

# THE OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINER



A quarterly publication of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

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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.

## Key decisions from NBOME's mid-year meetings

**A number of important decisions were taken during the NBOME Board of Directors mid-year meetings, held in late June in Chicago.**

### Strategic Plan approved

The NBOME Strategic Plan 2012-2016 was enthusiastically approved by its Board of Directors. The key components of the plan include the NBOME's mission, vision, core values and values statements, and strategic objectives.

### Mission

The NBOME's mission is to protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions.

### Vision

The NBOME's vision is to be the global leader in assessment for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions.

### Core Values & Values Statements

#### Patient Safety — The NBOME's primary goal

We pledge our priority to uphold the public's trust for safe and high quality health care from the individual patient to the global population.

#### Integrity — Doing the right thing, the right way

We carry out our mission with actions, communications and standards that are always honest, professional and fair, with the highest regard and respect for individuals.

#### Accountability — Owning our outcomes

We are responsible and accountable for our behaviors, actions, and outcomes; we all own

the success of our One NBOME Team, and take personal and professional responsibility.

#### Excellence — Doing our best

We strive to achieve the highest quality in our work, in our relationships and in our service, embracing change, and continuously improving and learning.

#### Collaboration — Working together

We operate as a team in a climate of trust, respect and cooperation toward each other, our constituents, and our partners.

### Strategic Objectives

#### Continuum of Competency Assessment —

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

**Performance Excellence** — Integrate performance excellence across the organization 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 assessments, research and patient safety across the continuum of osteopathic education and practice

**A comprehensive summary of the plan, including specific goals and initiatives in support of the five strategic objectives, will be published in the near future.**

## COMLEX-USA Policy Change: Individual Candidate Attempt Limits

**A policy change to limit the number of times a candidate can take any of the COMLEX-USA examinations was approved by the Board.** The following language has been added to the COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information for the July 2012 update.

**NOTICE of PLANNED CHANGE to POLICY:**  
Effective July 1, 2016, candidates taking COMLEX-USA

examinations will be limited to a total of six (6) attempts for each examination (COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2-CE, Level 2-PE and Level 3), including but not limited to all attempts prior to July 1, 2016. After June 30, 2016, no candidate will be allowed to take any examination more than six (6) times without obtaining approval from the NBOME.

## New passing standard for COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation Humanistic Domain

**In May, a panel of 22 professionals (DOs, PhDs, RNs and others) conducted a periodic Standard Setting exercise** to recommend a new passing standard for the Humanistic Domain of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation (PE). The new passing standard was approved by the NBOME Executive Committee of the Board as recommended, and went into effect in July 2012.

Periodic review and resetting of the pass/fail standards for COMLEX-USA examinations ensures the standards of osteopathic medical licensure assessment reflect current medical education and medical practice. The process is consistent with the NBOME's mission of protecting the public by assessing competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health professionals.

## Dr. Linjun Shen receives the Santucci Award

**Linjun Shen, PhD, MPH, former NBOME Vice President for Cognitive Testing and Research (left)**, is shown with Board Chair Janice Knebl, DO, MBA, and President & CEO John Gimpel, DO, MEd, after receiving the NBOME's highest honor, the Santucci Award during the Mid-Year Board dinner in Chicago. The Santucci Award is given in honor of outstanding contributions to the mission of the NBOME.



## Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA continues to make steady progress

Members of the Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) on Enhancing COMLEX-USA met on May 14 and 15 in Philadelphia under the direction of Dr. Janice Knebl, NBOME Board Chair and Chair of the Panel.

Great progress was made on the meeting objectives, particularly in the construction of the "Assessment Crosswalk." The Assessment Crosswalk process is aimed at determining appropriate assessments that would correspond to and measure the competencies outlined in the NBOME's Fundamental Osteopathic Medical Competency Domains 2011 document (see below).

Progress was also made in discussions related to the new three-dimension blueprint. The future COMLEX-USA will have a three-dimension blueprint, which includes the following: Competency Domains, Clinical Presentation and Lifecycle.

The BRP on Enhancing COMLEX-USA is charged with researching, considering and outlining a plan to implement a two-decision point, competency-based COMLEX-USA that is consistent with the NBOME's mission. Based on earlier

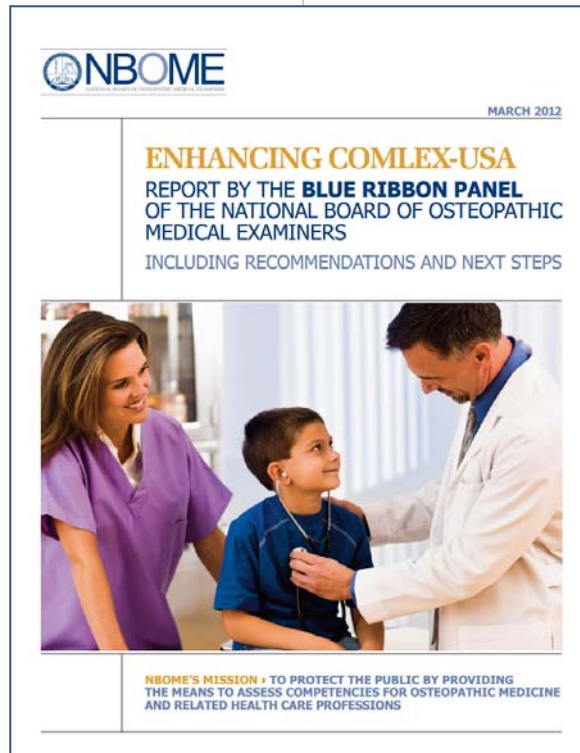
recommendations from the BRP on Enhancing COMLEX-USA, the two-decision point model would include:

- > A series of assessments leading to a decision for entry into supervised practice, i.e., in Residency/GME training (Decision Point 1)
- > A series of assessments leading to a decision for entry into unsupervised practice, i.e., unrestricted licensure (Decision Point 2)

Ongoing enhancements to COMLEX-USA examinations continue, including novel examination item-type formats now in all of the examinations, and transition to computer keyboard entry for the post-encounter SOAP Notes in COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation in July 2014.

For more information, read the March 2012 report from the BRP on Enhancing COMLEX-USA:

<http://www.nbome.org/docs/BRP-Enhancing%20COMLEX-USA%20final%20March%202012.pdf>



## FOMCD published with April JAOA

The NBOME's Fundamental Osteopathic Medical Competency Domains (FOMCD) 2011 document was published in April as a supplement to the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association's special osteopathic medical education edition. It went to more than 2,000 recipients, including osteopathic physicians who are faculty members at osteopathic medical colleges, directors of medical education, directors of osteopathic residency programs, state licensing board representatives and the libraries of all colleges of osteopathic medicine.

The FOMCD document is integral to the work of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA, and a future two-decision point model for the examination series. The FOMCD can be found online at:

<http://www.nbome.org/docs/NBOME%20Fundamental%20Osteopathic%20Medical%20Competencies.pdf>



## THE NBOME offers new assessment tools for OCC

The January 2013 deadline for implementing initiatives to comply with Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) is approaching, and the NBOME is committed to supporting specialty boards and colleges with the resources and tools they need to satisfy these and related continuous professional development requirements. Through our Department of Continuous Professional Development & Innovations, the NBOME is working with specialty boards and colleges to develop cost-effective and convenient options for assessment of physicians in the context of continuous professional development.

Among the many services available is a new type of performance -in-practice assessment – Osteopathic Performance Assessment and Improvement Module (OPAIM™). These web-based formative and practice assessment modules are designed for

clinical practice improvement for osteopathic physicians. They are osteopathically distinct and incorporate assessments of medical knowledge, practice performance, and self-reflection. They can be conveniently accessed at anytime from any location a physician has Internet access.

Two OPAIMs™ are now in development and will be available by the end of the year. In addition, the NBOME is happy to work with specialty boards and colleges to develop additional OPAIMs™ customized to their physicians' individual needs.

For more information regarding OPAIMs™ or other services available through the NBOME, please feel free to contact Erik Langenau, DO, Vice President for Continuous Professional Development and Innovations, at 610-825-6551 or [elangenau@nbome.org](mailto:elangenau@nbome.org).

## COMSAE bulk purchase for COMs now available

The NBOME recently introduced online bulk purchase of COMSAE – the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Self Assessment Examination – in response to requests from a number of the colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs). Through the NBOME's client registration system, COM representatives can purchase examinations, upload rosters, select timed or untimed options, and designate timeframes in which candidates can take the examinations. Once the purchase is complete, the system generates a confirmation and an email to the candidates with a link to their examination.



For more information on COMSAE bulk purchase, contact Margaret Wong, Client Services Manager, at [mwong@nbome.org](mailto:mwong@nbome.org) or view this tutorial: [http://www.nbome.org/docs/How to Purchase COMSAE for Your Students.pdf](http://www.nbome.org/docs/How_to_Purchase_COMSAE_for_Your_Students.pdf).

## NBOME 2011 Annual Report published - *A Clear Vision Being Realized*

The NBOME's 2011 annual report, entitled *A Clear Vision Being Realized*, was published in late April. Produced by the NBOME's Communications Division, the annual report serves as a key marketing and informational tool throughout the year. The report was distributed to key stakeholders including deans, executive directors of state licensing boards, NBOME National Faculty, residency program directors and others in the house of medicine. If you did not receive a copy and would like to have one, please email your request to NBOME Director for Communications, Mary C. Coyle, at [mcoyle@nbome.org](mailto:mcoyle@nbome.org).



View the report online at:

[http://www.nbome.org/docs/NBOME\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2011.pdf](http://www.nbome.org/docs/NBOME_Annual_Report_2011.pdf)

## NBOME Sustaining Diamond Sponsorship announced at AACOM Annual Meeting

Among the major highlights of the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) in Washington, DC, in late March, was an announcement by AACOM President, Dr. Stephen Shannon, of the NBOME's commitment as AACOM's first-ever Sustaining Diamond Sponsor.

The NBOME has partnered with AACOM for the past seven years to sponsor an NBOME Update Luncheon at the AACOM Annual

Meeting, and this event will continue to form the heart of the five-year sponsorship.

*"The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, which has for many years served as a sponsor of AACOM's Annual Meeting, recently cemented this long-term relationship by announcing that it will become the AACOM Annual Meeting's first ever Sustaining Diamond Sponsor,"* said Dr. Shannon. *"We are truly fortunate to have such a mutually supportive profession."*

## NBOME to deliver plenary presentations at OIA Annual Meeting in September

NBOME Board Chair, Dr. Janice Knebl, and President & CEO, Dr. John Gimpel will be making a presentation at the Regulators Forum at the 2012 Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA) Annual Meeting.

The presentation will focus on maintenance of licensure and revalidation in the health professions internationally. In addition, Dr. Gimpel will join OIA President Johannes Mayer, MD, DOM, from Germany in co-presenting on competencies for the osteopathic medical profession in a plenary session for the OIA Annual Meeting. The OIA Annual Meeting is slated for late September in Paris, France.



## The NBOME weighs in on international assessment

The NBOME participated in a consultation review of the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) Test for the General Medical Council (GMC), the organization that registers doctors to practice medicine in the United Kingdom. Dr. John Gimpel, President & CEO, and Dr. Jeanne Sandella, Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing, completed the review of the test, which is the main route by which International Medical Graduates demonstrate that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to practice medicine in the United Kingdom. In the consultation, the NBOME shared its FOMCD 2011 document as well as the recent update from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA. The NBOME looks forward to a continued collaborative relationship with the GMC and other licensing, regulation, certification and assessment authorities around the world.



### New NBOME Vice President for Finance hired

Joseph Cruitt, MBA, CPA, joined the NBOME in July as our new Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer. He is based in Chicago and reports to Dr. John Gimpel, President & CEO.

Mr. Cruitt served as the CFO for the American Cancer Society, Great Lakes Division, for the past 12 years. Prior to that, he held several financial positions in the healthcare sector, including Wake Forest Medical Center in North Carolina. A national search considered more than 100 applicants for the position.

### Crystal Wilson, MEd, takes on new role

Crystal Wilson, MEd, Managing Director for the NBOME's National Center for Clinical Skills Testing (NCCST), was named Interim Assistant Vice President for Human Resources (HR), effective June 1. She continues to manage a modified portfolio

of accountabilities as Managing Director. The remaining duties will be handled by existing staff and the new Associate Director of Operations (see below).

### NCCST Associate Director for Operations hired

Mark Robson, MFA, was recently hired as NBOME's Associate Director for Operations at the National Center for Clinical Skills Testing (NCCST) in Philadelphia. Mr. Robson comes to the NBOME with a wealth of experience, including executive administration, managing director experience in the theatre world and numerous other talents. He also has more than four years of clinical skills testing experience as a Standardized Patient (SP) and SP Trainer at both the medical school and national testing level. Mr. Robson began his new role in early July.

## Meeting Roundup

### Liaison Committee

**Dr. Wayne Carlsen, DO, Vice Chair of the NBOME Board, convened the annual meeting of the NBOME Liaison Committee on Sunday, June 24, in Chicago.**

This committee offers an opportunity for representatives of the various organizations in the osteopathic medical community to meet and share activities, interests and needs.

This year the attendees representing the following organizations joined us:

**William Anderson, DO, NBOME Board of Directors**

**Tracey Bastiaans, Vice President, Student Osteopathic Medical Association**

**John Bulger, DO, Immediate Past President, Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (AOA-accredited residency programs)**

**Wayne Carlsen, DO, NBOME Liaison Committee Chair**

**John Crosby, JD, Executive Director, American Osteopathic Association**

**John Gimpel, DO, MEd, President & CEO, NBOME**

**Janice Knebl, DO, Chair of the Board of Directors, NBOME**

**Linda Mascheri, Director, Department of State, Affiliate, Socioeconomic & International Affairs, American Osteopathic Association**

**Chelsea Nickolson, National First Vice Chair, Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents**

**Michael Paddock, DO, Region Trustee, AOA Council of Interns and Residents**

**Sam Rabor, President, Student Osteopathic Medical Association**

**Lance Talmage, MD, Chair, Federation of State Medical Boards**

**Ted Sanford Jr., MD, Representative, Organization of Program Director Associations (ACGME-accredited residency programs)**

**Dana Shaffer, DO, President, American Association of Osteopathic Examiners**

**Stephen Shannon, DO, MPH, President & CEO, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine**

**Larry Turner, Vice President of Administration/COO, NBOME**

### MOL Pentalateral Collaboration Group conference call

**NBOME President & CEO, Dr. John Gimpel, and Vice President for Continuous Professional Development and Innovations, Dr. Erik Langenau,** represented the NBOME at the Federation of State Medical Boards' (FSMB) Maintenance of Licensure (MOL) Pentalateral Collaboration Group conference call in April. The group includes representatives from the FSMB, the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (AOA-BOS), the NBOME, the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME).

Discussions regarding the nine proposed MOL Pilot Projects designed by the FSMB-ABMS-NBME Trilateral Collaborative MOL Group, as well as the proposed MOL Pilot Project designed by the NBOME and the AOA-BOS working with the FSMB, were discussed, along with the communication plan to describe these to the 11 state medical and osteopathic medical licensing

*Continued >>*

## Meeting Roundup—continued

boards who are interested in participating in MOL Pilots in 2012-2013.

Initiatives regarding MOL Pilots as well as other projects and resources for continuous professional development for osteopathic physicians, including osteopathic continuous certification (OCC), are led by the NBOME's Department of Continuous Professional Development and Innovations.

### NBOME well represented at AERA

The NBOME was well represented at the combined American Educational Research Association (AERA) and National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME) Meeting, April 13-17 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. NBOME representatives presented seven scientific papers at these meetings throughout the week.

## COMAT Update

As of July 15, more than 16,000 COMAT examinations had been administered at 24 colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs).



The 22 colleges of osteopathic medicine that enrolled in the COMAT program for 2012-2013 represent 85 percent of the colleges who have students in the clinical training portions of their educational programs.

## 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 Kristie Lang at [klang@nbome.org](mailto:klang@nbome.org)

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

Mary C. Coyle, MJ, Director for Communications  
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## NBOME'S STRATEGIC GOALS

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

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Integrate performance excellence in our products, processes and services

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## The NBOME's Mission

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