

**2019**  
ANNUAL REPORT

**NIRBOME**



**amplify**

THE NBOME'S **MISSION**  
IS TO **PROTECT THE PUBLIC**  
BY PROVIDING THE MEANS  
TO **ASSESS COMPETENCIES**  
FOR **OSTEOPATHIC** MEDICINE  
AND RELATED HEALTH CARE  
PROFESSIONS.

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# Amplifying Our Impact

Merriam Webster defines “amplify” as “to expand, to make larger or greater, to increase the strength of.” The NBOME chose Amplify as the theme of this 2019 Annual Report as it captures the essence of an exemplary year for the organization and its stakeholders. 2019 marked the celebration of NBOME’s 85th anniversary, and marked continued growth in the number of NBOME examinations, test-takers, test client and partner organizations, staff and National Faculty members.

To some, the word amplify conjures up the image of loud music and turning up the volume. Our services are amplified by additions to our assessment portfolio such as COMAT-Foundational Biomedical Sciences exam. We have augmented our COMLEX-USA program and the CATALYST longitudinal assessment platform. But one can also think of the gentle strength of a drop of water, and the humble but powerful impact that drop can have in making ripples and sometimes even waves that may be felt quite remote from the source.

NBOME in some ways can be like that drop of water, potentially impacting both medical education and clinical practice. Our 800 National Faculty members, hailing from all over the US and abroad, return to their workplaces and share best practices in assessment, further expanding the impact. Our NBOME assessments, particularly COMLEX-USA, assist the state medical and osteopathic medical licensing boards in their task of protecting the public. COMLEX-USA and COMAT programs provide data for physicians-in-training as well as osteopathic medical school and residency programs on relative strengths and opportunities.

As a ripple of water moves along the ocean, it can amplify. It is influenced by the gravitational pull of the moon and sun, and is also affected by the friction between water and wind. The NBOME’s gravitational pull is our mission and commitment to high quality, osteopathically distinctive patient care. The wind above



the water transfers energy to the waves, as do the environmental influences in the academic, practice, and regulatory communities, including attention to the wellbeing of our students, residents, and practicing doctors. Our belief is that the resulting waves created from the small ripples will help to assure patients that our integrated system of selection, education, professional identity formation, assessment and credentialing of their osteopathic physicians and other professionals is indeed meeting their diverse health care needs.

2019 saw the COMLEX-USA program amplified across the nation in academic medical journals such as Academic Medicine, the Journal of Graduate Medical Education, the Journal of Medical Regulation, and the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association.

COMLEX-USA ripples are now felt across the nation’s new Single Graduate Medical Education Accreditation system, where we have expanded our reach to residency program directors who are now more familiar than ever with the attributes, qualifications and competencies of osteopathic applicants.

We appreciate your engagement with and support of the NBOME and hope this report provides clear insight into our year of ever-growing amplification. We value the role that you play in this journey, as you forever are a part of our gravitational force, our wind, and sometimes even friction, that contributes to the ripples and growing waves of positive impact, as we are all driven toward continuous quality improvement and the best possible care that can be provided for our patients and our communities.

**Geraldine T. O’Shea, DO, Board Chair and John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, President and CEO**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**GERALDINE T. O'SHEA, DO**  
BOARD CHAIR  
JACKSON, CALIFORNIA  
INSTALLED DEC. 2019

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**RICH J. LABAERE, II, DO, MPH**  
BOARD VICE-CHAIR  
ORTONVILLE, MICHIGAN  
INSTALLED DEC. 2019

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**LORI A. KEMPER, DO, MS**  
SECRETARY/TREASURER  
GLENDALE, ARIZONA  
INSTALLED DEC. 2019

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**DANA C. SHAFFER, DO**  
IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR  
PIKEVILLE, KENTUCKY  
OUTGOING CHAIR DEC. 2019

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**DAVID KUO, DO**  
BLUE BELL, PENNSYLVANIA

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**JOHN L. GOUDREAU, DO, PHD**  
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN  
ELECTED TO EC DEC. 2019

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**ANITA L. SHOWALTER, DO**  
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**JED G. MAGEN, DO, MS**  
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN  
OUTGOING EC MEMBER  
DEC. 2019

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**GARY L. SLICK, DO, MA**  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA  
OUTGOING DEC. 2019

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**JUAN ACOSTA, DO, MS**  
SMITHTOWN, NEW YORK  
ELECTED DEC. 2019

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**PETER B. AJLUNI, DO**  
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**JAMES M. ANDRIOLE, DO**  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

**SUSAN I. BELANGER, PHD, MA, RN**  
LEWISTON, MAINE  
PUBLIC MEMBER

**ROBERT J. CORONA, JR., DO, MBA**  
SKANEATELES, NEW YORK

**H. TIMOTHY DOMBROWSKI, DO, MPH**  
STRATFORD, NEW JERSEY

**TERRI DONLIN HUESMAN, MBA**  
COLUMBUS, OHIO  
PUBLIC MEMBER

**MOLLIE M. JAMES, DO, MPH**  
CHARITON, IOWA

**ELIZABETH A. MCMURTRY, DO**  
WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON

**RICHARD A. ORTOSKI, DO**  
ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

**ROBERT G.G. PICCININI, DO**  
STERLING HEIGHTS, MICHIGAN

**DONALD H. POLK, DO**  
WAYNESBORO, TENNESSEE

**KAREN T. SNIDER, DO**  
KIRKSVILLE, MISSOURI

**MOUSUMI SOM, DO, MS**  
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

**SAJID A. SURVE, DO**  
FLOWER MOUND, TEXAS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# Santucci Award

## THOMAS A. CAVALIERI, DO, AND GARY L. SLICK, DO, MA, RECEIVE THE SANTUCCI AWARD

The NBOME's highest honor, The Santucci Award, is presented to an individual who has distinguished him or herself by their sustained outstanding contributions to the mission of the NBOME, protecting the public. Thomas F. Santucci, Jr., DO, was the NBOME's President and Chair of the Board from 1985 to 1987, at a pivotal time of change for the organization.

NBOME honored their past-chair and longtime National Faculty leader, Dr. Thomas A. Cavalieri, in June of 2019 with the award. Dr. Cavalieri was first recruited in the late 1980's as an exam item writer by fellow NBOME past-chairs, Frederick G. Meoli, DO,

and Thomas Santucci, DO. He became Board President in 2001, and Board Chair in 2002 when the NBOME first hired a full-time physician President and CEO. During this time, he oversaw the launch of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation.

Dr. Cavalieri has led various NBOME committees, chairing the COMLEX-USA Level 3 exam committee as well as the Standards and Assurances committee. He was also a principle author of the published manuscript, "The Predictive Validity of Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examinations for Osteopathic Medical Knowledge Measured by Graduate Written Examinations."

In December 2019, the NBOME awarded the Santucci award to past-chair Gary L. Slick, DO, MA. Dr. Slick serves as the designated institutional official of the graduate medical education residency and fellowship programs under sponsorship of the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (OSU-CHS), the chief academic officer of the Osteopathic Medical Education Consortium of Oklahoma, professor of medicine at the OSU-CHS, and member of the board of directors of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

A nephrologist, Dr. Slick has served the NBOME in numerous capacities over four decades, including as an item writer, test construction committee member, and final exam reviewer in physiology and internal medicine for COMLEX-USA exams. He has served as committee chair of many NBOME Board and the testing committees, including as the inaugural Chair of the COMAT internal medicine exam - tests now used in clerkship evaluation at almost every college of osteopathic medicine nationwide. Dr. Slick has been a member of the NBOME Board of Directors since 2005 and was installed as Board Chair in 2015.



Drs. O'Shea, LeBlanc and Gimpel



Drs. Santucci, Cavalieri, Gimpel and Shaffer



Drs. Gimpel, Slick and O'Shea

# Clark Award for Patient Advocacy

## KIM E. LEBLANC, MD, PHD, HONORED WITH THE NBOME 2019 CLARK AWARD

The NBOME Clark Award for Patient Advocacy was created in 2016 to recognize those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their advocacy for patient safety, patient protection and quality of care. It recognizes those who have worked to assure patients that DOs have qualified for licensure by virtue of having passed the licensure exams (COMLEX-USA) that are designed for and have evidence for validity for the practice of osteopathic medicine. It is named after long-time NBOME Board public member and leader in medical regulation and state medical licensure, Mr. Gary R. Clark.

In December, Kim E. LeBlanc, MD, PhD, was named as the 2019 recipient. Dr. LeBlanc was instrumental in advocating for equivalent licensure for DOs and acceptance of COMLEX-USA when he served as President of the Louisiana State Board of

Medicine in 2004 and on the Board of Directors of the Federation of State Medical Boards. Dr. LeBlanc was in the private practice of family medicine and sports medicine in his home state of Louisiana for nearly 20 years where he became involved in academic medicine. He also served as team physician for the University of Louisiana Lafayette, several US Olympic teams, and several professional baseball, soccer, ice hockey, and football teams. Dr. LeBlanc recently transitioned back to Louisiana from his position as Executive Director of the Clinical Skills Evaluation Collaboration (CSEC), which creates and administers the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 2 Clinical Skills examination. During his tenure in that role, he continued to collaborate regularly with NBOME and advocate for the validity and important roles of COMLEX-USA.

# 2019 Meritorious Service Awards

IN 2019, THE NBOME RECOGNIZED DANA C. SHAFFER, DO FOR HIS EXEMPLARY SERVICE AS CHAIR OF THE NBOME BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2019.

Dana C. Shaffer, DO, the dean at the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) in Pikeville, Kentucky, was installed as Chair of the NBOME Board in December 2017. He serves as a member of the Executive Committee and Compensation Subcommittee. He previously served as Vice-Chair and Secretary-Treasurer, as a member of the Test Accommodations Committee and as chair of the Board's Finance Committee and Liaison Committee.

Prior to serving as dean at KYCOM, Dr. Shaffer served as senior associate dean, and also the senior associate dean of clinical affairs at Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine from 2006 to 2013. Prior to that, Dr. Shaffer practiced the complete spectrum of rural family medicine in Iowa for 22 years, including osteopathic manipulative medicine, obstetrics and emergency medicine, as well as both inpatient and outpatient care.



Drs. Gimpel, Shaffer and O'Shea

## 2019 Item Writer and Case Author Awards



In December 2019, the NBOME recognized the 2019 Item Writer and Case Author of the Year award winners from its distinguished National Faculty. Throughout the year, National Faculty have volunteered their time and expertise to not only assist NBOME in writing and reviewing test items for the COMLEX-USA and COMAT exam series, but also to serve as physician examiners for COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE. These award winners have distinguished themselves as the best-in-class item writers and case authors among the large group of exam contributors. We would like to both congratulate our esteemed awardees for their commitment and thank all who helped make these exams possible.



### 2019 COMLEX-USA Level 1 Item Writer of the Year MARTIN SCHMIDT, PHD

Dr. Schmidt is a professor of biochemistry at DMU-COM in Des Moines, Iowa and a long-standing member of our National Faculty. His contributions have been to the COMLEX-USA Level 1 and COMAT Foundational Biomedical Sciences Exams.



### 2019 COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE Item Writer of the Year JOHN DOUGHERTY, DO

Dr. Dougherty is the Founding Dean and Chief Academic Officer at Noorda College of Osteopathic Medicine (proposed) in Provo, Utah. An osteopathic family physician, Dr. Dougherty has been a member of the National Faculty since 2016.



### 2019 COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE Case Author of the Year ROBYN DREIBELBIS, DO

Dr. Dreibelbis is vice-chair and assistant professor of Family Medicine at WesternU/COMP in Lebanon, Oregon. A specialist in osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal medicine, Dr. Dreibelbis has been selected for this award as a member of the Case Development Committee.



### 2019 COMLEX-USA Level 3 Item Writer of the Year BINH PHUNG, DO, MHA

Dr. Phung is a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at OSU-COM in Tulsa, Oklahoma and a pediatric hospitalist at the Children's Hospital at St. Francis. Dr. Phung has focused his talents on the COMLEX-USA Level 3 exam in both multiple-choice questions and clinical decision-making content.



### 2019 Clinical Decision-Making (CDM) Case Writer of the Year BRETT S. STECKER, DO

Dr. Stecker is the assistant professor of family medicine at Alpert Medical School at Brown University and physician advisor at Steward Medical Group at Morton Hospital in South Easton, Massachusetts. Dr. Stecker is experienced in working with the COMLEX-USA Levels 1, 2-CE and 3 exams, and was previously awarded Item Writer of the Year for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE in both 2016 and 2018.



### 2019 COMLEX-USA Osteopathic Principles and Practice (OPP) Item Writer of the Year LAUREN NOTO BELL, DO

Dr. Noto Bell is an associate professor of osteopathic principles and practice at PCOM in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and a long-standing member of the National Faculty. She has been involved with all levels of the COMLEX-USA exams and the COMAT clinical exam. She was awarded item writer of the year for OPP in 2017.



### 2019 COMLEX-USA Preventative Medicine/Health Promotion (PMHP) Item Writer of the Year TODD COFFEY, PHD

Dr. Coffey is chair and associate professor in the department of research and biostatistics at ICOM in Meridian, Idaho. He joined the National Faculty in 2018 and contributes to all levels of the COMLEX-USA level exams.



### 2019 COMAT Clinical Item Writer of the Year JESSICA ROGERS, DO

Dr. Rogers is an osteopathic obstetrician and gynecologist at Coyle Institute Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery in Pensacola, Florida. She joined the National Faculty in 2014 and has been a significant contributor to both the COMLEX-USA and COMAT exams.



### 2019 COMAT Foundational Biomedical Sciences (FBS) Item Writer of the Year LORI REDMOND, PHD

Dr. Redmond is a professor of neuroscience at PCOM-Georgia in Suwanee, Georgia and has been a member of our National Faculty since 2017. She was recruited for and has been a strong contributor to the COMAT Foundational Biomedical Sciences exams.



# A DIVERSIFIED NATIONAL FACULTY

NBOME's diverse and dedicated National Faculty is comprised of over 800 active, engaged, credentialed subject matter experts and leaders from across the nation. Their collective knowledge and wisdom encompasses expertise in all osteopathic health professions and specialties, osteopathic medical education and evaluation, and osteopathic physician licensure and regulation. These valued volunteers serve on board, operational and exam committees, support the NBOME's strategic planning objectives, write and review test items and cases, and serve as physician examiners to ensure the quality, efficacy, and ongoing continuous quality improvement of NBOME's assessment products and services.



COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE Advisory Committee



COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE



LOCATIONS

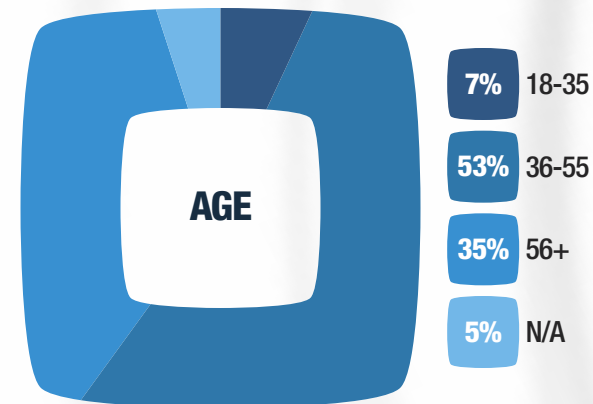
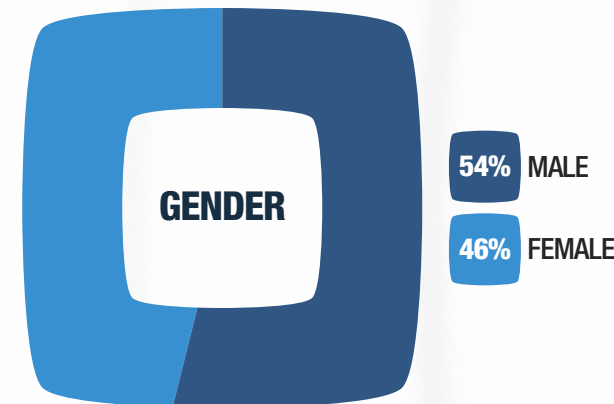
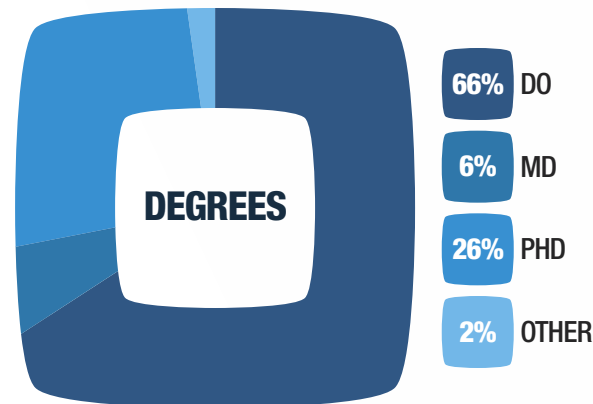
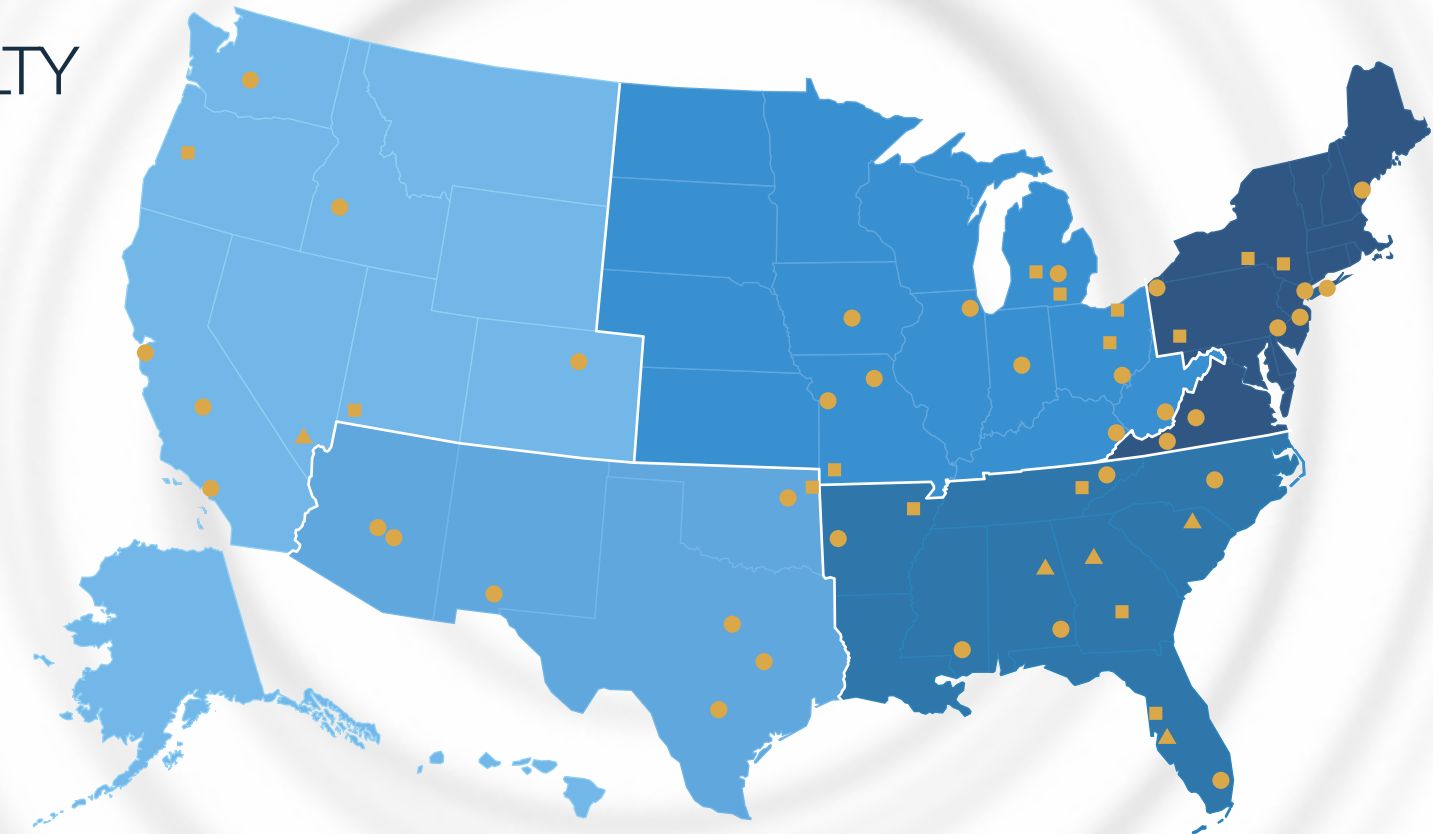


STATES

## NATIONAL FACULTY BY REGION

- 235 NORTHEAST
- 146 SOUTH
- 230 MIDWEST
- 105 SOUTHWEST
- 127 WEST

**COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**  
 ● circles indicate main campus  
 ■ squares indicate additional site  
 ▲ triangles indicate branch campus



# COMAT<sup>®</sup>

COMPREHENSIVE OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

COMAT Clinical Subject exams have been administered over 250,000 times since their introduction in 2011. Virtually all osteopathic medical schools are using COMAT Clinical Subject exams in 2020. These eight osteopathically distinctive

assessments guide learning through assessment in the clinical years, and prepare students for success with COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE and Level 3. Recent research published in the Journal of Graduate Medical Education again demonstrate statistically significant, positive associations between COMAT and Level 2-CE scores.

The COMAT Foundational Biomedical Sciences (FBS) Comprehensive Exam, first offered in 2018, is

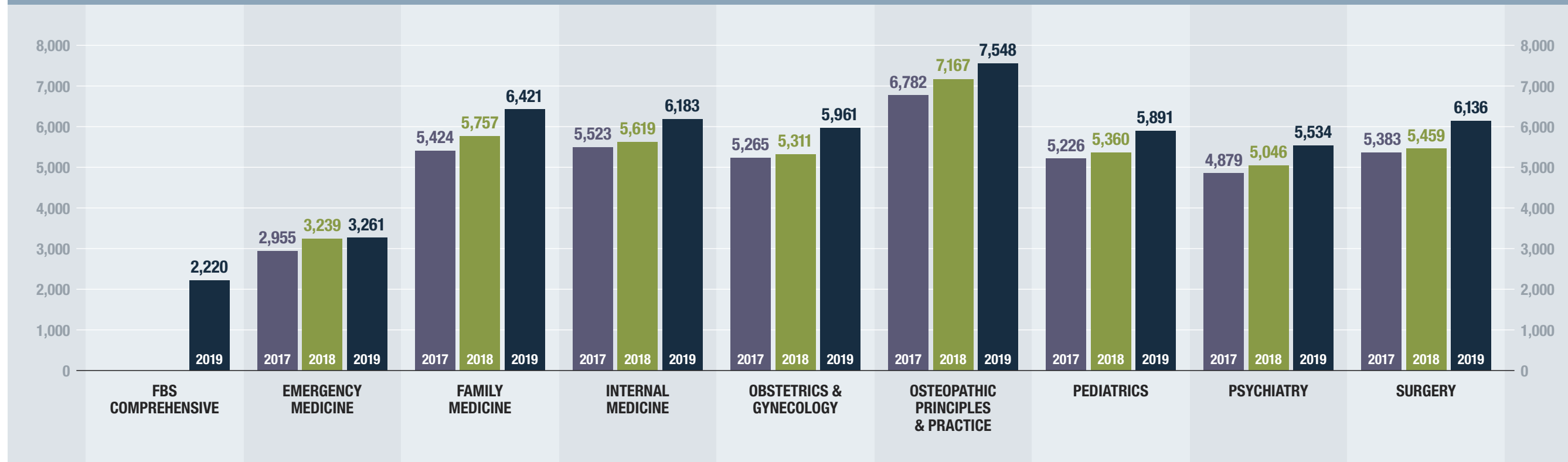
now used by nearly half the COMs. The FBS Comprehensive Exam features test questions that cover basic science disciplines and organ body systems in a five hour administration. Standard scores incorporating national norms and detailed formative feedback is provided.

A portfolio of body system and basic science discipline exams is also now available through the COMAT FBS Targeted series. Each of the 14 COMAT

FBS Targeted exams features test questions aligned to curricular programs in years one and two, organized by organ body systems, basic science disciplines, or a hybrid approach.

COMAT FBS exams allow COMs and students to gain valuable test-taking experience with authentic COMLEX-USA Level 1 style test items and receive robust feedback, which prepares students for COMLEX-USA Level 1.

## NUMBER OF COMAT EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATIONS



# CATALYST

CATALYST is an assessment platform designed by the NBOME to facilitate continuous assessment and learning, with original work at the NBOME beginning in 2015. Initial CATALYST pilots conducted with physicians and students were very well-received by participants, providing important feedback guiding a more streamlined and user-friendly interface with increased ability for customization.

The CATALYST 2.0 Platinum Pilot began in June 2019, with 394 volunteers including NBOME National Faculty, osteopathic medical students, residents, and NBOME staff. The five-week study was conducted to obtain user feedback on the new platform as well as suggestions for improvement. Content included 70 COMSAE items enhanced with supporting rationales and references from a previous pilot, to enable comparisons across platforms. Participants were able to select how often test questions were made available to them during the pilot: 2 questions daily, 14 questions weekly, or all 70 questions at the start of the study. Upon answering each item, the participant was

provided with immediate feedback that included the correct answer, the accompanying rationale, and references for further study.

Feedback on the platform was incredibly positive and helped provide direction for future CATALYST development. National Faculty commented on CATALYST's convenience, while students and residents focused on the clinical relevance and the wide variety of topics presented.

COMSAE Phase 2 on CATALYST is planned for launch in March 2020 and will include many enhancements, including a mobile app, a pacing calculator to notify learners if they are meeting the "pace" they've selected to complete questions, improved presentation of rationales, and streamlined formatting.

Refinement of the platform will continue. Discussions are being held with a number of organizations regarding the potential application of CATALYST's longitudinal assessment methodology for a variety of future formative assessment and learning applications, including those related to resident in-training exams and board recertification purposes.

# COMLEX-USA

COMPREHENSIVE OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMINATION

The new, competency-based COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint and evidence-based design structure for the COMLEX-USA exam series went into full effect in 2019. This milestone reflects the evolving practice of osteopathic medicine and the collaborative work of so many teams and individuals. COMLEX-USA Level 3, initially augmented with the enhanced Blueprint in the fall of 2018, was joined this year by COMLEX-USA Level 1 and Level 2.

The new Blueprint comes with attestation of professionalism requirements of both Deans and Program Directors that align with the NBOME's mission to protect the public, enhance professional self-regulation, promote entrustability, and add value to state medical and osteopathic medical boards, members of the public, and patients.



	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	
<b>COMLEX-USA LEVEL 1 EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE</b>	1 <sup>ST</sup> TIME TEST TAKERS	6,559	6,768	7,120
	PASSING	92.7%	95.9%	93%
	ALL TAKERS	7,181	7,185	7,658
	PASSING	90.4%	94.7%	91.2%
<b>COMLEX-USA LEVEL 2-CE EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE</b>	1 <sup>ST</sup> TIME TEST TAKERS	6,084	6,491	6,727
	PASSING	93.2%	92.8%	95.6%
	ALL TAKERS	6,662	7,117	7,157
	PASSING	91.2%	90.8%	94.1%
<b>COMLEX-USA LEVEL 3 EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE</b>	1 <sup>ST</sup> TIME TEST TAKERS	5,557	8,746	8,372
	PASSING	96.7%	95.4%	97.5%
	ALL TAKERS	5,791	9,147	8,692
	PASSING	96.1%	94.7%	97%

	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		
	N	% 1 <sup>ST</sup> TIME TAKERS	N	% 1 <sup>ST</sup> TIME TAKERS	N	% 1 <sup>ST</sup> TIME TAKERS	
<b>COMLEX-USA LEVEL 2-PE EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE</b>	1 <sup>ST</sup> TIME TEST TAKERS	6,211	100.0%	6,922	100.0%	6,998	100.0%
	PASS	5,765	92.8%	6,454	93.2%	6,519	93.2%
	FAIL	446	7.2%	468	6.8%	479	6.8%
	HUMANISTIC DOMAIN	128	2.1%	129	1.9%	183	1.9%
BIOMEDICAL DOMAIN	277	4.5%	301	4.3%	343	4.2%	
BOTH DOMAINS	41	0.7%	38	0.5%	47	0.7%	
ALL TAKERS	6,682		7,474		7,523		

## COMLEX-USA EXAMINATION CHAIRS



Janice A. Knebl, DO, MBA  
COMLEX-USA Composite  
Examination Committee



John E. Thornburg, DO, PhD  
COMLEX-USA Level 1



David Kuo, DO  
COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE



Charles A. Finch Jr., DO  
COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE



Michael F. Oliverio, DO  
COMLEX-USA Level 3

**>93%** POST-EXAM SURVEYS OF COMLEX-USA CANDIDATES REPORTED SATISFACTION WITH THE TEST EXPERIENCE

**>12,000**



COMLEX-USA LEVEL 3 PROGRAM DIRECTOR ATTESTATIONS SINCE MARCH 2018



**26,266**

COMSAE EXAMINATIONS ADMINISTERED

**COMSAE**  
COMPREHENSIVE OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL  
SELF-ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION



# Single GME: Outreach and Education

As 2019 brought a close to the decade, with it were some major milestones in the transition to a single graduate medical education (GME) accreditation system by June 30, 2020. The year began with the adoption of policy by the American Medical Association (AMA) for equivalent uses for COMLEX-USA and the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE®) in all US residency programs late in 2018. Throughout the year, we worked to educate the GME community and other stakeholders and improve understanding of COMLEX-USA as the nationally accepted licensing exam for DOs and provide resources on interpreting scores for holistic review of residency applicants.

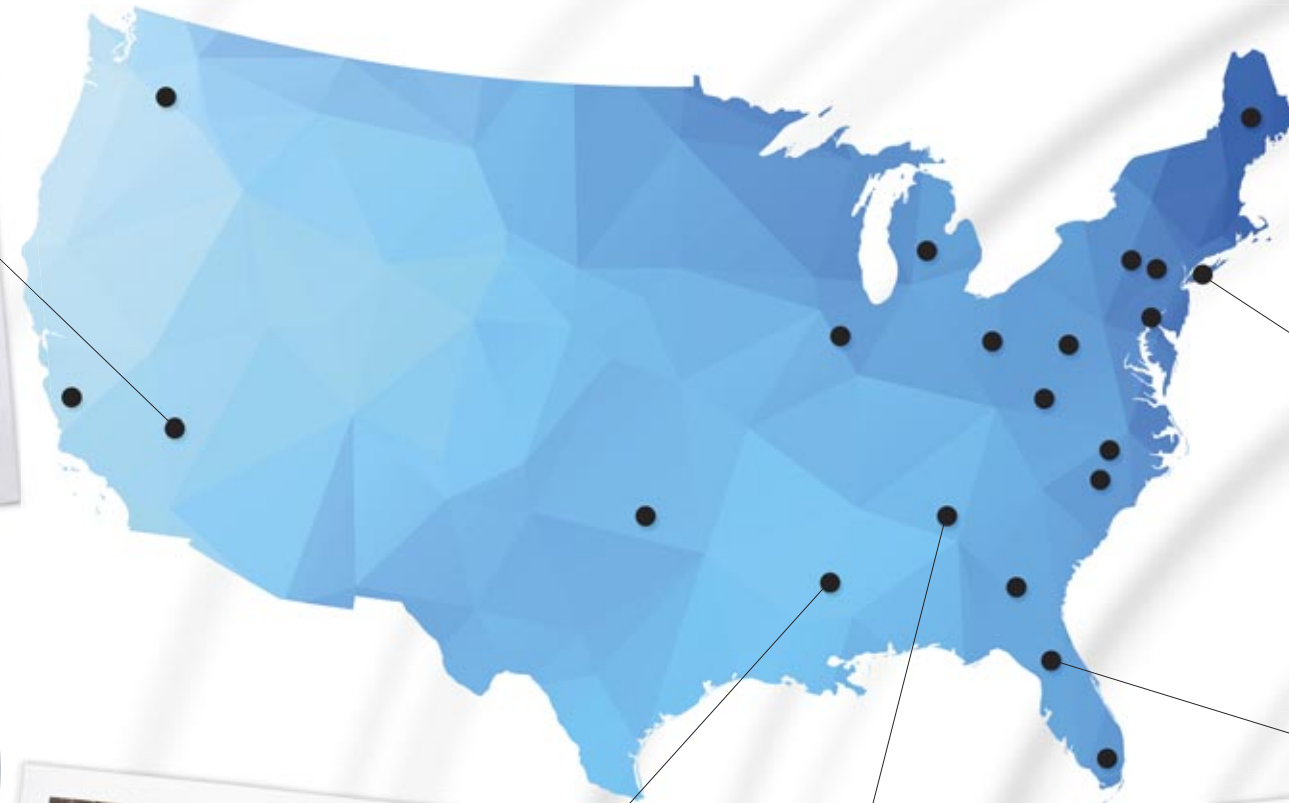
Guided by the ACEL Strategic Plan, the Single GME Outreach Taskforce, the Emergency Medicine Subgroup and our Resident Ambassadors, NBOME actively engaged those in the GME community. Outreach efforts included:

- Publish Predictive Validity Studies
- Survey Residency Programs
- Enhance our MATCH Campaigns
- Emphasize Holistic and Relatable Qualities of DO Applicants
- Participate with the AAMC® and Partners on a Residency Explorer Prototype
- Promote AMA Resolution 955, with Video for Residency Programs and Students Promoting Equivalent Uses of COMLEX-USA and Holistic Reviews
- Present and exhibit at ACGME Annual Educational Conference and several other national residency PD conferences
- Assist the National Residency Matching Program with updating surveys and materials inclusive of DO applicants and qualifications
- Expand our Resident Ambassador Program

The Single GME accreditation pathway is designed to preserve and codify the distinctive elements of osteopathic medical education, training and practice, including accreditation of colleges of osteopathic medicine by the American Osteopathic Association Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (AOA-COCA), the COMLEX-USA osteopathic licensing exams, and AOA board certification.



**20+**  
**COLLEGES**  
**VISITED**



# On the Road to DO Licensure

NBOME exceeded its goal by reaching over 20 campuses in 2019. At the request of deans, visits by NBOME staff included presentations to students, faculty, and deans to discuss up-to-date information on NBOME assessments and enhancements to COMLEX-USA, as well as faculty development programs. 2019 campus visits included:

California Health Sciences University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Clovis, CA • Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine, Buies Creek, NC • Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, Spartanburg, SC • Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, East Lansing, MI • Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, Downers Grove, IL • New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine, Old Westbury, NY • New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine, Jonesboro, AK • Nova Southeastern University Dr. Kirran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine, Fort Lauderdale, FL • Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dublin, OH • Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine, Tulsa, OK • Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Philadelphia, PA • Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine - Georgia, Suwanee, GA • Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine - Harlem Campus, New York, NY • Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine - Middletown Campus, Middletown, NY • Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine - NV, Henderson, NV • University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, Biddeford, ME • University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, Pikeville, KY • West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, Lewisburg, WV • Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, Lebanon, OR • William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Hattiesburg, MS

Photos from all of our 2019 campus visits are available on our website at: [nbome.org/colleges-of-osteopathic-medicine](http://nbome.org/colleges-of-osteopathic-medicine)

## LIAISON COMMITTEE

The Liaison Committee is comprised of organizations involved in the osteopathic medical profession. This includes osteopathic students and residents, and their input funnels directly to the NBOME Board of Directors. Each year, the committee meets to discuss topics relevant to the participating organizations, the practice of osteopathic medicine, and the public. In 2019, the theme of the meeting was “Entrustability – fulfilling the expectations of the public.” In addition to updates from each participating

organization, the group discussed current approaches to ensuring entrustability amongst their stakeholders, going on to explore changes that will be necessary to assure entrustability in the future. Input from stakeholder groups including osteopathic students and residents was gathered on the advisability of alternative scoring formats being proposed for licensure exams, with potential options that include pass-fail score reporting only and not reporting numeric three-digit standard scores, and other options.



## THE COALITION FOR PHYSICIAN ACCOUNTABILITY

The NBOME is a proud charter member of the Coalition for Physician Accountability and is honored to continue the commitment to advancing health care and promoting professional accountability by improving the quality, efficiency, and continuity of the education, training, and assessment of physicians. Coalition members support the missions of member organizations in accreditation, assessment, certification, and licensure of physicians, and seek opportunities to enhance communication and coordination along the continuum of medical education, training, and practice. In 2019, the Coalition continued to advance the quality and safety of patient care through enhancing physician accountability in education and practice with attention to current issues, such as the transition from medical school to residency, numerical vs. pass-fail scoring for licensure exams, the opioid crisis, clinician and student well-being and resilience, inter-professional education and artificial intelligence, among others.

[www.physicianaccountability.org](http://www.physicianaccountability.org)

## Client and Partner Organizations



**American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry**  
Resident In-Service Examination



**American College of Osteopathic Surgeons**  
Resident In-Service Examination



**American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine**  
Osteopathic Curriculum



**American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians**  
Education Modules



**American Board of Cosmetic Surgery**  
Certification Examination, Oral Examination



**AOA-American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine**  
General Internal Medicine, Subspecialty, and CAQ Certification & Recertification Examinations, Catalyst Pilot



**American Board of Facial Cosmetic Surgery**  
Certification Examinations



**AOA-American Osteopathic Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology**  
Catalyst Pilot



**American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery**  
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians



**AOA-American Osteopathic Board of Pediatrics**  
Catalyst Pilot



**American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians**  
Traditional In-Service Examination, In-Service Examination Plus, Clinical Osteopathic Recognition Training Examination (CORTEX)



**National Board of Examiners in Optometry**  
Consultative Services for a Clinical Skills Examination



**American College of Osteopathic Internists**  
Resident In-Service Examination



**National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners**  
Clinical Skills Examination



**American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians**  
Resident In-Service Examination



**Saudi Commission for Health Specialties**  
Consultative Services for Clinical Skills Examinations

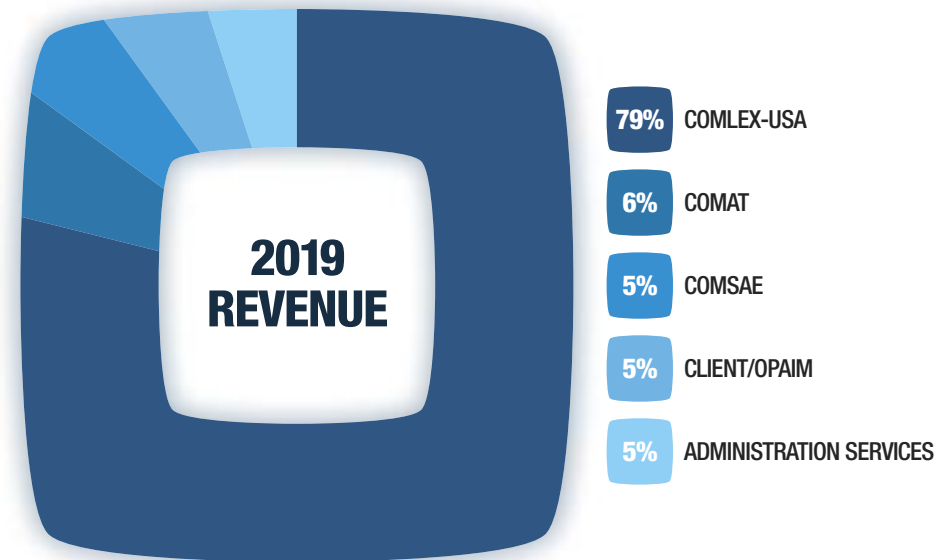
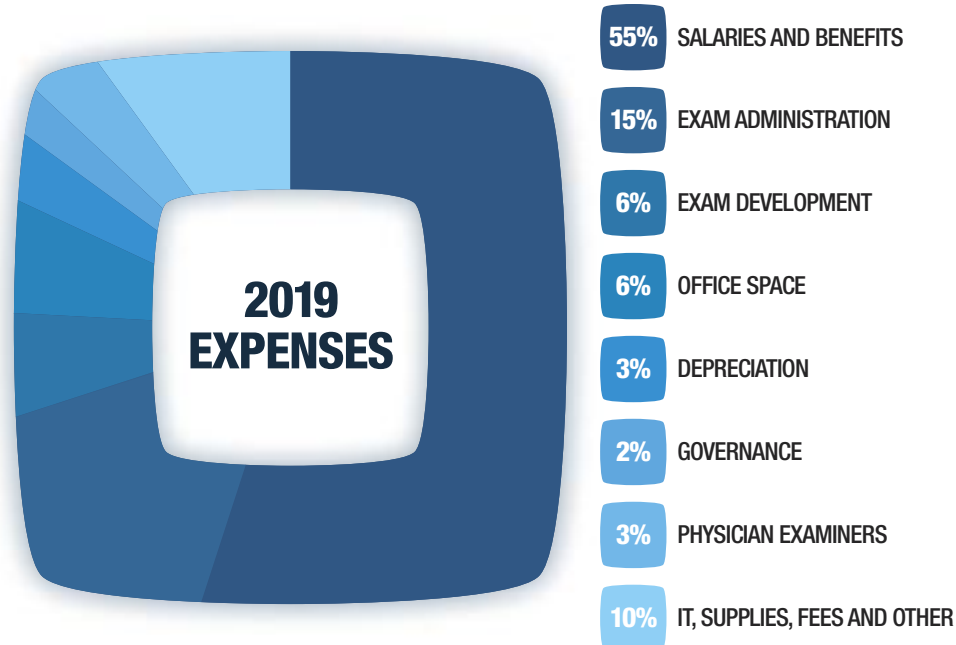
# Financial Health

In 2019 the NBOME began a two year process of further continuous quality improvement for its finance operations. The Finance Department structure was enhanced to ensure the best financial and accounting practices. Staff were added to assure best practices and keep up with the growth of the organization, and new accounting software and automation processes were selected, with full implementation targeted for early 2020.

In 2019 the overall financial position of the NBOME

remained strong with operating reserves exceeding target levels. The number of staff increased during the year and in order to accommodate this growth, additional space was leased in the Chicago office. Strong management and growth allowed NBOME to continue to invest in the quality of our assessment products and services, while at the same time not increasing COMLEX-USA exam fees at all from 2018-2019. Challenges in accurate revenue forecasting due in part to changing peak desired testing times for

COMLEX-USA Level 2 and Level 3 exams appear to be principally related to full implementation of the Single GME accreditation system and the Single NRMP Match in 2020. Through prudent investment oversight by the Finance Committee, a solid change in net assets was achieved for the year. This further allowed several contributions to osteopathic student scholarships in 2019, including to the American Osteopathic Foundation's William G. Anderson, DO Minority Scholarship Fund, and the Advocates for the AOA.



# Research

The NBOME promotes scholarly research in an effort to identify and disseminate evidence to support their assessments as a reliable and valid measure of competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health professions, while contributing to the field of assessment. Of the many scholarly articles, research manuscripts, and presentations created in support of these efforts in 2019, there were two specific articles of note.

In October 2019, NBOME released an important research study that was published in the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's Journal of Graduate Medical Education. This research demonstrated strong positive correlation between performance on the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Test (COMAT) and the COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE, further supporting COMAT scores as strong predictors for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE scores.

Also in October 2019, NBOME published another important article in Academic Medicine, the journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges. This research showed a strong relationship between COMLEX-USA scores and disciplinary actions received by osteopathic physicians. These findings provide evidence that the COMLEX-USA exams deliver useful information regarding the likelihood of a physician receiving state board disciplinary actions. The following list of published articles, research papers, and presentations reflect the scholarly work of NBOME staff members and their colleagues.

**A Validity Study of COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE and COMAT Clinical Subjects: Concurrent and Predictive Evidence**

Hudson K, Tsai T-H, Finch C, Dickerman, JL, Liu S, Shen L. *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*: October 2019, Vol. 11, No. 5, pp. 521-526. <https://doi.org/10.4300/JGME-D-19-00157.1>

**An Investigation of the Relationship Between COMLEX-USA Licensure Examination Performance and State Licensing Board Disciplinary Actions**

Roberts, William L. EdD; Gross, Gretta A. DO, MEd; Gimpel, John R. DO, MEd; Smith, Larissa L. PhD; Arnhart, Katie PhD; Pei, Xiaomei PhD; Young, Aaron PhD. *Academic Medicine*. October 2019 Volume Publish ahead of print. <https://doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0000000000003046>.

**Automated Test Assembly Using SAS Operations Research Software in a Medical Licensing Examination**

Shao C, Liu S, Yang H, & Tsai T-H. *Applied Psychological Measurement*: May 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0146621619847169>



# Community

Community outreach efforts have always been an important part of the NBOME workplace culture. NBOME is committed to providing staff a variety of opportunities to promote health and well-being within and beyond our local communities. Through onsite donation drives, employees supported families in need via ChildServ and Cradles to Crayons, collected and shipped personal necessities to deployed US military troops through Operation Shoebox, provided local students with highly needed school supplies, and supported medical research through monetary donations and various other efforts. Specific to NBOME's mission, staff celebrated National Osteopathic Medicine/International Osteopathic Healthcare Week with educational sessions and wellness-related events, including free blood-pressure screenings.



# Advancing ACEL 2019

NBOME completed the first phase of our strategic plan: **ALIGN CONNECT EXPERIENCE LEARN (ACEL)** during 2019. Front and center, among our many ACEL accomplishments, is the successful launch of the enhanced COMLEX-USA Level 1 and 2, completing the delivery of our evidence-based, enhanced COMLEX-USA exam series.

**Aligning growth for the advancement of assessment for osteopathically educated physicians**

- Successfully implemented the enhanced COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint across all levels, including successful delivery of Level 3 score reports to program directors
- Developed a team dedicated to the growing COMAT portfolio and successfully delivered COMAT Foundational Biomedical Sciences Comprehensive, prepared to deliver COMAT FBS Targeted exams in January 2020
- Completed development of the new enhanced CATALYST platform for longitudinal formative assessment and learning, conducted a COMSAE Phase 2 on CATALYST pilot, and finalized plans for availability to osteopathic medical students in March 2020

**Connecting and engaging with our audiences, increasing reach, influence and effectiveness in advancing our mission of protecting the public**

- Collaborated on the sponsorship and facilitation of the 2019 US Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit in an effort to advise alignment around the critical importance of distinctively osteopathic medical school accreditation, licensure, assessment, and board certification
- Escalated our outreach efforts to all stakeholders on equivalent recognition for COMLEX-USA for DO students in residency programs and released videos endorsing COMLEX-USA acceptance for holistic resident selection processes

**Promoting quality experiences, assessments and services with the NBOME brand**

- Implemented a sustained campaign about the positive experience of candidates taking COMLEX-USA exams and improved communications on social media and the website, as well as in newsletters and presentations
- Worked closely with our test delivery partners, with special emphasis on our strategic relationship with Prometric, to improve test experiences and ensure optional test delivery for all of our stakeholders
- Approved numerous additional test experience enhancements to COMLEX-USA, including a substantial reduction in the number of pretest embedded questions in Level 2-CE starting with the new test cycle in June 2020, and in Level 1 starting May 2021

**Fostering a learning and research culture**

- Advanced research and scholarly activity in the areas of predictive validity and score concordance, with an important publication on predictive validity and COMLEX-USA related to state medical and osteopathic medical board disciplinary actions for physicians
- Accelerated talent management, expanding and developing our leadership team and staff around a performance excellence framework, reorganized departments to better serve our stakeholders and growth, and began implementing a new accounting system for improved financial management and reporting

# Protecting the Public

The COMLEX-USA examination series is the osteopathic assessment used for initial licensure of osteopathic physicians in the United States and internationally. In addition to providing the pathway to licensure for osteopathic medical practice, COMLEX-USA is a graduation requirement for earning a DO degree from a college of osteopathic medicine and is required for progression in graduate medical education.



**2019 Board of Directors**