YOUR NAME

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

Date

Board of Directors

American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery

445 Fillmore Street

San Francisco, CA 94117-3404

Dear Directors of the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery:

I am contacting you to petition for a one-year extension of my ABFAS Board Qualification status due to extenuating circumstances which have prevented me from taking my Board Certification examinations before my seven years of qualified status expires.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which commenced in 2019 and lingers on into [change to current year], has had a strenuous and far-reaching effect on my clinical practice and surgical caseload. In March 2020, the pandemic had quickly spread to most areas of the country at a rapid pace, causing U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams to urge widespread halt of all elective surgeries across the nation in response to recommendations set forth by the American College of Surgeons. This halt lasted for several months, after which, hospitals, based on their communities’ specific infection rate, individually decided when to re-initiate elective surgeries. In December 2020, after fears of an uptick in infection rates, hospitals around the country suspended elective surgeries for a second time. Although this second suspension was not at the recommendation of the Surgeon General, many hospitals took proactive measures to preserve personal protective equipment if their region was experiencing an increase in infection rates by postponing elective procedures.

My personal experience with the COVID pandemic has been like what was demonstrated on the national level. [Take a few sentences to describe your personal circumstances regarding surgical volume, elective surgeries postponed, patient fear of surgery, etc]

As a result of these nationwide suspensions, the Council on Podiatric Medical Education (CPME) has made significant changes to their guidelines. As CPME is an autonomous accrediting agency for podiatric medical education, it has final authority for the accreditation of colleges of podiatric medicine, the approval of fellowships and residency programs, and providers of continuing education as well asthe recognition of specialty certifying boards for podiatric medical practice. Recognizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on residency programs, CPME has decreased the minimum activity volume for residents by 15% for all categories and waived the diversity requirements starting in March 2020 for 2020 graduates. This addendum has since been extended to the 2021 graduates, as the pandemic continues to affect residency education and surgical case volume.

The surgical cases performed in residencies are the same surgical cases performed by board qualified individuals, like myself. Although residency training is not the Board’s primary mission, the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery has both direct and indirect involvement in residency education by certifying graduates of CPME approved training programs. The significant reduction in surgical volume from this extenuating circumstance is nationwide and has caused me to personally halt and postpone many elective surgical cases that would have otherwise made me eligible for case review. Several patients have demonstrated continued hesitation to undergo elective surgery at this time. Given that the CPME has recognized this hardship and made temporary provisions in its guidelines, I ask the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery to make similar provisions by allowing a one-year extension to my Board Qualified status.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

NAME

ABFAS number