

THE OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINER



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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.

The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners Installs New Board Chair

On December 3, 2011 during its annual Board meeting, The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) installed Janice Knebl, DO, MBA, as the new Chair of its Board of Directors.

Dr. Knebl of Ft. Worth, Texas replaces John Thornburg, DO, PhD of Okemos, Michigan, who had been Board Chair for two years. Dr. Thornburg becomes Immediate Past Chair and will serve an additional two years on the NBOME Board and Executive Committee.

Others elected during the NBOME's Annual Board meeting held in San Diego, California included Vice Chair, **Wayne Carlsen, DO** of Athens, Ohio and four new board members: **Bruce Bates, DO**, of Biddeford, Maine; **H. Timothy Dombrowski, DO, MPH** of Stratford, New Jersey; **Lori Kemper, DO, MS** of Glendale, Arizona; and **Roberta Wattleworth, DO, MHA, MPH** of Des Moines, Iowa.

Dr. Knebl, a native of Philadelphia, is a tenured Professor of Medicine and Chief, Division of Geriatrics/Department of Medicine at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine/University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC/TCOM) at Fort Worth. She received the Dallas Southwest Distinguished Endowed Chair in Clinical Geriatrics in 2003 and has been Chief of the Division of Geriatric Medicine within the Department of Medicine at UNTHSC/TCOM since 1988. In 2009, Dr. Knebl became Project Director of the UNTHSC Reynolds Geriatrics Education and Training in Texas (GET-IT) program, whose goal is the creation of curriculum in geriatric medicine for osteopathic medical students, residents in training and



practicing osteopathic physicians. Dr. Knebl was appointed to the NBOME Board of Directors in 1999, elected to the Executive Committee in 2003, served as Secretary/Treasurer from 2005 to 2009 and served as Vice Chair since 2009. She completed her osteopathic medical education at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"Becoming Chair of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners' Board is truly an honor, privilege and a highlight of my academic medical career," said Dr. Knebl. "I am very excited to take on this leadership role at the NBOME, as we begin implementing our 'Integrating Excellence' initiative throughout the organization and into all of our programs, products and services.

"I fully support and endorse the mission to protect the public by providing the means to assess competency in osteopathic medicine and related health care professions," Dr. Knebl added. *"I look forward to working with the NBOME's Board of Directors, President, Senior Leadership and staff."*

Pictured: Dr. John Thornburg (left) swears in Dr. Janice Knebl as the new NBOME Board Chair. Dr. John Gimpel, President & CEO, looks on.

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Annual Board Meeting: New NBOME Vice Chair Installed

Dr. Carlsen is Assistant Dean for Clinical Education and Associate Professor of Geriatric Medicine/Gerontology at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he has been a faculty member since 1993. He serves on the College's Executive Committee, and is the Medical Director for the College's Community Health Programs and Area Health Education Center. He has served as Medical Director of several skilled nursing facilities in southeast Ohio, and has been a practicing geriatrician for 20 years. Dr. Carlsen is a graduate of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of

Osteopathic Medicine. He maintains Fellowship status in both the American College of Osteopathic Internists and the American Geriatrics Society. Dr. Carlsen has served in a variety of capacities since he became involved with the NBOME in 1989. He has served on the NBOME Board since 2005, and prior to his appointment as Vice Chair, was also a member of the NBOME Executive Committee.

For additional information on the new NBOME Board members, read the full press release. http://www.nbome.org/docs/Press_Release_12-21-2011.pdf

NBOME Developing Strategic Plan; Mission, Vision, Values Confirmed

Much of the work conducted during the recent NBOME Annual Board meeting and retreat focused on development of the NBOME's 2012-2017 strategic plan.

An important part of the process addressed the critical guiding principles articulated in the NBOME's Mission, Vision and Values. After careful consideration and deliberation, the Board affirmed the existing NBOME Mission statement: ***"To protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions."*** This statement articulates the NBOME's purpose and how we go about achieving it; it defines who we are.

Similarly, after extensive discussion the NBOME Board constructed a somewhat revised and bold Vision statement for the future: ***"To be the global leader in assessment for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions."*** The notable change is the use of the broader term "global," which refers not only to the NBOME's international goals, but also to the greater breadth of clients the NBOME could potentially serve and the more holistic manner in which we might be able to meet their needs.

Extensive work was also done by the NBOME Board in assessing and further defining our Core Values. These

principles are critical as they help guide our organization's internal conduct as well as our relationships with the external constituencies. The thorough and inclusive process gathered input from NBOME stakeholders and staff prior to the Board review. Through this work, five Core NBOME Values were adopted:

Patient Safety
Integrity
Accountability
Excellence
Collaboration

The NBOME's strategic planning process is expected to be completed in June 2012, when the final plan will be presented for approval by the NBOME Board at its mid-year meeting. It will be published publicly shortly thereafter.

Pictured: Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MS (standing), President and CEO of the Federation of State Medical Boards, gave the NBOME Board a presentation on FSMB initiatives, including Maintenance of Licensure, at its recent Retreat.



NBOME Hires New Director of Test Development

The NBOME is pleased to announce that Mary A. Foertsch, PhD has recently joined the organization as the new Director of Test Development for Cognitive Testing.

Dr. Foertsch is based in our Chicago Corporate Offices and Conference Center, and reports to Dr. Gerald Osborn, Senior Vice President for Cognitive Testing. She will work closely with all test development staff to further improve processes and implementation for NBOME's cognitive-based exams.

Dr. Foertsch is a test development professional and comes to NBOME with many years of experience in computer-based testing, as well as significant experience in educational research and implementation, test

development and process improvement.

Most recently Dr. Foertsch was the Director for Test Development and Core Competencies at the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN). She has also served as the Director for the Department of Testing Services at the American Dental Association

Dr. Foertsch earned a PhD degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and her doctoral dissertation focused on evaluation of reading comprehension questions in a basal series. In addition, she earned a Master of Arts degree in Reading Education from Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee, WI and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Silver Lake College in Manitowoc, WI.

Focus group provides insight from the COMs

On Thursday, November 10, the NBOME hosted a Focus Group to address performance improvement between the NBOME and the colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) Deans' staff who use our systems.

The COMs represented were:

- **Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM)**
- **Western University of the Health Sciences (WesternU/COMP)**
- **University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth/Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNTHSC/TCOM)**
- **Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-COM)**
- **New York College of Osteopathic Medicine of New York Institute of Technology (NYCOM/NYIT)**
- **University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine (UMDNJ-SOM)**

NBOME staff representing Cognitive Testing, Clinical Skills Testing, Information Systems (IS), Client Services and Administration were

on hand to hear what the NBOME could do to improve its ability to meet the COMs' needs.

During the session, the NBOME staff provided a detailed overview of the Client Registration System, a critical scheduling and informational resource for both students and deans. Those attending made many helpful comments regarding its functionality and how to make it even better. The NBOME IS and Client Services Staff will organize the results, seek acceptance from the Focus Group Members and start on a aggressive timeline to implement the top priorities as identified in the meeting.

"Everyone who attended contributed and all participants went away with a sense of accomplishment," explained Larry Turner, NBOME's Vice President for Administration & COO, who led the session.

And the participants agreed, with one COM representative noting that this was *"one of the most productive workgroups in which [she had] participated!"*

COMAT Update

As we progress through the academic year, COMAT continues to develop nicely as a cooperative venture between the NBOME and the colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs). Here is an update on the latest developments:

- COMAT numbers continue to grow. Through December 16, 2011, the COMs had administered more than 5,400 COMAT examinations in all seven (7) subjects. The week of December 12, 2011 saw a record set with 887 individual administrations. In all, 19 colleges of osteopathic medicine are using COMAT.
- According to Dr. Linjun Shen, Vice President for Cognitive Testing and Research, COMAT score reporting now provides "normative data instantly, available any time any examination is given." In addition, NBOME's Information Systems division and the Cognitive Testing Scoring unit

have collaborated on a procedure to place COMAT scores on the Dean's pages for immediate and secure reporting.

- The COMs are adopting COMAT procedures and are seeking additional information to improve administration. The NBOME is answering the need in part through a monthly *COMAT Update* e-newsletter. In addition, the NBOME Client Services division has been praised for its support of the COM Coordinators and Proctors.



Throughout the year, the NBOME regularly participates in important stakeholder meetings. In the last quarter of 2011, the NBOME was represented at the following:

AOA OMED

At the 2011 American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) annual Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition in Orlando, Florida, the NBOME exhibit booth was very well attended. NBOME representatives were visited by a large number of stakeholders, including candidates, COM faculty members and deans, Specialty Board and Specialty College representatives, Residency Program Directors, AOA officials, and others.

Then- Board Chair John E. Thornburg, DO, PhD and Vice Chair Janice Knebl, DO, MBA joined NBOME President Dr. John Gimpel in presenting an NBOME Update to the Council of Student Council Presidents (COSGP) and the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) at their concurrent meetings. In addition, the NBOME released its new promotional brochure "NBOME Resources for Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC)" at the convention, at our exhibit booth and in special meetings and presentations with leaders of the AOA-Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (AOA-BOS) and the American Osteopathic Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

AAMC ANNUAL MEETING

The NBOME had a strong delegation in attendance at the Association of American Medical Colleges annual meeting and its Research in Medical Education (RIME) conference in Denver November 5-9.

In addition to a contingent of nine of NBOME's research-oriented and senior staff members, NBOME then Vice-Chair Dr. Janice Knebl was also in attendance. This was the first time the NBOME exhibited at the AAMC annual meeting. Exhibiting was in support of our efforts to reach residency program directors and provide information about the COMLEX-USA examination series.

AACOM BOARD OF DEANS

In November, Dr. Gimpel addressed the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine's (AACOM) Board of Deans at its annual 2011 Retreat in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. He updated the Deans on COMLEX-USA examination statistics and progress being made by the NBOME's Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA. Dr. Gimpel provided numerous examples of novel test item formats to the AACOM Board, further explaining the continuing evolution to a "New COMLEX-USA" as directed by the NBOME's Blue Ribbon Panel, with the anticipated release of an expanded communication on the "New COMLEX-USA" no later than the AACOM annual meeting in late March, 2012.

Dr. Gimpel took the opportunity to request feedback regarding additional COMAT initiatives, as well as efforts to continue to improve the testing experience for candidates. He also asked for feedback on NBOME communications efforts with candidates, COMs and other stakeholders.

COM Visits Abound

NBOME's President and CEO, Dr. John Gimpel, accompanied by a number of NBOME staff members, continues to make the rounds of the colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs).

In the last quarter of 2011, the NBOME visited the following COMs:

- **Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine**
- **Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine**
- **Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine**
- **University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-School of Osteopathic Medicine (UMDNJ-SOM)**

- **University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth / Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine**
- **University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine**
- **West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine**
- **Western University of Health Sciences/College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific**

An NBOME visit to a COM typically includes update presentations to staff and students, meetings with COM faculty, and on occasion, an Item Writing workshop or other Faculty Development activity. If you would like an NBOME representative to visit your COM, please email your request to mbpilon@nbome.org.

INTERESTED IN AN NBOME VISIT?

NBOME representatives regularly provide updates to groups and organizations wishing to learn the latest developments on the COMLEX-USA examination series for licensure and other assessment tools, such as the COMAT series of subject examinations, certification/ re-certification examinations, etc. If you would like an NBOME representative to visit your organization and give an update, please contact Mary Beth Pilon at mbpilon@nbome.org.

THE NBOME'S MISSION IS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC BY PROVIDING THE MEANS TO ASSESS COMPETENCIES FOR OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE AND RELATED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS.

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

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