Samson Resident Prize Essay box in the lower left hand corner of the form should be checked. A covering letter from the Chief of Service of the training program indicating the individual's year of training and the proportion of the work performed by the resident must be submitted. The authors of the abstracts chosen for the program will make up the finalists and were notified by February 11, 2000, that they must submit six completed manuscripts for review by the Prize Essay Committee. The Prize Essay committee will make its selection following the presentation of all papers.

Application for membership

Applications for membership in the Association must have been received by the Membership Committee no later than March 1, 2000, to be considered at the following annual meeting. Applicants must be sponsored by three members of the Association who are not members of the Membership Committee. Application forms will be issued only to sponsoring members.

Address correspondence to:

Chairman, Membership Committee
The Western Thoracic Surgical Association
Thirteen Elm Street
Manchester, Massachusetts 01944
(978) 526-8330; fax (978) 526-4018

Vaughn A. Starnes, MD, Secretary

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THE AMERICAN BOARD OF THORACIC SURGERY

Notices

The Part I (written) examination will be held at the Hotel Sofitel, 5550 North River Road, Rosemont, Illinois 60018-5194, on November 19, 2000. The closing date for registration is August 1, 2000. Those wishing to be considered for examination must request an application since it is not automatically sent.

To be admissible for the Part II (oral) examination, a candidate must have successfully completed the Part I (written) examination.

A candidate applying for admission to the certifying examination must fulfill all the requirements of the Board in force at the time the application is received. Please address all communications to the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, One Rotary Center, Suite 803, Evanston, Illinois 60201 (telephone: 847-475-1520).
New Requirements for Recertification in the Year 2001

Diplomates of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery who plan to participate in the recertification process within the next few years should pay particular attention to this notice, since the requirements will change effective in the year 2001.

In addition to an active medical license and institutional clinical privileges in thoracic surgery, beginning in 2001, a valid certificate will be an absolute requirement for entrance into the recertification process. If your certificate has expired, the only pathway for renewal of a certificate will be to take and pass the Part I (written) and the Part II (oral) certifying examinations.

In 2001, the American Board of Thoracic Surgery will no longer publish the names of individuals who have not recertified. In the past, a designation of “NR” (not recertified) was used in the American Board of Medical Specialties directories if a Diplomate had not recertified. The Diplomate’s name will be published upon successful completion of the recertification process.

The CME requirements will also change in 2001. The new CME requirements will be 70 Category I credits in either cardiothoracic surgery or general surgery earned during the 2 years prior to applying for recertification. SESATS and SESAPS will be the only self-instructional material allowed for credit. No Category II credits will be allowed. The Physicians Recognition Award for recertifying in general surgery will not be accepted in fulfillment of the CME requirement for recertification. The preceding information only partially outlines the CME requirements. Interested individuals should refer to the 1999 Booklet of Information for a complete description of acceptable CME credits.

Diplomates should maintain a documented list of their major cases performed during the year prior to application for recertification. This practice review should consist of 1 year’s consecutive major operative experiences. If more than 100 cases occur in 1 year, only 100 should be listed.

Candidates for recertification will be required to complete both the general thoracic and the cardiac portions of the SESATS self-assessment examination. It is not necessary for candidates to purchase SESATS prior to applying for recertification since SESATS will be sent to candidates after their application has been approved.

Diplomates may recertify up to 3 years before the expiration of their certificate. Their new certificate will be dated 10 years from the time of expiration of their original certificate or most recent recertification certificate. In other words, recertifying early does not alter the 10-year validation.

Recertification is also open to Diplomates with an unlimited certificate and will in no way affect the validity of their original certificate.

The deadline for submission of applications for the recertification process is May 1 each year. A recertification brochure outlining the rules and requirements for recertification in thoracic surgery is available upon request from the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, One Rotary Center, Suite 803, Evanston, Illinois 60201 (telephone: 847-475-1520; fax: 847-475-6240; e-mail: abts_evanston@msn.com).