

THE OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINER



A quarterly publication of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

June 2016

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Dr. Gary Slick Installed as Chair of NBOME's Board of Directors



Gary L. Slick, DO, MA, from Tulsa, Oklahoma, who formerly served as the NBOME Board's Vice Chair, was officially sworn in as NBOME Board Chair at its annual meeting on December 12, 2015. Dr. Slick, who has served on the NBOME Board of Directors since 2005, succeeded incumbent Chair of the Board, Wayne R. Carlsen, DO, Vice Dean and Associate Professor of Geriatric Medicine/ Gerontology at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Slick, Chief Academic Officer of the Osteopathic Medical Education Consortium of Oklahoma and Professor of Internal Medicine at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences-College of Osteopathic Medicine, is serving a two-year term as Chair, ending in December 2017. He was appointed to the Board of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education in 2014, having been nominated to that position by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Slick previously served as Executive Director of the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine.

NBOME Welcomes New Board Members



NBOME also elected two new Board members:

David Kuo, DO, Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Program Director for the Family Medicine Residency at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, and **Ms. Terri Donlin Huesman, MBA**, Vice President for the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations in Ohio. Ms. Donlin Huesman was elected to fill the unexpired public board member term previously held by retired state medical licensing board executive director **Mr. Gary Clark**.

Updates:
COMLEX-USA Performance Metrics

2015 OUTCOMES

307

Days of Test Administrations

32,819

COMAT Examinations Administered

21,182

COMLEX-USA Examinations Administered

23,333

COMSAE Examinations Administered



COMLEX-USA LEVEL 1 EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1 ST TIME TEST TAKERS	5056	5448	5539
PASSING	90.6%	92.0%	93.9%
ALL TAKERS	5722	6083	6005
PASSING	87.1%	89.3%	91.8%

COMLEX-USA LEVEL 2-CE EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1 ST TIME TEST TAKERS	4866	4973	5423
PASSING	89.4%	92.3%	92.6%
ALL TAKERS	5617	5531	5953
PASSING	86.7%	90.1%	90.7%

COMLEX-USA LEVEL 2-PE EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15*	
	N	% 1 ST TIME TAKERS	N	% 1 ST TIME TAKERS	N	% 1 ST TIME TAKERS
1 ST TIME TEST TAKERS	5127	100%	5541	100%	3577	100%
PASS	4827	94.1%	5129	92.6%	3291	92.0%
FAIL	300	5.9%	412	7.4%	286	8.0%
HUMANISTIC DOMAIN	200	3.9%	181	3.3%	86	2.4%
BIOMEDICAL DOMAIN	85	1.7%	192	3.5%	174	4.9%
BOTH DOMAINS	15	0.3%	39	0.7%	26	0.7%
ALL TAKERS	5412		5965		3920	

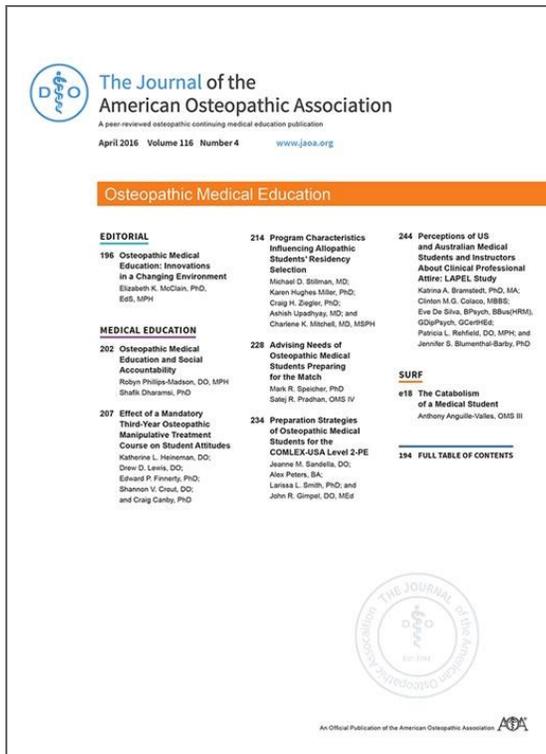
*8-month testing cycle (July 2014 – February 2015)

COMLEX-USA LEVEL 3 EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
1 ST TIME TEST TAKERS	4118	4807	5084
PASSING	95.1%	96.0%	96.4%
ALL TAKERS	4426	5103	5304
PASSING	93.6%	94.6%	95.6%

Current: New Research Publications

The April 2016 edition of *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* (JAOA) featured an article by **Jeanne M. Sandella, DO, Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing at the NBOME.**



[Preparation Strategies of Osteopathic Medical Students for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE](#) reported how students prepare for the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination-USA Level 2 Performance Evaluation (COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE) component and investigated the effect of these techniques on examination performance. First-time test takers were surveyed before the beginning the COMLEX USA Level 2-PE to assess their preparation methodologies for the exam, for example, coursework, orientation materials, and standardized patient (SP) encounters. Surveys completed during the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 test cycles were included.

"Our purpose in completing this survey was to determine how students are prepared by their schools with the curriculum, and what the feel like they need to do in addition to that, and then, what actually leads to success," said Dr. Sandella. "This study shows that the education at the colleges of osteopathic medicine is preparing students well for this high-stakes licensure examination, and to be safe, competent, humanistic osteopathic physicians."

Among the survey results reported in the article: Of the 9,120 surveys administered, 8,733 were completed, a response rate of

95.8 percent. Nearly 100 percent of those who completed the survey reported that they had SP encounters during the first and second of year of medical school, with 84 percent having at least one SP encounter in their third and fourth year. Seventy percent reported receiving feedback from an osteopathic physician on their SP encounters. The largest difference in preparation between students who passed the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE and students who did not was a prerequisite SP exam at their school.

Also available in the early release of the July issue of the *Journal of Graduate Medical Education* is NBOME published research, [The Use of COMLEX-USA and USMLE for Residency Application Selection](#) by Jeanne M. Sandella, DO; John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd; Larissa L. Smith, PhD and John R. Boulet, PhD.

The purpose of this study was to investigate performance on COMLEX-USA Level 1 and USMLE Step 1 of students from colleges of osteopathic medicine where the majority of students took both examinations. Performance of osteopathic students on the USMLE examination has been studied to assess the concordance of COMLEX and USMLE. In this study, data from 2010 and 2011 were collected from three osteopathic medical schools, with 795 of 914 students (87 percent) taking both examinations. (Nationally, about 50 percent of DO students elect to take USMLE Step 1 and 100% take COMLEX-USA Level 1, with the reasoning for taking Step 1 reportedly due to residency program application concerns.) A strong positive statistical relationship between performance on the COMLEX-USA Level 1 and USMLE Step 1 was found, corroborating previous investigations. The strong association between scores on USMLE Step 1 and COMLEX-USA Level 1 in this sample suggests that the two examination scores, while not interchangeable because of content differences, can be used to make reasonably comparable and consistent estimates of the overall ability of a residency applicant. This relates to current osteopathic medical students, and pertains to students with USMLE scores from LCME-accredited and international medical schools as they become eligible to apply to formerly AOA-approved residency programs in the new single accreditation system for graduate medical education. Given the number of osteopathic students applying to ACGME-accredited GME programs, the authors suggest there should be added education for program directors using examination performance data for selection decisions which could include providing detailed, easily interpretable information on what each test measures, the development of valid score correspondence tables based on large student samples, and/or the exploration of alternate score reporting scales. The study concludes that the comparability of performance is useful in further validating both examinations in the context of medical students "crossing over" into their choice of training programs.

Continued >>

New Research Publications-continued

Newly published in *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA)*, June 2016 issue:

[Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment Technique Scores on the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE: An Analysis of the Skills Assessed](#) by Larissa L. Smith, PhD; Wei Xu, MA; Jeanne M. Sandella, DO; Dennis J. Dowling, DO. The purpose of this study was to evaluate whether the Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT) Rating Tool used to score candidate performance in OMT during standardized patient encounters measures one holistic skill or multiple skill sets. Structural equation models were fit to data from first-time takers who took the COMLEX-USA Level 2-

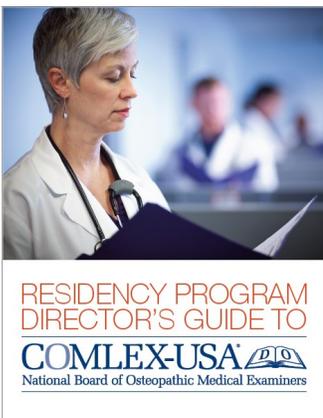
PE between July 7, 2014 and April 30, 2015. Two theoretical models were evaluated: a model that posited a single underlying skill set, and a model that posited two related but distinct skill sets. The 1-factor and 2-factor models were fit to data from 4,673 third- and fourth-year osteopathic medical students. Fit statistics indicated that the data were best fit by a model representing two factors. The study concludes that the OMT Global Rating Tool seems to measure two distinct but related skills.



NBOME 2015 Annual Report

The NBOME 2015 Annual Report, "A Blueprint for Success," was released at the Annual Conference of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) in April. The NBOME extends its appreciation to all those who contributed to the development of COMLEX-USA, COMAT and other NBOME assessments and services. [Click here](#) to access a device adaptable version of the report to learn more about important NBOME highlights from 2015.

COMLEX-USA Brochure for Residency Program Directors



To help communicate and educate on the use of COMLEX-USA for entrance into residency, the NBOME recently updated the [Residency Program Director's Guide to COMLEX-USA](#). Introduced this spring at the 2016 ACGME Annual Educational Conference in March and at the 2016 Annual AACOM Conference in April, the guide covers the essentials that residency program directors and others in graduate and undergraduate medical education should know about the COMLEX-USA examination program. Included is important information on how to access and use the [percentile score converter](#) on the NBOME website and the mobile app available in the App store. Published research on the correlation between COMLEX-USA scores and performance in residency is included in the report, and can be accessed on the NBOME website.

Award Winners: National Faculty

2015 Test Item Writer and Case Author Award Winners

Earlier this year, the NBOME proudly announced the winners of the 2015 Test Item Writers and Case Author of the Year Awards. Each year the NBOME conducts an objective evaluation of item writers and case authors who contributed to NBOME examinations. Authors from NBOME's National Faculty whose items and cases are a model for the type and format needed to produce valid, high-quality examinations to assess competencies in osteopathic medicine are selected as award winners.

The winners for 2015 include:



COMLEX-USA Level 1
Kathleen P. O'Hagan, PhD
Midwestern University
Chicago College of
Osteopathic Medicine



COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE
Joseph C. Nemcok, DO
Osteopathic Ob-Gyn Inc.



COMLEX-USA Level 3
Theodore A. Spevack, DO
Tobey Hospital



**COMLEX-USA Health
Promotion and Disease
Prevention/Health Care
Delivery**
Mark Speicher, PhD
Arizona College of
Osteopathic Medicine



**COMLEX-USA Osteopathic
Principles and Practice**
Thomas Fotopoulos, DO
Pacific Northwest University
of Health Sciences



COMAT Program
Danielle L. Cooley, DO
Rowan University School of
Osteopathic Medicine



Case Author of the Year
Peter A. Bell, DO, MBA
Ohio University Heritage
College of Osteopathic
Medicine

"Santucci" Awarded at 2015 Annual Board Meeting Gala

On Friday, December 11, 2015, John W. Becher, DO, the 119th President of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), was honored with the Santucci Award – the National Board of Osteopathic Medical

Examiners' (NBOME) highest honor. Dr. Becher, an AOA board-certified emergency physician from Newtown Square, PA, serves as Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he also graduated from in 1970. He is also Director of Osteopathic Medical Education at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and Adjunct Professor of Emergency Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia.

The NBOME is grateful for Dr. Becher's 20-year tenure with the organization and his many noteworthy accomplishments. As an NBOME Board Member for over 12 years, Dr. Becher served two terms as the Board Secretary-Treasurer, as the COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE examination Chair, and as the founding chair of the COMAT-Emergency Medicine examination. As Chair of the NBOME Clinical Skills Testing Advisory Committee, Dr. Becher was instrumental in developing policy and procedures for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE clinical skills examination. Dr. Becher also played an instrumental role in the longstanding partnership between the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine (AOBEM) and the NBOME, with the AOBEM serving as the model certification board in areas such as examination development and administration, performance testing for certification and initiatives for continuous certification.

In presenting the Santucci Award to Dr. Becher, exiting NBOME Board Chair and Vice Dean and Associate Professor of Geriatric Medicine/Gerontology at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Wayne R. Carlsen, DO, said, "The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners is proud to continue an important tradition in the recognition of excellence."

"The Santucci award," Dr. Carlsen continued, "is awarded to 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. Certainly John Becher's contributions to the NBOME mission have been exemplary."



Dr. John Becher receiving the Santucci Award from Dr. Wayne Carlsen

Santucci Award Recipients

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, DO – 2009

New Staff:



On March 21, 2016, Tsung-Hsun (Edward) Tsai, PhD, joined the NBOME in the new position of Associate Vice President for Assessment Services and Research. Dr. Tsai has more than 15 years of experience leading and managing large-scale, high-stakes examination programs and as a supervisor of psychometric staff. His professional experience includes directing and managing psychometrics, research and development for related assessment organizations. Formerly, at the American Dental Association, Dr. Tsai worked on the National Board Dental Examinations, the Dental Admission Test and the Optometry Admission Test. He has published widely in the areas of psychometrics in the health professions, including standard setting and validity research.

AOA/AOBIM Sign Agreement for Board Certification Assessment Services

On January 8, 2016, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) formalized the agreement for the NBOME to provide testing services for the administration of the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine (AOBIM) suite of examinations. The NBOME is pleased to serve the AOA and AOBIM and the specialty of internal medicine, one of the most highly regarded and larger specialty programs in the profession. AOBIM joins the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine (AOBEM) and the American Osteopathic Board of Pediatrics (AOBP) as osteopathic certifying boards that partner with the NBOME for assessment services. The AOBIM is the only recognized board in the specialty of osteopathic internal medicine and is one of the 16 member certifying boards

reporting to the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists of the AOA. Successful completion of these examinations is a necessary component for osteopathic physicians seeking board certification, subspecialty certification, Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC; formerly termed recertification) and certification of added qualification. AOBIM is responsible for 28 different examinations in general internal medicine and numerous internal medicine subspecialties (e.g., cardiology, nephrology.)

American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine Certification and Recertification Web Center				
AOBIM Schedule of Exam Dates and Deadlines for 2016				
EXAM	REGISTRATION OPENS	APPLICATION DEADLINE	APPLICATION LATE DEADLINE	EXAM DATE
Internal Medicine	10/15/2015	2/1/2016	4/1/2016	9/15/2016
Subspecialty	10/15/2015	4/1/2016	5/1/2016	8/20/2016
Critical Care	10/15/2015	4/1/2016	5/1/2016	8/20/2016
Electrophysiology	10/15/2016	4/1/2017	5/1/2017	TBD
Interventional Cardiology	10/15/2015	4/1/2016	5/1/2016	8/20/2016
Geriatric Medicine	10/15/2016	4/1/2017	5/1/2017	TBD
OCC (Recertification) Subspecialty	10/15/2015	4/1/2016	5/1/2016	8/20/2016
OCC (Recertification) Secure Examination in Internal Medicine	10/15/2015	4/1/2016	5/1/2016	9/15/2016

For Sleep Medicine and Hospice and Palliative Medicine, go to Added Qualifications Certification on the website. For Pain Medicine contact www.aobem.org and Correctional Medicine contact www.aobcm.org for information.



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

TREATING OUR FAMILY AND YOURS



ACGME Accepts COMLEX-USA for Fellowship Program Applications

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA)-approved graduate medical education programs are now transitioning to a single accreditation system under the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) by July 2020. As part of this transition, the ACGME has announced numerous times that both COMLEX-USA and USMLE are acceptable for residency program applications, and earlier this year the ACGME clarified its recognition and acceptance of COMLEX-USA for ACGME fellowship program applications for DOs. This announcement was important due to confusion garnered by ACGME's Common Program Requirements for fellowship program eligibility, which are currently under review for additional changes, and clarified that the COMLEX-USA acceptance now extends to DOs who are completing AOA-approved residency training programs that are in ACGME's "pre-accreditation status" category and are now applying to ACGME-accredited fellowship programs. DOs who complete ACGME-accredited residency programs will continue to be eligible to apply to their fellowship programs with COMLEX-USA.

The ACGME announcement noted that "between July 15, 2015 and June 30, 2020, a resident who completes prerequisite training in an AOA-approved program with pre-accreditation

status will be subject to the ACGME fellowship eligibility standards (per subspecialty) that were in effect June 30, 2013 or will be in effect July 1, 2016, whichever is less restrictive."

For members of the osteopathic medical community, as well as ACGME residency and fellowship program directors, this announcement was welcome clarification about the acceptance of COMLEX-USA under the single accreditation system. Review the January 2016 [ACGME announcement](#).



NBOME Learning Center News

New Courses Available

Launched in 2015, the NBOME Learning Center is the organization's expanding home for online learning and assessment programs designed for use by osteopathic physicians and other health care professionals. The NBOME Learning Center, ilearn.nbome.org, offers on-demand, self-paced online learning activities for AOA Category 1-B CME credit for osteopathic physicians and other health care professions that can be accessed anytime, anywhere on connected devices. New live courses and webinars for AOA Category 1-A CME are coming soon.

The Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Osteopathic Performance Assessment and Improvement Module (OPAIM) is an Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) Component 4, AOA-BOS and American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine (AOBIM)-approved learning and assessment program developed in partnership with the AOBIM to provide osteopathic physicians with opportunities for performance in practice improvement in the management of patients with stage 4 and 5 CKD. As with all NBOME Learning Center programs, physicians can access this OPAIM via their tablet, phone or desktop computer 24 hours a day. Approved by AOBIM with internists and nephrologists in mind, the CKD OPAIM likely has relevant applications to any physicians practicing adult primary care medicine. The CKD OPAIM also provides 20 AOA Category 1-B CME credits. Osteopathic internists can [access the module](#) to register and complete the CKD OPAIM at ilearn.nbome.org.

The NBOME is a partner with the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) Interprofessional Geriatric Education and Training in Texas Program (I Get-It) for a series of interprofessional e-learning activities. The series is supported by a grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation. The goal of these activities is to provide an innovative and sustainable program to improve the ability of physicians to work with other health disciplines in teams to provide better care for geriatric patients. Beginning in May 2016, the [I Get-It: Falls Risk Education and Assessment](#) and [I Get-](#)

[It: Elder Mistreatment](#) modules are available on the NBOME Learning Center for AOA Category 1-B CME credit at no cost to osteopathic physicians. These modules were presented at 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society May 19–21, 2016, in Long Beach, CA.

The NBOME also worked with the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians/ American Osteopathic Association (AOBFP/AOA) on two OPAIMs for use by AOBFP diplomates exclusively. The new, customized AOBFP Medication Safety Communication Professionalism OPAIM was launched in May and is for AOBFP diplomates completing their OCC Component 4 requirements. It can be accessed through [AOA/AOBFP](#). Currently under development is a Non-Clinically Active and Limited Scope (NCAP) OPAIM. The new NCAP OPAIM will satisfy AOA-BOS OCC Component 4 requirements for non-clinically active and limited scope osteopathic family physicians. The NCAP OPAIM is targeted for availability on the AOA/AOBFP site in late 2016.

In addition to the new CKD OPAIM, the Medication Safety Communication OPAIM continues to support practice-based learning and improvement among osteopathic physicians. Participants in the Medication Safety OPAIM have shown statistically significant improvement in communication of medication side-effects, enhancements to patient safety and interactions with their patients. The Medication Safety Communication OPAIM has been approved by the AOA-BOS to meet OCC Component 4 requirements for Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Pediatrics, OB/GYN and Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine diplomates.

[Access the NBOME Learning Center](#) for complete information.



NBOME'S STRATEGIC GOALS

Continuum of Competency Assessment

Expand competency assessment across the osteopathic medical education, training and practice continuum

Performance Excellence

Integrate performance excellence in our products, processes and services

Engaged Workforce

Cultivate the most capable, most qualified and engaged national faculty and staff

International Growth & Development

Expand our presence and participation in the international arena

Collaboration

Strengthen collaborative efforts in research, innovations, and patient safety

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