



Spotlight On Miya Asato, MD, Baltimore, MD

Dr. Asato is a pediatric neurologist and Vice President of Training at Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, MD.

What is your specialty (and, if applicable, subspecialty or other more focused area) expertise?

I am a pediatric neurologist specializing in neurodevelopmental disabilities.

What is your current or, in your career, most predominant clinical practice setting?

My current practice setting is focused on neurodevelopmental disabilities in children and adolescents. I am very invested in outpatient clinical teaching settings engaging with learners at all levels.

What else can you tell us about your current or significant past roles in your field?

My current role at my institution is Vice President of Training. I am a program director of the first of the eleven accredited Neurodevelopmental Disabilities programs in the country. My broader role at my institution is to ensure the training of the next generation of clinical leaders in individuals with disabilities which includes a broad array of research, medical, allied health, and educational professionals.

Please tell us your thoughts about the role and importance of ABPN board certification.

With advances in medical care, more children with complex disabilities require certified physicians who can offer the specialized knowledge and skills they need to thrive. There are very few training and board certification pathways focused on disability-focused areas of medicine. The ABPN board certification is an important indicator to the public, families, and patients that their physician has been trained in evidence-informed practice and complex care management.

What have your experiences been like in your interactions with the ABPN as a candidate or as a diplomate?

The ABPN has been a critical supporter for the evolution of Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (NDD) as a board-certified specialty from its inception. The one-year NDD pathway for child neurology graduates has facilitated the creation of 5 new accredited programs/pathways, allowing greater accessibility to specialized care by patients and families. Recent modification of the pre-requisite initial certification qualifications has also allowed the successful enrollment of child neurologists to train and be board eligible in NDD.



Did you have a mentor that affected your career journey?

The making of a physician is a team sport, and I am grateful to have had many influential teachers and mentors throughout my journey. Dr. Bruce Shapiro, a member of the ABPN ABCC Committee, has been one of the influential mentors who has influenced where I am today. His passion for teaching and mentoring has impacted my clinical practice, appreciation of lifespan issues in neurodevelopmental disabilities, and an understanding of the complex ecosystems that support physician training and certification.

Return to the [Spotlight On web page](#).