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

Dr. Gerald G. Osborn to Join the NBOME in Senior Leadership Role

The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) is pleased to announce Gerald G. Osborn, DO, MPhil, has been named to the newly created position of Senior Vice President for Cognitive Testing. Dr. Osborn will be responsible for leading NBOME’s cognitive testing department and for oversight of NBOME’s cognitive examinations, including those in the COMLEX-USA licensure series (Level 1, Level 2-Cognitive Evaluation, Level 3) as well as the COMSAE examinations, the COMAT Subject Examinations and the COMVEX examination. Dr. Osborn will join the NBOME in mid July and will be based in the organization’s Chicago Corporate Offices.

Read full press release: http://www.nbome.org/docs/pr3212011.pdf

Dr. Joseph Smoley Honored with the Santucci Award

The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners’ Board of Directors recently awarded Dr. Joseph Smoley the organization’s highest honor, The Santucci Award, during its mid-year Board meeting. The Santucci Award is given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the mission of the NBOME. Over the course of his 26-year career with the NBOME, Dr. Smoley has served in a variety of capacities, including Executive Director, and most recently, Senior Director for Test Development in the Cognitive Testing Department.
NBOME Continues Involvement with FSMB’s MOL Initiatives

NBOME President & CEO, Dr. John Gimpel, participated in a conference call in mid June with the Federation of State Medical Boards and representatives from eight of the 11 State Medical and Osteopathic Medical Boards who have expressed an interest in being “early adopters” of Maintenance of Licensure (MOL) by participating in “MOL Pilot Projects” in early 2012. Representatives from the American Osteopathic Association Bureau of Specialists, the American Board of Medical Specialties, and the National Board of Medical Examiners also were in attendance.

During the call, Dr. Gimpel reiterated the NBOME’s enthusiastic support of the FSMB’s initiatives in MOL and continued competence of licensed physicians, and offered assistance to any State Medical and Osteopathic Medical Board with pilot studies or other assessment resources that may be needed for osteopathic physicians.

2010 Annual Report Published

The NBOME’s 2010 Annual Report, an important informational and promotional tool, was published in April. The theme of this year’s report is “A Year of Growth, Development and Progress.” In addition to standard items such as reports on the COMLEX-USA examination series, reports from the NBOME Departments and community outreach and research activities, this year’s edition includes feature articles that highlight a number of key accomplishments from 2010.

These include the Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA, the creation and implementation of our visual identity system, and a summary of published “Letters to the Editor” that highlight the osteopathic distinctiveness of the COMLEX-USA series. Another feature of this year’s edition is a map that shows the number of NBOME National Faculty across the country, by state.


COMAT Examinations Set to Launch in July

The NBOME’s Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Test (COMAT) subject examination series, which is set to launch in July, is being enthusiastically received by the colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs). At least 20 COMs have expressed their intent to use the subject examinations during the coming academic year, with many of them having already contracted with the NBOME. Bev Larsen, NBOME’s Administrative Director for Cognitive Testing, and the Client Services Group are working on proctor training and the technological aspects of administering the COMAT examinations.

In April, detailed COMAT Content Outlines/Assessment Objectives developed by the NBOME’s Cognitive Testing Department were introduced and are available online: http://www.nbome.org/comat3.asp?m=coll. In addition, sample examinations and score reports are currently in development and are expected to be available in the near future.
Blue Ribbon Panel Making Progress on the future of COMLEX-USA

The NBOME’s Blue Ribbon Panel (BRP) on enhancing COMLEX-USA recently held a productive two-day meeting in early June at NBOME’s Corporate Offices in Chicago. The BRP, chaired by Dr. Janice A. Knebl, Vice-chair of the NBOME’s Board of Directors, is charged with:

1) Assisting the NBOME to outline a plan to implement a two-decision point, competency-based COMLEX-USA that is consistent with our organization’s mission.

2) Considering the primary purposes of COMLEX-USA as well as important secondary uses of the examination sequence.

3) Addressing any voids created by moving to a 2-decision point module with the development of additional, osteopathic assessment tools.

The BRP is composed of more than 20 distinguished members who represent a number of organizations, including the American Osteopathic Association, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles, Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators, American Association of Osteopathic Examiners, Federation of State Medical Boards, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education/Council of Medical Specialty Societies ACGME/CMSS as well as the NBOME. The group conducted a number of exercises aimed at further refining the COMLEX-USA blueprint, the two-decision point model, and accompanying assessment tools. In addition, the NBOME’s Fundamental Osteopathic Medical Competency Domains (FOMCD) document was finalized at the meeting.

Presentations were given by two key speakers. Dr. Frank Papa, Associate Dean, Curricular Design and Faculty Development, University of North Texas Health Science Center, provided a plenary session on cognitive sciences considerations in assessment paradigms. Dr. Georges Bordage, Professor, Department of Medical Education, College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago, outlined how the use of key features in clinical decision making cases can significantly broaden the domain of skills that can be assessed within medical licensure. Both presentations were very much appreciated by all BRP committee members.

NBOME’s Liaison Committee met in Chicago in early June. Under the leadership of Dr. Janice Knebl, Vice Chair of the NBOME Board, and Dr. John Gimpel, NBOME President & CEO, the attendees shared the current activities of their organization and interacted with NBOME leadership and other attendees about matters of common interest. Of special note were comments about Maintenance of License (MOL) initiatives for DOs after their initial licensure; initiatives by many organizations for international collaborations; shortage of residency positions for all physicians in training and our need to support the newly graduated DOs to compete for positions; and the need for more and better training in professionalism and ethics.

The NBOME Liaison Committee is a unique and important group that brings together key stakeholders in medical education (students, undergraduate and graduate medical education), assessment and licensure, and leadership of the osteopathic profession. Through this Committee, the NBOME seeks to interact with and better understand the needs and perceptions of participating organizations.
NBOME Makes Connections at AACOM/AODME Annual meeting

The NBOME participated in a number of activities and meetings during the April joint annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (AODME) in Baltimore, Maryland, April 13-17.

The highlight of the meeting for the NBOME was the NBOME Update lunch, which was attended by approximately 400 of the meeting participants. NBOME President & CEO, Dr. John Gimpel, was joined for the update by Board Chair, Dr. John Thornburg, as well as two of NBOME's Vice Presidents, Dr. Erik Langenau, VP for Clinical Skills Testing, and Dr. Linjun Shen, VP for Cognitive Testing and Research.

Topics covered included updates from NBOME departments (Cognitive Testing, Clinical Skills Testing, and Innovations), COMAT subject examinations, initiatives to reach residency program directors and administrative updates.

"The NBOME Update lunch gives us an outstanding platform to inform participants about the many exciting developments taking place at the NBOME," said NBOME President and CEO, Dr. John Gimpel.

Additional activities during the meeting included NBOME presentations to the AACOM Board of Deans and the Council of Student Government Presidents; attendance of NBOME staff at a number of AACOM Council Meetings and a poster presentation by Dr. Shen.

Dr. Erik Langenau (right) looks on as Dr. Linjun Shen answers a question from the audience during the NBOME's Update Luncheon at the recent AACOM/AODME annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

NBOME Representatives Attend Annual FSMB meeting

The Federation of State Medical Boards’ (FSMB) Annual Meeting was held in late April in Seattle, Washington, and was attended by NBOME representatives John E. Thornburg, DO, PhD, Board Chair; Janice Knebl, DO, MBA, Board Vice-Chair; John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO; and Larry Turner, Vice President for Administration and Chief Operating Officer.

The NBOME attended the Annual Special Invitation FSMB Chair’s Dinner, the Mid-Year American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE) Meeting, and numerous other important FSMB sessions and meeting during the very busy several days.

Gary Clark (center) is shown with Dr. Geraldine O'Shea (left) and Dr. Dana Shaffer (right) after receiving an award from the AAOE. See story for more details.
FSMB meeting (continued)

At the AAOE Meeting, NBOME Board Members Dana Shaffer, DO, and Geraldine O’Shea, DO, were elected to the positions of AAOE President and Vice-president respectively. NBOME Board Member, Gary Clark, was awarded the certificate of appreciation for his many years of service as the AAOE’s Executive Director. Mr. Clark retired from this position in January of this year.

Drs. Gimpel, Thornburg, and Knebl joined representatives from the National Board of Medical Examiners in the annual panel discussion “Assessment for Licensure: Update on USMLE and COMLEX-USA.” The session was attended by well over 200 state board officials and was very well received. In addition to updating the audience on COMLEX-USA, information was provided on COMVEX. Copies of the NBOME 2010 Annual Report and information on COMLEX-USA and COMVEX were also provided to FSMB attendees at the NBOME Exhibit throughout the meeting.

At the FSMB Awards Luncheon, NBOME COMVEX Committee Chair and former NBOME Board Member Tom Pickard, DO, was awarded the John H. Clark MD Leadership Award for “leadership in the field of medical licensure and discipline and commitment to advancing the public good.” In addition, NBOME Board Member Geraldine O’Shea, DO was elected to the FSMB’s nominating committee.

NBOME COMVEX Committee Chair and former NBOME Board Member Tom Pickard, DO, was awarded the John H. Clark MD Leadership Award for “leadership in the field of medical licensure and discipline and commitment to advancing the public good.” Dr. Pickard is pictured here (center) with the FSMB Chair Freda Bush, MD (right) and FSMB President and CEO Hank Chaudhry, DO, (left).

NBOME Introduces New Resources

The NBOME recently introduced a number of new resources for colleges, students and residency program directors.

Whether students are applying to an AOA-accredited residency program, an ACGME-accredited residency program, or a dually accredited program, it is essential that the individuals reviewing their applications understand COMLEX-USA - what it measures, how standards are set, what the score means, etc. To help educate and inform Residency Program Directors, the NBOME Communications Department has created two fact sheets covering the essentials they should know about COMLEX-USA, including research on the correlation between COMLEX-USA scores and performance in residency. They can be found on the NBOME website on both the Candidate and Colleges pages:

Candidates: [http://www.nbome.org/factsheets.asp?m=can](http://www.nbome.org/factsheets.asp?m=can)  

On a related note, The Council of Emergency Medicine Residency Directors (CORD) responded to the NBOME’s letter regarding COMLEX-USA, and is working with the NBOME to better educate their membership of residency program directors about COMLEX-USA. CORD will be circulating the new fact sheets with a letter from the NBOME to all Emergency Program Residency Program Directors from CORD.
Kudos to Members of the Osteopathic Family

- Congratulations to American Osteopathic Association Executive Director, John Crosby, JD, who in May celebrated his 14th anniversary in that position.

- Congratulations to the inaugural graduating classes of the A.T. Still University’s School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (ATSU-SOMA) in Mesa, Arizona; the Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (LMU-DCOM) in Harrogate, Tennessee; and the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York City. Graduation ceremonies for the more than 300 students were held in May and June.

Of Osteopathic Interest

The DO magazine recently published an interesting article entitled, "Writing on the Wall: Crude behavior online can jeopardize a student’s future," which examines the issue of social media and professionalism. In the piece, NBOME President & CEO Dr. John Gimpel offers some of his insights on appropriate online communication. To read the article: http://www.do-online.org/TheDO/?p=58461

Dr. Gimpel also authored an article on this subject in American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine’s "Best Practices on Teaching, Learning, and Assessment of Medical Professionalism" newsletter, for which he serves as editor. To read the article: http://www.aacom.org/InfoFor/educators/Pages/2011-MedProf3.htm

Send submissions, questions or comments about The Osteopathic Examiner to Editor:
Mary C. Coyle, M.J., Director for Communications
National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

Executive Offices
101 W. Elm St., Suite 230 • Conshohocken, PA 19428
PH: 484.351.2242 / FX: 610.825.9511
mcoyle@nbome.org
www.nbome.org