

Kim Diefenderfer, DMD, MS, MS

Biography:

Kim Diefenderfer, DMD, MS, MS earned his DMD at the University of Pittsburgh. Upon graduation, he accepted a commission in the US Navy Dental Corps and embarked on a variety of assignments over an unexpectedly long career. In 1992, he was selected to attend residency training in Operative Dentistry at the University of Iowa, under the direction of Drs. Gerald Denehy, Graduate Program Director, and John Reinhardt, Department Chair (and holder of ABOD Certificate #1). While at Iowa, Dr. Diefenderfer earned MS degrees in both Operative Dentistry and Dental Public Health. His Navy career culminated in an appointment as professor of Research and Clinical Investigations at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School, Bethesda, Maryland. He retired at the rank of Captain (O-6) after 30 years of active duty service. He then joined the faculty of the Indiana University School of Dentistry, where he served for nearly nine years as Division Director of Operative Dentistry and one of three faculty in the Graduate Cariology and Operative Dentistry Program, before retiring in 2023. Dr. Diefenderfer earned his ABOD certification (Certificate #33) in 1999. He has served as ABOD Treasurer since 2008 and Chair of the Examination & Certification Committee since 2011. Beyond ABOD, he currently serves as a clinical examiner for the Commission on Dental Competency Assessments, as well as an independent consultant in dental research. He served as an Associate Editor for *Operative Dentistry* from 2015 to 2024 and became the journal's Editor-in-Chief in 2025. Dr. Diefenderfer is married and has two adult sons.