

THE OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINER



A quarterly publication of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

SPRING 2013

THIS QUARTER

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Welcome to the Osteopathic Examiner, a quarterly newsletter providing information about the NBOME's many activities in the arena of assessment for osteopathic competencies and related health care professions.

NBOME a key sponsor at AACOM and AODME Annual Joint Meeting 2013

As a Sustaining Diamond Sponsorship, the NBOME had a significant presence at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), held jointly this year with the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (AODME) in April in Baltimore, MD.

The cornerstone of the sponsorship is the NBOME Update Luncheon, where NBOME senior leaders had the opportunity to address all conference attendees. Approximately 400 participants were on hand to hear the latest news and developments from the NBOME. In addition to John Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President & CEO, the large NBOME contingent at the meeting was led by NBOME Board Chair, Dr. Janice Knebl, and Vice Chair, Dr. Wayne Carlsen. NBOME leadership held a number of other meetings with key groups while in Baltimore, including the AACOM Board of Deans, the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) and the AODME Board of Directors.

Drs. Knebl and Gimpel presented to the AODME Board of Directors on April 23. Feedback was excellent, and the NBOME appreciates the collaborative spirit of outgoing AODME President and NBOME Board Member, Dr. Rich LaBaere.

In addition, the NBOME held a pre-conference COMAT workshop, attended by current and prospective COMAT users. COMAT is the NBOME's series of subject examinations used by the colleges of osteopathic medicine.



Drs. Knebl, Carlsen and Gimpel were joined by NBOME Senior Vice President for Cognitive Testing, Dr. Bruce Bates, for a presentation to the COSGP on April 26. Student leaders were very complimentary of NBOME's outreach and collaborative efforts with student leaders.

Dr. Janice Knebl addresses participants at the NBOME Update luncheon. More than 400 meeting attendees joined the NBOME Update Luncheon during the AACOM/AODME Annual Meeting.

Despite tragedy, FSMB Annual Meeting goes on; provides great opportunity for meeting and collaborating

The city of Boston served as the venue for the Federation of State Medical Boards' (FSMB) annual meeting held in April. Although the timing unfortunately coincided with the tragic events of the Boston marathon bombing and its aftermath, the meeting went on and by all accounts was a great success.

The NBOME's gold sponsorship of both the meeting and the Platter Luncheon presentation attended by nearly 400 participants was also highly successful. NBOME Board Chair, Dr. Janice Knebl, had the honor of greeting the luncheon participants prior to the keynote address. The NBOME was well represented by Dr. Knebl as well as President & CEO, Dr. John Gimpel; Vice President for Continuous Professional Development and Innovations, Dr. Erik Langenau; and several Board members. The NBOME provided the annual "NBOME and COMLEX-USA Update" Presentation, which was also very well attended.

While in Boston prior to the FSMB meeting, Dr. Gimpel gave an "NBOME and COMLEX-USA Update" to the Administrators in Medicine (AIM) organization, which included executive directors from more than 50 of the state medical and osteopathic medical licensing boards.

The NBOME was represented by Drs. Knebl, Gimpel and Langenau at the annual meeting of the American Association of

Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE), also held in Boston in conjunction with the FSMB meeting. Dr. Knebl also participated with Dr. Langenau at an FSMB Maintenance of Licensure Pilot Board session.



Dr. Janice Knebl addresses attendees at the Platter Lecture Luncheon while the FSMB's Lance Talmage, MD, looks on.

Article on Osteopathic Regulatory Summit published in *The DO*

A follow up article to the December 2012 U.S. Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit, which was organized by the NBOME in Philadelphia, was recently published in *The DO* magazine. You can read it here: <http://www.do-online.org/TheDO/?p=133561>

TheDO

New research on correlation between COMLEX-USA Examinations and other in-training exams

Recent research by a group of physicians in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia found a significant correlation between performance on COMLEX-USA Level 1 and COMLEX-USA Level 2 Cognitive Evaluation (CE) with performance on both the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) and the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians (ACOEP) emergency medicine resident in-training examinations. The correlation was strongest between COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE and

the ABEM examination. In early March, Dr. Deborah Pierce presented the information at the Council of Emergency Medicine Residency Program Directors (CORD) Academic Assembly in Denver, Colorado.

[Click here to view/download larger](http://www.soloteam.ca/ftp/ppt.pptx)
<http://www.soloteam.ca/ftp/ppt.pptx>

NBOME Board members receive high honors

On February 15, NBOME Board member, Dr. William Anderson, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan State University's (MSU) All-University Excellence in Diversity Recognition and Awards program. The presentation described Dr. Anderson's extraordinary qualifications for the award: "This award is in recognition of your remarkable efforts and long history of outstanding accomplishments in the areas of diversity, pluralism and social justice." Dr. Anderson received the award from MSU President Lou Anna Simon.



Dr. Anderson is pictured with MSU President, Lou Anna Simon (left), and MSU Acting Provost, June Youatt, following the award presentation.



NBOME Board member and Secretary/Treasurer, John W. Becher, DO, was honored with the Edward R. Knight Award for Community Service and Physician Leadership by the AtlantiCare Foundation on May 4th in Atlantic City, NJ. Over 1200 people were in attendance at the gala event in Atlantic City.



NBOME Board member, Millicent King Channell, DO, was accepted as a Fellow in the 2013-2014 Class of the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program. The ELAM program is based at Drexel University in Philadelphia. According to the ELAM website: ELAM's year-long program develops the professional and personal skills required to lead

and manage in today's complex healthcare environment, with special attention to the unique challenges facing women in leadership positions. NBOME Board Chair, Dr. Janice Knebl, is also an ELAM Fellow. For more information:

http://www.drexelmed.edu/drexel-pdf/program-elam/ELAM_2013-fellows-announcement.pdf

NBOME Board, National Faculty members named to key leadership roles

The NBOME is well represented in key leadership roles in the house of medicine. At the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE) Meeting in Boston in April, the following new officers were elected:

- Dr. Geraldine O'Shea – NBOME Board/Executive Committee member, California, President
- Dr. Anna Hayden, Florida, Vice President
- Dr. Ernest Miller, West Virginia, Secretary/Treasurer

The AAOE is an organization of osteopathic physician members of state medical and osteopathic medical licensing boards. Congratulations to Dr. O'Shea and best wishes in leading the

AAOE for the next two years. And congratulations as well to NBOME Board member, Dr. Dana Shaffer, who concluded his two year term as AAOE President and is now Immediate Past President.

At the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) House of Delegates, Donald Polk, DO from Tennessee, was named Chair-Elect of the FSMB. Dr. Polk, a member of the NBOME's National Faculty, will be only the third osteopathic physician to serve as FSMB Chair in its more than 100-year history. You can read more about Dr. Polk's background on the [FSMB website](#).

NBOME's OPAIM program launches and gains AOA-BOS approval in April 2013

The NBOME's Osteopathic Performance Assessment and Improvement Module (OPAIM™) program, designed to satisfy American Osteopathic Association requirements for osteopathic continuous certification (OCC), is now live.

In April 2013, the American Osteopathic Association's Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists released a flyer showing approval of NBOME's OPAIMs for satisfying component 4 of their OCC requirements.

Two OPAIM modules are now available to osteopathic residents and physicians: Medication Safety Communication and Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment for Low Back Pain during Pregnancy. Each OPAIM is a comprehensive collection of learning components and formative assessments carefully designed to foster lifelong learning for osteopathic physicians. OPAIM evaluations combine pre-knowledge assessment, pre-practice assessment, educational material, self-reflection, post-knowledge assessment and post-practice assessment.

Assessment and educational materials are osteopathically distinct and designed specifically for DOs.

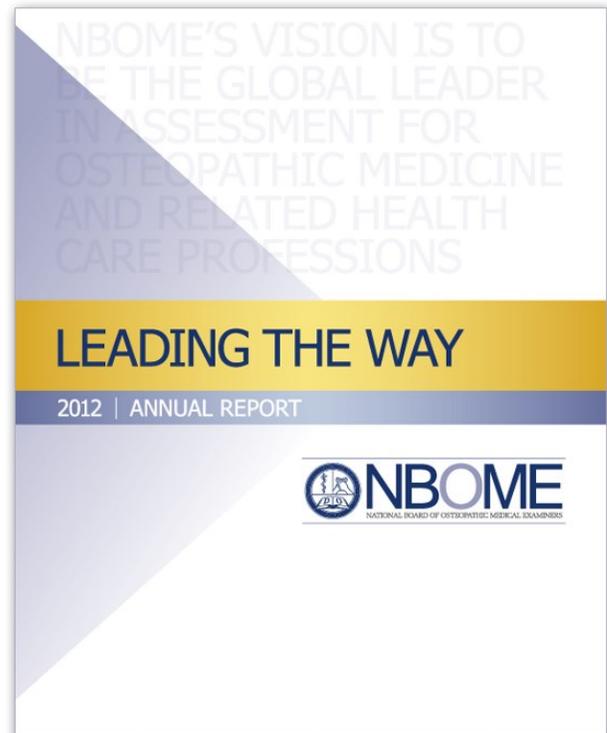
The NBOME actively seeks to collaborate with specialty boards and colleges to develop cost-effective and convenient options for physician assessment in the context of continuous professional development. NBOME's specific focus is on developing tools to satisfy requirements for Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) and Maintenance of Licensure (MOL), to help ensure osteopathic physicians have the knowledge and skills required for the delivery of high quality, safe care to their patients. Information regarding the two available OPAIM titles can be found at <http://www.nbome.org/OPAIM.asp>.



NBOME publishes the 2012 Annual Report in April

The NBOME 2012 annual report was published in April. It is entitled "Leading the Way," reflecting the NBOME's vision of being the "global leader" in osteopathic assessment and its considerable progress in 2012.

The report summarizes the many important activities and accomplishments of the NBOME Board, staff and National Faculty – quite a challenge in a year as action-packed and productive as was 2012. In addition to providing copies to stakeholder groups at important national meetings such as the Federation of State Medical Boards' (FSMB) Annual Meeting and the combined Annual Meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (AODME), the Annual Report is forwarded electronically to numerous others, including the members of the NBOME National Faculty, college of osteopathic medicine (COM) Deans, residency program directors, and members and staff of state medical licensing boards. It is currently available on the homepage of the NBOME website, www.nbome.org, in the feature section.



New NBOME website, Facebook page launched

The NBOME's new website and Facebook page went live in February, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. The launch plan included notification to staff, National Faculty, the colleges of osteopathic medicine, residency program directors, other key stakeholders and approximately 20,000 COMLEX-USA candidates. With the launch of a new website, the NBOME also introduced its Facebook page, targeted primarily at osteopathic medical students and residents and others in the profession engaged in social media. Please be sure to spread the word, and like us too!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/National-Board-of-Osteopathic-Medical-Examiners/119232988225958?ref=ts>

Here's a sampling of the feedback:

Students: "The new website is awesome!" "It's more contemporary and easy to use."

COM representatives: "Your new site is well organized and clean. It's very easy to find content. A dream!"

"I just logged onto the website, and what a surprise – a very good surprise! I love the new layout!! It is easy to use, very clear, and just over-all great! I love it!"



Board members: "GREAT JOB! It is much clearer and a cleaner design and easy to move about!"

"I like the new look. I did not have to run a Google search to find what I was looking for; everything was easy to find on the home page. I also like the first thing that catches the eye was the **mission to protect the public.**"



COMAT UPDATE

New features, new subject on the horizon

Beginning in July 2013, the number of items in each COMAT subject examination will increase from the current 100 to 125, with an additional 30 minutes now allowed for the examination administration. Also, a highlighting feature will be added in July to NBOME current COMAT subject examinations. This feature will resemble the current highlighting feature available on the COMLEX-USA examinations. Development has begun on a COMAT Emergency Medicine examination, with expected release in 2015.

New client services hours

At the beginning of April, the NBOME extended its hours for Client Services phone availability, adding four hours per day. Twelve-hour (7 AM- 7 PM Eastern time) customer service phone coverage began Monday, March 4th.



MEETING ROUNDUP

Standard Setting for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation

In March, two panels of medical professionals convened at the NBOME's National Center for Clinical Skills Testing (NCCST) in Philadelphia to review the standards for the Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM)/Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT) dimension of the Biomedical/Biomechanical Domain of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation (PE). In April, two additional panels reviewed the standards for the Data Gathering and SOAP Note dimensions of the Biomedical/Biomechanical Domain of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE. The NBOME Board will review recommendations, along with other stakeholder survey data, and is likely to implement a new standard for this domain in July 2013.

NBOME holds teleconference with student and resident leaders

On February 20, John Gimpel, DO, MEd, President & CEO and NBOME Director for Communications, Mary Coyle, held a teleconference with representatives of the Council of Interns and Residents (CIR), the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) and the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA). The student and resident leaders were updated on NBOME initiatives, including the hosting of the United States Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit 2012, continued efforts to educate residency program directors about COMLEX-USA, and the release of the NBOME website Facebook page. They discussed ways the NBOME and student groups can engage with one another and share information to promote the osteopathic profession and osteopathically distinct assessment.

ACGME

Erik Langenau, DO, Vice President for Continuous Professional Development and Innovations, represented the NBOME at the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Annual Educational Conference in Orlando, Florida, February 28 - March 3, 2013. The NBOME's new brochure, "What Residency Program Directors Should Know about COMLEX-USA," was featured during the meeting and distributed to nearly 500 program directors and educational coordinators. The [brochure](#) includes information about converting three-digit COMLEX-USA score to a percentile score, and about the correlation between COMLEX-USA scores and performance in residency.

NBOME National Faculty Transformation continues

The NBOME Board of Directors as well as the other 800 physicians, PhDs, MPHs, RNs, JDs, and other subject matter experts comprise NBOME's National Faculty. Currently 30 of the 34 Examination, Department and Division Chairs have been appointed by the NBOME Board, and the Chairs are guided by NBOME Senior Vice President for Cognitive Testing Bruce Bates, DO and Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing Jeanne Sandella, DO. For more information on NBOME's National Faculty, or to get further involved, visit the [NBOME website](#).

AOA mid-year meetings

NBOME Board Chair Dr. Janice Knebl and President & CEO Dr. John Gimpel were on hand to make a presentation to the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) Board of Trustees at its Midyear Business Meeting in March. In addition, a meeting was held with AOA-Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (AOA-BOS) leaders for an update on osteopathic continuous certification (OCC). Dr. Knebl and Dr. Gimpel met with incoming FSMB Chair Jon Thomas, MD, on maintenance of licensure and other related issues. Also that week, NBOME officials met with leaders from the National Commission for Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), continuing discussions regarding a number of areas of collaboration.

COM visits continue

The NBOME typically visits about 10 colleges of osteopathic medicine each year. Most often the visits are to provide faculty development and COMLEX-USA and COMAT Updates to faculty and students, to provide other timely information, to garner feedback and to recruit additional members for National Faculty involvement. This spring, NBOME President & CEO, John Gimpel, DO, MEd, made several presentations to faculty and students at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) in Lewisburg, WV, and to the faculty and students at Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) in Blacksburg, VA. Dr. Hao Song, Senior Director for Psychometrics and Research for Cognitive Testing presented item-writing workshops to faculty on the campuses at Touro-California in San Francisco and Pacific Northwest University-COM in Yakima, WA. Drs. Gimpel and Song presented an item-writing workshop and faculty update at the UMDNJ-SOM in Stratford, NJ. Interested in an NBOME visit? Please contact **Anna Weston** at aweston@nbome.org.

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

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