



# The ABAM Foundation

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## **The ABAM Foundation**

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## **The ABAM Foundation**

The Foundation is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended ("Code"). The initial purposes of the Foundation are to support the efforts of the American Board of Addiction Medicine's ("ABAM") mission. The Foundation shall support this mission in the following ways:

1. Define the field of addiction medicine, in collaboration with expert physicians from medical specialties whose members play a significant role in prevention or treatment of addiction.
2. Develop and conduct medical education seminars, for various groups, on addiction medicine and on its importance for health care and the training of physicians. The groups shall include:
  - a. The leadership of the eight medical specialty societies and accrediting boards that have a significant role in prevention or treatment of addictive diseases: emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, preventive medicine, psychiatry and surgery.
  - b. The major components of organized medicine: Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, American Board of Medical Specialties ("ABMS"), Council of Medical Specialty Societies, Federation of State Medical Boards, National Board of Medical Examiners and others.
  - c. Policy makers, health care providers, health care program sponsors, and the general public as a whole.
3. Develop Fellowship training programs in addiction medicine. This shall include:
  - a. Surveys to determine what training is available in addiction medicine in current residency programs of the major medical specialties, in academic medical centers, in the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense programs, in addiction prevention and treatment facilities, and elsewhere.
  - b. Design fellowship training programs.
  - c. Actively recruit fellowship candidates from among residents and practicing physicians.
4. Establish and maintain standards and procedures for accreditation and reaccreditation of Addiction Medicine training programs at the medical education graduate level.
5. Accredite Addiction Medicine training programs at the medical education graduate level that meet the accreditation standards established by the Board.
6. Do any and all lawful things necessary or desirable for the attainment of these purposes, including receiving, taking, holding by gift, granting, assigning or transferring, either absolutely or in trust, any property, real, personal or mixed, without limitation as to amount or value; provided, however, that no part of the net earnings of the Foundation shall inure to the benefit of any private member or individual.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Foundation is organized as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and shall be operated consistent with the requirements described in Code section 501(c)(3)

**The ultimate goal of the ABAM Foundation:** The ultimate goal of The ABAM Foundation is to gain recognition of Addiction Medicine as a medical specialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board is organized as an organization described in section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and shall be operated consistent with the requirements described in Code section 501(c)(6). The goal of The ABAM Foundation is to gain recognition of Addiction Medicine as a medical specialty by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS).

The ABMS, established in 1933, is a not-for-profit organization comprising 24 medical specialty Member Boards, and is the pre-eminent entity overseeing the certification of physician specialists in the United States. The ABMS is the leader in improving the safety and quality of medical care through its policies and the physician certification processes of the ABMS Member Boards.

Five ABMS requirements must be met, before Addiction Medicine will be eligible to apply to the ABMS for recognition of Addiction Medicine as a board-certified medical specialty.

**Create a certifying board:** The ABMS requires the creation of "a medical specialty Board . . . (that is) separately incorporated (and) financially independent . . .," an American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM).

**Define Addiction Medicine:** Addiction Medicine must be defined in a way that makes it evident that its core content, core competencies and scope of practice are distinct from those of other medical specialties.

**Establish certifying standards and procedures:** ABAM must demonstrate its ability to establish and maintain standards and procedures for certification, recertification and maintenance of certification, and offer a certification examination in Addiction Medicine.

**Develop training:** ABAM or another organization must design, develop and accredit a fellowship training programs that meet ACGME standards, and that can assure access to a career path for physicians who wish to specialize in Addiction Medicine.

**Support:** ABAM must provide evidence that ABAM has support from the field of Addiction Medicine, and support from the other medical specialties whose certifying boards are ABMS member boards.

**The most critical of these five criteria is the creation of training programs.**

Achievement of ABMS recognition will mean that all physicians who wish can receive training and be board certified in Addiction Medicine, and all patients and their families who suffer from addiction to alcohol, tobacco or other drugs will know that their doctors have been trained and that the patients can receive the highest levels of scientific and compassionate medical treatment, leading to full recovery.

It is impossible to overstate how important this is for persons addicted to alcohol or other drugs, and for their families. Every day, in every city and town in America, alcoholic fathers and mothers; pregnant patients who are drinking or smoking during pregnancy, and teenagers experimenting with alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs go to their doctors for routine medical care, and the doctors seldom inquire about alcohol, tobacco or other drug use. Or, if the patient seeks help for addiction, the doctor, in most cases, is at a loss for what to do or how to help the patient. This is so, not because the physicians lack compassion, but because most are not educated or trained to recognize and treat alcoholism and other addictions. The consequences of the lack of education and training are the high number of children born with fetal alcohol syndrome; family violence, spousal abuse and sexual abuse or rape, suicides and deaths on the highway. In addition, children of parents addicted to alcohol or other drugs suffer life long emotional harm.

ABMS certification in Addiction Medicine will create a national cadre of doctors who are trained to screen for, diagnose and treat addictive disorders. Also, once Addiction Medicine is recognized as a medical specialty, health insurance companies will offer coverage, as they do for other chronic medical disorders.

## To make a donation to The ABAM Foundation:

Your contribution means a great deal to the organization, and to the field, and to patients everywhere who suffer from the disease of addiction, but even more to the families who rely on the Physician to help them through some of the most difficult times of their lives.

Please make your check payable to:

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The ABAM Foundation Tax Identification Number (also known as Employee Identification Number or EIN) is **11-3824934**.

The gift is fully tax deductible. The ABAM Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to The ABAM Foundation are tax-deductible under section 170 of the Code.

But the Red Cross is not a government agency, we must rely on the generosity of the American public. With your ongoing support, we will continue to be there providing people in crisis . relief for today and hope for tomorrow.

## Contact

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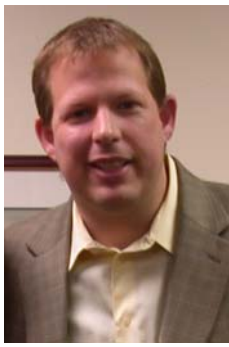
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**Executive Vice President**  
**James F. Callahan, D.P.A.**  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Term: 2007 –

James F. Callahan is Executive Vice President of the American Board of Addiction Medicine (ABAM), and The ABAM Foundation, and the former Executive Vice President and CEO of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). He was Director of Smoking Research Application for the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health; the Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse's (NIDA) Medical and Health Professions Education Program, and the Deputy Director of NIDA's Division of Training. He co-chaired the White House Federal Interagency Committee on Drug and Alcohol Education and Training, and was a member of the White House task forces on prescribing and drug abuse prevention, and the American Medical Association's Informal Steering Committee on Prescription Drug Abuse. He directed the Narcotic Addict Treatment and Rehabilitation Program in Atlanta. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, and holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Theology from the Gregorian University (Rome, Italy), a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Texas, and a Masters Degree and Doctorate in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.



**Director of Operations**

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Christopher Weirs serves as Director of Operations for the American Board of Addiction Medicine and The ABAM Foundation. In addition to his current work at ABAM, Christopher Weirs is the Director of Credentialing, System Administrator, and Director of Staff Training and Education at The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM). For the last ten years he has been an active leader in the addiction medicine community, and has been dedicated to specialty recognition of Addiction Medicine by the American Board of Medical Specialties. He is committed to a credential in Addiction Medicine that can be used by patients and their families to find physicians who are qualified to deliver evidence-based compassionate care for alcoholism and other diseases of addiction. Prior to his work in the field of Addiction Medicine, he did research on the diseases of Alzheimer's and Diabetes at both Bristol Myers Squibb in Wallingford, Connecticut and The SUNY Health Science Center in Syracuse, New York. He received his Bachelor's degree at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Biotechnology and received his Masters Degree in Public Administration from the American University in Washington DC.



**Director of Credentialing**

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Terri Silver is Credentialing Manager for the American Board of Addiction Medicine and the ABAM Foundation. She has worked in a number of capacities on behalf of various associations, including the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the National Association of Free Clinics, and the Semiconductor Industry Association. She worked in international trade policy on behalf of the Washington Delegation of the European Commission; the law firm of Dewey, Ballantine; and the International Trade Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Ms. Silver received her M.A. from the Patterson School of International Commerce, University of Kentucky and her B.A. (Economics & French) from Duke University.



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