

# THE OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINER



A bimonthly publication of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

February 2017

[Item Writer and Case Author of the Year Winners](#)

[New NBOME CATALYST Platform](#)

[NBOME Assessments](#)

[COMLEX-USA - Enhancements and Updates](#)

[COMAT Program Improvements](#)

[ACEL Plan to Excel](#)

[Recent Meetings](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[Events](#)

[Of Osteopathic Interest](#)

[In Memoriam](#)

[Connect with NBOME](#)

## NBOME Board Members Honored



**NBOME Board Vice-Chair Dana C. Shaffer, DO, FACOFP *dist.*, received the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) Alumni**

Association Certificate of Honor during the PCOM Founders Day celebration on January 27, 2017. Founders Day recognizes those who have made significant contributions to PCOM and to the profession of osteopathic medicine. Dr. Shaffer is a past-president of the PCOM Alumni Association. He joined the NBOME Board in 2008. After serving as Secretary-Treasurer on the NBOME Executive Committee and Finance Committees, he was installed as Vice-Chair in December 2015.

NBOME Board Vice-Chair Dana Shaffer, DO, FACOFP *dist.*

**James M. Andriole, DO**, was honored with the **Archie Feinstein, DO Lifetime Award from the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE)**. The award is presented to an individual who has promoted and served the osteopathic medical profession through service to the public on a state board and related activities. Dr. Andriole received the award on January 20, 2017, at the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA's) annual Osteopathic Medical Educators and Leaders Conference in Tampa, Florida.

Dr. Andriole was elected to the NBOME Board in 2009. He currently serves as a member of the NBOME Testing Accommodations Committee, the Finance Committee and the COMVEX Subcommittee.



NBOME Board member, Jim Andriole, DO, accepting the Archie Feinstein, DO Lifetime Achievement Award from Anna Hayden, DO, AAOE President.

## Item Writer and Case Author of the Year Winners

### **NBOME is pleased to announce the seven recipients of its 2016 Item Writer and Case Author of the Year Awards.**

Each year the NBOME conducts an objective evaluation of hundreds of active members of the NBOME National Faculty who contributed items (test questions) and cases during the year for the NBOME's Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX-USA) and Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Test (COMAT) examination programs. COMLEX-USA and COMAT examinations are used by medical licensing boards and colleges of osteopathic medicine to make decisions about medical licensure and advancement in osteopathic medical education. Authors whose items and cases

are of exceptional quality that meet the type and format required for NBOME's examinations are selected as award winners.

"We are delighted to announce and congratulate the distinguished members of our National Faculty who are the winners of the Item Writer and Case Author of the Year awards for 2016," said John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO. "Their contributions demonstrate our high standards for the quality of our medical assessments and reflect the commitment to excellence of our entire National Faculty."

### **Congratulations to the 2016 winners**



**Kathryn J. Leyva, PhD**, is the recipient of the Item Writer of the Year Award for the **COMLEX-USA Level 1**. Dr. Leyva is a Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine, Midwestern University (AZCOM/MWU), in Glendale, Arizona. "My experiences with NBOME National Faculty have made me a better educator in and out of the classroom," said Dr. Leyva.



**Brett S. Stecker, DO, FAAFP**, received the **COMLEX-USA Level 2-Cognitive Evaluation (Level 2-CE)** Item Writer of the Year Award. A board certified family physician, Dr. Stecker is Medical Director at Tristan Medical Raynham Care Center in Raynham, Massachusetts, and a member of the medical staff leadership at Morton Hospital in Staunton, MA. "My involvement with the NBOME has enhanced my career as a family medicine physician... I had always wanted to give back to the osteopathic profession and working with the NBOME has helped in this endeavor. I have enjoyed writing and reviewing items and especially enjoyed working with the outstanding staff at the NBOME," said Dr. Stecker.



**Steven T. O'Donnell, DO**, is the recipient of the Case Author of the Year Award for his contributions to the **COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation (Level 2-PE)** examination. A specialist in family medicine, Dr. O'Donnell holds positions at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, in Erie, Pennsylvania, as Associate Clinical Professor of Family Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) and Program Director of the Plus One OMM/Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine (NMM) Residency program.



**Kara C. Mintier, DO**, is the recipient of the Item Writer of the Year Award for the **COMLEX-USA Level 3** examination. Dr. Mintier is an Assistant Professor of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine (NMM)/ Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) and Family Medicine at the Western University of Health Sciences/College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific in Lebanon, Oregon, and an attending physician at the Good Samaritan Medical Center Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine/Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Plus One Residency Program in Corvallis, Oregon.



**Donna-Marie McMahon, DO, FAAP**, was awarded Item Writer of the Year for the **Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Test (COMAT)**. A pediatrician and medical educator, Dr. McMahon has been on the faculty at the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) in Old Westbury, New York, since 2008. She is an Assistant Professor in Pediatrics, Director of the Doctor Patient Continuum and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Adjunct Clinical Faculty for the NYIT Center for Global Health.



**Joanna L. Drowos, DO, MPH, MBA**, received the Item Writer the Year Award for her contributions to the **Health Promotion/Disease Prevention and Health Care Delivery (HPDP/HCD) dimensions of the COMLEX-USA examination**. Dr. Drowos is the Associate Chair in the Integrated Medical Science Department, Director of the Community and Preventive Medicine Clerkship and Associate Professor of Integrated Medical Science at the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. "Participating as an NBOME Item Writer has been incredibly rewarding," said Dr. Drowos. "Not only has it helped me to improve my assessment skills as an educator, it has also helped me connect with the osteopathic community."



**David B. Fuller, DO, FAAO**, was awarded the Item Writer of the Year for his contributions to the **Osteopathic Principles and Practice (OPP) dimension of the COMLEX-USA examination**. Dr. Fuller is Associate Professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM), at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Course Director for the OPP, as well as OMM Department Practice Management Advisor. "I have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, being part of NBOME, and have come to greatly respect the wonderful people – doctors and NBOME staff – whom I have had the privilege to get to know at the NBOME OPP Item Review Committee meetings over the years," said Dr. Fuller.

## New NBOME CATALYST Platform



**CATALYST is NBOME's flexible, innovative assessment platform that supports lifelong learning and continuous professional development.** It has customizable features that make it perfect for assessment used across the continuum, including as an alternate way to assess knowledge for continuous board certification (e.g., American Osteopathic Association's Osteopathic Continuous Certification program), resident in-service assessment, and other assessment needs. Test questions reflecting the content required are delivered to examinees on smart phones, tablets or other devices of choice as determined by the client program, including other features that can include frequency and timing, immediate

feedback, spaced repetition and assessment of an examinee's confidence and content relevance to his or her practice. We are currently proposing the use of the CATALYST platform on a pilot basis to several assessment organizations and will be updating you throughout 2017.

## Updates: NBOME Assessments

### COMLEX-USA Enhancements and Updates

**In response to feedback and input from examinees, NBOME is pleased to announce several enhancements to the COMLEX-USA Cognitive Examinations, Level 1, Level 2-CE and Level 3.** Beginning with the 2017-18 test cycles, the changes below will be implemented in March 2017 for Level 3, in May 2017 for Level 1 and in June 2017 for Level 2-CE.

- **Optional Break Time** for examinees will change this year. Breaks up to 10 minutes taken during a scheduled time, will not count against the total examination time, provided they do not exceed the allotted 10 minutes. The new breaks will continue to take place between sections 2 and 3 in the morning session, and sections 6 and 7 in the afternoon session for standard exam administrations. The optional 40 minute lunchtime break will remain in effect and will not count against the time allotted for taking the examination.
- **Lab values** with reference ranges (where applicable) will be embedded directly in the test questions and clinical cases that appear on each examination.
- **A standard calculator feature** will be built into the examinations.
- **Expanded test locations are being added.** In addition to the National Center for Clinical Skills Testing—Chicago, opened in August 2016, new Prometric Test Centers, where COMLEX-USA computer-based cognitive examinations are administered, will be opened this year, giving candidates greater convenience and more choice.
- **Improvements to digital images** will be implemented with examination administrations beginning in the 2018-19 test cycles.
- **Additional details for the COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019** will be released soon. The [COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019](#) was released last summer and several additional important enhancements and administrative details were recently approved by the NBOME Board and will be available on the NBOME website by July 2017. These include individual test specifications for COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2-CE, Level 2-PE and Level 3, as well as detailed blueprint descriptions for both examination dimensions, Dimension 1 (Competency Domains) and Dimension 2 (Clinical Presentations).
- **Proposed changes to COMLEX-USA candidate eligibility requirements** were approved by the NBOME

Board of Directors in December. The proposed modifications will go into effect in 2018-2019, with the transition to the COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-19 and with implementation of a two-day test administration for COMLEX-USA Level 3 in September 2018. The eligibility changes are subject to a period of public comment from February 1, 2017 to March 17, 2017. Beginning with the 2018-2019 test cycle for the two-day COMLEX-USA Level 3, eligibility will require an attestation from an AOA- or ACGME-accredited GME program director that the Level 3 resident/exam candidate is in "good academic and professional standing." In addition the NBOME will recommend (but not require) that Level 3 candidates have completed a minimum of six months of residency training prior to testing. Beginning with the 2019-2020 test cycles, eligibility for the COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2-CE or Level 2-PE will require an attestation from an AOA COCA-accredited COM dean that an osteopathic medical student is in "good academic and professional standing." The NBOME invites organizations and individuals involved in osteopathic medical education, training, licensure and regulation to provide written comments on the changes to eligibility requirements by March 17, 2017. Comments may be sent to [communications@nbome.org](mailto:communications@nbome.org).

- **Irregular conduct** is a critical matter and the NBOME is committed to maintaining the integrity of its examinations in order to protect the public and so that state medical and osteopathic medical licensing boards may rely on COMLEX-USA as part of their decision-making process for licensure. Throughout the year the NBOME Board reviews cases involving allegations of irregular conduct by COMLEX-USA candidates. Irregular conduct can occur in connection with application, registration administration or the integrity and security of a COMLEX-USA examination. NBOME encourages medical students to read the [COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information](#) for details about the Irregular Conduct policy. Examinees are reminded to comply with the rules of conduct during testing, and refrain from pre- or post-examination conduct deemed to be irregular conduct. Anyone who suspects an occurrence of irregular conduct, cheating or other activity that may compromise the security and integrity of any COMLEX-USA examination is encouraged to contact the NBOME [Client Services team](#), 1-866-479-6828.

**More information about the COMLEX-USA series is available on the [NBOME website](#).**

## COMAT Program Improvements

**NBOME is pleased to announce these new enhancements to the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Assessment Test (COMAT)** program. Almost every college of osteopathic medicine is currently using COMAT examinations!

- **New registration and scheduling enhancements** for colleges of osteopathic medicine using the NBOME COMAT series of eight osteopathically distinctive subject examinations are now available. These enhancements are designed to provide greater control and flexibility in scheduling students to take examinations, which can be either COM-proctored or delivered at Prometric testing centers nationwide. COMAT coordinators can [log in](#) to their COMAT registration page where they can view the new COMAT registration guide and tutorial.
- **Comparative Performance Reports** by COMAT discipline will be available on the NBOME secure Dean's Page of the

Client Registration System/Portal. COMs will be able to compare their COM student performance with other unidentified COMs. We anticipate these reports for the testing cycle/academic year to be uploaded annually in August or September.

- **Lab values** with reference ranges (where applicable) will be embedded directly in the test questions and clinical cases that appear on COMAT examinations with the test cycle beginning July 1, 2017.

**More information about the COMAT series is available on the [NBOME website](#).**

## ACEL Plan to Excel

In 2017, NBOME launched a new three-year strategic plan **ACEL – Align | Connect | Experience | Learn** to guide NBOME goals and priorities through 2019. "ACEL positions us well to continue to meet our compelling mission of protecting the public, and serves as our guide to accelerate us forward as we continue to provide assessment services and products for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions," said John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO.



## Recent Meetings:

### Visits to Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

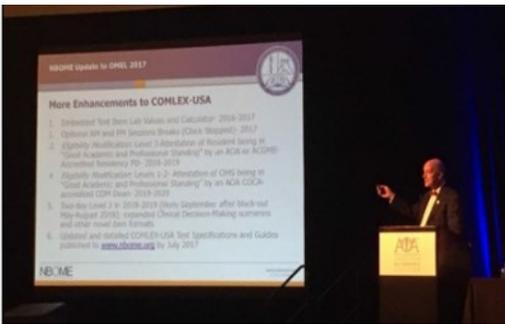


John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO with students at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on January 23.

**During 2017, NBOME continues to make visits to colleges of osteopathic medicine across the country** to connect directly with students and faculty members and provide updates on the COMLEX-USA series and the transition to the single accreditation system for graduate medical education. On January 23, John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO, met with Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine (NSU-COM). Over the coming months, visits to Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine, Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of North Texas Health Sciences Center College of Osteopathic Medicine, and several others are scheduled. Deans who would like to arrange a visit by NBOME may contact [Kelly Reynolds](#).

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Recent Meetings-continued



**NBOME attended the American Osteopathic Association’s (AOA) annual Advocacy for Healthy Partnerships Conference January 18,** AOA’s Osteopathic Medical Educators and Leaders Conference (OMEL) Conference January 19-21, and on January 21, took part in the 2017 American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE) Annual Summit Meeting. OMEL brings together educators, regulators and leaders across the osteopathic medical profession to innovate new ideas and perpetuate faculty development. The AAOE is comprised of all osteopathic physicians who sit on state licensing boards, including osteopathic boards and composite boards. All 50 states and the District of Columbia grant full, unlimited physician licensure for practice and surgery to osteopathic physicians. At these meetings NBOME President and CEO John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, updated leaders on important NBOME initiatives and enhancements.

John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO, delivers an update on COMLEX-USA enhancements during the Osteopathic Medical Educators and Leaders Conference.

International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare



**John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO, and Tony Errichetti, PhD, NBOME Director for Doctor-Patient Communication Assessment,** attended the International Meeting on Simulation in Healthcare (IMSH) Conference, the largest international meeting of simulation educators, from January 28 to February 1, 2017. The conference drew 2,600 participants from all aspects of patient simulation – human, mannequin, part-task, computer-based, haptics and virtual reality. Dr. Errichetti and three other standardized patient (SP) trainers delivered a workshop on SP professionalism to a group of 75 SP trainers and program directors.

Joining with Dr. Tony Errichetti at the IMSH conference were (l.-r.) Virginia Drda, Elizabeth Kachur, PhD and Anna Lank.

Upcoming Meetings:

**Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education**

During the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Annual Educational Conference, John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO, will join Joseph C. Mazzola, DO, FACOFP, of the ACGME Residency Review Committee, to co-present “Understanding COMLEX-USA and AOA Specialty Board Certification: A Primer for Residency Program Directors.” Moderated by American Osteopathic Association President Boyd R. Buser, DO, FACOFP *dist.*, the session will take place on March

11, 2017 at 8 a.m. The NBOME will also be on site at the ACGME exhibit hall during the conference from March 9-12.

**Federation of State Medical Boards Annual Meeting**

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) Annual Meeting, Planning for the Future: Perspectives in Medical Regulation, will take place in Fort Worth, Texas, on April 19-22, 2017. NBOME will once again be a Gold Sponsor and exhibitor at the conference supporting the work of FSMB.

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## Upcoming Meetings-continued

**American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators**

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (AODME) 2017 Annual Conference, Educating Leaders: Integrated Health Systems—A Paradigm for the Future, will take place in Baltimore from April 26-29. NBOME, a sustaining platinum sponsor, will help kick things off on Tuesday, April 25, with a [preconference workshop](#). John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO, Edward Tsai, PhD, Associate Vice President for Assessment Services & Research, and Jeanne Sandella, DO, Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing, will provide information and solicit feedback on the COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019 and blueprint enhancements, as well as developments in the COMAT series. NBOME staff will also deliver presentations on improving patient care using interprofessional teams and increasing exam effectiveness with multiple choice testing, in addition to the NBOME and COMLEX-USA Update at the luncheon on Friday, April 28. NBOME will also be on site in the exhibit hall during the conference.

**NBOME Spring Visitation Day**

NBOME invites representatives from colleges of osteopathic medicine and licensing boards to our Spring 2017 Visitation Day at the NBOME Philadelphia Executive offices on Monday, April 10 from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. You will have an opportunity to meet and join with your peers and our staff to learn more about our assessments, services and tour the NBOME National Center for Clinical Skills Testing-Philadelphia (NCCST). This interactive group event will have a behind-the-scenes opportunity to explore the COMLEX-USA licensure examination program, with a particular emphasis on the components of the Level 2-PE clinical skills examination, as well as other NBOME assessment services, including the COMSAE, COMAT and COMVEX examination programs. Another Visitation Day is planned for Fall 2017 in our Chicago Corporate Offices and NCCST-Chicago.

**To reserve your place at either session, please email or call [Rachel Maxwell](#), 610-825-6551.**

**Events:****National Women Physicians Day**

**On February 3, 2017, NBOME celebrated National Women Physicians Day!** This date marks the birthday of legendary female physician, Elizabeth Blackwell, a strong and influential figure who changed the career of medicine by becoming the first American woman to hold a medical degree. Today, over 40 percent of osteopathic physicians in practice are women, and over 45 percent of NBOME's Board and 41 percent of our National Faculty are women. Gender equality in medicine encourages better health outcomes for all. **Thank you to women physicians for all you DO!**



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## Of Osteopathic Interest

From the January issue of *The DO*, the online newsletter of the American Osteopathic Association, it's official! According to the 2016 Osteopathic Medical Profession Report produced by the AOA, there are now more than 100,000 DOs in the United States. Osteopathic medicine is one of the fastest growing health care professions in the United States with nearly one in four U.S. medical students choosing to attend an osteopathic medical school.

Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine, or DOs, focus on prevention, partnering with patients to help them get healthy and stay well.

DOs are one of two types of fully licensed physicians in the United States. DOs practice in every medical specialty, applying the patient-centered philosophy to treat the person inside the patient.

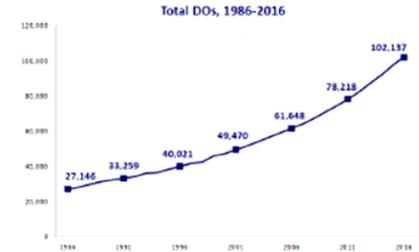
**102,137\***

DOs in the U.S.  
Includes 2016 graduates†

**129,649\***

Total DOs and osteopathic medical students†

Osteopathic medicine is one of the fastest growing health care professions in the United States. Since 1986, the number of DOs has increased by 276%.



\* Source: AOA Masterfile Data May 31, 2016  
† Source: AACOM Preliminary Enrollment Report Fall 2016

## AOA Match Day

More than **2,200 osteopathic medical students and graduates** matched into AOA-accredited residencies in **25 specialties on February 3**, according to the American Osteopathic Association. Over 3,000 graduating students and new osteopathic physicians (DOs) participated in this year's AOA match, with 73 percent successfully matching into residency programs. Those participating in the AOA Match historically pursue careers in primary care as evidenced by [the results](#). The top specialties by number of matches are:

Specialty	Number Matched	2017 Percentage	Increase/Decrease from 2016
Family Medicine	610	28%	3%
Internal Medicine	527	24%	4%
Emergency Medicine	306	14%	1%
General Surgery	148	7%	-1%
Orthopedic Surgery	119	5%	1%

**In all 1,026 positions were filled** in non-primary care specialties and 895 residencies were not filled through the initial match process. Historically many of these positions are filled after the initial match announcement.

## In Memoriam

**We are saddened at the recent loss of Margaret Mungherera, MD**, International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) Chair-elect and Vice Chair of the Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council. Dr. Mungherera was a passionate advocate for quality health care in

Africa and throughout the world, with vast experience in mental health care, health worker training, research, human rights advocacy, not for profit and professional association governance, and medical regulation

## Connect with NBOME

If you haven't done so already, connect with us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!

Check out important and helpful information at [www.nbome.org](http://www.nbome.org)

[COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information 2016-2017](#)

[COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2-CE and Level 3 Examination Dates in 2017](#)

[COMLEX-USA Score Release Dates](#)

[FAQs](#) for COMLEX-USA Level-1, 2-CE and Level 3 Examinations

COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE [Pre-Examination FAQ](#) and [Post-Examination FAQ](#)



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

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## The NBOME's Mission

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