A Knowledge Network: 2017 Research Advisory Forum

The NBOME 2017 Research Advisory Forum, "Innovative Item Types and Assessments," took place on October 17, 2017 at the NBOME Chicago Corporate Offices and Conference Center. The Research Advisory Forum brought together experts in the field of innovative item types and assessments for presentations and roundtable discussions on the development, practice and implementation of innovative measurement for high-stakes licensure testing. In its mission to protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions, the NBOME promotes scholarly research to disseminate evidence to support the validity of the assessments and regularly presents and publishes research at professional conferences and journals.

NBOME was honored to have distinguished guests present their research:

Linda A. Althouse, PhD, Vice President of Psychometrics and Assessment Services at the American Board of Pediatrics

Kirk A. Becker, PhD, Senior Research Scientist at Pearson

John (Jack) R. Boulet, PhD, Vice President, Research and Data Resources, for both the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG®) and the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER®)

Ann E. Harman, PhD, Chief Assessment Officer for the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA)

Thomas R. O’Neill, PhD, Vice President of Psychometric Services for the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM)

Cynthia G. Parshall, PhD, Principal Consultant with Touchstone Consulting

Mark Raymond, PhD, Research Director and Principal Assessment Scientist at the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME)

Chingwei David Shin, PhD, Manager, Principal Research Scientist at Pearson

Continued >>
David B. Swanson, PhD, Vice President in the Academic Affairs unit at the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)

Ada Woo, PhD, Senior Director of Strategy Implementation and Operations at the ACTNext division of ACT

Presentations on a variety of innovative assessment topics, including practice effects and score gains, continuous knowledge self-assessment, computerized adaptive testing theory, application and research, action design in assessment, scoring performance-based assessments, and longitudinal assessment methods for maintenance of certification, and more were given by distinguished Forum guests. In addition, several NBOME staff members delivered presentations on NBOME research studies, including, Ruben Castaneda, PhD, Associate Psychometrician in Assessment Services, Dot Horber, PhD, Director of Continuous Professional Development, Qiong-qiong Liu, MS, Senior Research Associate in Assessment Services, Qiuming Zhang, MS, Research Associate, Assessment Services and organizer of the event Edward Tsai, PhD, Vice President for Assessment Services and Research.

To view the 2017 Research Advisory Forum program click here. To view some of the NBOME research team’s published work, click here.

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NBOME Staff Physician Leadership Opportunities

**NBOME employees help positively shape the future of osteopathic medicine and health care.** The NBOME is seeking qualified individuals to join a team of dynamic leaders and a staff that is passionate about the NBOME’s mission of protecting the public. The NBOME is currently recruiting for two physician leadership positions, a Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing and a Senior Vice President for Assessment.

**The Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing** (VP CST) leads and directs the development, administration, and staff of both National Centers for Clinical Skills Testing, the COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation (Level 2-PE) and client clinical skills examinations and studies, and develops emerging technologies and innovations in clinical skills testing. The VP CST serves as a key member of the NBOME executive leadership team and a staff member of the Level 2-PE Advisory Committee. Job responsibilities include supervising CST leadership team, providing oversight of the case development process, physician examiner program, research agenda and standard-setting activities, approving examination forms, and communication with internal and external stakeholders.

**The Senior Vice President for Assessment** (SVP) will be responsible for operational oversight of all aspects of assessment including test development, psychometric operations, research, and test administration for the COMLEX-USA licensure examinations and other NBOME assessment products. The SVP also serves as the senior physician clinical content expert and supervises the assessment leadership team.

For more information on these opportunities and how to apply, please click here.
CATALYST—Longitudinal Assessment Platform for Learning

In recent years, there has been great interest by physicians in pursuing an alternative to the traditional recertification examination, e.g., for the American Osteopathic Association’s Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) Cognitive Assessment, for maintaining specialty board certification. The NBOME, in collaboration with several of AOA’s specialty boards, is currently pilot testing CATALYST, NBOME’s new assessment platform, offering longitudinal and continuous assessment for learning. Individuals who participate in the study receive and answer weekly questions on their smartphones, tablets, or computers, anytime. After the participant answers the question, they receive instant feedback, including the right answer and learning resources. Pilot participants also earn Category 1B CME specialty specific credits. CATALYST content is determined by each certifying board/client and the questions vary based on learner needs.

The NBOME has successfully completed two CATALYST pilot programs with the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine (AOBIM) and the American Osteopathic Board of Pediatrics (AOBP). The response to these two pilots has been overwhelmingly positive and participants have shared that they love that CATALYST is a “great way to test knowledge and stay current” and it is a “low time commitment” that allows them to answer “short, straight, to-the-point questions.” Participants invariably report that participation in CATALYST will help them to take better care of their patients, and initial analyses demonstrate a significant correlation between performance on CATALYST-delivered content and that on traditional multiple-choice certification examinations. In October, the NBOME launched a new CATALYST pilot with the American Osteopathic Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (AOBOG).

In addition, the NBOME is currently developing a Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Self-Assessment Examination (COMSAE) CATALYST program. COMSAE is a valuable, low-cost, on-line self-assessment examination for osteopathic students and residents to help them to assess their readiness to take a COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2-CE or Level 3 examination. Through the CATALYST platform, COMSAE questions will be delivered incrementally over a predetermined period of time. Upon the completion of each item on the CATALYST platform, examinees will get an answer immediately, and can review a rationale and reference, a feature which is not currently available with the traditional COMSAE forms.

COMLEX-USA Level 3 Transitions to a Two-Day Examination

In September 2018, important changes regarding the COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination are taking place. As part of enhancing the COMLEX-USA examination series, a new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint is being implemented, beginning with Level 3 in September 2018, and following in Levels 1 and 2 in 2019. With this change, COMLEX-USA Level 3 will transition to a two-day examination. This change is in response to the substantive changes in the evolution of osteopathic medical practice, and to ensure COMLEX-USA remains current in meeting the needs of the state licensing boards. The two-day examination will consist of three sections of multiple-choice, single best-answer test questions and one section of clinical decision-making (CDM) cases.

Beginning September 2018, Level 3 examinations will be administered in a two-day format only. Scheduling for the two-day Level 3 examination begins March 16, 2018. COMLEX-USA Level 3 examinations taken prior to April 28, 2018, will be one-day; the last date to register for the one-day exam is March 15, 2018. The fee for examinations taken between September 2018 and March 1, 2019 will remain the same as it is for this year’s testing cycle. There is no fee increase for the new two-day Level 3 examination until after March 1, 2019. To view the Level 3 examination fee schedule, please click here.

With the transition to the new two-day Level 3 examination blueprint, the NBOME has adopted new eligibility criteria which go into effect in 2018. Residency program directors will be asked to attest to the fact that candidates are in good academic and professional standing and are approved to take the Level 3 examination. In addition, it is recommended but not required, that the Level 3 examination be taken after a minimum of six months in residency.

A new Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Self-Assessment Examination (COMSAE) Phase 3 test form, which is designed for osteopathic students and residents preparing for the COMLEX-USA Level 3 exam, aligned with the new Level 3 blueprint is now available on the NBOME website. Each COMSAE examination consists of 200 questions presented in a format and structure similar to COMLEX-USA cognitive examinations. Scoring is also similar to that of COMLEX-USA. To learn more about COMSAE, please click here.

As the transition to the two-day Level 3 examination gets closer, the NBOME will be providing frequent updates to students, deans, resident and program directors, as well as posting new information to the website. The NBOME is also communicating these changes at an Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (AODME) webinar in November, the Organization of Program Directors Associations (OPDA) Fall meeting, the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) annual educational conference in March for program directors and faculty and also at a workshop for program coordinators, and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and the AODME Joint Annual Meeting in April.
Expanding 2017 Testing Dates for COMLEX-USA and Forms for COMSAE

Recently NBOME added nine additional testing dates for COMLEX-USA Level 1 in 2018, between January and April and six testing dates for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE in May 2018. Additional dates in March and April had already been added to the 2018 testing calendar. Committed to providing excellence in access and test administration, NBOME has continued to increase testing dates for all levels of the COMLEX-USA examination. Since 2014, the NBOME has increased the number of testing dates offered by adding 20 additional dates—with 69 available testing dates in 2018, a 41 percent increase. Similarly, dates for Level 2-CE have increased by 24 additional testing days—now with 75 testing dates in 2018, a 47 percent increase over the five-year period.

In addition to expanding its testing dates, the NBOME also released two new COMSAE Phase 2 forms available to candidates and colleges of osteopathic medicine. The new Phase 2 forms were released in September 2017. Form 2B was created for candidates to assist in their exam preparation and Form 2C was created for COMs.

COMAT Score Release Schedule for 2017 Holiday Period

The NBOME releases COMAT scores every Thursday, with a few exceptions. During the 2017 holiday period, the release and posting of COMAT scores will vary as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAMINATION DATE</th>
<th>SCORE RELEASE DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 15 – 21, 2017</td>
<td>Thursday, November 30, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 20 – 22, 2017</td>
<td>Thursday, January 4, 2018</td>
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Information about the COMAT examination series is available on our website. If you have any questions regarding the COMAT examinations, please contact our Client Services team at 866-479-6828 or email us at clientservices@nbome.org.

Global Connections

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

IAMRA Symposium in London, England

On October 5-6, 2017, John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO and Gary L. Slick, DO, MA, Board Chair, attended the invitational International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) 2017 Physician Revalidation Symposium in London, England. IAMRA’s purpose is to encourage best practices among medical regulatory authorities worldwide in the achievement of their mandate to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public by ensuring proper standards for the profession of medicine.

The theme of the 2017 Symposium was “Continued Competence Systems – Measuring their Impact and Value.” Through a series of keynote speeches, panel discussions and interactive breakout sessions, delegates were invited and encouraged to explore what evidence is telling us about how continued competence interventions are contributing to the shared objective of improving patient safety.

During the symposium, Drs. Gimpel and Slick gave a presentation entitled “Improving Physician Competence with CATALYST, Continuous Assessment for Learning.” The presentation discussed the outcomes and next steps of NBOME’s pilot studies with two AOA specialty certification boards using CATALYST. The lessons learned from these pilots are being used to associate or correlate performance with traditional recertification examinations as an indication of learning and contribute to further development of the CATALYST platform with additional pilot studies.
Global Connections-continued

Medical Council of Canada’s Annual Meeting

On September 17-19, 2017, Jeanne Sandella, DO, represented the NBOME at the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) 105th Annual Meeting in Ottawa, Canada. The Annual Meeting was an opportunity for physicians, medical educators, regulators and learners to come together and reflect on the current landscapes to align the activities and future strategic plans. The MCC is responsible for assessment for medical registration (licensure) in Canada. Meeting topics included future directions, a new test blueprint, framing assessments for licensure and the MCC strategic plan.

Osteopathic International Alliance’s Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting

John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President & CEO, attended the Osteopathic International Alliance’s (OIA) Board of Directors and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Auckland, New Zealand held September 8-10, 2017. Dr. Gimpel was reelected to a final three-year term on the OIA Board of Directors, and serves on the OIA’s Board of Directors as its Secretary-Treasurer. Former NBOME Board Chair and former AOA President Boyd Buser, DO, from Kentucky, was also elected to the OIA Board. At the OIA conference, he gave a presentation on “Demonstrating Competence through National Standardized Assessment Programs: The US Experience for DOs.”

In his presentation, Dr. Gimpel reviewed the licensure process and the standardized assessments for physicians in the United States. Dr. Gimpel explained that national standardized assessments help to foster public trust that the profession is indeed regulating itself, requiring the demonstration of at least minimal levels of competence in order to be granted the privilege of practicing osteopathic medicine. In addition, Dr. Gimpel spoke about how DOs who practice in a chosen specialty area also take standardized assessments for initial board certification, as well as periodic recertification assessments. He also described NBOME’s initial CATALYST platform pilots and NBOME’s OPAIM modules for continuous professional development.

Philadelphia on the Map at OMED 17

This year NBOME participated and sponsored a wide variety of events at the Osteopathic Medical Education Conference, OMED 17, from October 6-10 at the Philadelphia Convention Center, close to our Pennsylvania offices.

The American Osteopathic Association’s (AOA) annual conference, OMED 17, brought together thousands of osteopathic physicians, medical students and other health professionals from across the country for medical education, inspiration, networking, exploration and entertainment.

On Friday, October 6, NBOME was a Principal Sponsor at the American Osteopathic Foundation’s (AOF) gala, AOF Honors, chaired by NBOME Board member and AOF President, Peter B. Ajluni, DO, held at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown. Osteopathic physicians, students, educators, friends and family, and benefactors joined the AOF at the annual honors celebration at OMED. The festivities honored the best and brightest of the osteopathic profession and NBOME Board members, National Faculty Chairs, student and resident leaders, staff leaders and others were excited to celebrate the profession and the achievements of those being honored at AOF Honors 2017.

NBOME exhibited at the conference, featuring our COMLEX-USA examination series, the new Master Blueprint, our newly launched website, current CATALYST pilots, and opportunities for doctors to explore the NBOME National Faculty program. Over 500 attendees visited the NBOME booth and Drs. Slick, Gimpel, and other NBOME staff members were on hand to greet attendees and answer questions from students, faculty, osteopathic physicians, and others. This year NBOME highlighted

Continued >>
OMED 17 -continued

our “Perfectly-Matched” campaign, distributing COMLEX-USA and DO socks and buttons.

Early Sunday morning an energetic team of NBOME runners and walkers came out to join in the Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association (AAOA) Fit for Life Fun Run 2017. The NBOME participated as a course sponsor for the event this year. Congratulations to Sean Engle, Senior Manager for IT, and Edward Tsai, PhD, AVP for Assessment Services and Research, who placed in the top five for male runners.

1) Sandra Waters, MEM, Melissa Turner, MS, and Edward Tsai, PhD, welcome visitors to the NBOME booth at OMED 17
2) John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO, with William G. Anderson, DO. Dr. Anderson, a former NBOME Board member and Santucci awardee, is a distinguished osteopathic physician, surgeon, educator, hospital administrator and civil rights leader.
3) Some of Team NBOME before the run.
4) OMED 17 was held at the Philadelphia Convention Center
The Coalition for Physician Accountability

The Coalition held a meeting at the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) offices in Washington, DC. NBOME Immediate Past Chair, Wayne R. Carlsen, DO, Vice Chair, Dana C. Shaffer, DO, and NBOME President and CEO, John R. Gimpel, DO, MED, attended the bi-annual meeting.

The members of the Coalition for Physician Accountability are committed to improving physician education, assessment, and professional development. Coalition members addressed critical issues related to the regulation of physician education and practice and work to develop consensus on actions to address them. Current threats, challenges, and opportunities facing professional self-regulation were discussed, as well as the Coalition’s role in professional self-regulation, including a panel discussion on the impact of the Coalition and its strategic role in the next three to five years.

NBOME Launches New, Redesigned Website

On August 29, 2017, the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) launched its new state-of-the-art website. The new site is part of the organization’s commitment to provide NBOME users with the optimal digital experience. The new nbome.org features a fully responsive design that gives users a seamless experience across all devices, including mobile, tablet, and desktop. The site incorporates NBOME’s original brand elements with a fresh look.

When designing the new website, the NBOME focused on making the user experience simple, convenient, and interactive. Information is now arranged by key audiences and examinations, to allow for easy, streamlined navigation and an enhanced user experience. From the home page users have access to all site information as well as the NBOME account login.

Some of the newly formatted features of the NBOME’s site are:

- **eSOAP Note Resources:** The COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE examination requires entry of electronic SOAP notes to complete clinical skills encounters. Resources on the new site include an eSOAP tutorial, a completed eSOAP note sample, a sample patient encounter video, and a doorway information sheet.

- **COMLEX-USA Resources:** COMLEX-USA is a three-level, national standardized licensure examination designed for licensure for the practice of osteopathic medicine. Resources on the newly redesigned site include a Bulletin of Information, examination dates, the new 2018 Master Blueprint, and a self-assessment exam, COMSAE, an educational resource and preparation aid for the COMLEX-USA exam series.

- **NBOME Learning Center:** The NBOME offers on-demand, self-paced, online learning activities, as well as live webinars and events that provide continuing medical education and certification opportunities for osteopathic physicians and other health care professionals. The NBOME Learning Center offers cost-effective (and sometimes no-cost), courses and convenient resources that help ensure osteopathic physicians possess the knowledge and skills required to deliver high-quality, safe, effective patient care.

The NBOME invites you to explore the new website and hope that you find the information and format helpful. To send the NBOME comments and/or suggestions with ways it can continue to improve user experience, please email the NBOME website support team at: websitesupport@nbome.org.
November 2017

American Board of Medical Specialties Annual Meeting

The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Conference was held on September 26-27, 2017, at The Westin Michigan Avenue in Chicago, IL. Kathy Green, NBOME Senior Test Development Specialist, and Sandra Waters, MEM, NBOME Vice President for Collaborative Assessment and Initiatives, attended the conference with more than 400 experts, health care professionals and leaders to learn about and accelerate the implementation of best practices in assessment and medical education, quality improvement, health policy initiatives, and improving patient care through board certification. The conference featured breakout sessions, plenary topics and speakers, a poster session and an exhibitor reception.

NBOME—Keeping up with the COMs!

NBOME representatives provide on-site campus visits or videoconference presentations to 10-15 COM campuses each academic year, typically upon invitation from the dean. These are usually one-day visits that feature NBOME and COMLEX-USA updates to faculty and students, or videoconference presentations to faculty. Upon request, these visits may include faculty development in multiple-choice question (MCQ) test item-writing, case development, clinical skills testing or related assessment or curricular topics. In addition to providing information to the COM faculty and students about COMLEX-USA, COMAT, COMSAE and other NBOME products and services, these visits allow opportunities for COM faculty and students to provide important feedback to the NBOME. For more information, please contact Kelly Reynolds, NBOME Executive Assistant, kreynolds@nbome.org.

Recent Visits to COMs

On September 13, 2017, NBOME President and CEO John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, met with faculty and students at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, ME. While he was at the university, Dr. Gimpel discussed the role of the NBOME and provided a comprehensive review of the COMLEX-USA examination program, including an overview of the examination program, novel item formats, scoring, passing rates, exam integrity and security, the new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint effective beginning in September 2018, validity research, as well as the COMAT and COMSAE examinations, and outreach to residency programs.

Dr. Gimpel also visited the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine Middletown located in Middletown, NY, on September 26, 2017. While he was at the college, Dr. Gimpel presented changes to the COMLEX-USA program and NBOME updates to deans, faculty and students. The visit was also livestreamed to the TouroCOM Harlem campus.

John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Gimpel at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine with Dean Kenneth J. Steier, DO, Executive Dean (left) and student leaders.
In Chicago for NBOME Visitation Day

On October 16, 2017, the NBOME welcomed deans, faculty and staff from 10 colleges of osteopathic medicine, and representatives from two state medical licensure boards to the NBOME Corporate Offices and Conference Center and the National Center for Clinical Skills Testing in Chicago (NCCST-CHI) for Visitation Day.

Visitors were treated to a behind-the-scenes, interactive day, which included a tour of the NCCST-CHI testing facility and meetings with the NBOME leadership team. During Visitation Day attendees also were briefed about the COMLEX and COMVEX examination programs, as well as the COMAT examinations. NBOME senior staff attending included, Mark Dawley, MBA, Senior Managing Director for Assessment Services, Tony Errichetti, PhD, Director for Doctor-Patient Communication Assessment, Joseph Flamini, MBA, Vice President for Administration/COO, Laurie Gallagher, DO, Chief Physician Trainer, Martin Hurm, MFA, Director for Exam Administration, Jeanne M. Sandella, DO, Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing, Edward Tsai, PhD, AVP for Assessment Services and Research, Melissa Turner, MS, AVP for Strategy, Quality and Communications, and Sandra Waters, MEM, Vice President for Collaborative Assessment and Initiatives. Attendees were introduced to the new NBOME website, given an overview of the NBOME mission, new Master Blueprint and National Faculty. In addition, guests also learned about the candidate experience, standardized patient (SP) training, COMLEX-USA scoring, interpretation, reporting and research, as well as new and future NBOME products and services.

To learn more about Visitation Days in 2018 in the Philadelphia and Chicago offices, please contact Rachel Maxwell, Coordinator for Operations, at rmaxwell@nbome.org.

ATSU 125th Anniversary

125 years ago, Andrew Taylor Still, DO, MD, founded the American School of Osteopathy, now known as the A.T. Still University (ATSU). The American School of Osteopathy was the founding institution of osteopathic healthcare and the first osteopathic medical college in the world. The university's teachings were built on Dr. Still's pioneering philosophies about patient wellness, preventative medicine, the body's ability to heal and regulate itself, and treating illness within the context of the whole body. The university opened in Kirksville, Missouri, with an inaugural class of 21 students. Dr. Still accepted women and men equally in his medical school and his inaugural DO class matriculated five women, a medical school rarity in the 1800s.

Since 1892, ATSU has grown into a comprehensive graduate health sciences university with six colleges/schools, two campuses located in Kirksville, MO and Mesa, AZ, a dental and oral health center in St. Louis, MO, and more than 18,000 graduates to date. ATSU is renowned for its preeminence as a multidisciplinary healthcare educator. The university is focused on integrating the founding tenets of osteopathic medicine and the advancing knowledge of today's science. ATSU continually earns distinctions as the graduate health sciences university with best-in-class curriculum and a community outreach mission to serve the underserved. The university has a rich history of leadership in both healthcare education and correlated research.

In April 2017, ATSU was heavily featured in the WEDU PBS documentary titled, The Feminine Touch. The program showcases the valiant women who rose above adversity to become osteopathic physicians in those early years, and includes today's prominent female DOs who carry on that legacy. Their fight for equality is intertwined with the struggles of osteopathic medicine to be accepted as a valid scientific practice, illuminating how osteopathic medicine developed into the flourishing profession it is today.

As part of ATSU's 125th Anniversary Celebration, on October 18, 2017, NBOME Board Member, Karen T. Snider, DO, was recognized for being an honorary member of the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine at ATSU (KCOM) alumni.
ATSU 125th Anniversary -continued

NBOME Board Member Karen T. Snider, DO (right), with Dean Margaret A. Wilson, DO, at KCOM’s 125 Anniversary Celebration.

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COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information 2017-2018
FAQs for COMLEX-USA Level-1, 2-CE, 2-PE and Level 3 Examinations
COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE Orientation Guide

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National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners
Executive Offices
101 W. Elm St., Suite 230 • Conshohocken, PA 19428
communications@nbome.org

www.nbome.org