

# THE OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINER



A quarterly publication of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

WINTER 2013

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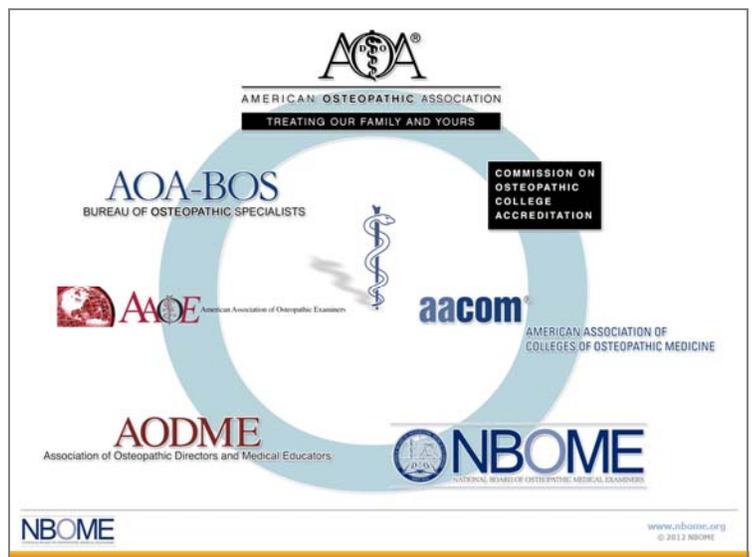
**Welcome to the Osteopathic Examiner**, a quarterly newsletter providing information about the NBOME's many activities in the arena of assessment for osteopathic competencies and related health care professions.

## Osteopathic medical leadership convenes in response to changes, challenges in America's healthcare

Leaders of the osteopathic medical profession convened on December 8, 2012, in Philadelphia for the first United States Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit,

hosted by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME). Summit participants addressed important issues including recent proposed changes to osteopathic graduate medical training and accreditation, future requirements for osteopathic continuous certification, and the future health care needs of the American public resulting from full implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

[The full press release can be found here.](#)



## NBOME expresses support

On behalf of the NBOME, Board Chair Janice A. Knebl, DO, MBA, joined the ever-growing list of organizations expressing their support for the unified graduate medical education initiative.

Dr. Knebl writes: "The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners joins in support of further negotiations with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) toward a single, unified graduate medical education accreditation system for all

physicians. This is an unprecedented opportunity to expand the training and faculty position opportunities for osteopathic medical graduates, while at the same time acting to preserve the distinctiveness of the osteopathic medical profession and its contributions to the health of the public."

To read more statements of support: <http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/Pages/acgme-statements-of-support.aspx>.

## Dr. Sheryl Bushman receives Santucci Award

The December Annual Board meeting in Philadelphia provided the setting for presentation of the NBOME's highest honor, the Santucci Award, to past NBOME Board Chair, Sheryl Bushman, DO. Current NBOME Board Chair, Dr. Janice Knebl, presented the award, saying: "It is my great honor and pleasure to present the Santucci Award to Dr. Sheryl Bushman, a trail blazer who served as the first female Chair of the NBOME Board."

The first Santucci Award was presented three years ago as part of the NBOME's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. The Santucci Award is named for Dr. Thomas F. Santucci, Jr., who was President & Chair of the Board from 1985 to 1987, and is credited with bringing new energy to the Board, modernizing its structure and – perhaps most important – changing the existing discipline-based test to a more clinically based test.

The Santucci Award has quickly become recognized as the NBOME's highest honor, awarded to an individual for his or her outstanding contributions to the mission of the NBOME...our mission of *protecting the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions.*



From left: NBOME President & CEO, Dr. John Gimpel, past NBOME Board Chair and recipient of the Santucci Award, Sheryl Bushman, DO, and current NBOME Board Chair, Dr. Janice Knebl.

## About Dr. Sheryl Bushman

**Dr. Sheryl Bushman was the first woman to serve as Chair of the NBOME. She led the NBOME as Chair from 2005 to 2007, and from 2007 to 2009 served as Immediate Past Chair.**

In her more than 20 years affiliated with the NBOME, Dr. Bushman has held numerous appointments to committees. Currently she is Chair of NBOME's Standards & Assurances Committee, Chair of the COMAT OB-GYN Committee, and member of the Clinical Skills Testing Advisory Committee.

Other organizations in which Dr. Bushman has been active over the course of her career include the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists, for which she served as President and after that Chair of its Foundation; as well as the American Osteopathic Association and the American Osteopathic Board of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

**Dr. Bushman earned a BS in chemistry and biology from the State University of New York,** and studied biochemistry/organic chemistry in graduate school at North Texas State University before going on to the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) where she earned her DO degree in 1984. She graduated from TCOM Magna Cum Laude.

Dr. Bushman has balanced her career between medical practice and medical administration, having worked as a practicing physician, a professor, a residency program director and director of medical education. She is currently the Chief Medical Informatics Officer for New York University's Langone Medical Center in New York City. Among the highlights of Dr. Bushman's career and life are medical mission trips to Vietnam, Haiti, Peru and Senegal.

## New NBOME Board member, Anita Showalter, DO; Re-elected Board members; New Executive Committee members

The first Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit took place in conjunction with the NBOME's Annual Board meeting, held December 6-8, 2012, in Philadelphia. During the Annual Board meeting, the following was confirmed:

- Anita Showalter, DO, Assistant Dean of Clinical Sciences and Associate Professor and Chair, Women's Health at the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences in Yakima, Washington, was elected and installed as NBOME Board member.
- Members reelected to the Board for additional three-year terms were: Michael Murphy, DO; Ronald Burns, DO;

Millicent King-Channell, DO, MA; Geraldine O'Shea, DO; and Susan Belanger, PhD, RN.

- At-large members elected to one-year terms on the NBOME Executive Committee were: Dana Shaffer, DO; Geraldine O'Shea, DO; and Gary Slick, DO. They join Board Chair Janice Knebl, DO, MBA; Vice-Chair Wayne Carlsen, DO; Secretary-Treasurer John Becher, DO; and Immediate Past Chair John Thornburg, DO, PhD, on NBOME's Executive Committee.

## Now available: NBOME Strategic Plan 2012-2016, *Directions for the Future*

The NBOME is pleased to present our 2012-2016 Strategic Plan, *Directions for the Future*. Read about our mission of protecting the public and how we will achieve it through the strategic objectives and goals outlined. <http://>

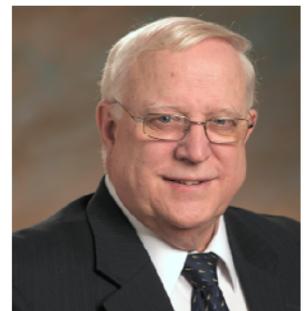
[www.nbome.org/docs/2012-strategic-plan.pdf](http://www.nbome.org/docs/2012-strategic-plan.pdf) If you would like a printed version of the publication, please email [communications@nbome.org](mailto:communications@nbome.org) with your request.

## Bruce Bates, DO, CMD, named new Senior Vice President for Cognitive Testing

NBOME President & CEO, Dr. John Gimpel, recently announced that NBOME Board member, Bruce Bates, DO, CMD, has been named to the position of Senior Vice President for Cognitive Testing.

Dr. Bates will join the NBOME in March 2013, and will be based full time in the NBOME's Chicago Corporate Offices and Conference Center.

[The full press release can be found here.](#)



## More than 75 percent of ACGME Program Directors accept COMLEX-USA

According to the National Resident Matching Program™ and their recent published Program Director Survey 2012, 77 percent of ACGME-accredited residency programs use COMLEX-USA for DO applicants to their programs. The complete survey is available at <http://www.nrmp.org/data/programresultsbyspecialty2012.pdf>.

**COMLEX-USA**   
National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

## Meeting Roundup

### 2013 OMEL/CCME/AAOE meetings

John Gimpel, DO, MEd, President & CEO; Erik Langenau, DO, Vice President for Continuous Professional Development and Innovations; Melissa Turner, MS, Senior Quality & Patient Safety Officer; and Wayne Carlsen, DO, Vice Chair of the NBOME Board, represented the NBOME at the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) 23<sup>rd</sup> Osteopathic Medical Education (OME) Leadership Conference and the 19th National Continuing Medical Education (CME) Sponsors Conference, January 4-6, 2013, in Scottsdale, Arizona. In addition, Drs. Gimpel and Carlsen attended the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners Annual Summit Meeting, also in Scottsdale.

Participants learned about the latest news in OME and CME through a variety of informational sessions, including a number given by NBOME personnel.

#### OMEL Conference

Dr. John Gimpel presented an "NBOME Update" in a plenary session, providing data and information on COMLEX-USA, COMAT, COMSAE, COMVEX and other NBOME products and services, including OPAIMs and other continuous professional development initiatives that support osteopathic continuous certification (OCC) and maintenance of licensure programs. Dr. Langenau and Melissa Turner, MS, presented "Continuous Professional Development in Patient Safety" to three groups of conference attendees. Feedback was quite positive and attendees enjoyed learning about continuous professional development initiatives in context of improving patient care.

#### CME Sponsor Conference

As one of the seven grant recipients for the AOA's pilot program to investigate online CME, Dr. Langenau and Ken Korber, PA, MHPE, the National Director of Education & Development for the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, presented their co-sponsored pilot project to assess web-based communication using Remote Standardized Patients (RSPs) and Skype. They also hosted an educational workshop where they elaborated on their pilot experience, designs and outcomes.

The presentations were well received and stimulated interest in developing truly innovative methods for evaluating fundamental osteopathic medical competencies. The project will continue through 2013, providing three Category 1A CME hours to participating physicians.

#### Annual AAOE Summit

Dr. Gimpel and Dr. Wayne Carlsen presented an "NBOME Update" to the state medical board participants, focusing on COMLEX-USA, COMVEX and continuous professional development initiatives, including initiatives to support OCC and the Federation of State Medical Boards' (FSMB) MOL pilots. Dr. Langenau gave a special luncheon presentation that highlighted the NBOME's new OPAIM™ (Osteopathic Performance Assessment and Improvement Module) program, web-based

OSCEs (objectively structured clinical examinations), and a call to participate in the FSMBs' 10th maintenance of licensure pilot.

#### Coalition for Physician Accountability Meeting

Hosted by the FSMB, the Coalition held its biannual meeting, January 7-8 in Dallas, Texas, to discuss issues of mutual interest to those involved with medical regulation, testing, accreditation and certification. NBOME Board Chair Janice Knebl, DO, MBA; Secretary/Treasurer John Becher, DO; and President & CEO John Gimpel, DO, MEd, represented the NBOME. Other Coalition members include the American Osteopathic Association, the American Medical Association, the American Association of Medical Colleges, the FSMB, the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the National Board of Medical Examiners. The Coalition approved moving forward with a website and other communications, held a panel discussion on the Affordable Care Act and changes in medicine and medical regulation, and discussed a common language framework for competencies. The next meeting will be held in Chicago in August, hosted by the ACGME.

#### Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA

On November 12, 2012, the NBOME's Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) on Enhancing COMLEX-USA met via conference call, chaired by NBOME Board Chair Janice Knebl, DO, MBA. The distinguished panel members reviewed the NBOME's Strategic Plan, ten BRP Recommendations, and a draft of the visual representation of the enhanced COMLEX-USA blueprint. They also reviewed progress made by the COMLEX-USA Composite Committee Blueprint Workgroup, and progress related to the Clinical Presentation dimension.

The BRP recognized the great progress made on developing the blueprint and recommended further deliberation, ensuring an Enhanced COMLEX-USA that will accurately represent osteopathic practice in the United States.

#### COMLEX-USA Composite Committee Meeting

The COMLEX-USA Composite Committee met on October 27, 2012, in the NBOME's Philadelphia Executive Offices, in advance of the meeting of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA. The meeting was led by Committee Chair and NBOME Board member Dr. Deborah Pierce. One of the primary objectives of the meeting was evaluation of the current COMLEX-USA blueprint to assess what will need to be modified to create a new blueprint for the proposed two-decision point COMLEX-USA. For more information on the proposed two-decision point COMLEX-USA, read the March 2012 report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEXUSA: <http://www.nbome.org/docs/BRP-Enhancing%20COMLEX-USA%20final%20March%202012.pdf>

*Continued >>*

## THE NBOME offers OPAIM™, new assessment tools for OCC

**The January 2013 deadline for implementing initiatives to comply with Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) has arrived**, 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. Among the many services available is a new type of performance-in-practice assessment – Osteopathic Performance Assessment and Improvement Module (OPAIM™).

Developed by the NBOME's Department of Continuous Professional Development & Innovations, OPAIM™ assessments are web-based formative and practice modules 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. The NBOME will launch its OPAIM™ catalogue in the first quarter of 2013 with two topics,

"OMT for Treating Low Back Pain During Pregnancy" and "Medication Safety Communication."

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, including development of OPAIM™ content customized to their physicians' individual needs.

For more information regarding the OPAIM™ program 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).



## NBOME's Bill Roberts, EdD, is contributing author to Osteopathic GME Match Report

**The NBOME collaborated with the Association of American Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA)** to produce the recently released Osteopathic GME Match Report 2011. NBOME's Director for Psychometrics and Research for Clinical Skills Testing, Bill Roberts, EdD, is a contributing author.

The annual report, produced for the first time last year, was developed in response to a request from AACOM's Council of

Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) for a resource that would help guide students in the osteopathic graduate medical education specialty selection and matching process. To learn more:

<http://www.aacom.org/resources/e-news/ome/archives/2012/2012-11/Pages/matchreport.aspx>

### Meeting Roundup — continued

#### CSTAC Meeting

The Clinical Skills Testing Advisory Committee (CSTAC) for COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation (PE) met on November 16, 2012, in the NBOME's Philadelphia Executive Offices, under the leadership of Rich Ortoski, DO, Chair, and Gautam Desai, DO, Vice-Chair. The CSTAC reviewed the policies and procedures for COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE. They provided guidance on issues such as Case Development procedures, candidate surveys and benchmarks. In addition, the CSTAC discussed new ideas for clinical skills assessment with respect to documentation and the performance of osteopathic manipulative treatment.

#### AAMC Annual Meeting

The NBOME was well represented at the November 2012 annual meeting of The Association of American Medical Colleges in San Francisco. In attendance from the Clinical Skills Department were Jeanne Sandella, DO, Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing; Bill Roberts, EdD, Director for Psychometrics and Research; and Larissa Smith, PhD, Psychometrician. Representing the Cognitive Testing Department was Hao Song, PhD, Senior Director for Cognitive Testing and Research; and from the Executive Staff, John Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO. Board Chair Dr. Janice Knebl was also in attendance.

## Exciting employment opportunities at the NBOME

There are a number of exciting employment opportunities currently available at the NBOME. Some are full-time, in-house staff positions, while National Faculty positions are primarily off-site consulting or part-time roles that require only periodic presence at NBOME offices for meetings. Please share the following information widely and encourage those who are a good fit to apply.

### Director for Test Development for Cognitive Testing

The NBOME is seeking a Director for Test Development (DTD) to direct all aspects of the test development process for NBOME cognitive-based examinations and lead the staff in the Test Development division. He/she will improve the quality and number of cognitive testing items in NBOME exams, recruit item writers, present item writing workshops, and participate in NBOME research projects that support cognitive-based exams. He/she will report to the Senior Vice President for Cognitive Testing and lead a staff of approximately 15 full-time staff members, including Senior Test Development staff, plus contracted and volunteer members of the National Faculty. The DTD works predominantly from the NBOME Corporate Offices in Chicago, with occasional travel. He/she should have a doctoral degree and 10 years of experience in test development, plus excellent writing and leadership skills. More information, including how to apply, can be found on our website: [http://www.nbome.org/docs/job-2012-12-14\\_Director\\_for\\_TD.pdf](http://www.nbome.org/docs/job-2012-12-14_Director_for_TD.pdf).

### Clinical Coordinator in Department of Continuous Professional Development and Innovations

The NBOME is committed to expanding competency assessment across the osteopathic medical education, training and practice continuum. The Clinical Coordinator for Post-

initial Licensure Assessment is responsible for providing direction and organizing clinical content for assessment initiatives (NBOME's OPAIM™ program, research activities, communication assessments, etc.), coordinating CME activities and programs, coordinating clinical assessment research projects, facilitating partnerships with stakeholders (state medical boards, subspecialty boards, governing bodies, clinical assessment programs, physicians, etc.). The position calls for strong project management and collaboration skills. The position requires coordination with NBOME staff, volunteer physician leadership, NBOME National Faculty, vendors, programmers and business partners, often under tight deadlines and with multiple projects to balance and successfully complete.

More information, including how to apply, can be found on our website:

[http://www.nbome.org/docs/job-2013-01-15-Clinical\\_Coordinator\\_for\\_Post-Initial\\_Licensure\\_Assessment.pdf](http://www.nbome.org/docs/job-2013-01-15-Clinical_Coordinator_for_Post-Initial_Licensure_Assessment.pdf)

### NBOME National Faculty

The NBOME National Faculty consists of the many professionals and volunteers across the country who support our mission through their work on committees, subcommittees and task forces, as well as through item writing, case development and other activities. Consistent with our 2012-2016 Strategic Plan, the NBOME has begun an exciting and transformational effort aimed at broadening our National Faculty expertise and further enhancing the quality of examination content. Those interested in an open NBOME National Faculty leadership role are invited to visit our "[Employment Opportunities](#)" page and choose National Faculty.

**Thank you for your interest in joining the NBOME and supporting our mission to protect the public.**

## 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

## 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 to provide an update, please contact Jen Schlacter at [jschlacter@nbome.org](mailto:jschlacter@nbome.org).

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

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## The NBOME's Mission

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