

American Board of Surgery President & CEO Dr. Jo Buyske Announces Retirement After 9 Years of Transformative Leadership

Dr. Jo Buyske, president and CEO of the American Board of Surgery, announced her retirement effective June 30, 2027.

PHILADELPHIA, PA, UNITED STATES, July 14, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- After nearly 30 years—first as a volunteer, then as executive staff and nine years as president—Dr. Jo Buyske, president and chief executive director of the [American Board of Surgery](#) (ABS), announced her retirement effective June 30, 2027.



Dr. Jo Buyske

The ABS Board of Directors is working with [DSG Global](#) to search for Dr. Buyske's successor, with ABS Director Dr. John Stewart guiding the process.

A prominent figure in surgery and surgical education, Dr. Buyske modernized the ABS into a flexible, inclusive, and forward-thinking organization. Under her leadership, the ABS launched a plethora of initiatives that have transformed the way surgeons train and interact with the ABS, including the Continuous Certification Program in 2017, the first ABS Focused Practice Designation in 2022, and Entrustable Professional Activities in 2023.

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John Stewart, M.D.

“I can say without reservation that the American Board of Surgery has undergone substantial change under Dr. Jo Buyske's leadership, and that the organization is clearly

better for it,” said Dr. Stewart. “She redesigned our governance structure to modernize the Board's operations, resulting in a more responsive organization that now serves as a model for

other member boards of the American Board of Medical Specialties. Through disciplined financial stewardship and operational efficiencies, she strengthened the organization's footing, and throughout it all, she has remained a strong proponent of inclusion and innovation in every aspect of the Board's functions."

Accelerated by COVID-19, Dr. Buyske spearheaded a rapid digital transformation that introduced online-only applications, virtual oral exams, and an overhauled website to improve the diplomate and candidate experience. Furthermore, she established data-sharing processes for outside researchers and transitioned the ABS to a remote-first workplace, one of many contributing factors which culminated in a Great Place to Work Certification® in 2026.

"The ABS that exists today is more modern, responsive, resilient, and financially sound, a transformation that is the direct result of [Dr. Buyske's] vision and her consequential leadership," said Dr. Stewart.

In announcing her retirement, Dr. Buyske shared the following:

"It has been a privilege to serve as the CEO and President of the ABS for nearly a decade. In announcing my retirement, I feel mixed emotions. I feel proud of all the good work we've done in service of the ABS mission, and yet I will miss the company of my extraordinary colleagues and partners.

The ABS is a mission driven organization. It exists to protect the public and enhance the profession. That is as important to the ABS today as it was when the organization formed 89 years ago. I am incredibly proud of what our staff and nearly 1,000 surgeon volunteers have accomplished together.

Over the past 10 years, we have modernized residency training to focus on competency over days-in-training, humanized the transition from residency to fellowship, and created a continuous certification cycle that is both relevant and manageable for our diplomates. The ABS is financially stable, highly functional, and well-positioned for the future. I look forward to all that this organization will continue to achieve."

As part of the search process, DSG Global welcomes feedback from the surgical community regarding the next ABS leader to ABSCEO@dsgco.com. The firm anticipates that they will have identified the next ABS President and CEO by spring 2027.

About Jo Buyske, MD

Dr. Buyske has focused her tenure on increasing the relevance of board certification and expanding training flexibility. She led a comprehensive redesign of ABS's governance and organizational structures centered on making best use of the skills and time of the volunteers across the leadership spectrum. Major initiatives included moving towards a competency-based

nominating process and establishing a fiduciary governing board. This framework facilitated the integration of Entrustable Professional Activities, offering trainees more frequent and consistent feedback that allows them to advance and measure their skills, and shifted lifelong certification to a continuous assessment model with modular exams that reflects the rapid pace of medical change.

Locally and globally, Dr. Buyske champions equitable access to surgical care through her leadership and advisory roles with ABMS-International, ACGME-International (ACGME-I), the G6 Alliance, and COSECSA. Her international efforts include collaborating with Haiti's Ministry of Health, Partners in Health, and Zanmi Lasante to develop a new surgical training paradigm and secure ACGME-I accreditation for Haiti's main teaching hospital.

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