



ALBME Names New Executive and Associate Executive Directors

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners has named Sarah H. Moore as its executive director and William M. Perkins as its associate executive director.

"We are fortunate to have individuals of their caliber on board," ALBME Chairman Joseph Falgout, M.D., said. "We have a tremendous responsibility to protect the public and are confident Moore and Perkins not only share our commitment to that duty, but with their knowledge and skills, will be instrumental in helping fulfill that mission."

Moore officially assumed her position Feb. 1, and the Wilcox County native brings with her more than 23 years of executive experience, including as a state regulator and in large corporate management. Since 2014, she has served as chair of the board and administrator of the Alabama Credit Union Administration, the entity responsible for licensing, regulating and supervising state-chartered credit unions.

Prior to joining ACUA, she served as an executive of an NYSE bank holding company in numerous executive positions, including senior executive vice president and chief financial officer. Moore worked for nearly a decade with the predecessor to PricewaterhouseCoopers, auditing financial, governmental, real estate and insurance clients.



Sarah Moore

In addition to her professional achievements, Moore has been active in civic affairs, including serving as current president of the Montgomery Area Food Bank, past president of the Montgomery Rotary Club (first female president in the club's 83-year history), and past Advisory Council member of the Auburn University Business School, among others. She holds a degree in Business Administration and Accounting from Auburn University.

"I am honored the Board has placed its confidence in me," Moore said. "I'm humbled by the opportunity to serve in this important position and to work with the dedicated physicians and staff of this agency to continue striving to uphold high standards for medicine and protect the patients of this state."

Perkins began his new position with the ALBME as associate executive director in January. A Montgomery native, Perkins has more than 30 years' experience in leadership roles in law enforcement, military and regulatory organizations. His professional history includes serving as an officer with the U.S. Army Alabama National Guard; serving as a police captain, investigator, executive officer to the mayor, and other roles in the Montgomery Police Department; and as Company Commander for the 1203rd Engineering Battalion of the U.S. Army National Guard. For his military



William Perkins

Please see ALBME Names New Directors on page 2...

2018-2019 Alabama Board of Medical Examiners

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Birmingham

ALBME Names New Directors continued from page 1...

service, Perkins was awarded the Bronze Star for Operation Iraq Freedom, the Desert Award, four Army Medals of Merit and two Army Commendation Medals.

Prior to accepting the position of associate executive director for the ALBME, Perkins worked for eight years as an investigator and overseeing the agency's daily operations.

Perkins is deeply involved in his community, most actively working through the Omega Iota Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., of which he is a life member, focusing on at-risk youth. Perkins is also a lifetime member of True Divine Baptist Church, where he's served as a deacon since 2012. He earned a degree in Business Administration from Faulkner University.

"My entire career, whether with the military, the police department or the ALBME, I've been involved in some way in public protection," Perkins said. "It's been my life's calling, and I appreciate the faith the Board has placed in me with this new position. I'd like to see this agency continue leading the way for health professional licensing boards in Alabama through increased adoption of improved protocols and cutting-edge investigatory techniques."

Board and Commission Staff Updates

- Tiffany Seamon – Licensure Staff
- Ryan Lynch – IT Director
- Chris Hart – IT Specialist
- Nicole Chapman – Medical Licensure Commission Administrative Assistant
- Kimie Bush – Administrative Assistant



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Administrative Rule Changes

For more information and a complete description of the rules and instructions on how to comment on proposed rules, log on to www.albme.org/rules.html.

PROPOSED RULES

Board of Medical Examiners

540-X-1-.03, Meetings of the Board: Amend number of members that constitutes a quorum from five to six (*anticipated effective date: 5/6/2019*)

540-X-1-.15, Application Packets: Repeal the rule requiring a fee for application packets (*anticipated effective date: 5/6/2019*)

540-X-3-.16, Certificate of Qualification Issued Without Examination (Limited License): Amend to remove requirement for non-ECFMG applicants who did not receive training from a primarily English speaking medical school to meet with the Credentials Committee (*anticipated effective date: 5/6/2019*)

540-X-3, Appendix A, application for Certificate of Qualification to Practice Medicine in Alabama: Amend questions regarding convictions (*anticipated effective date: 5/6/2019*)

540-X-19-.03, Pain Management Registration Required: Amend to add grounds for denial of pain management registration (*anticipated effective date: 5/6/2019*)

540-X-23, Physician Reentry into Practice: New rule to allow implementation/recommendation of a reentry plan when a physician has not been in active practice for two years or more (*anticipated effective date: 5/6/2019*)

FINAL RULES

540-X-3, Appendices B and E, Application and Renewal Application for Limited Certificate of Qualification: Amended the rule to elicit additional information (*effective 4/8/2019*)

540-X-7-.04, Requirements for Issuance of License – Physician Assistant: Updated name of accreditation agency for P.A. training programs (*effective 1/2/2019*)

540-X-7-.07 and .41, License Renewal – Physician Assistant and Anesthesiologist Assistant: Allows “late” renewals from Jan. 1 to Jan. 31 to certify continuing medical education completion rather

than submit documentation (*effective 1/2/2019*)

540-X-8-.05.1 and 19.1, Reinstatement of Lapsed Approval for Practice as a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner/Certified Nurse Midwife: Provided a procedure for the reinstatement of a lapsed approval for practice (*effective 1/2/2019*)

Medical Licensure Commission

(*effective 1/29/2019*)

545-X-1, Organization and Administration: Updated procedures, expanded the duties of the Chairman, amended the parliamentary procedure guide, and moved definitions from Chapter 545-X-3.

545-X-2, Licenses: Removed outdated rule language and added additional language to licensing and reinstatement procedural descriptions

545-X-3, Hearings in Contested Cases: Moved Definitions to Chapter 545-X-1, removed outdated rule language, expanded the duties of the Chairman, added additional language for clarification of current procedures used during contested hearings

545-X-4, Miscellaneous: Removed outdated rule language, combined the definitions of unprofessional conduct, renumbered as necessary and added an additional rule (.10) to give instruction regarding service of documents

545-X-6, The Practice of Medicine or Osteopathy Across State Lines: Removed outdated rule language, renumbered as necessary, and added new language to reflect current procedures and terminology

545-X-7-.03, Interstate Compact Expedited License: Removed outdated wording to reflect the current definition and terminology used by the Commission in other rules.

Doctors Positively Impacting State's Opioid Crisis

MONTGOMERY — Alabama's physicians are having a positive impact on the opioid epidemic here at home while national statistics are showing, for the first time, Americans' odds of dying from an accidental opioid overdose are higher – 1 in 96 – than from a motor vehicle crash – 1 in 103.

Using data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention comparing overdose deaths in 2017 to 2018, states and the District of Columbia are ranked by largest positive change between the two years. The area with the largest decrease in opioid deaths ranked No. 1, while the state with the highest increase in opioid deaths ranked No. 50. Alabama ranked 14 in the new CDC study with a decrease of 5.3 percent.

Alabama had the 14th largest percentage decrease in opioid overdose deaths in the nation in 2017.

**Predicted 12-month count
June 2017: 836**

**Predicted 12-month count
June 2018: 792**

Because fatal drug overdoses are often underestimated, the CDC also factored for predicted cases. Metrics include percent completeness in overall death reporting, percentage of deaths with cause of death pending further investigation, and the percentage of drug overdose deaths with specific or drug classes reported, according to the CDC.

National rankings of fatal opioid overdose rates in each state and

the District of Columbia for 2017 are also based on data from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics. The data include deaths from both legally prescribed and illegally produced fentanyl.

The age-adjusted opioid overdose death rate for the U.S. was 14.9 per 100,000 individuals. In Alabama, the age-adjusted opioid overdose death rate was 9 per 100,000 individuals. Alabama ranked 36 out of 51 states, including the District of Columbia for 2017, the third lowest in the Southeast and far below the national average.



Notice to Limited License Holders (License Without Examination)

Physicians holding limited licenses (residents, fellows, professors, state institutions) must annually renew their limited certificates of qualification before they can renew their limited licenses.

However, if the limited license holder has applied for a full license, then that individual will not be permitted to renew the limited certificate of qualification. This could lead to a gap in licensure for these individuals. These physicians should consult with their training programs to determine the best timeline for full license application prior

to the time when limited license certificates of qualification are renewed (Oct. 1 through Nov. 22).

Additionally, if a physician has met the qualifications for a full license, then that individual will not be permitted to apply for a limited license. The limited license is only available to physicians who have not met the required qualifications for full licensure but teach in a medical college, are employed full time at a state penal or mental institution, or are enrolled in a residency or fellowship training program.

Report of Public Actions of the Medical Licensure Commission and Board of Medical Examiners

Mission: The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and the Medical Licensure Commission are charged with protecting the health and safety of the citizens of the State of Alabama.

MEDICAL LICENSURE COMMISSION – MARCH 2019

- On Mar. 14, the Commission entered an Order lifting the probation on the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **John Allen Ross, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.13428, Fostoria, OH.
- On Mar. 14, the Commission entered an Order lifting the probation on the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Sanjeev Saxena, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.24558, Ft. Payne, AL.
- Effective Mar. 5, the Commission issued an Order temporarily suspending the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **James Davis Blake, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.8072, Hoover, AL.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS – FEBRUARY 2019

- Effective Feb. 26, the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Edith H. McCreddie, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.23369, Mobile, AL, is temporarily suspended until such time as a hearing shall be held by the Board and a decision rendered thereon.
- On Feb. 20, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Chykeetra S. Maltbia, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.29376, Mobile, AL.
- On Feb. 20, the Board entered a Consent Order assessing a fine against **Adeeb E. Thomas,**

Jr., M.D., lic. no. MD.15172, Birmingham, AL.

MEDICAL LICENSURE COMMISSION – FEBRUARY 2019

- On Feb. 6, the Commission entered an Order placing on probation the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Michelle Snyder Jackson, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.18274, Mobile, AL.
- On Feb. 6, the Commission entered an Order denying the request for termination of the probation of the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Peter A. Lodewick, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.15124, Birmingham, AL.
- On Feb. 8, the Commission entered an Order revoking the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Scott B. Robbins, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.21267, Santa Rosa Beach, FL.
- On Feb. 6, the Commission entered an Order clarifying the requirements of the Commission's May 7, 2018, Order concerning **Paul A. Roberts, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.24557, Dora, AL, regarding required continuing medical education.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS – JANUARY 2019

- On Jan. 23, the Board entered a Consent Order placing on probation the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **James Henry**

Edwards, M.D., lic. no. MD.30616, Montgomery, AL.

MEDICAL LICENSURE COMMISSION – JANUARY 2019

- On Jan. 10, the Commission entered an Order revoking the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Robert John Nicke, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.35256, Trussville, AL.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS – DECEMBER 2018

- On Dec. 27, the Board entered an Order revoking the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **William T. Hall Jr., M.D.**, lic. no. MD.8930, Birmingham, AL.

MEDICAL LICENSURE COMMISSION – DECEMBER 2018

- On Dec. 20, the Commission entered an Order removing the restriction on the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **James E. Mallette III, D.O.**, lic. no. DO.749, Florence, AL, prohibiting the prescribing of Schedule II controlled substances. All other terms of the Aug. 25, 2017, Order remain in full force and effect.
- On Dec. 20, the Commission entered an Order placing on probation the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Weston J. Welker, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.13209, York, AL.

What Do You Need to Know about CME for Controlled Substances?

ACSC REGISTRANTS (M.D.s and D.O.s)

NOTICE: The requirement for ACSC holders to obtain two AMA PRA Category 1™ or equivalent credits every two years began in 2018. Credits earned in 2017 will not count toward this requirement.

Any program conferring Category 1 Credit in the areas of: controlled substance prescribing practices, recognizing signs of the abuse or misuse of controlled substances, or controlled substance prescribing for chronic pain management is acceptable to meet the CME credits required of all Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate registrants every two years. You do not need to obtain pre-approval of the courses you choose.

QACSC REGISTRANTS (CRNPs, CNMs, PAs)

For renewal of a QACSC, registrants must obtain four AMA PRA Category 1™ or equivalent credits every two years through a Board-approved course or courses.

FAQs

Q I hold an ACSC but I am exempt from the annual 25-credit requirement for license renewal. Do I still have to obtain these credits?

A Yes. ACSC holders who are otherwise exempt from the CME requirement (residents, fellows, initial licensure year, military service) must still obtain the two credits every two years.

Q Does the Board have to pre-approve the courses I take? Does it have to be a live activity? Does it have to be obtained in Alabama?

A No. You do not need to obtain pre-approval from the Board for the course you choose. Be sure the course confers AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ and is in one of the required areas. The course may be live, through the internet or any other method as long as the activity confers AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. It does not have to be obtained from a CME activity in Alabama.

Q If I obtained the CME in 2017, will that meet the new requirement?

A No. This requirement is interpreted to encompass credits earned in the calendar year 2018 and forward. Credits earned in 2017 or earlier may not be carried forward to be in compliance with the new rule.

Q I do not prescribe opioids at all. Does the CME requirement apply to me?

A Yes. All physicians holding an ACSC are subject to the new CME requirement. The CME can be in the areas of prescribing controlled substances generally and recognizing signs of abuse and misuse. Activities in specific areas such as the use of controlled

substances in the treatment of ADD or mental disorders, for example, would meet the requirement.

Q I am a physician assistant (or nurse practitioner) with a QACSC. Do I have to meet the new CME requirement in the Risk and Abuse Mitigation Strategies rule?

A No. As a QACSC holder, you have an existing CME requirement to which you must adhere [see Rules 540-X-12-.05(3) and 540-X-18-.05(2)].

Q I attended a multi-topic conference but only received one certificate for the entire conference. What should I keep as documentation of having earned two credits in controlled substances?

A Keep with your certificate a copy of the conference agenda that shows the controlled substances topic(s) and the time(s) those topics were covered.

Q If I receive my two credits in one year and they count toward the 25 credit requirement for license renewal, can I also apply those credits towards the 25-credit requirement for the following year?

A No.

For more information and links to approved CME sites, go to

<https://www.albme.org/cscme.html>

Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners

2018 Annual Report

The Board of Medical Examiners approved 1,152 new applicants for licensure in 2018, a 13 percent increase over 2017. In 2018, the Board issued 120 Physician Assistant licenses and approved 2,303 collaborative practices.

The Board of Medical Examiners and its staff have compiled the following Annual Report for your information:

A. Applicants Certified to the Medical Licensure Commission

1. Applicants by endorsement1,152
 - a. Non-Disciplinary Citation with Administrative Charge (accepted).....13
2. Applicants for limited license226
3. Applicants for limited license COQ renewal.....400
4. Applicants for retired senior volunteer license2
5. Applicants for retired senior volunteer COQ renewal.....5
6. Applicants for special purpose license12

B. Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

1. Letters of qualification issued to other states54
2. Letters of qualification denied/withdrawn20
3. Medical licenses issued through the Compact181
4. Medical licenses reinstated through the Compact5
5. Medical licenses renewed through the Compact185

C. Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate

1. Certificates Issued.....1,127
2. Certificates Renewed.....12,394

D. Pain Management Services

1. Registrations Issued51
2. Registrations Renewed530

E. Physician Assistants

1. Physician assistant licenses issued.....120
2. Physician assistant licenses renewed.....870
3. Physician assistants registered to physicians (New).....319
4. Physician assistants granted temporary license14

5. Temporary physician assistant license converted to full license.....14
6. Anesthesiologist assistant licenses issued.....0
7. Anesthesiologist assistant licenses renewed.....22
8. Anesthesiologist assistants granted temporary license0
9. Temporary anesthesiologist assistant licenses converted to full license0
10. Anesthesiologist assistants registered to physicians (New)6
11. PA Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates issued.....35
12. PA Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates renewed.....133
13. PA Limited Purpose Special Permits issued.....30
14. PA Limited Purpose Special Permits renewed...96

F. Advanced Practice Nurses (CRNP / CNM)

1. Collaborations approved2,303
2. CRNP / CNM Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates issued217
3. CRNP / CNM Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates renewed740
4. CRNP / CNM Limited Purpose Special Permits issued.....170
5. CRNP / CNM Limited Purpose Special Permits renewed.....455
6. Collaborative practice educational site visits10
7. Collaborative practice compliance seminars11
 - a. Full seminar.....1
 - b. Condensed group seminar.....10

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2. Investigations pending disposition1	<i>Prescribing related</i> 4
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2. Formal investigations pending from prior years.....108	10. Voluntary Restriction on Certificate of Qualification entered into.....0
a. Investigations resolved with disposition88	11. Voluntary Restriction terminated0
b. Investigations pending disposition.....20	12. Licensees' files flagged.....9
3. Enforcement issues 2018.....326	13. ABME Physician Monitoring Contracts entered into.....0
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b. Issues referred for formal investigation183	16. ABME Physician Monitoring Program – Licensees monitored since 1990.....1,490
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2. Investigations pending disposition106	a. Continuing Medical Education14
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5. All formal investigations pending disposition (2018 and prior).....127	19. Administrative Complaints / Joint Petition Stipulation and Consent Orders filed with the Medical Licensure Commission40
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2. ACSC restriction terminated.....1	22. Summary Suspension of Medical License.....9
3. Certificate of Qualification denied1	a. Voluntary surrender3
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6. Letters of Concern.....42	23. Voluntary Surrender of Medical Licensure9
<i>Prescribing related</i>8	

Medicine is not only a science; it is also an art. It does not consist of compounding pills and plasters; it deals with the very processes of life, which must be understood before they may be guided.

Paracelsus (1493–1541)

NarxCare™ Comes to PDMP

MONTGOMERY — Registered users of the Alabama Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) should have noticed a different format earlier this year. The new platform, called NarxCare™, provides enhanced analytics and risk scores with features including prescription information displayed in easy-to-understand graphic representations and allowing the users to obtain prescription information by clicking on the graphics.

Prescribers using the PDMP have often complained accessing the program is cumbersome, time-consuming and complicated, which discourages use of the tool unless it is specifically required by Alabama Board of Medical Examiners rules.

In January, the Alabama Department of Public Health launched the first phase of an upgrade with the NarxCare™ platform to aid prescribers in clinical decision making and provide support to help prevent or manage substance use disorder.

The format when prescribers search a patient's history in the PDMP has now changed:

- There are two short tutorials available to walk PDMP users through the new system. Prescribers are strongly encouraged to view the NarxCare™ tutorials.
- In the new NarxCare™ format, the patient's name and information are listed on the upper right of the screen.
- Each patient will have Narx Scores for narcotics, sedatives and stimulants.
- An Overdose Risk Score (0-999) is also displayed for the patient. The higher the number, the more at-risk the patient is for an overdose.
- The prescriptions are displayed as color-coded, interactive blocks on a bar graph. For example, opioid prescriptions are represented by red blocks. Clicking on a block displays the patient's prescription information.
- Full prescription information is listed at the bottom of the page in the traditional format seen in Aware.
- Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) and CDC resources are available by clicking the Resources tab.

The Narx Report

The Narx Report includes a patient's NarxScores, Predictive Risk Scores, Red Flags, Rx Graph, and PDMP Data, as well as access to Resources and Care Team Communications all in a single, easy-to-use interface.

The NarxScores. Every Narx Report includes type-specific use scores for narcotics, sedatives and stimulants. These scores are based on a complex algorithm factoring in numbers of prescribers, morphine milligram equivalents (MME), pharmacies, and overlapping prescriptions. Scores are quantified representations of the data in the PDMP and range from 000-999, with higher scores equating to higher risk and misuse, and the last digit always representing the number of active prescriptions.

The Predictive Risk Scores. These composite risk scores incorporate relevant data (PDMP and non-PDMP) into advanced and customized predictive models to calculate a patient's risk of a host of outcomes, including overdose and addiction. Non-PDMP data sets may include medical claims data, electronic health records, EMS data and criminal justice data.

The Red Flags. There are multiple customizable PDMP and non-PDMP based red flags. A red flag(s) may contribute to the risk of unintentional overdose or other adverse events.

The Rx Graph. The Rx Graph is simple, clear and comparative. The interactive display allows you to view all the information you need, analyze data, and click into specific data points to see more detail. You can easily visualize and understand patterns in prescribing and usage behaviors, as well as identify overlapping prescriptions.

The PDMP Data. The PDMP Report is for controlled substance data. The PDMP Report aggregates two years of historical prescription data from providers and pharmacies, including quantities and active prescriptions.

For information about the PDMP or NarxCare™, contact the Alabama Department of Public Health's Pharmacy Division at (877) 703-9869.



Alabama Board of Medical Examiners

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Upcoming BME Meeting Dates

May 15 June 19 July 17 August 21

The public portion of each meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. CT (unless otherwise indicated) in the Dixon-Parker Building at 848 Washington Avenue in Montgomery, AL.

Meeting agendas and a full list of meeting dates and times can be found online at www.albme.org.

Upcoming MLC Meeting Dates

May 22 June 26 July 24 August 28

Meetings are held in the Dixon-Parker Building at 848 Washington Avenue in Montgomery, AL.

Have questions or need assistance?

Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (334) 242-4116

Executive Director	Sarah H. Moore
Assistant Executive Director	William Perkins
Administration	Brandi Maddera
Legal	Wilson Hunter, General Counsel J. Matthew Hart Virginia Reeves Patricia E. Shaner
Licensing	Patricia E. Shaner
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Physician Monitoring	Jeff Grimsley
Pain Management Services	Edwin Rogers Bob Steelman
Physician Assistants	Donna Jordan
Collaborative Practice	Patricia Ward, RN Amy Wybenga, CRNP

Medical Licensure Commission (334) 242-4153

Executive Assistant Karen Silas

About MedicalDigest...

MedicalDigest is the official publication of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and Medical Licensure Commission. It is published four times per year: January, April, July and October.

Past issues are archived and available on the Board's website at www.albme.org and listed as *Newsletter and Report*.

Questions? Please contact the Board of Medical Examiners at (334) 242-4116.