



In October 2021, after months of careful and meticulous logistical planning, the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry (ABPD) was able to successfully administer the Oral Clinical Examination (OCE). With safety and protection of candidates, examiners, and staff in mind, rigorous COVID-19 protocols were implemented including vaccination requirements, negative PCR test result within 72 hours of arrival for everyone attending the



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examination, as well as mask wearing. In addition, antigen tests were routinely performed for examiners throughout the week.

A new site location was utilized this year: The AIME Center in Raleigh, NC. This state-of-the art facility is home for the American Board of Anesthesiology clinical certification process and uses advanced technology such as iPads for vignette delivery and scoring as well as video monitoring of candidates and examiners. Due to the 2020 OCE cancellation, the decision to accommodate as many examinees as possible was made, placing board candidates' best interests first. A total of 784 candidates were examined during this "marathon" week-long exam. ABPD is grateful to have such an incredible group of talented and experienced volunteer diplomates who left their daily practice routine to certify the next group of pediatric dentists.

Following the examination week, no cases of COVID-19 were reported, reinforcing the importance of adherence to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protocols. In a post-examination survey, 87% of candidates and examiners felt safe during the OCE. We all hope that the 2022 OCE can be performed under more flexible regulations. Nonetheless, if needed, a safety plan has already been successfully developed and tested.

Respectfully, Marcio Guelmann, DDS ABPD Secretary and OCE Liaison

Steve Raves, DMD, MS OCE Subcommittee Chair

Sincere appreciation goes to our Examiners:

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