FINANCE AND REINVESTMENT IN 2022
PUTTING NBOME RESOURCES TO WORK FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

The NBOME continues to carefully steward resources directed to its mission and to benefit our many stakeholders. Growth in examinee numbers across the NBOME’s largest assessment programs and careful expense management yielded good financial performance from operations for 2022. But these gains were negatively impacted by challenging investment performance in NBOME’s conservatively invested equity and bond market portfolio, resulting in modest overall losses for the year.

The organization is reducing its leased space in the Philadelphia and Chicago offices in 2023 as both national centers of clinical skills testing have been closed, resulting in a considerable reduction in expenses.

The NBOME has also continued to invest in the infrastructure technologies necessary to continually enhance the test-taking experience across our assessment portfolio, with benefits to many stakeholders including examinees and colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs). One of our biggest initiatives in this area was the launch of Portal 3.0. This upgrade of the NBOME registration system included an updated look and feel; enhanced security and mobile optimization. The second initiative was the transition to a new professional test center provider, Pearson VUE.

In response to feedback from the 2022 transition to pass/fail score reporting for COMLEX-USA Level 1, the NBOME launched a 2-year, no exam fee promotion of COMAT Foundational Biomedical Science Targeted examinations for COMs. Read more in the “Test What Matters” section of the Annual Report.

The Core Competency Capstone for DOs (C3DO) research initiative required an initial investment in 2022 to further our mission of keeping the patient at the forefront. Four COMs earned competitive grants to explore on-campus prototypes in national clinical skills competency assessments that may become useful to COMs and candidates seeking verification of these important competencies in life beyond the pandemic. Learn more in the “Test What Matters” section of the Annual Report.

Finally, we upgraded our online NBOME Learning Center with visual and functionality enhancements as we support many National Faculty members, COM faculty, staff members and numerous external users with educational material related to assessment, faculty development, and continuous learning. This includes the American Osteopathic Association’s Osteopathic Continuous Certification.

We supported osteopathic medical students and resident scholarships through charitable gifts to the American Osteopathic Foundation and the Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association. In addition, we sponsored educational and licensure meetings across the house of medicine, such as the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine’s 2022
Educating Leaders Conference, of which we were a platinum sponsor.

The NBOME Candidate Assistance Fund supported numerous COMLEX-USA candidates who experienced extraordinary financial hardships encountered relating to taking their exams, and the NBOME continues to support candidate efforts in exam readiness assessment with numerous annual giveaway promotions for COMSAE programs.

Also in 2022, over a dozen in-kind faculty development seminars on best practices in assessment and test question-writing were delivered by NBOME staff, as were more than 150 hours of other faculty development hours delivered at COM campuses around the nation.

The continuous research and quality improvement initiatives dedicated to the validity, reliability, and fairness of the COMLEX-USA series and its credential serves as the trusted assessment for osteopathic medical licensure assessment for all US licensing jurisdictions.

At the same time, this nationally trusted standardized assessment program saves these state governments and taxpayers millions of dollars annually that would be required to replicate these efforts at the state level. The COMLEX-USA credential assures patients that their osteopathic physician (DO) has demonstrated their competencies for the practice of osteopathic medicine, and enables DOs to be considered for licensure throughout all US licensing jurisdictions.