

THE OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINER



A publication of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

November 2016

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Coalition for Physician Accountability Holds Annual Meeting at NBOME

On October 5 and 6, the NBOME was honored to host the 2016 biannual meeting of the United States Coalition for Physician Accountability at the Chicago Corporate Offices and Conference Center.

Coalition members Dana C. Shaffer, DO, NBOME Board Vice-Chair; Wayne R. Carlsen, DO, Immediate Past Chair and John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO welcomed the attendees. "The Coalition for Physician Accountability is a virtual 'Who's Who' list of many of the top 40 leaders in medical regulation in the U.S., including medical education, assessment, licensure, accreditation and certification," said Dr. Gimpel.

The Coalition's mission is to advance health care and promote professional accountability by improving the quality, efficiency, and continuity of the education, training and assessment of physicians. Member organizations include the Federation of State Medical Boards, the American Association of Medical Colleges, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic

Medicine, the American Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Board of Medical Specialties, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the Liaison Committee for Medical Education, the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates, the Council for Medical Specialty Societies, the Joint Commission, the National Board of Medical Examiners, the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education and the NBOME.

A highlight of the meeting was a plenary session on medical professionalism and the social contract for professional self-regulation copresented by Sylvia Cruess, MD and Richard Cruess, MD, from the McGill University Centre for Medical Education. Attendees also toured the recently opened NBOME National Center for Clinical Skills Testing-Chicago and observed the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE examination. For more information on the Coalition, visit www.physicianaccountability.org/.



NRMP MATCH Program Recognizes COMLEX-USA

In September 2016, two publications were released with exciting news for osteopathic medical students and colleges of osteopathic medicine. For the first time, the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP®), which reports on medical school applicants' success on matching to their preferred medical specialties for most of the ACGME-accredited residency programs, published a separate report on the match success of U.S. osteopathic medical school students and graduates.

The *Charting Outcomes in the Match* 2016 edition uses COMLEX-USA examination scores for osteopathic medical students participating in the NRMP MATCH program. The NRMP also released its *2016 NRMP Program Director Survey*, which reports 77 percent of ACGME-accredited residency program respondents to the survey use COMLEX-USA Level 1 to evaluate the applications of DO students for their programs.

According to NBOME President and CEO John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, "As we transition to the single accreditation system for graduate medical education, this is great news for osteopathic medical students. While the NBOME warns users about the limitations of sole use or overuse of any examination or its scores for purposes other than that which they were created, the *2016 NRMP Program Director Survey* demonstrates the widespread and growing acceptance of DO students and their distinctive qualifications as they apply to ACGME accredited residency programs." [Read more about the reports here.](#)



NBOME Reaches Out to Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

The NBOME continues to establish connections with the 33 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) that deliver instruction at 48 teaching locations nationwide to over 26,000 osteopathic medical students.

As the profession of osteopathic medicine continues to expand, new COMs, branch campuses and alternate teaching locations have emerged, with the current numbers showing one in four of the nation's entering medical students now choosing to enter DO-granting medical schools. Recognizing the important role that the COMs have, the NBOME visits campuses throughout the year to meet with deans, faculty and students to provide updates about NBOME's examinations and services and to provide faculty development workshops and presentations.

"Our visits provide a wonderful way for us to strengthen our dialogue with medical educators and students at the colleges of osteopathic medicine, and to strengthen our relationships with the COM community," said John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO. "We welcome invitations to come and visit and the opportunity to listen to each COM's needs and to provide information to administrators, faculty and students. This gives us an opportunity to share details and often to dispel 'urban myths' about the COMLEX-USA examination series and to provide helpful information as students prepare to take the exams."

During 2016 alone, NBOME will make 15 campus visits to COMs and also connected via video conference to several COMs, including with the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine in Las Cruces, New Mexico. In October and November, Dr. Gimpel visited students and faculty at the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine in Dothan, Alabama, and at the New York Institute of Technology-College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury, New York. More COM visits are planned for 2016, with an upcoming visit scheduled at the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University in Glendale, Arizona, on November 18.

COM deans interested in learning about NBOME visits and how to request a visit, may contact Kelly Reynolds, in the NBOME Executive Offices, at kreynolds@nbome.org.



John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO, presenting to over 300 OMS 1-2 students during a visit to the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, West Virginia, in September.



NBOME presentation at Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine on October 18, 2016.

NBOME—Making Connections Around the World

OMED Meeting Draws Thousands from the Osteopathic Medical Community

The NBOME team attended the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) 121st Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference & Exposition (OMED 2016), September 16–20, in Anaheim, California. As the largest meeting of the osteopathic profession, OMED 2016 provided an opportunity for NBOME to meet and greet students, NBOME National Faculty members, and other colleagues and stakeholders. Among the sessions to reach out to students, NBOME President and CEO John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, led a Q&A session with the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents.

Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA)

OMED provided a backdrop for the annual general meeting and educational conference of the Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA), which is comprised of diverse representatives from more than 30 countries where osteopathic medicine or osteopathy is regulated or working toward governmental regulation. The meeting was attended by NBOME Board chair Gary L. Slick, DO, MA and Dr. Gimpel, a member of the OIA Board of Directors, who was elected OIA Treasurer for 2016-2018. NBOME Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing Jeanne Sandella, DO, presented to OIA attendees on "Assessment Innovations for Physician Licensure & Recertification."

Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine

During OMED, Dr. Gimpel, a voting member of the AOA's Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine (BIOM), attended the BIOM Annual Meeting and their International Seminar, featuring presentations on emerging global diseases such as Zika virus and numerous osteopathic student presentations from their international medical outreach experiences and research.

The International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)

Immediately following OMED, Dana C. Shaffer, DO, NBOME Board Vice-Chair and Dr. Gimpel journeyed to Melbourne, Australia to attend the IAMRA 2016 Biennial Conference. Health care professionals from around the world gathered at IAMRA to share current information on topics including medical regulation, medical licensure examinations, revalidation, practice reviews, medical students and professionalism. Drs. Shaffer and Gimpel co-presented on "Innovations in Assessment across the Physician Education-Training-Practice Continuum that Support Physician Development & Entrustment Decisions." At the IAMRA Annual General Meeting, Humayan ("Hank") Chaudhry, DO, President and CEO of the Federation of State Medical Boards, was installed as the IAMRA Chair for 2016-2018, taking over from Mr. Niall Dickson, Chief Executive and

Registrar from the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom, who served as IAMRA Chair for the past two years. Margaret Mungherera, MD, from Uganda, former Chair of the World Federation of Medical Education, was elected Chair-Elect.



Joining at IAMRA: (l.-r.): Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, Executive Director and CEO, American Osteopathic Association (AOA); John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO, NBOME; Dana C. Shaffer, DO, NBOME Board Vice-Chair; Humayan ("Hank") Chaudhry, DO, President and CEO, Federation of State Medical Boards; Boyd R. Buser, DO, President, AOA; Anna Hayden, DO, President, American Association of Osteopathic Examiners; and Josh Prober, Senior VP and General Council, AOA.

Medical Council of Canada



Dr. Gimpel represented the NBOME in Ottawa, Ontario, at the Medical Council of Canada's 2016 104th Annual Meeting, from September 11-13, 2016. MCC's meeting theme was "Building Trust through Transitions: A Professional Responsibility." Dr. Gimpel presented information about ongoing enhancements to

the COMLEX-USA examination series, including the COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019 and the *Fundamental Osteopathic Medical Competency Domains 2016*, to the over 100 MCC members, staff, and invited guests.

COMVEX Recognized for CPEP Competency Assessment or Reentry Evaluation

Attention Licensing Boards:

The NBOME is pleased to announce that its **Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Variable-Purpose Examination (COMVEX)** has been selected and recognized by the Center for Personalized Education for Physicians (CPEP) in Colorado as a component of CPEP's Competence Assessment or Reentry Evaluation for osteopathic physicians.

As the recognized assessment tool offered to osteopathic physicians who need to demonstrate current general osteopathic medical knowledge, COMVEX provides state medical licensing boards with a clear evaluation of a candidate's general knowledge of current osteopathic medical practice. "CPEP is committed to meeting the specific needs of all our participants, and this collaboration with the NBOME serves to strengthen that commitment," said Beth Korinek, MPH, CPEP CEO.

COMVEX is more typically used by state licensing boards as a requirement for reentry to practice in cases when an osteopathic

physician requests reinstatement of a license following an interruption in his or her clinical practice. It can also be required by a state licensing board for initial licensure for physicians who are relocating to a state and had been granted initial licensure in another state but had never completed an osteopathic medical licensure examination series, such as those who used the FLEX exams or individual state examinations prior to the early 1990s. State medical boards also prescribe COMVEX for DOs in situations where concerns arise regarding competency in application of knowledge for osteopathic medical practice.

"We are delighted to announce this collaboration with CPEP, aligning efforts to support the role of state medical and osteopathic medical boards in protecting the public," said President and CEO John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd. For more information about the COMVEX examination, visit [the NBOME website](#).

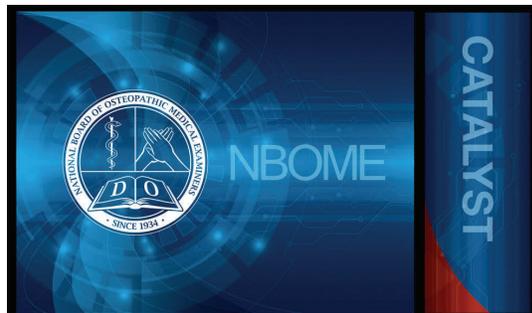
Introducing **CATALYST**: Continuous Assessment Program FOR Learning

CATALYST is a continuous assessment program offered on the NBOME Learning Center platform. As an alternative method to help to ensure ongoing competence for practice, CATALYST may be an option for assessing physicians along the continuum of lifelong learning. The NBOME is partnering with several clients, including osteopathic certifying boards, to explore the use of CATALYST as a new potential option to assess the current cognitive component (e.g., Component 3) of the American Osteopathic Association's Osteopathic Continuous Certification program. Currently, these recertification examinations involve the need for physicians to travel to a testing center, with considerable expense and significant time away from the office. Physicians have expressed concerns that these traditional assessments lack relevance to clinical practice and because these examinations are taken infrequently (usually every eight to ten years), they do not support knowledge currency with constantly changing requirements in clinical practice. Innovations in technology, such as mobile devices and web-based interactive platforms, allow for more convenient assessment delivery at lower cost. The AOA is currently evaluating their OCC requirements, so NBOME is still awaiting whether or not this methodology will meet their new criteria.

The CATALYST model is designed to allow relevant practice assessment to occur *on a continuous basis*. How does CATALYST work? Once a week, once a month or at some periodic interval a physician would receive one or more questions to answer, amounting to 40-80 questions each year or 400-800 questions over 10 years. The questions (examination items) are mapped to

the certifying board (or other client's) blueprint and aligned with the physician's practice.

CATALYST offers physician learners an easy, flexible way to access question content on a 24/7 basis on the NBOME Learning Center using their own devices (PCs, tablets or smartphones) at times that are most convenient for them. Immediate feedback, including improvement resources based on the individual's learning needs, can be provided, and the program features confidence-based learning and spaced repetition to enhance retention.



The NBOME CATALYST Task Force is currently working on a pilot project with several interested clients. NBOME and

the clients plan to work together to determine how assessments and the assessment process using CATALYST are perceived by physicians, compared with traditional examinations and to associate performance on CATALYST with other traditional formative and summative assessment formats.

News from the NBOME Learning Center

The [NBOME Learning Center](#) is the NBOME home for online learning and assessment programs designed for use by osteopathic physicians and other health care professionals.

Elder Safety Modules, Reynolds Interprofessional Geriatric Education and Training in Texas (IGET-IT) Program



Two programs on the NBOME Learning Center, the **Fall Risk Education & Assessment** and **Elder Mistreatment** modules, are now available through the [Portal of Geriatrics Online Education](#) (POGOe) website as part of POGOe's **free** collection of expert-contributed geriatrics educational materials for educators and learners. The IGET-IT elder safety modules are also attracting the interest of colleges of osteopathic medicine

for use by their students and faculty. The University of North Texas Health Science Center Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) plans to incorporate both modules into its geriatrics curriculum. The Elder Mistreatment module is being used by faculty and second-year medical students at Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (WesternU/COMP). Midwestern University's Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (CCOM) will also provide their students with access to the Fall Risk Education and Assessment module.

Available at no charge, the elder safety modules are part of an ongoing elder safety series developed with the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) Reynolds Interprofessional Geriatric Education and Training in Texas (IGET-IT) Program. Created in collaboration with the NBOME and designed by a team of physicians, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, social workers, physical therapists and dietitians, the elder safety

modules are designed for interdisciplinary formative assessment, review and continuing professional development. The IGET-IT Program is funded, in part, by a generous grant from the D.W. Reynolds Foundation. The elder safety modules were submitted for the "Product for the Decade" competition at the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation Grantee Annual Meeting. All submissions to the competition are included in [their virtual goody bag](#) containing links to all of the products entered.

Chronic Kidney Disease **OPAIM**

NBOME was honored to recognize the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI) as it celebrated its 75th anniversary this fall. NBOME helped commemorate the event, contributing to the ACOI history book, *A History of Osteopathic Internal Medicine: Celebrating the ACOI's First 75 Years*. In concert with the ACOI 75th Anniversary, the NBOME is offering a special promotion of the **Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Osteopathic Performance Assessment and Improvement Module (OPAIM)** to internists. From October 18 through December 31, 2016 (75 days), the CKD OPAIM is available for purchase on the NBOME Learning Center at a reduced rate of \$75, a discount of \$125. The CKD OPAIM can be accessed at ilearn.nbome.org.

Developed jointly by the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine (AOBIM) and the NBOME, the CKD OPAIM is approved

by the American Osteopathic Association Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (AOA-BOS) for AOBIM diplomates completing the American Osteopathic Association Osteopathic Continuing Certification (AOA-OCC) Component 4. In addition to OCC Component 4 credit, diplomates can also earn 20 Category 1-B AOA CME credits for completing the new CKD OPAIM module.



Of Osteopathic Interest

The NBOME showcased its recently revised *Fundamental of Osteopathic Medical Competency Domains* (FOMCD 2016) in the September issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*, including an introductory editorial by John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO, *Redefining Competency Domains for Osteopathic Medical Practice*. At the recent OMED conference, the NBOME also shared its newly released *COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-19*, which is informed by the FOMCD 2016 and provides the foundation for the new COMLEX-USA examination blueprints that will be rolled out beginning in 2018.

A recent feature in *The DO*, the online newsletter of the American Osteopathic Association, *Osteopathic recognition matters: Medical students value the 'DO difference'*, calls attention to the growing number of osteopathic medical students who wish to be distinguished for their practice of osteopathic medicine during residency training. As the transition toward a single accreditation system continues, students are indicating their preference for ACGME-accredited residency programs that differentiate them for their continued training in osteopathic principles and offer the prestigious "Osteopathic Recognition" designation.

A new study on *The Predictive Validity of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners' COMLEX-USA Examinations with Regard to Outcomes on American Board of Family Medicine Examinations* by O'Neill, Thomas R. PhD; Peabody, Michael R. PhD; Song, Hao PhD was published in the November 2016 issue of *Academic Medicine*. Lead authors from the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) conclude that COMLEX-USA performance helps to predict successful performance in ABFM resident in-service examinations and board certification examinations.

Quick Links for Osteopathic Medical Students

- More and more people are following the NBOME on social media. If you haven't done so already, connect with us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!
- Check out important and helpful information at www.nbome.org:
 - > [COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information 2016-2017](#)
 - > [COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2-CE and Level 3 Examination Dates for 2016 and 2017](#)
 - > [FAQs for COMLEX-USA Level-1, 2-CE and Level 3 Examinations](#)
 - > [COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE Pre-Examination FAQ](#) and [Post-Examination FAQ](#)
 - > [COMSAE Self-Assessment Examinations](#)



Send submissions, questions or comments about *The Osteopathic Examiner* to the Editor:

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NBOME'S STRATEGIC GOALS

Continuum of Competency Assessment

Expand competency assessment across the osteopathic medical education, training and practice continuum

Performance Excellence

Integrate performance excellence in our products, processes and services

Engaged Workforce

Cultivate the most capable, most qualified and engaged national faculty and staff

International Growth & Development

Expand our presence and participation in the international arena

Collaboration

Strengthen collaborative efforts in research, innovations, and patient safety

The NBOME's Mission

To protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions