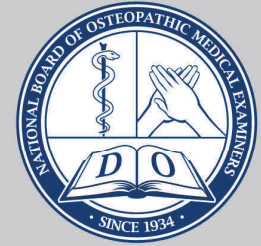


THE OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINER



A publication of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

September 2016 issue

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In the News

NBOME Opens National Center for Clinical Skills Testing—Chicago

NBOME is pleased to announce the opening of its newest clinical skills testing site in Chicago, the National Center for Clinical Skills Testing (NCCST-Chicago). NCCST-Chicago began testing for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation (PE) examination on August 1, 2016.

With the opening of the new state-of-the-art center, the NBOME now provides osteopathic medical students with a choice of two locations for administration of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE, which continues to be offered at the NCCST near Philadelphia. The COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE is a one-day, seven-hour standardized assessment of fundamental clinical skills, including patient-physician communication and osteopathic manipulative treatment skills, in which each candidate encounters 12 standardized patients (SPs) in simulated ambulatory clinical settings.

According to Jeanne M. Sandella, DO, Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing and Continuous Professional Development, "The NBOME team has worked to ensure that the candidate experience in the new NCCST-Chicago will be virtually identical to the examination conducted at the NCCST-Philadelphia. Rigorous quality assurance is conducted to ensure that the examination administration, cases, standardized patients and scoring of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE provide for a

standardized examination across both testing sites."

With the increased capacity of two NCCST testing locations, beginning in November 2016 the NBOME will open seats for scheduling the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE examination on the first Monday of each month, nine months in advance. For example, August 2017 seats for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE examinations will be available in November 2016. Previously seats were opened 12 months in advance. In response to preferences by the students and colleges of osteopathic medicine (COM), this change is designed to make scheduling more streamlined and less stressful for students. The change aligns better with COM internal prerequisites and procedures for granting eligibility and will allow students to schedule the examination as soon as they become eligible.

The NBOME also is partnering with a number of assessment organizations in administration of standardized clinical skills assessments, performance tests, and oral practical examination formats, including the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners and the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine, and looks forward to additional collaborations.

Visit the [NBOME website](#) for additional information about the NCCST and COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE.



The National Center for Clinical Skills Testing—Chicago Team

NCCST-Chicago Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

NBOME celebrated the opening of the NCCST-Chicago by hosting the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony on August 26. After months of planning, friends and over 100 key stakeholders of the NBOME, Board of Directors, National Faculty Chairs and staff enjoyed special performances, toured the newly designed testing center and observed simulations of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE assessments and various options in clinical skills assessments.

Joining in the celebration along with the NBOME Board of Directors and staff were key stakeholders—from deans and leaders from colleges of osteopathic medicine, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), American

Osteopathic Association (AOA) Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) as well as its Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (AOA-BOS), and a number of osteopathic specialty boards and colleges, Clinical Skills Evaluation Collaboration Center (CSEC), Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA), Education Management Solutions (EMS), SynDaver Labs, and many others. The evening was highlighted by musical and vocal performances by osteopathic medical students from nearby Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine.



- 1) John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO welcoming guests to the grand opening of the National Center for Clinical Skills Testing-Chicago
- 2) Gary L. Slick, DO, MA, NBOME Board Chair
- 3) From left: John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO, Jeanne L. Sandella, DO, Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing and Continuous Professional Development; Gary L. Slick, DO, MA, NBOME Board Chair and Boyd R. Buser, DO, AOA President

National Faculty Conclave

The Ribbon-Cutting Celebration coincided with the annual National Faculty Conclave at the Chicago Corporate Offices & Conference Center on August 26. The NBOME National Faculty consists of over 1,000 credentialed professionals and volunteers across the country who support the NBOME's mission through their work on committees, sub-committees and task forces, as well as through item writing, case development, physician examiners and other activities. National Faculty chairs met to discuss leadership development surrounding the following

topics: NBOME's exciting new strategic plan "ACEL 2016-2019," the COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019 and the Fundamental Osteopathic Medical Competency Domains 2016, principal accountabilities, recruiting needs, NBOME ambassadorship, performance management and metrics, educational development (including innovations in assessment, chairs as committee leaders, and examination development quality improvement).



The NBOME Learning Center Launches New Item Writing 101

The [NBOME Learning Center](#) is the expanding home for online learning and assessment programs designed for use by osteopathic physicians and other health care professionals. The latest course offered on the NBOME Learning Center is **Item Writing 101: Multiple-Choice Items with Realistic Clinical Scenarios**. Created for new and experienced members of the NBOME National Faculty who write examination questions, Item Writing 101 is the first course in a series that provides basic training for COMLEX-USA test item writers and item writers working with colleges of osteopathic medicine and specialty boards. This interactive course includes responsive assessment activities with videos of NBOME National Faculty subject matter experts. The content of this course places an emphasis on

assessing competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions using realistic clinical scenarios and single-best-option multiple choice items, similar to those used in COMLEX-USA.



NCCST–Philadelphia Delivers Podiatry Licensure Exam

NBOME launched the American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination (APMLE) Part II Clinical Skills Patient Encounter (Part II CSPE) examination on August 17. The Part II CSPE evaluates aptitude in podiatric clinical tasks needed to enter residency, and is required for licensure. Candidates are expected to perform a focused physical examination including podiatric and general medicine physical exam maneuvers appropriate for each patient presentation.

Over the course of one year, NBOME worked closely with the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners (NBPME) and with the CSPE committee that incorporated new orientation videos, updated candidate information bulletin, exam software and ensured that the new examination maintained the same pass/fail standard and had the ability to run simultaneously with the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE.

NBOME expects to administer 50 sessions in the current test cycle of the APMLE Part II CSPE examination through October 29, 2016, with additional administrations taking place beginning in February 2017.



HOT OFF THE PRESSES

The NBOME team announces the recent release of three new publications:

1 The COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information 2016-2017

The **COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information 2016-2017** is now posted on the NBOME website. Updated and released annually in July, the COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information is provided to candidates and colleges of osteopathic medicine as a single source for important policy and procedure information about the COMLEX-USA examination series, including descriptions for each examination, eligibility, registration, scheduling, administration and scoring. According to Joseph Flamini, MBA, Vice President for Administration and Operations/COO, "We redesigned the Bulletin of Information this year to provide a better user experience for candidates, deans and faculty with easier access to important information."

V. REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULING

In writing by email that the case has been closed. The candidate may subsequently submit a new application for test accommodations.

Scheduling: A candidate may schedule a standard (non-accommodated) examination while their application is pending. However, if the application is approved by the NBOME and testing accommodations are granted, and the candidate has not yet taken the examination, the candidate will likely need to reschedule depending on the nature of the approved accommodations. See Candidate Reschedule, Canceled or Missed Scheduled Examinations. If the candidate schedules a standard (non-accommodated) examination and has taken the examination without accommodations before being notified by the NBOME of its decision on the candidate's request, the NBOME will report the candidate's score as if the candidate had not requested an accommodation.

Reconsideration: If an application for accommodation is not approved as requested, and the candidate thereafter obtains new and compelling additional information or documentation supporting his or her request, the candidate may request the NBOME to reconsider its decision. Any request for reconsideration must be in writing. Requests for reconsideration are generally evaluated within 45 days of their receipt.

CANDIDATE RESCHEDULED, CANCELED OR MISSED SCHEDULED EXAMINATIONS
The process and fees associated with candidates that reschedule, cancel or miss scheduled examinations differ by the examination type and test time.

For COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2-CE and Level 3, candidates may reschedule as follows:

MORE THAN 30 DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED DATE	6 TO 30 DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED DATE	1 TO 5 DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED DATE	WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE SCHEDULED DATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reschedule or cancel online No fee due Receive a credit voucher or refund for the full amount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reschedule or cancel online \$85 fee due to Prometric Receive a credit voucher or refund for the remainder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reschedule or cancel online Forfeit \$190 of the registration fee Receive a credit voucher or refund for the remainder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidate is a "No Show" (see also "No Show" Request for Waiver) Forfeit \$225 of the registration fee Receive a credit voucher or refund for the remainder

For COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE, candidates may reschedule as follows:

GREATER THAN 90 DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED DATE	30 TO 90 DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED DATE	48 HOURS TO 29 DAYS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED DATE	24 TO 48 HOURS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED DATE	LESS THAN 24 HOURS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED DATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reschedule or cancel online No fee Receive a credit voucher or refund for the full amount 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reschedule or cancel online Forfeit \$50 of the registration fee Receive a credit voucher or refund for the remainder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reschedule or cancel online Forfeit \$150 of the registration fee Receive a credit voucher or refund for the remainder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reschedule or cancel by phoning the NCCST at 810-825-6551 or 866-658-6367 Forfeit \$400 of the registration fee Receive a credit voucher or refund for the remainder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidate is a "No Show" (see also "No Show" Request for Waiver) Forfeit \$750 of the registration fee Receive a credit voucher or refund for the remainder

IRREGULAR CONDUCT AND REGISTRATION FEE
If a candidate is prohibited from taking or completing a scheduled examination because of irregular conduct, the candidate will forfeit his or her entire registration fee. See Irregular Conduct. If and when a candidate is eligible to reschedule the examination, the candidate must pay the full registration fee.

"NO SHOW" REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF PORTION OF RESCHEDULING OR CANCELLATION FEE

COMLEX-USA Level 1, 2-CE or 3: If the candidate is a "No Show" because of circumstances beyond his or her control, and submits a request to the NBOME in writing, no later than 30 days following the scheduled/missed administration, the NBOME in its sole discretion may waive up to 50 percent of the cancellation fee.

COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE: If a candidate reschedules or cancels not more than 48 hours of the scheduled examination or is considered a "No Show" because of circumstances beyond his or her control, and submits a request to the NBOME in writing, no later than 30 days following the scheduled/missed administration, the NBOME in its sole discretion may waive up to \$250 of the rescheduling/cancellation fee.

This year for the first time, the COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information 2016-2017 features a more streamlined design for improved readability and navigation, and is presented in a "flip-page" format on the website.

Continued >>

2 Fundamental Osteopathic Medical Competency Domains 2016

Unveiled in July 2016, the NBOME *Fundamental Osteopathic Medical Competency Domains 2016 (FOMCD 2016)* represents expert consensus of a distinguished Blue Ribbon Panel on the required elements and measurable outcomes for seven core competency domains as related to the practice of osteopathic medicine. The *FOMCD 2016* was informed by research related to the practice of osteopathic medicine and evidence-based competencies required for safe and effective osteopathic care of patients. The seven competency domains are outlined predominantly from the assessment perspective, particularly as related to summative high-stakes assessment for licensure for osteopathic medical practice.

"The *FOMCD 2016* is the groundbreaking culmination of the esteemed NBOME Blue Ribbon Panel's vision for an expanded competency framework and is the result of years of extensive input from leading organizations in osteopathic medicine. We remain grateful for the expertise and collaboration of the panel, and the NBOME Board of Directors, National Faculty and staff in making the *FOMCD 2016* a reality. Importantly, this will set the stage for the development of future assessment frameworks," said John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President and CEO.

The NBOME Blue Ribbon Panel included representatives from the American Osteopathic Association, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators, the Organization of Program Director Associations, the Federation of State Medical Boards and the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners.

The *FOMCD 2016* was published as a supplement to the September 2016 issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA)*, accompanied by an editorial authored by Dr. Gimpel.

COMPETENCY DOMAIN 4

OVERVIEW AND TERMINOLOGY

Practice-based learning and improvement in osteopathic medical practice, using evidence-based medicine approaches to develop best practices that will continually improve patient experience of care, reduce inefficiencies and redundancies, and result in optimal and equitable patient care outcomes.

Osteopathic physicians must assimilate and apply evidence-based medicine principles and practices, fundamental biomedical and osteopathic concepts, clinical decision-making skills, and methods to evaluate relevance and validity of established and emerging scientific evidence. Osteopathic physicians must also appreciate the clinical significance of research evidence.

Osteopathic physicians must demonstrate the use of best medical evidence, practical strategies for integrating evidence-based practices and practices into patient care, and systematic methods relating to continuous self-evaluation of clinical practice patterns and practice-based improvements, including those that reduce medical errors and promote health. Osteopathic physicians must set learning and quality improvement goals and must incorporate feedback and reflection into daily practice.

REQUIRED ELEMENT 4.1
Fundamental Epidemiologic Concepts

DEFINITION: The osteopathic physician must articulate and apply fundamental epidemiologic concepts to practice-based learning and improvement.

MEASURED OUTCOMES FROM REQUIRED ELEMENT 4.1
The osteopathic physician must:

- MA1.1 Interpret features and meanings of different types of data, including quantitative and qualitative, and different types of scales (eg, nominal, dichotomous, ordinal, continuous, ratio, proportion).
- MA1.2 Interpret measures of central tendency, including modes, median, and mean, and measures of variability, including variance and standard deviation.
- MA1.3 Explain and interpret measures of frequency of disease, injury, and death in terms of rate, ratio, and proportion, including incidence and prevalence.

REQUIRED ELEMENT 4.2
Clinical Decision-Making Tools

DEFINITION: The osteopathic physician must interpret literature regarding research and clinical topics for use in understanding disease-oriented and patient-oriented evidence.

MEASURED OUTCOMES FROM REQUIRED ELEMENT 4.2
The osteopathic physician must:

- MA2.1 Conduct, interpret, and apply systematic reviews (eg, meta-analysis) of literature regarding specific research and clinical topics with an understanding of limitations, such as design bias and sources of scientific uncertainty.
- MA2.2 Compare and contrast disease-oriented evidence and patient-oriented evidence in the interpretation of literature.
- MA2.3 Identify and apply population health data to address health care disparities.

REQUIRED ELEMENT 4.3
Evidence-Based Medicine Principles and Practices

DEFINITION: The osteopathic physician must learn and apply evidence-based osteopathic medical principles and practices.

MEASURED OUTCOMES FROM REQUIRED ELEMENT 4.3
The osteopathic physician must:

- MA3.1 Access the best available/highest level of evidence, in order to answer a clinical question with accuracy and maximum efficiency.
- MA3.2 Critically appraise the available evidence and its validity, impact, and applicability.

REQUIRED ELEMENT 4.4
Clinical Significance of Research Evidence and Statistical Inferences

DEFINITION: The osteopathic physician must determine the clinical significance of research evidence.

MEASURED OUTCOMES FROM REQUIRED ELEMENT 4.4
The osteopathic physician must:

- MA4.1 Judge and interpret aspects of statistical inference and hypothesis testing (eg, decision errors, sample size, power, confidence intervals, degree of freedom, labeling, external and internal validity, number needed to treat, number needed to harm, sample size) as applied to osteopathic medical practice.

3 COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019

The *FOMCD 2016* also serves to inform the NBOME's newly introduced, enhanced, competency-based *COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019*. In response to substantive changes in the evolution of osteopathic medical practice, and to ensure the COMLEX-USA examination series remains current in meeting the needs of state medical and osteopathic medical licensing boards and other stakeholders, the NBOME Board of Directors commissioned the Blue Ribbon Panel to conduct a comprehensive review of the COMLEX-USA examination series and explore enhancements to its redesign. A major component in the redesign was the evidence-based development of the new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019.

"We are very proud to introduce the new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint as a significant step toward ensuring that the entire COMLEX-USA examination program will continue to set the standard for assessment in osteopathic medicine," NBOME President and CEO John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, said. "We acknowledge and thank our partners in osteopathic education, licensure and assessment for their contributions as we continue to evolve our examination series."

The new *COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint* will be implemented beginning with the 2018 test cycle for the new, two-day COMLEX-USA Level 3, followed by the implementation for COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2-CE and Level 2-PE, beginning in 2019.

COMPLEX-USA MASTER BLUEPRINT

TWO DISTINCT DIMENSIONS AND DECISION POINTS

The Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination of the United States (COMLEX-USA) is the pathway to licensure for osteopathic physicians seeking to practice medicine and surgery. It is the principal means by which the NBOME delivers on its mission to protect the public by providing assessment of competencies for osteopathic physicians and related health care professions.

In response to substantive changes in the evolution of osteopathic medical practice, and to ensure COMLEX-USA remains current in meeting the needs of state medical and osteopathic medical licensing boards and other stakeholders, the NBOME Board of Directors commissioned a two-year, comprehensive review of the examination series by its esteemed Blue Ribbon Panel, resulting in a new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint, which is targeted for implementation in 2018-2019.

The Blue Ribbon Panel was charged with considering the primary (ie, licensure and important secondary) uses (undergraduate and graduate medical education) of the COMLEX-USA examination series. Consensus of highly renowned experts representing the fields of medical education, physician licensure and clinical assessment, the panel conducted a comprehensive review of the examination series and explored enhancements to its redesign. A major component in the redesign was the evidence-based development of the new COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019.

The two dimensions of the new blueprint include Competency Domains and Clinical Presentations.

COMPETENCY DOMAINS are related sets of foundational abilities representing the required content and outcomes that define the knowledge, skills, experience, attitudes, values, behavior and established professional standards. They constitute a general descriptive framework for the practice of osteopathic medicine. Required elements articulate the essential foundational specifications, including specific, definable knowledge, skills, experience, attitudes, values and/or behaviors which make up the standards for the competency domain. Measured outcomes, as defined in FOMCD 2016, can be directly assessed in a reliable manner in the assessments that comprise the COMLEX-USA examination program and will contribute substantially to the enhanced COMLEX-USA examination program targeted for implementation in 2018-2019.

CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS represent the manner in which a particular patient, group of patients or community (presented) to osteopathic physicians. They are high-frequency, high-impact categories based on evidence from osteopathic medical practice, and are further categorized as follows:

FOUNDATION FOR BOTH DIMENSIONS IN COMLEX-USA

The foundation of COMLEX-USA and both dimensions continues to be osteopathic principles and practices, specifically:

- The body is a unit; the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.
- The body is capable of self-regulation, self-healing, and health maintenance.
- Structure and function are reciprocally interrelated.
- Rational treatment is based upon an understanding of the basic principles of body with self-regulation, and the interrelationship of structure and function.

COMPETENCY DOMAINS - DIMENSION 1	MINIMUM
Osteopathic Principles, Practice, and Manipulative Treatment	10%
Osteopathic Patient Care and Procedural Skills	25%
Application of Knowledge for Osteopathic Medical Practice	30%
Practice-Based Learning and Improvement in Osteopathic Medical Practice	5%
Interpersonal and Communication Skills in the Practice of Osteopathic Medicine	10%
Professionalism in the Practice of Osteopathic Medicine	5%
Systems-Based Practice in Osteopathic Medicine	5%

CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS - DIMENSION 2	MINIMUM
Community Health & Presentations related to Wellness	12%
Human Development, Reproduction & Sexuality	5%
Endocrine System & Metabolism	5%
Nervous System & Mental Health	10%
Musculoskeletal System	13%
Sensory System	5%
Cardiovascular System & Nutritional Health	10%
Circulatory & Hematologic System	10%
Respiratory System	10%
Integumentary System	5%

American Osteopathic Association Inaugurates Dr. Buser as 120th President

On July 23, 2016, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) installed Boyd R. Buser, DO, as its 120th President. Dr. Buser served as NBOME Board Chair from 2003 to 2005, and was the longtime Chair of NBOME's Product Committee. In 2013, he received the NBOME Santucci Award and continues to serve on the COMLEX-USA Composite Examination Committee.

Dr. Buser currently is the Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine. Previously he served as the interim vice president and dean of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine, as well as associate dean for clinical affairs. Upon earning his osteopathic medical degree from the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Buser completed his postdoctoral medical training at the former Cranston General Hospital in Cranston, Rhode Island.



Dr. Buser, the AOA's 120th president, presents inauguration speech to the AOA House of Delegates.



Dr. Buser (right) works with Scott McMurry, OMS IV (left), and Fred Stine, OMS IV, in Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) OMM lab. (Photo by Rose Raymond)

Dr. Wattleworth Joins NBOME as Chief Physician for Test Development



Roberta A. Wattleworth, DO, MHA, MPH, FACOFP, was recently named as the NBOME new Chief Physician for Test Development, Assessment Services. In this new role, Dr. Wattleworth provides expertise in the development and review of questions, or test items, that appear on NBOME cognitive examinations, including the COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2-CE and Level 3 examinations that provide the pathway to licensure for osteopathic physicians.

Roberta A. Wattleworth, DO, MHA, MPH, Chief Physician for Test Development, Assessment Services

She serves as a content expert in partnership with NBOME National Faculty subject-matter experts to support test development initiatives, including test item and clinical case writing and editing, referencing, test item review, key validation, test item coding, and related quality assurance and improvement processes, as well as leading novel test item development for innovative initiatives.

A member of the NBOME Board of Directors since 2011, Dr. Wattleworth has worked closely with the NBOME since 2001 as an active member of the NBOME National Faculty. Among her many contributions, she served as Vice Coordinator for the COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination from 2005 to 2008, as Coordinator from 2008 to 2011, and as a committee member for the NBOME COMVEX examination, an evaluative instrument for physicians to demonstrate current osteopathic medical knowledge. She has served the NBOME with numerous initiatives, including the Advanced Items Committee and Clinical Decision-Making Task Force, and as Coordinator for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

A board-certified specialist in family medicine, Dr. Wattleworth has over 20 years of experience in the medical education environment. A graduate of Des Moines University-College of Osteopathic Medicine, she completed residencies in both anesthesiology and family medicine, and has many years of experience as a practicing physician and medical educator. Most recently, Dr. Wattleworth was Associate Dean of Medical Education, and Professor of Family Medicine, at Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Lynchburg, Virginia. Previously, she served as Chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Professor of Family Medicine at Des Moines University-College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Wattleworth also holds master's degrees in public health and health care administration from Des Moines University-Osteopathic Medical Center and is a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (FACOFP).

COMAT Update Webinar

In July and August, Edward Tsai, PhD, Associate Vice President for Assessment Services and Research, and members of the NBOME COMAT team, Marc Lukasik, PhD, Senior Test Development Specialist; Steve Johnson, Test Development Specialist; Cathy Shao, Psychometrician and Alex Massa, Senior Client Services Representative, delivered two COMAT program webinars to 46 attendees from colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs). Attendees included deans,

COMAT examination coordinators, COM faculty and administrators. The program focused on the 2016-17 COMAT program updates including system enhancements, standard score reporting, COMAT-Emergency Medicine and current utilization and experience. The NBOME anticipates facilitating a pre-conference workshop in April 2017 at the Annual AACOM Conference that will include a COMAT Update.

American Osteopathic Association Annual Conference—OMED 2016

NBOME will attend the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Annual Conference-OMED 2016, September 17-20 in Anaheim, CA. The NBOME will be an exhibitor at booth 625, at OMED16, sharing information about NBOME assessments and services. The conference will be attended by Gary Slick, DO, MA, NBOME Board Chair; Dana Shaffer, DO, NBOME Board Vice Chair, as well as other members of the NBOME Board. In addition, NBOME staff including John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO; Jeanne Sandella, DO, Vice President for Clinical Skills Testing and Continuous

Professional Development; Laurie Gallagher, DO, Chief Physician Trainer; Melissa Turner, MS, Associate Vice President for Strategy, Quality and Communications and Sandra Waters, MEM, Vice President for Collaborative Assessment and Initiatives will attend the conference.

During OMED16, Jeanne Sandella, DO, will present on Assessment Innovations for Physician Licensure and Recertification at the Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA) annual meeting.

In the News

Sandella JM, Gimpel JR, Smith LL, Boulet JR. [The use of COMLEX-USA and USMLE for residency applicant selection.](#) *Journal of Graduate Medical Education.* May 2016. doi:10.4300/jgme-d-15-00246.1. A study that investigated medical student performance on COMLEX-USA Level 1 and USMLE Step 1 found scores and pass/fail status correlated within the two examinations.

O'Neill TR, Peabody MR, Song H. [The predictive validity of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners' COMLEX-USA](#)

[examinations with regard to outcomes on American Board of Family Medicine examinations.](#) *Academic Medicine.* May 2016;1. doi:10.1097/acm.0000000000001254.

John Gimpel, DO, MEd, NBOME President & CEO, was recently interviewed by the Osmosis organization about the growth of the osteopathic medical profession and changes in medical education and the health care system. The interview is featured in June's [Leaders in Medical Education series.](#)

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:

Mark Rossi, Director for Integrated Marketing and Communications

National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

Executive Offices

101 W. Elm St., Suite 230 • Conshohocken, PA 19428

communications@nbome.org

www.nbome.org

The NBOME's Mission

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