As reported in the February 2017 issue of The Osteopathic Examiner, enhancements to COMLEX-USA computer-based exams are being implemented this year. In March, the new Optional Break Time enhancement was launched with the COMLEX-USA Level 3 examinations. The NBOME extends its appreciation to all those who contributed to the development of COMLEX-USA, COMAT and other NBOME assessments and services. Click here to access a device-adaptable version of the report to learn more about important NBOME highlights from 2016.

COMLEX-USA Computer-Based Examination Enhancements

In addition, lab values with reference ranges and a standard calculator feature debuted. These enhancements will be implemented in the new test cycles for COMLEX-USA Level 1 in May, and for Level 2-Cognitive Evaluation (Level 2-CE) in June.

Information about the new enhancements is being widely communicated to examinees and can be found in the updated Test Day Tips and FAQ on the NBOME website, as well as periodic announcements on social media.

COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE Orientation Guide

The Orientation Guide provides background of the exam structure, and assists examinees with an understanding of what happens on exam day at the National Center for Clinical Skills Testing locations in Philadelphia and Chicago.

The New Residency Program Director’s Guide to COMLEX-USA

COMLEX-USA – Perfectly Matched!

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Annual Education Conference Showcases COMLEX-USA

Upgrades at the National Center for Clinical Skills Testing-Philadelphia

CATALYST Pilot with AOA, AOBIM and AOBP

New COMAT Comparative School Performance Reports

Dr. Ajluni Appointed American Osteopathic Foundation President

Terri Donlin Huesman Promoted to Executive Vice President

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Connect with NBOME

The NBOME 2016 Annual Report, “CATALYST,” was released at the Joint Conference of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (AODME) 2017 Meeting in April. The NBOME extends its appreciation to all those who contributed to the development of COMLEX-USA, COMAT and other NBOME assessments and services. Click here to access a device-adaptable version of the report to learn more about important NBOME highlights from 2016.

NBOME Releases 2016 Annual Report

As reported in the February 2017 issue of The Osteopathic Examiner, enhancements to COMLEX-USA computer-based exams are being implemented this year. In March, the new Optional Break Time enhancement was launched with the COMLEX-USA Level 3 examinations. With this enhancement, the morning and afternoon optional 10-minute breaks no longer count against allocated time for the examination.

In addition, lab values with reference ranges and a standard calculator feature debuted. These enhancements will be implemented in the new test cycles for COMLEX-USA Level 1 in May, and for Level 2-Cognitive Evaluation (Level 2-CE) in June.

Information about the new enhancements is being widely communicated to examinees and can be found in the updated Test Day Tips and FAQ on the NBOME website, as well as periodic announcements on social media.

The Orientation Guide provides background of the exam structure, and assists examinees with an understanding of what happens on exam day at the National Center for Clinical Skills Testing locations in Philadelphia and Chicago.

Continued >>
The New Residency Program Director’s Guide to COMLEX-USA

The NBOME updated its Residency Program Director’s Guide to COMLEX-USA, located on the NBOME website. The Guide contains important information for Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) program directors, program coordinators and others in the graduate and undergraduate medical education community about how COMLEX-USA scores can assist in evaluating residency program applicants. Of special interest to many is the easy-to-use score converter that converts a three-digit COMLEX-USA score to a percentile rank as well as resources on evidence for the validity and score concordance of COMLEX-USA.

Newly featured, peer-reviewed publications include:


COMLEX-USA – Perfectly Matched!

Each year in March, graduating medical students successfully match into Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited residency programs through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Main Residency Match. This follows the American Osteopathic Association’s National Matching Service match to AOA-approved programs in February.

With the transition to the ACGME Single Accreditation System by 2020 – which will combine AOA and ACGME accreditation for graduate medical education programs – more osteopathic medical students and graduates are applying and matching into ACGME-accredited programs that recognize COMLEX-USA in evaluating and selecting their applicants. The 2016 NRMP Program Director Survey Results reports that 77 percent of ACGME program directors use COMLEX-USA scores in evaluating their applicants.

On March 17, NRMP Match Day 2017, a record high 2,933 osteopathic medical students, or an historic 81.7 percent of all students and graduates of osteopathic medical schools who applied to the NRMP Main Match, were accepted into ACGME programs, according to the NRMP®. The NRMP Specialties Matching Service® reported that osteopathic medical school graduates also successfully matched into fellowship training programs at the highest rate ever, with 81 percent successfully matching. The number of registered U.S. osteopathic medical school graduates totaled 1,060, a 12 percent increase over 2016 and a 67.2 percent over 2013.

“While the primary purpose of COMLEX-USA is for physician licensure, and the NBOME advocates for holistic application processes for all residences, it is good to know that the vast majority of all residency and fellowship training programs recognize and accept COMLEX-USA and DO applicants,” said John R. Gimpel, NBOME President and CEO. “This confirms that COMLEX-USA is not only perfectly matched for osteopathic medical licensure and assurance for patients, but also for DO applicants to the majority of their top choice postgraduate training programs, including ACGME-accredited residency and fellowship programs.”

Continued >>
COMLEX-USA – Perfectly Matched-continued

Students who recently matched to residency programs using their COMLEX-USA scores as their only exam scores are sharing their personal experiences through the NBOME COMLEX-USA #PerfectlyMatched! social media campaign. Visit our Facebook and Twitter pages to read some of the students' stories.

COMLEX-USA #PerfectlyMatched!

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Annual Education Conference Showcases COMLEX-USA

NBOME was an active participant at the annual ACGME Conference in March, attended by nearly 2,500 program directors, program coordinators and faculty. NBOME President and CEO John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, and Joseph C. Mazzola, DO, of the ACGME Family Medicine Residency Review Committee, co-presented a session on Understanding COMLEX-USA and AOA Specialty Board Certification: A Primer for Residency Program Directors. The session was moderated by Boyd R. Buser, DO, President of the American Osteopathic Association.

The NBOME exhibited at the ACGME conference, connecting directly with many in the ACGME community about how COMLEX-USA scores can be used in the evaluation of osteopathic medical students applying for residency in ACGME programs.

Upgrades at the National Center for Clinical Skills Testing-Philadelphia

The National Center for Clinical Skills Testing-Philadelphia location (NCCST-Philadelphia), which has served students taking the COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation (Level 2-PE) examination since 2004, has been updated and modernized to better serve examinees.

“Our improvements to the NCCST-Philadelphia are designed to improve the student experience, both with the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE and in serving other organizations’ clinical skills testing programs,” said Crystal Wilson, Director for Operations. “We’ve completed major functional and cosmetic upgrades for the nearly 20,000 square foot space in the testing center. The improvements are aligned with those of the recently opened NCCST-Chicago, so that the testing experience between the two locations is identical and interchangeable.”
NBOME continues to partner with client organizations to offer new and innovative approaches to competency assessment. The latest example is CATALYST, NBOME’s flexible, innovative assessment for learning platform that supports continuous professional development. CATALYST has been selected by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine (AOBIM) and the American Osteopathic Board of Pediatrics (AOBP), for pilot testing with AOBIM and AOBP diplomates who are board-certified osteopathic physicians.

“We are delighted to announce our collaboration with AOA, AOBIM and AOBP to pilot the CATALYST platform,” said John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO. “We believe this approach to competency assessment is attractive to both testing organizations and to examinees, and we greatly appreciate the willingness of practicing physicians to participate in the pilot study.”

The CATALYST platform provides an alternative to the traditional multiple-choice examinations in applications such as Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC), through which osteopathic physicians maintain certification. Questions can be delivered in small batches on an ongoing basis over a period of time. CATALYST also offers easy access and convenience to examinees; questions are delivered via smartphone, tablets or computers and can be answered at any time. Feedback is immediate, including correct answers, and is directed toward improvement resources based on their individual learning needs.

Under the pilot program, participating AOBIM and AOBP diplomates will be receiving and answering two questions per week each week over a 16-week period through July. In addition to receiving immediate feedback, participants will be able to rate their confidence in their answers along with the relevance of each question to practice. At the end of the pilot the AOA will award participants 20 AOA CME Specialty Specific CME credits. CATALYST is also being targeted for other applications, such as resident in-service assessment and COMSAE examinations. For additional information about CATALYST and how it may benefit your organization contact Joe Flamini, NBOME Vice President for Administration/COO at jflamini@nbome.org.

In response to requests from colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs), NBOME released the new Comparative School Performance Reports for the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Test (COMAT). COMs use COMAT subject examinations to support their needs to evaluate students in eight core disciplines. The new report enables COMs to easily compare their performance in each of the core disciplines to national data and other COMs. Reports from the 2015-2016 testing cycle are currently available; reports for the 2016-2017 testing cycle will be posted in late summer.

Dr. Ajluni Appointed American Osteopathic Foundation President

Congratulations to Peter B. Ajluni, DO, a member of the NBOME Board, who was recently named 2017 American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF) Board President. As AOF Board President, Dr. Ajluni will work to expand the foundation’s global outreach and increase fundraising to support the osteopathic profession.

"The AOF's support of the profession has improved the lives of countless patients across the country and around the world. It is my honor to help advance these noble goals working in partnership with my colleagues serving on the AOF Board,” said Dr. Ajluni.

A board-certified orthopedic surgeon from Michigan, Dr. Ajluni joined the NBOME Board in 2013 and serves on the Board’s Audit Committee. A member of the AOF Board since 2013, he also served as president of the American Osteopathic Association and the Michigan Osteopathic Association.
Terri Donlin Huesman, MBA, a member of the NBOME Board from Columbus, Ohio, has been promoted to Executive Vice President of the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations, previously serving as the Foundations’ Vice President of Programs.

Ms. Donlin Huesman has been with the Foundations for nearly 20 years and has served in a number of positions, primarily in the areas of development and grant making. Her expanded duties will include serving as the Foundations’ chief operations and grant making executive. Ms. Donlin Huesman serves on NBOME’s Audit Committee.

“Terri’s promotion to Executive Vice President is a recognition of her management accomplishments and valuable contributions in helping advance the mission of the Foundations in serving our targeted communities,” said Rick Vincent, president and CEO. “We recognize she will play an integral role in the future of the Foundations’ service and support provided to our communities in improving health and quality of life.”

Richard A. Ortoski, DO, has received the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Master Preceptor Award for his dedication to training osteopathic medical students in family medicine. The award was presented in March 2017 at the ACOFP Convention and Scientific Seminar. Dr. Ortoski is the Regional Dean and Chair/Professor of Primary Care Medicine/Family Medicine at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) in Erie, Pennsylvania. He has been a member of the NBOME Board since 2014 and is Chair of the Board’s Standards and Assurances Committee. Dr. Ortoski has served on numerous NBOME board and operational committees, including the Awards Committee, Clinical Skills Testing Advisory Committee and the COMLEX-USA Composite Examination Committee.

National Faculty Named NAOME Fellows

Congratulations to Karen Snider, DO, a member of the Executive Committee of the NBOME Board of Directors, and Drew Lewis, DO, a member of the NBOME National Faculty, for being named Fellows with the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine’s (AACOM) National Academy of Osteopathic Medical Educators (NAOME) for the 2017-2022 term. Dr. Snider is Professor and Assistant Dean for Osteopathic Principles and Practice (OPP) Integration at the A.T. Still University–Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (ATSU-KCOM). Dr. Lewis is Associate Professor at Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine and serves on numerous exam committees of the NBOME National Faculty.

COM Outreach

On March 17, NBOME President and CEO John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, visited the Parker, Colorado campus of Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine to provide update presentations to students and faculty on NBOME and COMLEX-USA.

Dr. Gimpel also visited the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) on April 18 and presented a NBOME update to a crowd of more than 200 faculty and students.
Visitation Day at NBOME in Philadelphia

On April 10, the NBOME welcomed deans, faculty and staff from five colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) at its Philadelphia Executive Offices. Guests had an opportunity to meet with NBOME leadership and hear about COMLEX-USA and COMAT assessments. Guests toured the National Center for Clinical Skills Testing-Philadelphia, one of two locations where the COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation (Level 2-PE) is delivered. Visitors represented Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The Visitation Day program has been in existence since 2004, and is offered twice yearly. Participants spend the day learning more about NBOME, our examination programs, testing centers and other services. Attendees appreciate the opportunity to visit and would recommend it to others. The next Visitation Day will be in November in Chicago; contact Rachel Maxwell (rmaxwell@nbome.org) for information.

Global Connections

NBOME actively participates and represents the osteopathic medicine assessment community at medical education, training and assessment conferences and events. Recent events include:

American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Board of Trustees Midyear Business Meeting on March 1, where John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO, presented NBOME's program enhancements and innovations in assessment, including the new CATALYST continuous assessment program. The AOA Board of Trustees Midyear Business meeting includes reports from various affiliate organizations, including the NBOME, and acts on resolutions that shape AOA policy on various topics.

Association for Test Publishers (ATP) Innovations in Testing Conference held March 5 to 8, where NBOME staff participated in sessions with testing professionals on leading innovations in assessment.

Coalition for Physician Accountability Members (l.-r.): Greg Snyder, MD, Chair-elect, Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, President and CEO, FSMB, Richard Bowyer, MDiv, FSMB and Dana C. Shaffer, DO, NBOME Board Vice-Chair, Wayne R. Carlsen, DO, NBOME Board Immediate Past Chair, and John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO.

Coalition for Physician Accountability held its spring meeting at the National Board of Medical Examiners offices on March 6 and 7 in Philadelphia. This meeting, held twice a year, brings together the top 40 leaders in American medical regulation, education, assessment, licensure and certification. NBOME representatives include Dana C. Shaffer, DO, NBOME Board Vice-Chair, Wayne R. Carlsen, DO, NBOME Board Immediate Past Chair, and John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO.

The Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA) Board of Directors met in March, and was attended by NBOME President John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, who is the Board treasurer. The OIA is comprised of representatives from more than 30 countries where osteopathic medicine or osteopathy is regulated or working toward general regulation.
The FSMB 2017 Annual Meeting, Planning for the Future: Perspectives in Medical Regulation, took place April 20-22, 2017 in Fort Worth, Texas. The FSMB is a national organization recognizing all state medical boards within the United States that license osteopathic physicians, among other medical professionals. Our presence at FSMB reinforces our ongoing outreach with FSMB and its member boards regarding licensure for osteopathic physicians in support of our mission and protection of the public.

In support of the FSMB and its mission, the NBOME was once again a Gold Sponsor of the meeting and the Thursday Platter Luncheon and exhibited at the conference. NBOME leaders attending the conference included Gary L. Slick, DO, MA, Board Chair, Dana C. Shaffer, DO, Board Vice-Chair, John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO and Sandra Waters, MEM, VP for Collaborative Assessment and Initiatives. Gary Slick, DO, MA, NBOME Board Chair, gave the welcome to attendees to the Dr. Herbert M. Platter Lecture, given by Jeffrey Arnett, PhD, on “Emerging Adulthood: Millennials and Generational Differences.” NBOME staff and Board leaders attended meetings of the Administrators in Medicine as well as the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners, held during the conference.

On Friday, April 21, the FSMB hosted a plenary panel discussion on “Duty to Report: Sharing Information to Protect Patients.” Distinguished faculty expert, Geraldine T. O’Shea, DO, NBOME Board Member and Secretary-Treasurer, participated in this panel. Keeping patients safe and protecting the public are NBOME priorities and are reflected in the COMLEX-USA program and eligibility requirements.

American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE) Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE) took place during the FSMB 2017 Annual Meeting in Fort Worth. The meeting was presided by AAOE President and FSMB Board Member, Anna Hayden, DO. Gary Slick, DO, MA, NBOME Board Chair, John Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO and Sandra Waters, MEM, VP for Collaborative Assessment and Initiatives provided a NBOME update. Barbara Walker, DO, of the North Carolina Board of Medicine was installed as AAOE President, succeeding 2016-17 AAOE President, Anna Hayden, DO. Mary Jo Capodice, DO, Wisconsin Medical Board, and J. Michael Wieting, DO, Tennessee Board of Osteopathic Examination, were installed as AAOE Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively. In addition to Drs. Gimpel, Slick and Ms. Waters, also in attendance at the 2017 AAOE Annual Meeting were Dana Shaffer, DO, NBOME Board Vice-Chair, and Geraldine O’Shea, DO, Secretary-Treasurer.

Barbara Walker, DO (center, with Geraldine T. O’Shea and Gary L. Slick, DO, MA, NBOME Board Chair) of the North Carolina Medical Board was installed as the new AAOE President.
Meetings-continued

Joint American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)/Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (AODME) 2017 Meeting

The AACOM and AODME 2017 Annual Conference, Educating Leaders: Integrated Health Systems—A Paradigm for the Future, took place in Baltimore, Maryland, from April 25 through April 29. NBOME, a sustaining diamond sponsor, held a pre-conference workshop on April 25. John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO, Joe Flamini, MBA, Vice President for Administration/COO, Edward Tsai, PhD, Associate Vice President for Assessment Services & Research, and Roberta Wattleworth, DO, MPH, MHA, Chief Physician for Test Development, provided information and solicited feedback on the COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019 and blueprint enhancements, as well as developments in the COMAT program. NBOME staff member, Dot Horber, PhD, Director, Continuous Professional Development, co-delivered a presentation, Improving Patient Care Using an Interprofessional Team Approach with University of North Texas Health Science Center Sandra Marquez-Hall, PhD, Program Director and Assistant Professor, Reynolds P. Geriatrics Education & Training in Texas at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Lisa Mysker, NBOME Senior Editor co-presented Multiple Choices to Increase Exam Effectiveness at the National and School Level with multiple-choice testing with RowanSOM faculty, Pam Basehore, EdD, MPH and Jennifer Fischer, PhD. In addition, NBOME staff Laurie Gallagher, DO, Chief Physician Trainer and Natalie Lavelle, MEd, Director for Learning Technologies presented Clinical Skills Faculty Development: How to Enhance Standardization in Training. Isaac Li, PhD, Psychometrician, presented a poster, An Elaborate Scheme to Score and Analyze Clinical Decision-Making Exam Questions. In addition to many NBOME presentations, Drs. Gimpel, Slick and COMLEX-USA Composite Examination Committee Chair, Janice Knebl, DO, MBA, met with the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents to obtain feedback on enhancements to COMLEX-USA and communication strategies for the new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint. On Friday, April 28, NBOME leadership provided a NBOME and COMLEX-USA Update at the luncheon to hundreds of conference attendees. NBOME was on site in the exhibit hall during the conference, talking with COM faculty, leaders, students, program directors and directors of medical education about NBOME assessments, new initiatives and opportunities to get involved with the NBOME National Faculty.
Of Osteopathic Interest

In the News...

NBOME is pleased to announce the publication of Evidence-based Redesign of the COMLEX-USA Series by John R. Gimpel, DO, MED; Dorothy Horber, PhD; Jeanne M. Sandella, DO; Janice A. Knebl, DO; John E. Thornburg, DO, PhD in the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA), April 2017 issue.

NBOME’s work to use evidence-based research to redesign the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination-USA (COMLEX-USA) is captured in this article and also summarized in in the April 2017 issue of The DO, the online publication of the American Osteopathic Association.

The JAOA article highlights the evidence-based design processes that served as the foundation of the COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019, that will be implemented with the COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination in September 2018. Detailed exam specifications will be announced in summer 2017.

The article also addresses the intended purpose of COMLEX-USA for osteopathic licensure, as well as the secondary uses of test results in residency program applications, graduation requirements, and overall evaluation of osteopathic medical colleges and residency programs.

The March 27, 2017 issue of The DO includes the article Toward the Single Accreditation System - AOA program transition to ACGME.

With the ongoing transition to a single accreditation system for graduate medical education (GME) under the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the number of AOA residency and internship programs moving through the ACGME accreditation process is increasing. As of February 2017, 440 AOA programs have applied for accreditation since the transition began in July 2015; 146 of them have already obtained initial accreditation.

An Invitation to Join the NBOME National Faculty

The NBOME National Faculty is comprised of hundreds of leaders from the osteopathic medical profession nationwide who support the NBOME’s mission through their work on operational and governance committees, sub-committees and task forces, as well as through item writing, case development and other activities to assure the quality of the COMLEX-USA and COMAT portfolio of examinations. Members represent every specialty of osteopathic medical practice and other health care disciplines relevant to osteopathic medical practice, with 73% holding DO degrees, and the others with valued subject matter expertise and degree designations including PhD, MD, MPH, RN and JD. NBOME is continually seeking new members to join in this important work. For more information about the National Faculty program, including membership qualifications and requirements, contact Tracy Spinks, National Faculty Program Manager, at tspinks@nbome.org.

Connect with NBOME

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 in 2017
COMLEX-USA Score Release Dates
FAQs for COMLEX-USA Level-1, 2-CE and Level 3 Examinations
COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE Pre-Examination FAQ and Post-Examination FAQ

The NBOME’s Mission
To protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions.