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The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners Installs New Board Chair as 75th Anniversary Observances Conclude

PHILADELPHIA (Conshohocken), December 21, 2009 – The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME), the testing organization that provides the pathway to licensure for osteopathic physicians in United States, recently concluded its year-long 75th anniversary observances with its annual Board of Directors meeting. **John Thornburg, D.O., Ph.D. of Okemos, Michigan**, was installed as new Chair of the Board. He replaces outgoing Board Chair, **William F. Ranieri, D.O. of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**, who headed the NBOME Board of Directors for two years.

Others installed during the December gathering in Florida included Vice Chair, **Janice Knebl, D.O., MBA of Fort Worth Texas**, and Secretary/Treasurer, **John Becher, D.O. of Newtown Square Pennsylvania**. In addition, three new members of the board were installed: **Ronald R. Burns, D.O. of Winter Park, Florida; Millicent Channell, D.O., M.A., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Geraldine T. O’Shea, D.O. of Jackson, California**. The NBOME used the occasion to introduce its recently published history, *In the Public Trust: The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners 1934-2009*.

Dr. Thornburg, professor of pharmacology and toxicology, and family and community medicine at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, has served the NBOME for more than 20 years in various capacities. Now as Board Chair, he will work closely with NBOME President and CEO, John R. Gimpel, D.O., M.Ed., to continue implementation of the organization’s five-year strategic plan. “I look forward to my ongoing collaboration with Dr. Gimpel and the NBOME’s professional staff to help the NBOME achieve preeminence in both domestic and international testing of osteopathic and related health care professions,” Dr. Thornburg said.

Dr. Knebl, a native of Philadelphia, is a tenured Professor of Medicine at University of North Texas Health Science Center-Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNTHSC/TCOM) and has been chief of its Division of Geriatric Medicine within the Department of Medicine since 1988. Dr. Knebl is the Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians Endowed Chair in Clinical Geriatrics – the first endowed Chair in Geriatric Medicine within the Osteopathic Profession. She is also the Reynolds Geriatrics Education and Training in Texas Project Director and has been the Core Geriatrics Fourth Year Clerkship Director and the Geriatrics Fellowship Director at UNTHSC/TCOM. Dr. Knebl was appointed to the NBOME Board of Directors in 1999, elected to the executive committee in 2003 and served as Secretary/Treasurer since 2005. She completed her osteopathic medical education at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

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NBOME Installs New Chair – Continued

Dr. Becher is professor and chairman of the department of emergency medicine at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM). He is also the chair of emergency services at the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He is a member of the board of trustees of the American Osteopathic Association and treasurer of the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Becher was formerly the program director for the PCOM/Albert Einstein emergency medicine residency in Philadelphia. He has been president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association and the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation. He has been involved with the NBOME in various capacities for more than 10 years and is currently chair of its Clinical Skills Testing Advisory Committee.

New NBOME Board Members

Dr. Burns practices at the University Family Medicine Center in Orlando, Florida, and is an adjunct faculty member at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine - Bradenton, Fla. He has served on a number of American Osteopathic Association (AOA) committees since becoming a member in 1989, and in 2008 he was re-elected for a three-year term to the AOA Board of Trustees. In May of 2007, he was re-appointed to the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine by Governor Charlie Crist, a role he was first appointed to in 2006. He has been a member of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians since 1989 and a Board member of the Florida Hospital Osteopathic and Podiatric Foundation since 2005. Dr. Burns has also served as the 2004-2005 president of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.

Dr. Channell is a 2001 graduate of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. After completing her Family Medicine residency and osteopathic manipulative medicine/neuromusculoskeletal medicine residency, Dr. Channell joined the faculty of the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine as assistant professor for the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. Dr. Channell has made numerous scholarly contributions to osteopathic medicine, most notably her recently published book *The 5-Minute Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Consult* (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins 2008). Dr. Channell was chosen by the American Osteopathic Foundation to receive its 2009 AOF Emerging Leader Award, which recognizes an osteopathic physician in practice fewer than five years who has established him or herself as an emerging leader within the osteopathic profession.

Dr. O'Shea has practiced internal medicine at the Foothills Women's Medical Center since 1998. A 1993 graduate of the Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific in California, Dr. O'Shea is currently President of the Osteopathic Medical Board of California. She is also Secretary/Treasurer of the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners. Other posts Dr. O'Shea holds include Chair of the Bureau of Scientific Affairs & Public Health for the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and Chair of the California Delegation to the AOA House of Delegates. She is also Chair of the Public Relations Committee for the Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California (OPSC) and a member of its Legislative Committee.

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NBOME Installs New Chair – Continued

NBOME's History: *In the Public Trust*

In recognition of its 75th Anniversary, the NBOME commissioned Betty Burnett, Ph. D., to compile a detailed history of the organization. Dr. Burnett was aided in her efforts by Fredrick G. Meoli, D.O., FACOS of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, the former President and CEO of the NBOME.

In the book's nearly 120 pages, Drs. Burnett and Meoli detail the origins of the osteopathic medical profession by Dr. A.T. Still in 1874, and the subsequent establishment of the means and organization to test and license osteopathic physicians, which has become the modern day NBOME.

About the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

The NBOME's mission is to protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions. The NBOME developed and is the sole administrator of the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensure Examination of the United States (COMLEX-USA), the testing pathway to licensure for osteopathic physicians in the United States.

For more information about the NBOME, its mission and its evaluation and testing tools for the osteopathic medical profession, go to www.nbome.org.

For more information about the osteopathic medical profession, go to www.do-online.org.