The NBOME Expands Its Senior Leadership

**More DOs, DO More!** With the growth and enhancement of the COMLEX-USA examination program, expansion of COMAT examinations, new and emerging assessments such as CATALYST, POCKET, CORRE, growth in client assessments and a rigorous research program, NBOME has been experiencing tremendous growth in recent years. To better support the continuation of this growth, between April and July three exceptional and experienced osteopathic physicians joined the NBOME’s growing and talented leadership team.

**J. Michael Finley, DO**, was named the NBOME’s first Senior Vice President for Assessment, effective July 9, 2018. A member of the NBOME’s Board of Directors, Dr. Finley was recently associate dean of graduate and clinical medical education at the Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, California. Since 2000, he has served in numerous administrative roles, including chair of the department of internal medicine, chief academic officer of the Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institute (OPTI)-West consortium, and residency program director in internal medicine. A graduate of CCOM, Dr. Finley is board certified in internal medicine and rheumatology and was named the 2015 recipient of the American Osteopathic Foundation’s Educator of the Year Award. Since 2000, he has been involved with NBOME National Faculty activities, including standard setting, and various committees, including the COMAT Advisory, Standards & Assurances, and Facilities & Space Planning Committees, as well as numerous COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE Committees. Dr. Finley was elected to the Board of Directors in 2010, serving on the Executive Committee from 2013 to 2016. In his new role as Senior Vice President for Assessment, Dr. Finley is responsible for providing leadership and oversight to the growth and expansion of NBOME’s assessments.

**Joel L. Dickerman, DO**, joined the NBOME as Vice President for Assessment Services on June 18, 2018. Prior to joining the NBOME staff, Dr. Dickerman served as associate dean for clinical affairs at Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Colorado and Utah and has held leadership positions in graduate medical education, continuous quality improvement, and continuous professional development. Dr. Dickerman has been active with the NBOME for years, having been named an Item Writer of the Year and serving as a clinical decision-making case author and continuous professional development consultant/coordinator, and a standard-setting panelist. A graduate of the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (CCOM), Dr. Dickerman is board certified in family medicine with certificates of added qualifications in geriatrics, sports medicine, and hospice and palliative care. As the Vice President for Assessment Services, Dr. Dickerman is responsible for leading a diverse group of assessment professionals and researchers dedicated to NBOME’s cognitive examinations, including COMLEX-USA, COMSAE and COMAT.

**Gretta Gross, DO, MEd**, joined the NBOME’s staff as Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing on April 9, 2018. A graduate of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), Dr. Gross is board certified in both
neuromusculoskeletal and family medicine and has additional faculty development training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as a master’s degree in medical education from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM). She has been a residency program director and department chair and has over 17 years of residency program faculty experience. Dr. Gross previously worked as a part-time physician trainer at the NBOME, and served as a physician examiner for the SOAP-Notes section of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE since 2004. As the Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing, Dr. Gross has primary responsibility for the two National Centers for Clinical Skills Testing in Chicago and Philadelphia, the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE, and the podiatry APMLE clinical skills assessment.

**COMPLEX-USA UPDATES**

**Bulletin of Information Released**

To read more about changes to the COMLEX-USA program, the 2018-2019 COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information (COMLEX-USA BOI) is available on [www.nbome.org](http://www.nbome.org). The COMLEX-USA BOI is updated annually each July and outlines COMLEX-USA terms and conditions, policies, rules and procedures, as well as comprehensive examination information for the COMLEX-USA examination program.

**Enhanced Two-day COMLEX-USA Level 3 Examination Begins September 2018**

As announced last fall, important changes in the COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination go into effect in 2018. The new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint is being implemented as part of the enhancements to the COMLEX-USA examination series, beginning with Level 3 in September 2018 and following with Levels 1 and 2 in 2019.

The COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination will be administered over two days. This change is in response to the substantive changes in the evolution of osteopathic medical practice and ensures COMLEX-USA will remain current in meeting the needs of state licensing boards. The two-day examination will consist of three sessions of multiple-choice, single-best-answer test questions and one session of clinical decision-making cases.

New eligibility criteria are being implemented with enhanced COMLEX-USA Level 3. An eligibility requirement for COMLEX-USA Level 3 is attestation by a residency program director that the resident is in good academic and professional standing in the residency program and is approved to take the Level 3 examination. Good standing denotes that the resident meets the academic and professional requirements of the residency program and is eligible to continue as a resident in the program. No Level 3 examinations were administered beginning from May throughout August 2018, to prepare for the transition to the new two-day examination.

Extensive efforts have been made to educate and prepare residency programs, colleges of osteopathic medicine, osteopathic medical students, residents, and other key stakeholders about the changes to the Level 3 examination and the new attestation requirement. Implementation of the new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint in the two-day Level 3 examination, with administrations beginning in September 2018.

is on track as planned with numerous attestation requests from candidates and approvals by many program directors in all specialties across the country.

A major advantage for program directors is they will receive a Level 3 score report with additional assessment information about the competencies and milestones of their residents.

**COMSAE CATALYST, a new NBOME self-assessment** — An initial COMSAE Phase 2-CATALYST pilot with several hundred osteopathic medical students using the NBOME’s CATALYST longitudinal assessment platform to access COMLEX-USA style test items and receive immediate feedback was very successful, with students appreciating the convenient access as well as the associated correct answer rationales and learning resources.

Unlike previous COMSAE examinations, the COMSAE CATALYST pilot leveraged digital media to deliver sample questions to student users every day for 10 weeks. Osteopathic physicians who participated in CATALYST test pilots found it to be most helpful because answers are scored immediately, and feedback is delivered in real time to a student’s device.

**COMSAE and COMLEX-USA Tutorials Update**

A new COMSAE Phase 3 form corresponding to the enhanced Master Blueprint for the two-day COMLEX-USA Level 3 is now available for individuals to purchase. Free tutorials that include multiple choice test questions as well as clinical decision-making cases are also available for residents readying for taking Level 3. New COMSAE Phase 1 and 2 forms corresponding to the enhanced Master Blueprint for COMLEX-USA Level 1 and Level 2-CE are anticipated to be ready for schools and individuals in December 2018.

**COMLEX-USA Level 1 Standard Setting and Score Release Update**

The minimum passing standard for COMLEX-USA Level 1 was reviewed by the NBOME Board and a new passing standard was implemented for the 2018-2019 COMLEX-USA Level 1 testing cycle effective May 21, 2018. The initial releases of Level 1 scores occurred between July 18-26, 2018 for test dates
Continued–COMLEX-USA updates

between May 21 and July 12, 2018. Score release dates are posted on the NBOME website throughout the 2018-2019 test cycle.

Single Accreditation System (SAS) for Graduate Medical Education and COMLEX-USA

The NBOME, AOA and AACOM continue their partnership to actively share information and resources with residency program directors and academic hospital personnel, and are looking for ways to provide additional resources to those at the COMs (e.g., faculty, career advising personnel). For a good reference on COMLEX-USA designed for residency program directors, NBOME published an updated "Residency Program Director’s Guide to COMLEX-USA" in February 2018.

Moving closer to the maturation of the SAS for GME by 2020, with the announcement that 2019 will be the final year for the AOA Match, it is understandable that some anxieties remain heightened. The great news was the 2018 match year again showed tremendous success in residency program placement for DO graduating seniors. Recent information confirms NBOME research that an increasing number of residency program directors are interviewing and ranking DO applicants, and accepting and using COMLEX-USA scores (hopefully as part of holistic review) for DO students and residents applying to their programs. DO students are proud that their osteopathic medical education and qualifications (i.e., COMLEX-USA) helped them to match into their top choice residency programs, as evidenced in our "#PerfectlyMatched" social media campaign this spring with numerous DO students’ testimonials.

The ACGME recognizes both COMLEX-USA and USMLE equally in applications for residency and in assessment of ACGME Milestones, with some additional changes to requirements, standards, and procedures made this year that are beneficial for osteopathic medicine and the distinct and valid qualifications of DOs, including COMLEX-USA and osteopathic board certification. We stand together for our patients, assuring that they will continue to be able to choose quality osteopathic medical care for their health. This continues to require high quality osteopathic medical education at COMs, accredited by osteopathically distinctive COM accreditation (i.e., by AOA-COCA), and osteopathically distinctive and valid assessment for licensure (i.e., by COMLEX-USA).

June 2018 Midyear Board of Director’s Meeting

The NBOME Board comprises 22 leaders including two public members, whose collective strategic decision making and guidance steer the organization through establishing policy, providing financial stewardship, and ensuring that the leadership and resources are in place to support the NBOME’s mission, vision, and goals.
On June 21-23, 2018, NBOME Board Chair Dana C. Shaffer, DO, presided over the annual Midyear meeting of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

Dr. Shaffer, who was installed as Chair of the NBOME Board in December 2017, leads the NBOME’s 2017–2019 strategic plan, ACEL, and oversees the NBOME’s vision to become the global leader for the osteopathic medical profession and related health care professions. Prior to assuming his role as Board Chair, Dr. Shaffer served on the NBOME’s Board of Directors from 2008 to present and was Secretary-Treasurer from 2013 to 2015 and Vice-Chair from 2015 to 2017. Additionally he chaired the Finance and Liaison Committees, as well as serving as a member of the Executive and Test Accommodation Committees. A distinguished fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP), Dr. Shaffer is a member of the Executive Council of the Conclave of Fellows. Formerly senior associate dean of osteopathic medical education for the University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM), he was recently appointed dean, in addition to his role as chief academic officer for the Appalachian OPTI Consortium (A-OPTIC). Dr. Shaffer has practiced the complete spectrum of rural family medicine, including osteopathic manipulative medicine, obstetrics, and emergency medicine, for more than 20 years in Exira, Iowa. In addition, he serves on numerous local, state, and national committees dealing with access to affordable medical care, scope of practice issues, use of chronic pain medication, electronic medical records, and legislation.


Dr. O’Shea has served on the Board since 2009, was Secretary-Treasurer from 2015 to 2017, chaired the Finance Committee, and has been a member of numerous NBOME committees, such as the Audit, Executive, and Liaison Committees. In addition to her leadership roles at the NBOME, Dr. O’Shea is an active leader in the osteopathic medical profession and a trustee of the AOA, where she serves on the Executive, Finance, and Strategic Planning Committees and chairs the AOA’s Department of Business. Previously, as chair of the AOA’s Department of Research and Development, Dr. O’Shea oversaw five task force initiatives in public health and in 2014–2015 served as the AOA’s first vice president and vice-chair of the Department of Education. She is a past president of the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPSC) and the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE).

Dr. LaBaere is the associate dean for postgraduate training/OPTI academic officer and adjunct clinical professor of family medicine at A.T. Still University – Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. LaBaere served as residency program director, director of medical education, and a designated institutional official for more than 20 years. In 2015, he was named to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education’s (ACGME) Institutional Review Committee. Dr. LaBaere has served on the NBOME Board since 2010 and has been a member of the Executive, Test Accommodations, and COMLEX-USA Composite Examination Committees, as well as the Portfolio and Expanded Assessments Task Force. He was also a member of the NBOME’s Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA. In 2006, Dr. LaBaere was named Osteopathic Family Physician of the Year by the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Physicians and was inducted as a fellow in the American Osteopathic Directors of Medical Education Collegium in 2008.

At the June 2018 Midyear Meeting, the Board enthusiastically welcomed new NBOME leaders, Joel Dickerman, DO, Vice President for Assessment Services, J. Michael Finley, DO, Senior Vice President for Assessment, Gretta A. Gross, DO, Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing, and Douglas Murray, JD, General Counsel.

Board Updates NBOME Standards for Quality Assurance

On June 22, 2018, the Board of Directors approved revisions to the NBOME Standards for Quality Assurance. The Standards for Quality Assurance are an important part of the NBOME’s fulfillment of its mission to protect the public by ensuring the validity, integrity and defensibility of COMLEX-USA. Adherence of the Standards is checked by an audit of the COMLEX-USA licensure examination program.

Continued–June 2018 Midyear Board of Director’s Meeting
Wayne R. Carlsen, DO, Awarded NBOME’s Highest Honor, the Santucci Award

NBOME Immediate Past Board Chair, Gary L. Slick, DO, MA, presents the Santucci Award to Wayne R. Carlsen, DO

“The Santucci Award is bestowed on an individual for his or her sustained outstanding contributions to the mission of the NBOME: protecting the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions,” said NBOME Board Chair Gary L. Slick, DO, MA, in presenting the award to Dr. Carlsen at the NBOME Annual Board Meeting on December 8, 2017. “It is with great appreciation that we acknowledge and honor Dr. Carlsen for his contributions to the NBOME, its mission, and indeed the profession at large.” The first Santucci Award was presented in 2009 and is named for Thomas F. Santucci, Jr., DO, President and Chair of the NBOME Board from 1985 to 1987, a pivotal time of change for the organization.

In 1989, Dr. Carlsen became an Item Writer for the NBOME and has served on a variety of exam construction and item review committees. He was Level 3 coordinator for COMLEX-USA in the late 1990s and has been a member of the Health Promotion/Disease Prevention and Health Care Delivery Examination (HPDP/HCD) Construction Committee. Dr. Carlsen has served on the NBOME Board since 2005. He was Chair from 2013 to 2015 and recently served as Immediate Past Chair, Chair of the Compensation Subcommittee, and as a member of the Nominating Committee.

A 1986 graduate of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Carlsen maintains fellowship status in the American College of Osteopathic Internists, the American Geriatrics Society, and the American College of Physicians. He currently practices at O’Bleness Hospital in Athens, Ohio.

Santucci Award Recipients

Wayne R. Carlsen, DO – 2017
John W. Becher, DO – 2015
Janice A. Knebl, DO, MBA – 2015
John E. Thornburg, DO, PhD – 2014
Shirley Bodett – 2014
Boyd R. Buser, DO – 2013
Sheryl Bushman, DO – 2012
Linjun Shen, PhD, MPH – 2012
Joseph F. Smoley, PhD – 2011
Frederick G. Meoli, DO – 2010
Thomas F. Santucci, Jr., DO – 2009

Martin Crane, MD, Honored with NBOME Clark Award for Patient Advocacy

Former NBOME Board member Gary Clark presents the Clark Award for Patient Advocacy to Martin Crane, MD

This award recognizes individuals that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to patient safety, patient protection, and quality of care. On presenting the honor at the NBOME Annual Board Meeting in December 2017, Gary R. Clark, former public member of the NBOME Board and Executive Committee and for whom the award is named, remarked, “Dr. Crane has been a lifelong advocate for patient safety and physician quality initiatives, outlining his vision for improved maintenance of physician licensure processes during his term as Federation of State Medical Board chair.” Mr. Clark continued, “He has also been a longstanding advocate of osteopathic medicine and the COMLEX-USA examination program. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Crane’s primary focus has always been to advocate for patients, a true reflection and embodiment of the NBOME’s mission to protect the public through assessment.”
A board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist, Dr. Crane is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Medical School, received training in general surgery at the University of Colorado Medical Center, and did a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the Boston Hospital for Women. He also holds the rank of commander in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Navy Reserves and is past chair of the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation of the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Crane has been involved in a wide array of quality assurance and improvement programs for more than 30 years and has spoken extensively on patient safety and adverse event reporting systems. He is former chair of the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine, a not-for-profit organization that serves as the national authority in the field of medical regulation.

Jeanne M. Sandella, DO, Recognized for Outstanding Service

A graduate of PCOM, Dr. Sandella completed her family medicine residency training at Mercy Suburban Hospital in Norristown, Pennsylvania, and is certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians. She has more than 10 years of experience in clinical family medicine and has served as a clinical faculty member at PCOM as well as in the family medicine residency program at Mercy Suburban Hospital. Dr. Sandella also co-authors research and has been published in peer-reviewed, scholarly journals on various topics in clinical skills testing. Dr. Sandella resigned from the NBOME in December 2017 to begin a practice in her home community.

Immediate Past Board Chair Gary L. Slick, DO, MA, Recognized for Five Decades of Outstanding Service

Dana C. Shaffer, DO, NBOME Board Chair, presents the Outstanding Service Award to Gary L. Slick, DO, MA, for his service and dedication to the NBOME at the NBOME Annual Board Meeting, December 8, 2017.

Dr. Slick first joined the NBOME in 1978 as an item writer in physiology for the former NBOME Part 1 exam (now COMLEX-USA Level 1) and in internal medicine for the former Parts 2 and 3 exams (now Levels 2-CE and 3). He was also a member of the Test Construction Committee in interdisciplinary medicine, and for many years he served as a final reviewer of COMLEX-USA Level 1 examinations. Since 2005, Dr. Slick has been a member of the NBOME Board and was installed as Vice-Chair in 2013. He was a member of the Liaison Committee and chaired numerous other committees, including the COMAT Advisory, Nominating, and Standards & Assurances Committees.

When not working for the NBOME, Dr. Slick is the Designated Institutional Official for graduate medical education programs at the Oklahoma State University (OSU) College of Osteopathic Medicine and OSU Medical Center in Tulsa. He is medical director and chief academic officer at Oklahoma’s Teaching Health Center residency programs and professor of medicine at the OSU Center for Health Sciences (OSU-CHS). He is also a member of the board of directors of ACGME, one of the first four DOs to be elected to that board.
The Core Osteopathic Recognition Readiness Examination

CORRE™—the Core Osteopathic Recognition Readiness Examination is designed for physicians applying to ACGME-accredited residency programs with Osteopathic Recognition. In partnership with the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO), CORRE was developed by experts in medical content and examination best practices, and measures understanding of osteopathic concepts, philosophy, diagnosis, and treatment. The examination is available at Prometric test centers beginning in July 2018; registration began in April.

NBOME On-Site or Videoconference COM Campus Visits

Typically upon invitation from the dean, NBOME representatives provide on-site campus visits or videoconference presentations to 10-20 COM campuses each academic year. These are traditionally one-day visits that feature NBOME and COMLEX-USA updates to faculty and students, or videoconference presentations to faculty or deans. Occasionally, upon request, these visits 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 on how to request a NBOME visit to your campus, please contact Kelly Reynolds, NBOME Executive Assistant, kreynolds@nbome.org.

NBOME 2018-2019 Office Visitation Days

The Fall 2018 NBOME Visitation Day is scheduled for Monday, October 22nd, in our Chicago Corporate Offices and NCCST-Chicago. As these popular half-day faculty development programs fill up fast, contact Rachel Maxwell, rmaxwell@nbome.org to register. Invitees include faculty and staff from COMs, GME programs and state licensing boards. Past participants report that these are wonderful faculty development opportunities. A NBOME Philadelphia Offices Visitation Day is in the plans for Spring 2019, with the date to be announced later this year.

Conference Participation and Sponsorship

NBOME staff participated in the 2018 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Annual Educational Conference. This year’s gathering of the ACGME, themed “Engaging Each Other: Transformation through Collaboration,” was held March 1–4, 2018, in Orlando, Florida. Highlights included sessions focusing on physician well-being, identity formation, enhancing the clinical learning environment, scholarly activity, the Milestones, and recognition of the 2018 ACGME and ACGME-International (ACGME-I) awardees.

More than 2,000 attendees gathered to hear ACGME President and CEO Thomas J. Nasca, MD, MACP, deliver his address, in which he recognized the medical community’s collective commitment to aspiring toward excellence: “Examine your culture for unconscious bias...we can do better...Through collaboration along the medical continuum, we can transform the world. And we must.” A common thread ran throughout Dr. Nasca’s address, as well as the entire conference: “It’s time for the graduate medical education community to come together to facilitate positive change in the clinical learning environment.”

NBOME was represented at this year’s conference by John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd; Board Chair Dana C. Shaffer, DO; Melissa Turner, MS, Associate Vice President for Strategy, Quality & Communications; and Sandra Waters, MEM, Vice President for Collaborative Assessment & Initiatives. Dr. Gimpel and Ms. Waters presented “Resources for Program Coordinators for Understanding and Using COMLEX-USA.” Drs. Gimpel and Shaffer also presented “Use of the COMLEX-USA Examination Program in ACGME Programs.”

The meeting offered the opportunity to speak with many residency programs about COMLEX-USA, the new Master Blueprint and coming changes, including the newly updated COMLEX-USA for Residency Program Directors. In addition, the NBOME’s new examination, CORRE™ (the Core Osteopathic Recognition Readiness Examination), which will be offered for the first time in July 2018, received an enthusiastic response.
2018 AACOM Conference

**NBOME is a proud Diamond-sustaining Sponsor of the annual American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) conference.** Entitled “Educating Leaders 2018,” this year’s conference, a key attraction for the osteopathic medical education community, was held in Washington, DC, April 17–22, 2018. More than 700 participants from osteopathic undergraduate medical education, graduate medical education, and other related groups attended.

Various NBOME staff participated in the proceedings, Dr. Gimpel; Joseph Flamini, MBA, Vice President for Administration and COO; and Edward Tsai, PhD, Associate Vice President for Assessment Services and Research, hosted a preconference workshop on the new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint and the COMAT Foundational Biomedical Sciences (FBS) comprehensive examination, attracting 50 attendees from 16 colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs).

Mr. Flamini and Dot Horber, PhD, Director for Continuous Professional Development, presented "CATALYST, the Continuous Assessment Platform for Physician Learning." Laurie A. Gallagher, DO, Chief Physician Trainer, presented a research poster, "A Comparative Review of the Factors Which May Influence Residency Program Interviews & Ranking." Dr. Tsai also presented a research poster, "Investigation of Differential Item Functioning on COMLEX-USA Examination Series.” Other activities throughout the week included a presentation by Drs. Gimpel and Shaffer, who met with the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents and the AACOM Board of Deans.

In addition, other staff and Board members were on hand at the NBOME exhibit booth to connect with attendees from COMs across the country about the COMAT FBS exam to be released in December 2018, enhancements to COMLEX-USA and the Master Blueprint and the transition to the two-day Level 3 examination, CORRE™ (Core Osteopathic Recognition Readiness Examination), and National Faculty opportunities.

On Friday, the NBOME hosted the conference luncheon, and Drs. Gimpel, Shaffer, and Tsai, along with Mr. Flamini, delivered a NBOME update, discussing the NBOME Board, 2017 NBOME awardees, the Item Writer and Case Writer/Author award winners, and National Faculty leaders. Highlights and changes to the COMLEX-USA, COMAT and COMAT FBS, COMSAE, CATALYST, POCKET, and CORRE examination programs, as well as NBOME resources and services for the transition to a single GME accreditation system were presented. The luncheon address was well received by more than 350 attendees and ended with an enthusiastic question and answer session.

**2017 Item Writer, Case Writer, and Case Author Award winners**

NBOME authors whose items and cases are a model for the type and format needed to produce valid, high-quality examinations used to assess competencies in osteopathic medicine are selected by the Awards Committee at the annual NBOME Board meeting each December. The 2017 awardees, approved by the NBOME Board in December 2017, were recognized at the NBOME-hosted luncheon at the 2018 Annual AACOM Conference.

Rani Bright, MBBS, HCLD, is the recipient of the COMLEX-USA Level 1 Item Writer of the Year Award. Dr. Bright is an assistant professor in the Department of Bio-Medical Sciences at PCOM. She also received the Item Writer of the Year for COMLEX-USA Level 1 in 2007.

Shannon C. Scott, DO, FACOFP, is the recipient of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE Item Writer of the Year Award. Dr. Scott is the medical director of Midwestern University Multispecialty Clinic and assistant dean and clinical associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine.
Continued–2017 Item Writer, Case Writer, and Case Author Award winners

**Kathryn Brandt, DO, MS, MEdL,** is the recipient of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE Case Author of the Year Award. Dr. Brandt is chair of the Department of Primary Care of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine.

**Jaime M. Rawson, DO,** is the recipient of the COMLEX-USA Level 3 Item Writer of the Year Award. Dr. Rawson practices neurology in Gilbert, Arizona. She also received the Item Writer of the Year for COMLEX-USA Level 3 in 2014.

**Lauren Noto Bell, DO,** is the recipient of the COMLEX-USA OPP (Osteopathic Principles and Practice) Item Writer of the Year Award. Dr. Noto Bell is associate professor in the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine at PCOM and program director at PCOM's osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal medicine residency program.

**Deborah L. Blackwell, DO,** is the recipient of the COMLEX-USA HPDP/HCD (Health Promotion/Disease Prevention and Health Care Delivery) Item Writer of the Year Award. Dr. Blackwell is a member of the Department of Emergency Medicine and associate professor of pediatrics at Ohio State University.

**Matthew F. Geromi, DO,** is the recipient of the COMLEX-USA Clinical Decision-Making Case Writer of the Year Award. He is a psychiatrist in private practice in San Diego, California.

**Peter F. Bidey, DO, MSEd,** is the recipient of the COMLEX-USA Clinical Decision-Making Case Writer of the Year Award. Dr. Bidey is assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine at PCOM and director of PCOM’s family medicine residency program at Suburban Hospital.

**Daniel L. Griffin, DO,** is the recipient of the COMAT Item Writer of the Year Award. Dr. Griffin is chief resident of internal medicine at Magnolia Regional Health Center, Corinth, Mississippi.

**Jandy Hanna, PhD, MSB,** is the recipient of the COMAT Foundational Biomedical Sciences Item Writer of the Year Award. Dr. Hanna is associate professor of anatomy and chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.
FSMB Annual Meeting 2018

The NBOME is a Gold Sponsor of the FSMB Annual Meeting. Drs. Gimpel and Shaffer, Geraldine T. O’Shea, DO, Board Vice-Chair, and Sandra Waters represented the NBOME at the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Annual Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, held Wednesday, April 25, through Saturday, April 28, 2018. This educational and networking event for the nation’s medical regulatory community brings together more than 400 health care leaders to discuss current challenges and innovative ideas that help shape the future of medical regulation.

The event provided numerous opportunities for learning and interacting with others in medical regulation. The NBOME leaders attended the annual meeting of the Administrators in Medicine, the national organization for state medical and osteopathic board executives. Dr. Shaffer made opening remarks at the Herbert-Platter Luncheon, with featured speaker, Tom Nichols, PhD, who spoke about his book, “The Death of Expertise: The Diminishing Value of Knowledge and Expertise in this Country.” Other topics covered during the meeting included duty to report, the future of occupational licensing, technical innovation and big data, and physician wellness and burnout.

The NBOME convened with the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE) at its Annual Meeting and provided a COMLEX-USA and COMVEX update. Drs. Gimpel and Shaffer also provided an update on the latest developments and news about COMLEX-USA for FSMB meeting attendees. In addition, the NBOME hosted an exhibit and talked with many regulatory colleagues. Two new members were elected to the Board of Directors at FSMB’s House of Delegates: Anna Hayden, DO, from Florida, and Scott Steingard, DO, from Arizona, new chair-elect. FSMB board chair, Patricia A. King, MD, PhD, from the Vermont Medical Board, was invested, and other officers and directors were recognized.

Coalition for Physician Accountability Meeting

Dana C. Shaffer, DO, Board Chair, Geraldine T. O’Shea, DO, Board Vice-Chair, and John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, represented NBOME at the Coalition meeting at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) offices on May 16, 2018. Organizations comprising the Coalition include national organizations responsible for medical regulation: accreditation, licensure, assessment, and certification. These include AAMC, AACOM, AOA (including COCA, BOS and CCME), AMA, FSMB, ABMS, CMSS, LCME, ACGME, ACCME, NBOME and NBME.

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NBOME Liaison Committee Meeting

On May 5, 2018, the NBOME Liaison Committee met with representatives from affiliated organizations across the house of medicine. The meeting was chaired by NBOME Board Vice-Chair, Geraldine T. O’Shea, DO. The committee members shared updates from their respective organizations, discussed relevant and pertinent topics to them and the profession of osteopathic medicine. The theme of the meeting was “Foundation for an Exciting Future: Accelerating Learning through Assessment.”

Those who attended: Mary Jo Capodice, DO, American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE) Vice President; Thomas Cavalieri, DO, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Chair; Patricia King, MD, Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States Chair-Elect; Kate de Klerk, OSM III, Student Osteopathic Medical Association President; Elise Lovell, MD, Organization of Program Directors Associations Representative; Lynn Mark, DO, MA, Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators Representative; Lorenzo Pence, DO, Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education Senior Vice President, Osteopathic Accreditation; Raine Richards, JD, AAOE Staff Liaison; Ashley Sam, OSM IV, Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents National Chair; Susan Skochelak, MD, MPH, American Medical Association Group Vice President; Mark Speicher, PhD, MHA, AACOM Senior Vice President for Medical Education and Research; Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, American Osteopathic Association CEO; Sarah Wolff, DO, Bureau of Emerging Leaders Co-Vice Chair. Staff: John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, Allex Hernandez, MA; Geraldine O’Shea, DO, NBOME Vice-Chair; Dana C. Shaffer, DO, NBOME Board Chair & Liaison Committee Chair; Melissa Turner, MS; Sandra Waters, MEM

Organization of Program Director Associations (OPDA) Meeting

John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, presented a NBOME and COMLEX-USA Update to OPDA during the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS) Spring meeting. OPDA represents program directors from 28 specialty societies aligned with ACGME-accredited residency and fellowship training programs, and the NBOME has attended their meetings and provided updates in May and November since 2014.
COMLEX-USA Composite Examination Committee Meeting

Members of the COMLEX-USA Composite Examination Committee (CCEC) and NBOME staff attended the CCEC Spring Meeting. Committee Chair, Janice A Knebl, DO, MBA, led the meeting. The CCEC is guided by the NBOME mission and vision of protecting the public and provides oversight of the COMLEX-USA series to ensure its validity, reliability and defensibility.

Those who attended are Jack R. Boulet, PhD, MA; Boyd R. Buser, DO; Peter B. Dane, DO; Joel L. Dickerman, DO; Charles A. Finch, DO; J. Michael Finley, DO; Janice A. Knebl, DO, MBA, Chair; David Kuo, DO; Richard J. LaBaere II, DO, MPH, Vice-Chair; Michael F. Oliverio, DO; Richard A. Ortoski, DO; Mark L. Sandhouse, DO; Anita L. Showalter, DO; John E. Thornburg, DO, PhD. Staff: Andrea Cannizzaro, Mark S. Dawley, MBA, Joseph Flamini, MBA, Laurie A. Gallagher, DO, John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, Gretta A. Gross, DO, MEd, Dot Horber, PhD, Kimberly Hudson, MEd, William L. Roberts, EdD, Edward Tsai, PhD, Melissa D. Turner, MS, Sandra Waters, MEM, Roberta A. Wattleworth, DO, MPH, MHA

Of Osteopathic Interest

Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA) and the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society (POFPS) Meetings

John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, attended the annual POMA meeting as well as the POFPS meeting with Dr. Ortoski. Dr. Ortoski was recognized for his service after a two-year term as President of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society! Deanne Endy, DO, pictured on the right, is the incoming President.
Report on Osteopathic Medicine Placements in 2018 Match Available

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) reported that 98.75 percent of expected 2018 DO student graduates seeking residency training positions were successfully matched in positions either through the AOA Match and Scramble, the NRMP Match and SOAP, the military match and other matches/placements — an exceptional result for DO students once again! The full report can be accessed [here](https://www.aacomas.org/match/).  

Janice A. Knebl, DO, MBA, former NBOME Board Chair and current Chair, COMLEX-USA Composite Examination Committee, discusses how physicians cope with patient death. Chief of the Division of Geriatrics at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), Dr. Knebl is a pioneer in the treatment of older adults and an enthusiastic advocate for seniors throughout Texas. As a geriatrician and palliative care specialist, Dr. Knebl notes that seeing the end of patients’ lives is a significant part of her job, but the experience is still jarring every time. To read more about how physicians cope with patient death, read the article featuring Dr. Knebl in *The DO* [here](https://www.thedo.com/articles/article/5958). 

NBOME Board member Terri Donlin Huesman, MBA, named president of the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville, Ohio. Ms. Donlin Huesman assumed her new role effective January 1, 2018, replacing longtime chief executive Richard A. Vincent, who retired on December 31, 2017. Ms. Donlin Huesman has been employed by the Heritage foundations for 20 years, serving in several capacities, formerly as executive vice president. She has directed the grant programs for both foundations, developed meaningful collaborative funding arrangements with other philanthropic organizations, enhanced funding efforts to advance the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation’s mission and served the community through education, research and service consistent with osteopathic heritage.  

"Ms. Donlin Huesman has a successful history with our organization, and the Board is proud to select her as our chief executive. We are confident in her ability to lead the Foundation in the future,” said Robert Palma, DO, Board Chair, Osteopathic Heritage Foundation.

Quick Links for Osteopathic Medical Students

**COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information 2018–2019**  
**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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