

So these are our objectives to try to understand the program as it has been configured for medical physicists and to importantly understand the process by which we get into it and get it moving. And the target audience out there. We started in 2002 with time-limited certificates and so 2002, '03 and '04, I'm interested how many of you sitting here are in this first category. Raise your hands. OK. Second individuals who are planning to take the exam next year or over the next few years. How many sitting here are in that category? Alright. And finally we have those diplomats who received their certification prior to 2002, they are not legally bound but we think that professional responsibility, also some of the pressures from the community will make people move into voluntarily go through the LSE process. How many people are in that category sitting out here right now? OK. Glad to see that. We really think this is going to be important. So this

is what we'll do today. We got a little bit of a late start here but we had the important professional things before this. But I'll start off with a general overview and this will be of particular benefit to those who have not been through it before and we'll look at the elements of the web-based process and Bhudatt will talk on that. Bill will come on and talk about the lifelong learning, the C and the E side of things. I'll come back and say something about the exam but then we want...hoping to have 15 minutes to 20 minutes, we'll see how that goes. And that's what the forum's all about, to open the floor for questions, things we haven't addressed exactly. That's the headquarters in Tucson. The URL is there. If you go to that our home page, you will find a button for MOC and that'll guide you to the ABR-MOC reference document which has many of the things that I talk about today but not all of what I talk about today. It's

helpful to understand a little bit of the background, the historical background. So previously the American Board of Medical Specialties, ABMS, was mentioned. It is indeed a driving force and we are one of the 24-member boards of this organization. The mission is there to assist, the mission of the ABMS is to assist the boards in their process for certification and standardizing that process. It was '73 and then in '93 that re-certification became a formal policy and then in March of 2000 it was decided to move over to what we're going to describe now the maintenance of certification so that's what all the boards, all the 24 boards of the ABMS refer to this process. So in radiology our perspective started in '89, '98 rather, with a concerted effort towards the development of the MOC process. A committee of physicists was appointed at that time to assist the ABR in getting geared up for the radio logic physics side of this. And then

there were two, I will call them major meetings in 2001 and then a recent one in January 2004 where we brought together the various sponsoring societies but also other societies to look at how we would work together to achieve this goal of MOC. And there was a definite consensus, the ABR is the body that is responsible for coordinating and administering MOC. But a very important role will be played by the other societies and that will be basically in the lifelong learning aspect of things. As I mentioned, we have a committee, the MOC Coordinating Committee. It's my pleasure to chair that committee but be aware, of course, the diagnostic radiologists as well as the radiation oncologists within the ABR are going through the same processes. Background. There are four components and those will come out in term of the things that we're responsible as medical physicists for achieving under MOC. First component

is professional standing, and for us that will mean basically documenting our involvement in the

practice of medical physics. Second component is lifelong learning and self-assessment, and that is keeping current with the field. Third component, the cognitive expertise and that's the examination process that we will describe. And finally there's a component four on practice performance. Well, that's not in place yet. That..but the ABMS has required the boards to come out with their plans by the end of this year so we'll not pay a lot of attention to that one right now. I just wanted to mention that connected with those four components are six competencies and these have been defined by the ABMS. We are currently in the process of making them specific to the ABR, and further than that making them specific to the medical physicists. I put the definitions, generic definitions of two of them on there. So the current status. As mentioned, 2002 the clock started ticking so everyone who had..was certified in that year by the ABR had a 10-year limitation of their certification and that is for all of our three fields, and indeed these are

the three of them. One of them was left off one of the slides by one of the previous speakers but we do have these three sections. And as we will described timelines are being..have now been identified and things will be implemented for 2005. So an overview of the process for us. Time cycle begins automatically so once you get your certification it starts. But you have to jump into the process as we will describe. One of the key concepts is the fact that the process is continuous, the learning is continuous. So indeed we've built that into the 10-year cycle and you can't do everything in year one or two. In the final year you will submit the documentation but during the 10-year cycle there will be periodic reviews that are possible for you if you want to undergo them. Certainly there will be reminders and other things that facilitate the process. Get through it successfully and a new certificate is issued with a date that is ten years from your

previous certificate. So should you fail to pass all the requirements and get through the requirements, and again we're going to come to what those requirements are more specifically with timelines. So if they're not completed by the end of that time you will no longer have diplomat status. Built into it, and this goes for the radiologists and radio..oncologists as well, is this three-year reinstatement period. So by during that period you have the opportunity to rectify any deficits that were there and you will have assistance on the way on that. And so if you complete that within the three-year window you will be re-certified and you will have satisfied maintenance and certification, but your timeline, your date will be ten years from when it should have been, OK. So you can't gain three years anyway in there. That..so that's not a ploy for any of you. Now the real consequence in the bottom bullet there is that if you do not satisfy it within

that window, back to square one, so you're taking the exam all over again. I know there's some of you out there would probably like to do that because there are masochists among us but I would say that's probably not the way you want to go. So here's..we'll go through some of the initiation of the process. The details, what I say, what is said today and further details will be on the web in the beginning of September. They're not there yet, they're not there now but they will be shortly and the program will be operational in 2005. So those diplomats who received 2002 their certification, and '03 and '04, we will have, and I'm not going to describe all the details of that today but you will have a prorated process so it'll be fair to you given the fact that things were not rolling from day one of your certification. There're a lot of fees associated with this and they have been set right now for \$1700 and these are fees that are comparable in terms

of what you had, what you paid for the..as you entered certification, the original certification process but they are significantly less than for the radiologists and the radiation oncologists and there will be some prorating of that to be announced. And just a word about the ABMP for diplomats that are in that and this is our category. How many people out there, let me ask now are in this category? OK. Let's go through some of the details on that. In fact, we were in a meeting today earlier with a committee that's been set up that involved ABMP representatives and the ABR representatives, the trustees, looking at some of these details but hopefully those of you who are in it know this first bullet, the fact that you can request in..a letter of certification equivalence from the ABR and you would get that. The ABMP has been issuing since 1992 time-limited certificates and those dates do appear on this letter of equivalence, and you have to

pay attention to those. So at the present time if one of you from the ABMP with that certification, if it's expiring your choice now is to, what you must do is go back to the ABMP, satisfy their requirement for reissuing the certification and at that point when you receive it you can go back to the ABR for another letter of certification equivalence. Eventually, and this is what we're working out at the present time, the ABMP diplomats will enter the full MOC process and we're working ways to phase that in a reasonable and working fashion. So let me stop at that point and bring up Bhudatt who is going to go through some of the aspects of the elements of the process.