

# JBCPT hosts open forum at SECO

The Joint Board Certification Project Team (JBCPT) provided a detailed overview on the model framework for board certification at an open forum at SECO earlier this month.

The JBCPT, formed by six optometric organizations in 2007, released a model framework for a board certification process for optometry and began presenting it to leaders within the profession in January.

The first part of the Project Team's presentation elaborated on profession's need for board certification.

As part of the evolution of health care in recent years, governmental programs that evaluate quality of care are increasing their references to board certification, maintenance of certification and continued competence.

In his "Call to Action Health Reform 2009" document, U.S. Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.), chair of the Senate Finance Committee,

made specific reference to Maintenance of Certification (MOC) and the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative "...to encourage more frequent and more aggressive recertification processes..."

"We cannot demonstrate continued competence beyond entry level in the same manner as other health care professions without board certification and maintenance of certification processes," said David Cockrell, O.D., AOA representative

on the JBCPT.

*The Maintenance of Certification is where the action is. Our proposed process should allow us to do this better than any other profession.*

As proposed by the JBCPT, there would be two aspects of optometric

board certification:

- ❖ Educational requirements that must be met prior to taking an examination. These have been designed to include a broad range of activities to allow candidates many opportunities to achieve 150 points needed.
- ❖ A Patient Assessment and Management-like (PAM-like) examination to test knowledge in core categories.



**Lisa Howard, O.D., president of the Kentucky Optometric Association, asks a question.**



**Members of the Joint Board Certification Project Team, from left, are Thomas Lewis, O.D., Ph.D., (American Academy of Optometry); Randolph Brooks, O.D., (AOA); David Cockrell, O.D., (AOA); Mary Jo Stiegemeier, O.D., (AAO); Arol Augsburg, O.D., (Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry); Mary Phillips, O.D., (American Optometric Student Association); William Rafferty, O.D., (Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry); Christina Sorenson, O.D., (ARBO); Jack Terry, O.D., Ph.D., (National Board of Examiners in Optometry); Donovan Crouch, O.D., (NBEO); and Larry Davis, O.D., (Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry). Not pictured is Christopher Wolfe, O.D., (AOSA).**

gories.

A PAM examination consists of simulated patient cases in which a scenario

with patient history and clinical data are presented.

The multiple choice questions would assess the candidate's ability to appropriately diagnose and treat the patient.

After initial board certification, MOC as a means of demonstrating continued competence is an important part of the model process. Self-Assessment Modules (SAMs) and Performance in Practice Modules (PPMs) designed to enhance knowledge and skills significant to the practice of optometry would be developed as additional activities in the MOC process.

"The Maintenance of Certification is where the action is," said Christina Sorenson, O.D., the Association of Regulatory Boards in Optometry (ARBO) representative on

the JBCPT. "Our proposed process should allow us to do this better than any other profession."

The JBCPT consists of representatives from the American Academy of Optometry (AAO), the AOA, the American Optometric Student Association (AOSA), ARBO, the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO).

The model framework for board certification includes the creation of the American Board of Optometry (ABO) to oversee the certification process.

The AOA House of Delegates will discuss the approval of the model framework at Optometry's Meeting® near Washington, D.C., in June.



**Janet L. Carter, O.D., ARBO executive director, asks a question during the presentation at SECO.**