On November 13, 2018, the American Medical Association (AMA) unanimously approved Resolution 955 “Equality for COMLEX and USMLE” at the House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in Washington, DC. The resolution was brought forward by the AMA Medical Student Section and later endorsed by the AMA’s Council on Medical Education, the AMA’s Academic Physicians Section, and others. The endorsement by the AMA comes at an important time as the single GME accreditation system is fully implemented in 2020. Passing this resolution unanimously shows support for solidarity for osteopathic distinctiveness, and the unique and valid credentials of DO students and residents. The NBOME is pleased to continue working with the AMA, and the house of medicine in spreading the word about this important milestone and its impact on the medical education community, and patient-choice for quality osteopathic medical care.

One Number, One NBOME

As part of our commitment to provide the highest standard of service to our customers, we have streamlined phone communications to a single number for the US and Canada. Beginning January 10th, calls for both offices are handled through the following:

OneNumber OneNBOME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inside US &amp; Canada</th>
<th>Outside US &amp; Canada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>866.479.6828</td>
<td>773.714.0622</td>
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</table>
The COMLEX-USA examination series is transitioning to a more contemporary, two-decision point, competency-based blueprint and evidence-based design model. Informed by extensive research on actual osteopathic physician practice, expert consensus and stakeholder surveys, the revised model assesses measurable outcomes of the seven competency domains and focuses on high-frequency clinical presentations or high-impact health issues that affect patients across the life span.

The new COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination launched in September of 2018 as the first exam to align with the enhanced COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint. To date, the number of candidates that have taken the enhanced COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination has totaled more than 2600 test takers. Between January 29th and February 7th, scores for this initial group of resident test takers and their residency program directors will receive their score results.

The rollout of the enhanced Master Blueprint will continue through the spring of 2019, with an updated Level 2-PE launching in March, Level 1 in May and Level 2-CE in June. As we look ahead to these future launches, we’re pleased to announce that practice exams for Level 1 and Level 2-CE aligning with the Master Blueprint are now available on the NBOME website, alongside the current practice exams. Previous versions will be retired in May and June, respectively.

The launch of the enhanced COMLEX-USA is the culmination of nearly 10 years of work by experts and leaders from across the organization and the country who contributed in all areas of creation and deployment of this state of the art assessment.

New COMSAE examinations are now available as a self-assessment resource for the COMLEX-USA Level 1 and Level 2-CE examinations. The new COMSAE examinations reflect the new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint taking effect for Level 1 in May 2019 and for Level 2-CE in June 2019.

COMSAE self-assessment examinations using the current blueprint for COMLEX-USA Level 1 and Level 2-CE will remain available until the new Master Blueprint takes effect for those examinations beginning in May and June, respectively.

For more information about the COMSAE self-assessment series, please see our website.

A CORRE practice exam is now available on our website.

NBOME is Pleased to Announce the Pilot Launch of COMAT FBS Comprehensive

Throughout the last five years, the NBOME, in conjunction with more than 250 members of our National Faculty, have worked to develop COMAT for Foundational Biomedical Sciences (COMAT FBS).

In December and January, the COMAT FBS Comprehensive examination was provided on a voluntary and complimentary basis to 16 COMs administering multiple COMAT clinical subject examinations. Nearly 3,000 COMAT FBS Comprehensive Examinations were administered during the introductory period. The program will be officially launched beginning in March, with COMAT FBS Comprehensive examinations available to all COMs.

ComAT FBS is a significant addition to NBOME’s portfolio of assessments and educational resources. As a precursor to COMLEX Level 1, it is likely the first NBOME and osteopathically distinctive examination a medical student ever takes.
COMAT FBS may be administered through the NBOME’s secure portal, or via the all new eCOMAT app for the Apple iPad.

In December 2019, the COMAT FBS Targeted examinations, an a la carte program which will allow COMs to utilize individual sections of the FBS Comprehensive examination, will begin.

**New Practice Exams for COMAT FBS and COMAT Clinical Subjects Now Available**

To coincide with the release of COMAT FBS, the related COMAT FBS Practice Exam has also been deployed and is available [here](#). Additionally, revised practice examinations for the COMAT Clinical subjects exam series have been published to the website, and are ready for use. Each practice exam can be found on their respective pages below:

- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- OB/GYN
- Osteopathic Principles
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Surgery

**NBOME 2018 Annual Board of Directors Meeting**

*Highlights of the meeting include celebration of the enhanced two-day COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination, discussion of the American Medical Association’s historic policy statement of equality for COMLEX-USA and DO residency applicants, plans for the US Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit in 2019, updates on the single accreditation system for graduate medical education, and 2019 ACEL priority goal decisions.*

As a special guest speaker, William S. Mayo, DO, American Osteopathic Association (AOA) president, discussed AOA strategic opportunities and changes taking place in the area of osteopathic board certification.
New Board Members Installed

The NBOME Board of Directors is instrumental in steering the organization through strategic decision making, policy creation, fiduciary responsibility, and ultimately ensuring NBOME is pursuing and achieving goals in line with the established mission and vision of the organization. At the 2018 Annual Board of Directors meeting, four new members were added to the Board.

**Robert J. Corona, Jr., DO, MBA**, of New York State, is a pathologist with vast experience in academic medicine and is currently chief executive officer of the University Hospitals at the State University of New York, Upstate Medical University. Dr. Corona is board certified in anatomic pathology, neuropathology and clinical informatics. A 1986 graduate of New York College of Osteopathic Medicine of New York Institute of Technology, Dr. Corona also earned his MBA from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 2012.

**Elizabeth A. McMurtry, DO**, of Washington State, is an emergency physician for Kadlec Regional Medical Center and serves as assistant dean for clinical education and faculty development for Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences. Dr. McMurtry is a 2002 graduate of the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is certified in advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support, advanced trauma life support and fundamentals of critical care. Dr. McMurtry has researched and published about emergency medicine and pediatrics, and has delivered many lectures and presentations on her areas of expertise in medicine.

**Robert G. G. Piccinini, DO**, of Michigan, is a psychiatrist in private practice and actively involved in local, state and national osteopathic medical associations, including as a current member of the AOA Board of Trustees, and the American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists. He is board certified in geriatric psychiatry and general adult psychiatry by the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry. Dr. Piccinini is a 1992 graduate of Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Sajid A. Surve, DO**, of Texas, is an associate professor of family medicine and osteopathic manipulative medicine and a specialist in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of North Texas Health Science Center-Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is a 2005 graduate from Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Stratford, New Jersey, and is board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Pain Medicine, the American Osteopathic Board of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine/Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and the American Osteopathic Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

To read more about NBOME’s newest Board members, click [here](#).
NBOME 2018 Honorees

Sydney L. Steele, JD, Receives the 2018 Santucci Award

Congratulations to Sydney L. Steele, JD, the most recent recipient of NBOME’s highest honor, the Santucci Award. This award is given annually to a member of the NBOME team for 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. This award was established in 2009, named for Thomas F. Santucci, Jr., DO, president and chair of the NBOME Board from 1985-1987, to honor his legacy.

Sydney L. Steele, JD, is a 1964 graduate of Indiana University at Bloomington School of Law. After law school he passed the Indiana state bar, before serving three years in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany, and attaining the rank of Captain. After his military service Mr. Steele returned to his home state of Indiana and began the private practice of law. For almost 25 years, Mr. Steele has been a crucial part of the NBOME family. As NBOME’s legal counsel, he has been indispensable in contracts, negotiations, and all manner of legal issues throughout the years. He is a recognized national authority on high stakes testing and testing accommodations, and has provided trusted counsel to 12 NBOME Board chairs and two full-time DO presidents.

Mr. Steele has been senior counsel and partner at Kroger Gardis & Regas LLP since 2003 where his practice primarily focused on the Americans with Disabilities Act, civil construction, employment and contract litigation, arbitration and mediation. He practiced law in Indiana as well as the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. In his community, he is president and board member of Big Brothers of Central Indiana, and the Columbia Club. He is a board member and officer of the Center for Leadership Development, and co-founder of the Indianapolis Law Club.

Barbara E. Walker, DO, Honored with the NBOME Clark Award for Patient Advocacy

NBOME is pleased to recognize Barbara E. Walker, DO, with The NBOME Clark Award for Patient Advocacy. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated an unwavering advocacy for quality patient care by assuring the use of valid, osteopathically distinctive assessment for physician licensure at the state or national level. It is named after long-time NBOME Board public member and leader in medical regulation and state medical licensure, Mr. Gary R. Clark.

Barbara E. Walker, DO, is an AOA board certified family physician with the family medicine residency program at New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, North Carolina. She has spent more than 14 years there as a program director. Dr. Walker has also held other academic appointments in family medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine-Virginia Campus and the University of Pikeville- Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine.

In 2013, Dr. Walker was appointed to the North Carolina Medical Board (NCMB) and was elected secretary/treasurer in 2016; in 2018, she was elected as president. She served on the nominating committee for the Federation of State Medical Boards from 2014-2016 and has been president of the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners since 2017.

In 2018, Dr. Walker was recruited to the NBOME National Faculty and participates on the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Variable-Purpose Examination (COMVEX) advisory committee and has served as an expert panelist for COMLEX-USA Level 1 standard setting. Dr. Walker has dedicated her career to patient advocacy through her numerous contributions.
Continued–NBOME 2018 Annual Board of Directors Meeting

Meritorious Service Awards

In addition to welcoming new Board members, the Board honored the contributions of those who ended their terms at the December meeting.

Ronald R. Burns, DO

Ron R. Burns, DO, was elected to the NBOME Board in 2009. In his time on the Board he has served on the Executive Committee, chaired the nominating committee and has been a member of the COMLEX-USA Level 3 advisory committee. Dr. Burns also previously served on the cognitive testing advisory committee. In addition to his work with NBOME, he is highly involved with the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). Since becoming an AOA member in 1989, Dr. Burns has served on a number of AOA committees and in 2008 was elected to the AOA Board of Trustees. In July 2018, Dr. Burns was elected as AOA president-elect at the AOA annual business meeting in Chicago and his one-year term will begin in July 2019. Dr. Burns completed his term on the Board of Directors in 2018.

Millicent King Channell, DO, MA

Millicent King Channell, DO, MA, was elected to the NBOME Board in 2009 and has stood steadfast in her support of NBOME and its mission ever since. During her tenure, Dr. Channell has chaired the NBOME awards committee and served on the Executive Committee. She also served as a physician examiner for osteopathic manipulative medicine with the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE, and as a member of the Level 2-PE advisory committee. After her departure she will continue her work as assistant dean for curriculum and a professor in the departments of osteopathic manipulative medicine and family medicine at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. She will also continue serving on the board of trustees at the American Academy of Osteopathy and doing committee work for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. Dr. Channell completed her term on the Board of Directors in 2018.

J. Michael Finley, DO

J. Michael Finley, DO, was elected to the Board in 2010, and has been involved with the NBOME in one form or another since 2000. Dr. Finley formally resigned his board position earlier this year when he was confirmed as NBOME’s first Senior Vice President for Assessment. In addition to his work on the Board, Dr. Finley served on the Executive Committee from 2013-2016, and was an active member of the National Faculty. He has been involved in standard setting, COMAT, standards and assurances, facilities and space planning, and numerous COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE committees. In this new staff role, he provides oversight for the departments of Assessment Services, Collaborative Initiatives & Assessment and the Continuous Professional Development division.

2018 Item Writer and Case Author Award Winners

2018 COMLEX-USA Level 1 Item Writer of the Year: Jonathan D. Auten, DO

Dr. Auten is the associate program director for the emergency medicine residency program at the Navy Medical Center in San Diego, California. He joined the National Faculty in 2017, and has been a significant contributor to the COMLEX-USA Level 1 examination.

2018 COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE Item Writer of the Year: Brett S. Stecker, DO

Dr. Stecker is the Medical Director at Tristan Medical in Raynham, Massachusetts. He has been highly involved with the NBOME, contributing to clinical decision making cases, item writing, and serving on several examination committees. Dr. Stecker is experienced in working with the COMLEX-USA Levels 1, 2-CE and 3 examinations, and was previously awarded Item Writer of the Year in 2016.
2018 COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE Case Author of the Year: Maurice W. Oelklaus, DO
Dr. Oelklaus is associate dean for clinical affairs/clinical skills at Trinity University School of Medicine in Kansas City, Missouri. He has been involved in the National Faculty since 2014, and specializes in the COMLEX-USA Levels 1 and 2-PE examinations. Dr. Oelklaus specializes in family medicine, and is an important contributor to the Level 2-PE examinations as a SOAP Note Rater.

2018 COMLEX-USA Level 3 Item Writer of the Year: Megan Krease, DO, MS
Dr. Krease is a pediatrician at All Children Pediatrics in Louisville, Kentucky. She has been a member of the National Faculty since 2016, and has contributed many items to both the COMLEX-USA Level 3 exam, as well as the pediatrics portion of the COMAT Clinical examination.

2018 Clinical Decision Making Case Writer of the Year: Teresa M. Kilgore, DO
Dr. Kilgore is discipline chair for internal medicine and associate professor for clinical medicine at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Carolinas Campus. She has been a member of the National Faculty since 2013, and is a significant contributor to clinical decision making cases in COMLEX-USA Level 3.

2018 COMLEX-USA Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Item Writer of the Year: Jason T. Eberl, PhD
Dr. Eberl is a professor of health care ethics and director of the Albert Gnaegi Center for Health Care Ethics at St. Louis University, in St. Louis, Missouri. A valuable addition to the National Faculty since 2017, Dr. Eberl’s expertise on medical ethics, jurisprudence and professionalism, have been important in developing the COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination.

2018 COMAT Item Writer of the Year: Katherine A. Mitzel, DO
Dr. Mitzel is the associate dean for curricular integration and faculty development, as well as an associate professor of emergency medicine at the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University. A member of the National Faculty since 2014, Dr. Mitzel has been a significant contributor to the COMAT Emergency Medicine examination.

2018 COMAT Foundational Biomedical Sciences (FBS) Item Writer of the Year: Rebecca L. Pratt, PhD
Dr. Pratt is a professor of anatomy in the department of biomedical sciences at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. She has been a member of the National Faculty since 2014, and has been a key contributor to COMAT FBS and COMLEX-USA Level 1 examination items.
US Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit...For Our Patients

The 3rd United States Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit will take place on February 28th - March 1st, in Naples, Florida. This unique event will provide a forum for attendees to explore and define the distinctive elements of osteopathic medical regulation as reflected in osteopathic undergraduate and graduate medical education and accreditation, assessment and licensure, and board certification and continuing medical education. The event is being sponsored by the NBOME, American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine with support from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation and the Osteopathic Founders Foundation. The forum will provide a venue to enhance and affirm the ways osteopathic philosophy is articulated and codify osteopathic distinctiveness across the profession for the benefit of patients.

Participants include:
- The Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators
- American Association of Osteopathic Examiners
- Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
- AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists
- AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation
- Federation of State Medical Boards
- Osteopathic Heritage Foundation
- Osteopathic Founders Foundation
- Student Osteopathic Medical Association
- Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents

IN THE NEWS:

NBOME Featured in the Journal of Medical Regulation

NBOME’s Dot Horber, PhD, Director for Continuous Professional Development, and John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President & CEO, have been jointly published in the October 2018 issue of the Journal of Medical Regulation (JMR). Their manuscript, entitled “Enhancing COMLEX-USA: Evidence-Based Redesign of the Osteopathic Medical Licensure Examination Program” is prominently featured on the cover and is also referenced in a forword by JMR Editor-in-Chief Heidi M. Koenig, MD.

“(COMLEX-USA) offers an updated path for competency assessment that will be implemented this fall and fits well with this growing need...we must be vigilant in ensuring that our notions of competency are well defined and up to date — and that means taking into account rapid changes in medicine, which create a constantly evolving environment for competency assessment. The COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination blueprint, designed for osteopathic physicians, provides a good example of how medical examiners can update their assessment systems to stay ahead of the curve of change. Further, the new blueprint will meet the evolving needs of state medical boards and institutional credentialing entities. The blueprint focuses on “knowledge, skills, experiences, attitudes, values, and/or behaviors that are observable and measurable and can be directly assessed in a reliable manner’ — all factors that can help medical regulators make sound, balanced decisions as they continue their work in protecting the public and ensuring quality in medical practice, keeping our patients safe.”

Board Member Spotlight

Dr. Robert Corona

Upstate Medical University Interim President Mantosh Dewan, MD, announced a key appointment in Upstate University Hospital leadership, naming Robert J. Corona Jr., DO, MBA, as CEO.

Corona, who has served as interim CEO since March 2018, said, “I am grateful for this opportunity and I look forward to continuing to work with other hospital officers, and the Upstate and SUNY communities to lead Upstate University Hospital in its support of our university’s clinical, educational and research missions.”

At Upstate, Corona has led the development and implementation of the Upstate MIND (Medical Innovation and Novel Discovery) at the CNY Biotech Accelerator and served as the John B. Henry Professor and chair of the department of pathology and laboratory medicine, medical director of neuropathology and vice president for innovation and business development. For more information, see our website.
On January 24-25, the NBOME attended the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Leadership, Education, Advocacy & Development (LEAD) conference, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The AOA LEAD conference delivers training to individuals throughout the osteopathic medical profession, with additional content delivered through focused tracks to provide advanced educational content. Among those representing the NBOME were John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, Geraldine O’Shea, DO, and Sandra Waters, MEM, Vice President for Collaborative Assessments & Initiatives.

During LEAD, Drs. Gimpel and O’Shea, and Ms. Waters, interacted with members of the osteopathic medical community, including other affiliate organizations, COMs, program directors, licensing boards, specialty boards and colleges, as well as members of NBOME’s own National Faculty.

NBOME representatives actively participated in a variety of conference sessions focused on key topics ranging from physician wellness, the impact of big data, changes in AOA board certification, updates to accreditation/billing and reporting, and the involvement of NBOME National Faculty. They also met with AOA regulatory affairs and advocacy staff to talk through top federal and state issues involving medical degrees and scope of practice, as well as physician access and affordability.

Closing out the LEAD conference on Friday evening was Ron Burns, DO, AOA President-Elect, as well as Kate de Klerk, OMS IV, SOMA National President. At this session, student and young physician leaders spoke of the exciting AMA Resolution 955: Equality for COMLEX-USA and USMLE, and its importance to osteopathic distinction and professional identity formation for young DOs.

AAOE Educational Summit

Immediately following the LEAD conference, Drs. Gimpel and O’Shea, and Ms. Waters provided a NBOME and COMLEX-USA update to the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners. Input was solicited from the osteopathic medical licensing board community on a number of initiatives, and updates on the enhanced COMLEX-USA Level 3, residency program directors attestation, numeric and pass-fail scores for COMLEX-USA, and the AMA’s historic policy (AMA Resolution 955) supporting DO students, residents and osteopathic distinction by advocating for the equality for COMLEX-USA and USMLE.

On The Road with the COMs

We’re looking forward to a packed travel calendar in 2019 and can’t wait to connect with even more osteopathic medical students as well as COM leadership and faculty to discuss NBOME assessments and provide up-to-date information on the latest enhancements to COMLEX-USA, as well as item writing workshops and other faculty development programs. These visits also provide a great opportunity for NBOME to connect with staff and National Faculty members.

Here’s where we’ve been recently...
And here’s where we’re headed in the coming weeks and months...

February 1 | West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
February 7 | Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine | Dublin Campus
February 22 | NOVA Southeastern University Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine
March 26 | Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
April 5 | Western University of Health Sciences / College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific | Oregon Campus

2019 ACGME Annual Educational Conference

John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President & CEO, and J. Michael Finley, DO, Senior Vice President for Assessment, are presenting "COMLEX-USA by Program Directors (PDs) as Part of a Comprehensive Assessment System.” The session, targeted toward designated institutional officials, program directors, faculty, program coordinators and graduate medical personnel, will highlight enhancements to the COMLEX-USA examination, including the two-day, competency-based Level 3, program director attestation of good academic and professional standing of their residents for Level 3 eligibility, and score reporting on competency domains directly to PDs. From the holistic review of applicants for residency interviews, to the regular assessment of residents’ performance related to competency domains, this session will review how COMLEX-USA scores, performance profiles relate to assessment of resident achievement -- and how they can provide value to PDs and residents to enhance patient care, safety, and lifelong learning. In addition, NBOME staff will be on hand at Booth 34 at the ACGME’s Annual Conference on March 7-10 in Orlando, Florida and hopes to see you there!

Quick Links for Osteopathic Medical Students

COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information
COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint
COMLEX-USA FAQs

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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