

A-Cross Medicine Reviews

Please read this if you are considering attending one of our Internal Medicine Board Review Courses.

This is an open letter to you explaining a little about us and why you should choose our Board Review Course over other's. First, thank you for considering us and hopefully I can share with you why we think we have the best Internal Medicine Board Review Course available! We are very proud of what we have put together and our goal is...well it is simple...to help you PASS! We can help you with either the initial certification or recertification—the exams are essentially the same now except the initial certifiers have one extra module on test day—that's about the only *significant* difference between the two exams (I know...bad news for recertifiers...and explains why the pass rates have continued to decline!).

I'll start out by saying, our course is unique in that we only have 2 speakers for all the lectures. Yes. Just the two of us. The reason we do this is two-fold...1) We can absolutely make sure that we cover everything you need to know (we have total control of the content) and 2) We know what the other person is teaching so we won't waste your time with duplicate topics or confuse you with subject areas that are contradictory for you to sort out on your own...For example, if you reviewed treatment guidelines for HTN and you specifically looked at diabetes, JNC8, and heart failure guidelines and then listened to an endocrinologist, nephrologist, and a heart failure specialist cardiologist each give a different lecture on treatment of HTN...they each would recommend different medications as first line therapy for HTN...we understand that there is controversy (not just with this topic, but with others) and we'll sort it out for you as to what the best answer would be for the ABIM based on what the *question* is trying to ask you.

Now a little background on me (Tommy Cross) and my co-presenter (Candace Walkley)...We both began our medical careers in Academic medicine. In my early career, I was with LSU in the departments of Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Infectious Diseases division (I'm Med-Peds ID trained) and I was program director for the Med-Peds program. I left academia to work for MedStudy, a Board Review company, where I worked for 10 years. Since leaving MedStudy in 2013, I've been working in home health as well as speaking and developing my own CME company on non-board review related topics. Candace also started at LSU (she's Med-Peds and Adult ID trained) where she was the Medical School's 3rd year internal medicine clerkship director, eventually worked at MedStudy, and since leaving MedStudy in 2013 has been employed by the VA outpatient clinic in Colorado Springs as well as speaking for my CME company. Additionally throughout this time, we both have been enrolled in MOC. Saying all that, we understand the trials and tribulations of the Internal Medicine Doc in the trenches trying to juggle your practice and family, and find time to study for these damn certification and recertification exams! More on us on the "Faculty" page link on the main website.

Having had the experience in academia and now in "the real world," as well as speaking on hundreds of Board review topics at 75+ conferences over the years, we feel uniquely qualified to bring you the best possible Board Review Course out there.

We understand your resources are limited and you are investing a lot of money and time away from your practice and family to get the best possible experience in a Board Review Course. We feel we have the answer. Yes, our Board Review courses are intense for 4 days...but we promise you will "laugh" (hopefully often), "sigh" (a sigh of relief!, that you remember some obscure fact that is on the Boards), and "appreciate" that you attended our course. We sincerely try to make this the best experience possible for you. (Side note...You are wondering about the "laugh" part...yes...we try to keep it as entertaining as possible—we have found it is the best way to keep people awake as well as engaged in learning!)

In preparing our lectures, Candace and I both meticulously review the Guidelines and literature to match up the topics with the ABIM blueprint. We are not going to waste your time on topics that are not relevant to the exam! We are not academicians who spend valuable course time pontificating on our research...We are medical educators who just give you what you need to Pass the Boards. Period.

Finally, please consider these when you compare us to other courses:

- 1) Check the instructors names against the ABIM website...are they actually **enrolled in MOC**...both Candace and I are actively enrolled in MOC for Internal Medicine and we've both taken the recert exam so we actually know what the exam is like and what the question format is—be wary of courses that have speakers who are **NOT** participating in MOC—particularly if they are academicians who are “grandfathered”...how can they really speak to what the exam is covering if they don't understand how the material is presented in the actual exam? How are they able to judge what to teach you if they haven't participated in the process?
- 2) Watch out for programs where it appears there is no rhyme or reason for when topics are presented—usually this means that instructors were chosen based on the “holes” they could fill. For some programs, these people may just be doing the course because they “have to” because their section chair told them to. It will show in their lectures and you'll feel cheated or like you wasted your time attending that lecture because you had to endure a poor presentation that wasn't well prepared or thought out. We have designed the schedule to flow correctly so that we can build on previous topics as well as make sure that we present the topics in a logical manner. It makes no sense to learn cardiology on 3 different days.
- 3) After the course if you have questions, or something is not clear...You'll have direct email access to me and I'll help you sort it out. Saying that....feel free to email me anytime at jtcrossjr1961@gmail.com if you have questions (even if you don't attend the course). We really are dedicated to providing you the best possible Internal Medicine Board Review Course out there.

Thanks for reading. Candace and I hope to see you at this or one of our other conferences (we have fun CME courses too!).

Sincerely,



J. Thomas (Tommy) Cross, Jr., MD, MPH, FAAP, FACP
President, A-Cross Medicine Reviews