dental Association Headquarters in Chicago, IL

All meetings of the National Commission are conducted

in closed session.

Future meeting dates for the National Commission are as follows:

- April 15-16, 2024
- April 14-15, 2025
- April 20-21, 2026
- April 19-20, 2027

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The mission of the National Commission is to serve the public and the profession by providing transparent and objective review of the recognized specialty sponsoring organizations, prospective specialty sponsoring organizations and their respective certifying boards based on compliance with the *ADA Requirements for Recognition of Dental Specialties and National Certifying Boards for Dental Specialists*.

Please visit our website at <https://ncrdscb.ada.org/>

We hope this site will become an important resource for you. If there are improvements you would like to see or have suggestions you think would be helpful, please let us know at nationalcommission@ada.org