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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR 2017

As the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners (ABIME) approaches its Silver Jubilee year in 2017, I contemplate the past 25 years of its existence, its robust growth and how ABIME is doing well as a global benchmark for Independent Medical Examination training and credential, and yet I am also reminded of the biblical wisdom *Let us not grow weary in well-doing*.

It seems like only yesterday that a group of dedicated doctors and other Medical Scientists were gathering at various professional meetings to talk about the idea for a new and different type of accreditation process for medical doctors performing the Independent Medical Evaluations, disability assessment and providing expert witness services. Since its foundation in 1993, ABIME has now certified 12,000+ doctors all over the world. The future can only bring more distinction.

ABIME and its affiliates over the years have developed a state of the art IME certification review course as well as training programs in the Use of *AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment*[®], Expert witness skills workshops and recruited a world class faculty for these courses whose credentials and commitment rival that of any other organization. ABIME over these years has welcomed thousands of participants not only from United States but from overseas to join with us in the exciting and challenging study of Disability Medicine, through various seminars/training programs.

ABIME's affiliate ACDM's faculty and staff's commitment to educating and being accessible to our colleagues, a well-designed curriculum and a friendly and supportive staff have assisted the diplomats of American Board of Independent Medical Examiners to excel in their goal of obtaining knowledge skills and ability in their field.

The ABIME international outreach has been remarkable in achieving the recognition of the field of Disability Medicine as a specialty and its practitioners as Independent Medical Examiners serving legal systems as Expert Witnesses all over the world from America, Europe, Asia, Africa to Australia.

One of the most exciting developments for ABIME this year is the newly developed status of Master CIME (MCIME[™]). This status of advanced professional standing in the field is only available to the most qualified and highly trained individuals who earn this qualification only by examination.

I have worked for many organizations in leadership positions for continuing medical education and credentialing for near three decades now. My experience has taught me that the most important component to a successful credentialing program comes from the credibility of its certification process, the foundation of which is largely based on the core knowledge of its certified members. ABIME is very proud to have highly qualified individuals as its certified members who have been provided the most current evidence-based knowledge, learning experience which coupled with their skills and abilities as experts in their field, has contributed to the public good by assisting the legal system in aiming to reach decisions that are based on sound science and current knowledge base.

I hope that you are able to attend some of our future training programs and sit for the ABIME exam and/or consider attaining the status of Master CIME (MCIME[™]). I am confident that once you do, you will be impressed and will conclude that the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners can offer you the best tools for a fulfilling and rewarding career in Disability Medicine as well as an Independent Medical Examiner and or an Expert Witness.

We at ABIME pledge to continue marching forward working hard and doing well in providing high quality training and world-class certification examinations and credentialing to Independent Medical Examiners and Expert Witnesses everywhere in the globe. The future only looks bright.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Best regards,

Mohammed I. Ranavaya, MD, JD, MS, FRCPI, FFOM, CIME

President, ABIME

Professor & Chief Division of Occupational & Disability Medicine

Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine at Marshall University, WV