



Spotlight On Max Wiznitzer, MD, Cleveland, OH

Dr. Wiznitzer is Interim Chief, Division of Pediatric Neurology, UH Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, and Professor of Pediatrics and Neurology, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH.

What do you enjoy most about serving on an ABPN committee?

There are several advantages to serving:

- The impetus and opportunity to stay current with the relevant literature applicable to the committee – in this case, the Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NDD) literature
- Gaining an understanding and experience in formulating and writing questions in an editorially correct and acceptable manner
- Meeting and exchanging ideas and knowledge with peers on the committees, who become friends
- (and visiting my mother during some of the trips to the Deerfield offices since she lives in Chicago's West Rogers Park neighborhood).



What do you hope to accomplish while serving on the ABPN committee?

I want to continue to improve my test writing abilities under the tutelage of the ABPN staff and understand the processes and aspects of the certification process, including the key components that are necessary for establishing competence and meeting the profession's and public's expectations. I also want to use the test development process to improve and refine my knowledge of NDD and offer ideas on how to further enhance the assessment process and improve the competence of examinees and diplomates.

What should people know about ABPN committees and how committee work relates to the Board?

Committee members work gratis with the goal of supporting the standards for competence in our profession. Committee members spend many hours in question development and, for the ABCC committee, article selection to make sure that what is presented to candidates and diplomates is important for clinical care (including an understanding of the underpinnings of clinical care) and overall knowledge in NDD and the other certifications of the ABPN. Committee work is a core and essential component of the Board's mission to establish and maintain clinical competence in its candidates and diplomates, thereby ensuring public confidence in the work of the diplomates.

Why is the patient perspective important to you and how does that connect to your work on the committee?

The patient perspective is the foundational basis of our work – establishing competence parameters for excellent patient care and communication. In this way, we meet the needs of our patients in diagnosing and treating their neurological disorders.

Patient care is best met by making sure that the patient/family are partners in the medical care process. Recognizing what patients want and need are important aspects that have to be addressed by the entire care team (the physician being one member of the team).

When formulating questions for the Board, we are always asked to address the core competencies – patient care, medical knowledge, professionalism, systems-based practice, practice-based learning, and interpersonal and communication skills. All of these reflect on our goal of delivering the care expected by our patients.

Did you have a mentor that affected your career journey?

Yes, I have two mentors. Isabelle Rapin, MD, from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, was my sponsor for my National Research Service Award – a role model for learning about and for understanding the NDD population.

Samuel J Horwitz, MD, was my first division chief at Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital, who provided support and guidance as I began my career as an academic physician and who modeled how to interact with children and their families and with all our clinical colleagues so as to properly care for our patients.

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