



NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NBOME Announces 2016 Item Writer and Case Author Award Recipients

Philadelphia, PA, January 23, 2017 - The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) is pleased to announce the seven recipients of its 2016 Item Writer and Case Author of the Year Awards.

Each year the NBOME conducts an objective evaluation of hundreds of active members of the NBOME National Faculty who contributed items (test questions) and cases for the NBOME's Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX-USA) and Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Test (COMAT) examination programs. COMLEX-USA and COMAT examinations are used by medical licensing boards and colleges of osteopathic medicine to make decisions about medical licensure and advancement in osteopathic medical education. Authors whose items and cases are of exceptional quality which meet the type and format required for NBOME's examinations are selected as award winners.

"We are delighted to announce and congratulate the distinguished members of our National Faculty who are the winners of the Item Writer and Case Author of the Year awards for 2016," said John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO. "Their contributions demonstrate our high standards for the quality of our medical assessments and reflect the commitment to excellence of our entire National Faculty."

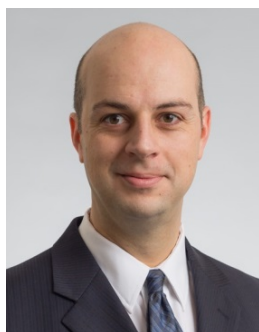


Kathryn J. Leyva, PhD, is the recipient of the Item Writer of the Year Award for the **COMLEX-USA Level 1**. Dr. Leyva is a Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine, Midwestern University (AZCOM/MWU), in Glendale, Arizona. Dr. Leyva joined AZCOM/MWU in 1999 and has affiliations with the Arizona Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Dental Medicine, Optometry, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine. With a distinguished career and extensive background in biomedical education and research, Dr. Leyva has published numerous manuscripts, book reviews, research abstracts and presentations. She holds a PhD in Biological Sciences from

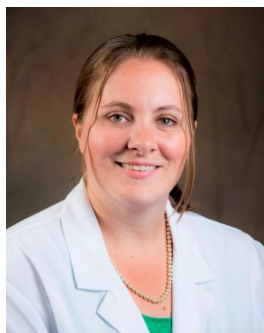
Northern Arizona University and received her MS and BS degrees from the University of Oregon. "My experiences with NBOME National Faculty have made me a better educator in and out of the classroom," said Dr. Leyva.



Brett S. Stecker, DO, FAAFP, received the **COMLEX-USA Level 2-Cognitive Evaluation (Level 2-CE)** Item Writer of the Year Award. A board certified family physician, Dr. Stecker is Medical Director at Tristan Medical Raynham Care Center in Raynham, Massachusetts and a member of the medical staff leadership at Morton Hospital in Staunton, MA. He is also a Clinical Assistant Professor in Family Medicine at Alpert Medical School at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. In 2013, Dr. Stecker was named Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. A graduate of the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Stecker completed his residency training at Brown University School of Medicine. "My involvement with the NBOME has enhanced my career as a family medicine physician... I had always wanted to give back to the osteopathic profession and working with the NBOME has helped in this endeavor. I have enjoyed writing and reviewing items and especially enjoyed working with the outstanding staff at the NBOME," said Dr. Stecker.



Steven T. O'Donnell, DO, is the recipient of the Case Author of the Year Award for his contributions to the **COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation (Level 2-PE)** examination. A specialist in family medicine, Dr. O'Donnell holds positions at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, in Erie, Pennsylvania, as Associate Clinical Professor of Family Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) and Program Director of the Plus One OMM/Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine (NMM) Residency program. Dr. O'Donnell has been a member of the NBOME National Faculty and on its Case Development Committee since 2012. He received his DO degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency in Family Medicine at Saint Vincent Health Center in Erie, Pennsylvania.



Kara C. Mintier, DO, is the recipient of the Item Writer of the Year Award for the **COMLEX-USA Level 3** examination. Dr. Mintier is an Assistant Professor of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine (NMM)/Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) and Family Medicine at the Western University of Health Sciences/College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific in Lebanon, Oregon, and an attending physician at the Good Samaritan Medical Center Neuromusculoskeletal

Medicine/Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Plus One Residency Program in Corvallis, Oregon. Previously, she was Assistant Professor in the OMM Department at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) in Fort Worth, Texas. A graduate of Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Mintier completed her residency at Plaza Medical Center at UNTHSC/TCOM.



Donna-Marie McMahon, DO, FAAP, was awarded Item Writer of the Year for the **Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Test (COMAT)**. A pediatrician and medical educator, Dr. McMahon has been on the faculty at the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) in Old Westbury, New York, since 2008. She is an Assistant Professor in Pediatrics, Director of the Doctor Patient Continuum and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Adjunct Clinical Faculty for the NYIT Center for Global Health. Dr. McMahon is the recipient of the NYITCOM Standard of Excellence Award and the Outstanding Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching Problem-Based Learning. A graduate of NYITCOM, she completed her pediatric residency at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, New York, and Children's Hospital of Northern California, in Oakland, California.



Joanna L. Drowos, DO, MPH, MBA, received the Item Writer the Year Award for her contributions to the **Health Promotion/Disease Prevention and Health Care Delivery (HPDP/HCD) dimensions of the COMLEX-USA examination**. Dr. Drowos is the Associate Chair in the Integrated Medical Science Department, Director of the Community and Preventive Medicine Clerkship and Associate Professor of Integrated Medical Science at the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. In 2011, she was honored as the American Osteopathic Foundation's Emerging Leader. She is board certified in Preventive Medicine, Family Medicine and Medical Quality and completed her internship in pediatrics at Palms West Hospital and residencies in preventive medicine at the Palm Beach County Health Department and family practice at Broward General Medical Center. Dr. Drowos received her DO and MPH degrees from Nova Southeastern University and her MBA in Health Administration from Florida Atlantic University. "Participating as an NBOME Item Writer has been incredibly rewarding," said Dr. Drowos. "Not only has it helped me to improve my assessment skills as an educator, it has also helped me connect with the osteopathic community."



David B. Fuller, DO, FAAO, was awarded the Item Writer of the Year for his contributions to the **Osteopathic Principles and Practice (OPP) dimension of the COMLEX-USA examination**. Dr. Fuller is Associate Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM), at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Course Director for the OPP, as well as OMM Department Practice Management Advisor. In addition to his academic practice and teaching responsibilities at PCOM, Dr. Fuller sees patients in the OMM Department at Roxborough Memorial Hospital. Dr. Fuller is board certified in Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, Integrative Holistic Medicine and Family Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment. Dr. Fuller is actively involved with the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) where he is the Vice Chair of the Committee on Fellowship. He is a graduate of the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (CCOM), and completed his residency in family medicine.

"I have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, being part of NBOME, and have come to greatly respect the wonderful people – doctors and NBOME staff – whom I have had the privilege to get to know at the NBOME OPP Item Review Committee meetings over the years," said Dr. Fuller.

The NBOME is the leading assessment organization for the osteopathic medical profession. NBOME's Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX-USA) series is a requirement for graduation from colleges of osteopathic medicine and provides a pathway to licensure for osteopathic physicians in the United States and numerous international jurisdictions.

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