

Appendix 3: AOA Specialty Board Certification

Cheryl Gross, MA, CAE
Elaine C. Bell, BA

From the Department of Education at the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) in Chicago, Illinois.

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None reported.

Address correspondence to Cheryl Gross MA, CAE, AOA Department of Education, 142 E Ontario St, Chicago, IL 60611-2864.

E-mail: cgross@osteopathic.org

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The year 2014 marks the 75th anniversary of the first award of osteopathic specialty certification. The certification process is an important assessment tool for enhancing the quality of health care and protecting the public. Certification demonstrates a standard of excellence for osteopathic physicians, including quality of services and commitment to lifelong learning. In addition, many health care facilities and insurers require physicians to be board certified.

Since its establishment in 1939, the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists, the official certifying body of the American Osteopathic Association, has issued 39,253 certifications including primary specialties, subspecialties, and added qualifications. As of December 31, 2013, a total of 27,116 osteopathic physicians were currently certified by

the American Osteopathic Association and held a combined total of 30,267 active certificates, representing a 5.7% increase over the number of certificates held in 2012. In 2013, 1534 certificates were awarded in primary specialty and subspecialty areas. Additionally, 146 certificates of added qualifications were granted and 1531 recertifications were issued. A complete list of the certifications and recertifications processed in 2013 and the total number of active certifications by specialty is found in the *Table*.

Since 2009, the number of active board certifications held has risen steadily, as noted in the *Figure*. This number is expected to continue to rise in the future. (doi:10.7556/jaoa.2014.059)

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Table.
Certification Statistics, 2013^a

American Osteopathic Association Board of...	Certification Type	Description	New		Total
			Certification	Recertification	
Anesthesiology	Primary	Anesthesiology	29 (2)	16 (1)	629 (2)
	CAQ	Pain management	3 (<1)	0	67 (<1)
	CAQ	Critical care	0	0	5 (<1)
Dermatology	Primary	Dermatology	6 (<1)	0	466 (2)
	CAQ	Dermatopathology	0	0	8 (<1)
	CAQ	Mohs micrographic surgery	0	0	24 (<1)
Emergency Medicine	CAQ	Emergency medical services	0	0	9 (<1)
	Primary	Emergency medicine	188 (11)	64 (4)	2486 (8)
	CAQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	3 (<1)
	CAQ	Medical toxicology	0	0	10 (<1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	1 (<1)	0	7 (<1)
	CAQ	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	0	0	7 (<1)
Family Physicians	CAQ	Addiction medicine	0	0	4 (<1)
	CAQ	Adolescent and young adult medicine ^b	NA	NA	9 (<1)
	Primary	Family medicine/OMT ^c	604 (36)	806 (53)	11,979 (40)
	CAQ	Geriatric medicine	8 (<1)	15 (1)	299 (1)
	CAQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	117 (<1)
	CAQ	Pain medicine	11 (1)	0	11 (<1)
	CAQ	Sleep medicine	2 (<1)	0	7 (<1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	15 (1)	8 (1)	197 (1)
	CAQ	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	7 (<1)	0	19 (<1)

(continued)

**Table (continued).
Certification Statistics, 2013^a**

American Osteopathic Association Board of...	Certification Type	Description	New Certification	Recertification	Total
Internal Medicine	CSQ	Allergy and immunology	0	0	9 (<1)
	CAQ	Cardiac electrophysiology	0	1 (<1)	24 (<1)
	CSQ	Cardiology	21 (1)	29 (2)	468 (2)
	CAQ	Critical care medicine	15 (1)	10 (1)	148 (<1)
	CSQ	Endocrinology	3 (<1)	2 (<1)	39 (<1)
	CSQ	Gastroenterology	10 (1)	16 (1)	209 (1)
	CAQ	Geriatrics	0	5 (<1)	61 (<1)
	CSQ	Hematology	2 (<1)	3 (<1)	46 (<1)
	CAQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	46 (<1)
	CSQ	Infectious diseases	4 (<1)	7 (<1)	69 (<1)
	Primary	Internal medicine	304 (18)	267 (17)	3654 (12)
	CAQ	Interventional cardiology	24 (1)	12 (1)	111 (<1)
	CSQ	Nephrology	2 (<1)	11 (<1)	130 (<1)
	CSQ	Oncology	6 (<1)	13 (1)	98 (<1)
	CAQ	Pain medicine	3 (<1)	0	3 (<1)
	CSQ	Pulmonary diseases	8 (<1)	19 (1)	203 (1)
	CSQ	Rheumatology	4 (<1)	10 (1)	66 (<1)
	CAQ	Sleep medicine	0	0	50 (<1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	0	0	6 (<1)
	CAQ	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
Neurology and Psychiatry	CAQ	Addiction medicine	0	1 (<1)	3 (<1)
	CSQ	Child neurology	0	1 (<1)	3 (<1)
	CSQ	Child psychiatry	0	2 (<1)	41 (<1)
	CAQ	Geriatric psychiatry	1 (<1)	0	10 (<1)
	CAQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	2 (<1)
	Primary	Neurology	16 (1)	4 (<1)	233 (1)
	CAQ	Neurophysiology	1 (<1)	0	24 (<1)
	CAQ	Pain medicine	1 (<1)	0	1 (<1)
	Primary	Psychiatry	10 (1)	10 (1)	286 (1)
	CAQ	Sleep medicine	0	0	15 (<1)
NMM	Primary	NMM/OMM	26 (2)	33 (2)	532 (2)
	Primary	Special proficiency in OMM ^b	NA	NA	125 (<1)
	CAQ	Pain medicine	7 (<1)	0	7 (<1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	1 (<1)	0	6 (<1)
Nuclear Medicine Obstetrics and Gynecology	Primary	Nuclear medicine	0	0	26 (<1)
	CSQ	Female pelvic medicine reconstructive surgery	2 (<1)	0	4 (<1)
	CSQ	Gynecologic oncology	3 (<1)	1 (<1)	11 (<1)
	CSQ	Maternal and fetal medicine	2 (<1)	1 (<1)	31 (<1)
	Primary	Obstetrics and gynecologic surgery ^b	NA	NA	55 (<1)
	Primary	Obstetrics and gynecology	78 (5)	43 (3)	1151 (4)
CSQ	Reproductive endocrinology	1 (<1)	0	12 (<1)	

(continued)

**Table (continued).
Certification Statistics, 2013^a**

American Osteopathic Association Board of...	Certification		New		Total
	Type	Description	Certification	Recertification	
Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery	Primary	Facial plastic surgery	0	0	5 (<1)
	Primary	Ophthalmology	14 (1)	0	355 (1)
	Primary	Otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery	23 (1)	3 (<1)	404 (1)
	CAQ	Otolaryngic-sleep medicine	0	0	6 (<1)
	CAQ	Otolaryngic allergy	1 (<1)	0	21 (<1)
	Primary	Otolaryngology	0	0	11 (<1)
	Primary	Otorhinolaryngology ^b	NA	NA	30 (<1)
Orthopedic Surgery	CAQ	Hand surgery	6 (<1)	0	48 (<1)
	Primary	Orthopedic surgery	66 (4)	48 (3)	1188 (4)
	CAQ	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
Pathology	Primary	Anatomic pathology	0	0	23 (<1)
	Primary	Anatomic pathology and laboratory medicine	0	0	14 (<1)
	CAQ	Dermatopathology	0	0	2 (<1)
	CSQ	Forensic pathology	0	0	4 (<1)
	Primary	Laboratory medicine	0	0	16 (<1)
Pediatrics	CSQ	Adolescent medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
	CSQ	Adult and pediatric allergy and immunology	0	1 (<1)	1 (<1)
	CSQ	Neonatology	2 (<1)	3 (<1)	35 (<1)
	CSQ	Pediatric allergy and immunology	0	0	7 (<1)
	CSQ	Pediatric endocrinology	0	0	2 (<1)
	CSQ	Pediatric pulmonology ^b	NA	1 (<1)	2 (<1)
	Primary	Pediatrics	45 (3)	33 (2)	546 (2)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	CAQ	Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
	CAQ	Pain medicine	21 (1)	0	21 (<1)
	Primary	Physical medicine and rehabilitation	16 (1)	0	247 (1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	1 (<1)	0	4 (<1)
Preventive Medicine	Primary	Preventive medicine- aerospace medicine	0	1 (<1)	39 (<1)
	CAQ	Occupational medicine	4 (<1)	2 (<1)	52 (<1)
	Primary	Preventive medicine-occupational medicine ^b	NA	NA	8 (<1)
	Primary	Preventive medicine-public health	2 (<1)		38 (<1)
	Primary	Preventive-occupational-environmental medicine	0	2 (<1)	81 (<1)
	CAQ	Sports medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
	CAQ	Undersea hyperbaric medicine	2 (<1)	1 (<1)	7 (<1)
Proctology	Primary	Proctology	0	4 (<1)	23 (<1)

(continued)

**Table (continued).
Certification Statistics, 2013^a**

American Osteopathic Association Board of...	Certification Type	Description	New Certification	Recertification	Total
Radiology	CAQ	Angiography and interventional radiology ^b	NA	NA	18 (<1)
	CAQ	Body imaging ^b	NA	NA	9 (<1)
	Primary	Diagnostic radiology	29 (2)	9 (1)	645 (2)
	Primary	Diagnostic roentgenology ^b	NA	NA	2 (<1)
	CAQ	Diagnostic ultrasound	0	0	1 (<1)
	CAQ	Neuroradiology ^b	6 (<1)	0	62 (<1)
	CAQ	Nuclear radiology	0	0	5 (<1)
	CAQ	Pediatric radiology	2 (<1)	0	23 (<1)
	Primary	Radiation oncology	0	0	119 (<1)
	CSQ	Radiation therapy ^b	NA	NA	1 (<1)
	Primary	Radiology ^b	NA	NA	97 (<1)
	CAQ	Vascular and interventional radiology	2 (<1)	0	16 (<1)
	Surgery	Primary	Cardiothoracic surgery	0	1 (<1)
CAQ		Critical care surgery	1 (<1)	0	61 (<1)
Primary		General vascular surgery	1 (<1)	2 (<1)	122 (<1)
CAQ		Hospice and palliative medicine	0	0	1 (<1)
Primary		Neurologic surgery	1 (<1)	1 (<1)	101 (<1)
Primary		Plastic and reconstructive surgery	0	0	64 (<1)
Primary		Surgery (general)	4 (<1)	9 (1)	1020 (3)
Primary		Thoracic cardiovascular surgery ^b	NA	NA	53 (<1)
Primary		Thoracic surgery ^b	NA	NA	5 (<1)
CAQ		Undersea and hyperbaric medicine	0	0	0
Primary		Urologic surgery	2 (<1)	0	204 (1)
Total			1680	1531	30,267

^a Data presented as No. (%). Percentages do not total 100 because of rounding. Totals are calculated by the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists. Data are current as of December 31, 2013.

^b No longer issued.

^c Previously named *family practice/osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT)*.

Abbreviations: CAQ, Certification of Added Qualifications; CSQ, Certification of Special Qualifications; NA, not applicable; OMM, osteopathic manipulative medicine; NMM, neuromusculoskeletal medicine.

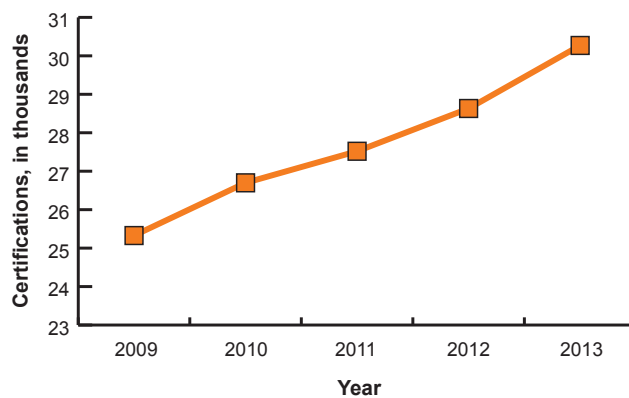


Figure. Active certifications held, 2009 through 2013. Certifications increased from 25,327 in 2009 to 30,267 in 2013.