

**MINUTES**  
**NBPME MID-WINTER BOARD MEETING**  
**March 21, 2015**  
**Washington, D.C.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Haber called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following board members, liaison representatives, FPMB staff, Prometric staff and staff were present:

Dr. Jonathan Haber	Dr. Kathleen Pyatak-Hugar
Dr. Judy Beto	Dr. Roland Ramdass
Dr. Gregory Davies	Jennifer Romero (Staff, Prometric)
Dr. Robert Eckles	Dr. Vivian Rodes
Kevin Grierson (APMSA Liaison)	Dr. Barbara Showers
Dr. Mary Jones Johnson	Kerry Simm (Consultant)
Dr. Michael Lapan	Dr. Alyssa Stephenson
Dr. Julia Leahy (Staff, Prometric)	Russell Stoner (Staff, FPMB)
Dr. Thomas Leecost	Phil Park (Staff)
Dr. Jeffrey Page (AACPM Liaison)	Ellen Veruete (Staff)

Dr. Leecost left the meeting at 11 a.m. and returned at noon. Dr. Larry Santi joined the meeting at 9:40 a.m. to present the APMA Report and to answer questions. He left at 9:55 a.m. to attend other meetings. The liaisons did not attend the Executive Session.

**OPEN SESSION**

President Haber welcomed our new members, Drs. Robert Eckles, Roland Ramdass and Vivian Rodes.

**ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS**

The formal AACPM, FPMB, APMSA and APMA reports were received and accepted. They are included as appendices A, B, C, and D.

**PROMETRIC**

Jennifer Romero and Julia Leahy provided a Power Point presentation that focused on Prometric's updates, investment plans, candidate numbers and growth, 2015 examination dates and proposed 2016 examination dates. See appendix E. It was noted that the proposed 2016 exam dates are not confirmed and should not be released until the board acts.

Prometric met with the Test Committee on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the change to LOFT (Linear on the Fly Testing) for the Part I Exam. After a lengthy review of the items in the pool, adapting those items and testing those items, Prometric reported that they are confident that NBPME is prepared to begin LOFT with the July 2015 exam. Dr. Leahy assured the members that LOFT will not change the content or the length of the exam, candidates will continue to receive

the same distribution of difficulty, constraints are in place to limit the number of items each candidate receives that are foot vs non-foot items and the practice of field testing items will remain. She also highlighted that only 15% of the candidates will see the same items and that the examination has a reliability of 0.97 at the cut score. Dr. Showers reported that the test committee agreed to recommend implementation. The Board agreed to move forward with LOFT for the July administration.

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

The report to the CPME was included with the agenda. Mr. Park answered questions on procedures for recruiting workshop participants and how they are assigned to a workshop. The Board reviewed and accepted the report as presented.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The Board accepted the President's Report as presented.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

The strategic plan adopted in 2008 and updated March 2012 was presented with the notations on the status of the action items, (see Appendix F). A focal point was that eight states remain (Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, Mississippi, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Vermont and Puerto Rico) as non-participants or are not contracted for the use of the Part III Examination. Mr. Park has made unsuccessful attempts to contact and encourage these boards to join the program. Any opportunity to help with any of these states to join the program is welcome.

The Board also supported the visits made by Mr. Park to the schools. The Board would like to continue these visits to help answer questions and provide information to the first year students.

The Board was satisfied with the overall progress of the plan and agreed to continue to follow the plan and provide updates every couple of years.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

#### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting (August, 2014) and conference call summaries were accepted as presented.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Pyatak-Hugar reported there were no action items from the Finance Committee. The budget will be considered at the July meeting.

### **NATIONAL BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (NBOME) PRESENTATION**

Jeanne Sandella, Joe Flamini and Janice Kneble gave a presentation on the NBOME and their proposal to provide patient encounter testing. They emphasized their ability to provide NBOME excellent customer service and to administer a dependable, reliable clinical skills exam. They

also answered questions regarding their proposal which members received prior to the meeting.

## **PART II CLINICAL SKILLS PATIENT ENCOUNTER EXAMINATION (CSPE)**

The Board discussed the obstacles faced if a contract is renewed for three years with the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). The main concerns were the significant increase in price and the lack of customer service provided.

NBOME's proposal was significantly lower than NBME after the first year of the contract. The first year includes one-time start-up costs. NBOME focuses on providing great customer service to all stakeholders and providing the flexibility to test all candidates even if an unforeseen circumstance occurs.

After extensive consideration, the Board moved to pursue a one year contract with NBME and transition to a multiple year contract with NBOME. Dr. LaPan moved to approve the change and Dr. Leecost seconded it. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

## **TEST COMMITTEE**

Dr. Showers report was accepted as presented.

## **KERRY SIMM'S CONSULTING CONTRACT**

Dr. Haber brought to the Board's attention that Kerry's contract is ending in August, 2015. Kerry has been a great asset with the CSPE Exam. Mr. Park requested that the Board extend her contract by one year. The Board granted a one year extension.

## **FUTURE BOARD MEETING**

The Board will meet for its annual meeting on July 25, 2015 at the Villas of Grand Cypress in Orlando, Florida.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Summarized by:



Philip Park  
Executive Director

## **AACPM Liaison Report**

NBPME Board Meeting

March 20, 2015

Congratulations on the successful role out of the CSPE examination.

Moving to a new stage in item writing and review raises some new questions and issues. Some of the faculty members have had difficulty logging into the item writing software. However, it is not likely a problem with the software, but a need for communication with the IT department about what is required.

Deans and faculty members have inquired about why so few questions were requested during the recent round of question writing invitations. How is it possible to establish and maintain a sufficiently large item pool if we produce only 54 new items per year?

No guidelines were issued with the request for item writing. Faculty members would prefer some guidance that would help to distribute questions throughout the subdomains of each subject area—to prevent amassing questions in only a few areas.

Some Deans would like to discuss the use of item response or “CAD” type examinations. Does such an exam require a larger item pool? What are the advantages and disadvantages?

Recognizing the tremendous cost of multi-day, combined item writing and review sessions, and appreciating the savings that will accrue now that items will be written from faculty offices, could funding be available for one or two face-to-face item review sessions? It is felt that a face to face dialogue is the most valuable approach to item review.

Faculty members are appreciative of the intention to pay an honorarium for participation in Webex item review sessions along with the awarding of continuing education hours. Questions were raised about honoraria for item writing, but no formal proposals have been put forth about how this might be handled. I would say that faculty members who write one to three questions for

the board exam should do so because they have a responsibility to do so, not because they are going to be paid to do it. But responsible item writing takes time. Writing significant numbers of items might warrant an honorarium of some kind—perhaps based on the number of questions written that are retained after item review.

# *F*ederation of Podiatric Medical Boards

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12116 Flag Harbor Drive ♦ Germantown, MD 20874 ♦ 202-810-3762 ♦ [www.fpmb.org](http://www.fpmb.org)

Office of the Executive Director  
Russell J. Stoner

**DATE:** January 26, 2015  
**TO:** National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners  
**FROM:** Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards  
**SUBJECT:** Report for NBPME Meeting

The Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards (FPMB) will hold its next annual meeting on Saturday, April 25, 2015 in Fort Worth, Texas. The 2014-2015 FPMB Executive Board is as follows:

- Robert Levine, DPM (President)
- Kirk M. Contento, DPM (Vice President)
- Neil L. Horsley, MS, DPM (Secretary-Treasurer)
- Jay S. LeBow, DPM (Director)
- Bruce R. Saferin, DPM (Director)
- Russell J. Stoner (Executive Director)

The FPMB continues to play a critical role in the licensure process for State Boards by providing certified NBPME Part III score results (919 over the past 12 months) and disciplinary action data reports, both of which can be ordered online via the FPMB web site. The disciplinary data bank is the largest in podiatry tracking disciplinary actions against over 1,600 individuals as reported by State Boards throughout the country on a continual basis.

The FPMB web site continues to provide value to the podiatric community. Second only to the online ordering page, the Member Boards List section is the most popular. This section provides the following contact information for each of the State Boards:

- State Board Name
- Address(es)
- Web Site URL
- Contact Name & Title
- Phone Number
- Email Address

The section also includes **15+** licensing-related data points, identified jointly with the American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine (AACPM), for each State Board. The section has become a first-stop for podiatrists, State Boards, hospitals, government personnel and consumers.

In 2014, the FPMB worked diligently with State Boards to update the data in the Member Boards List section. The average State Board record has been updated within the last two years, and ongoing efforts in 2015 will continue to keep this valuable information current. Also in 2014, the FPMB added a new data point to the Member Boards List: “Disciplinary Actions on Web Site”. At present, the web site URLs for disciplinary actions/license verifications is now available on the FPMB web site for over 40 State Boards.



## **APMSA Report to the NBPME**

Liaison: Kevin Grierson

CSPM 2016

March 21, Washington DC

### **I. USMLE Exam**

At our HOD meeting last month in Nashville, members of the APMA came and spoke with us about the possibility of some students writing the USMLE exam to evaluate it against the APMLE exam. **Some students had some concerns about what the end goals of this project would be and if it would affect the APMLE exam we take now?**

### **II. Part II CSPE Location**

At our HOD meeting last month, some 4<sup>th</sup> year delegates expressed their concerns over the location of the CSPE and how Philadelphia is an often a difficult airport to fly through. **Some students were wondering if there has been any discussion to either rotate the CSPE site, or have a more central location to ease the travel burdens of many students?**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Grierson

CSPM 2016

APMSA Liaison to the NBPME



## APMA Report to the AACPM Board

Submitted by Lawrence A. Santi, DPM, FASPS.

- APMA and CPME recognize the burden of debt podiatric medical students carry. APMA is offering information and resources to help students (particularly those who have not yet been able to match with a residency program) manage their debt. Young physicians can find these and other useful materials at [www.apma.org/youngphysicians](http://www.apma.org/youngphysicians).
- APMA provides significant funding for the residency genesis facilitation initiative at AACPM and communicates about the initiative frequently in its [publications](#), on its [website](#), and at in-person meetings. APMA regularly encourages its members to get involved by bringing their patients to hospitals that have residency programs and serving as faculty at existing programs or help develop new residency programs.
- In 2014, the APMA House of Delegates adopted Resolution 10-14, which provides for APMA-funded postgraduate transitional research programs at colleges with unmatched students.
  - Up to \$25,000 *matching* grant per school to fund research done by an unmatched graduate from the school
  - Limit of one grant per school per year
  - Program to run for three years
  - Application process with research application to be reviewed by the APMA Clinical Practice Advisory Committee (CPAC) for approval
  - Funds to come from Research Endowment
- APMA is working to develop resources for unmatched graduates in the form of materials to assist in interviews, financial advice, and more. APMA publishes a monthly interview with a residency director with firsthand advice for students and past graduates about matching with residency programs.
- APMA has solicited all unmatched graduates from 2014 and previous years to contact us so that we can add them to our database to ensure consistent, routine and timely communication. Our communication to these individuals has included information about preceptorship, research, and other viable opportunities that have been offered by APMA members and industry.

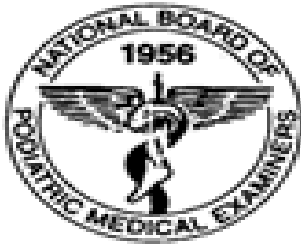
## Recent APMA Activity

- Introduced the *Leadership Focus*
- Updated Component Executive Page
- Digital diabetes materials on apma.org
- *New eAdvocacy site*
- *New JAPMA site*
- *New APMA News Brief*
- *New APMA Buyer's Guide*
- APMA Educational Foundation awarded 223 student scholarships worth \$250K
- CEO search process underway.
- Contracted with student debt management consultant to produce student debt repayment primers, webinars and PowerPoint modules to be placed on website and published in *Your APMA*.
- Held successful Young Physician Institute
- Evaluating lawsuit against BCBS association and related local plans -- contracting issues, including fee schedules.

## Legislative Update

- New 114<sup>th</sup> Congress
- Must re-introduce Helping Ensure Life- and Limb-Saving Access to Podiatric Physicians Act (HELLPP Act)
- Priorities
  - Permanent SGR Fix
  - VA Pay Parity

- Provider Non-Discrimination
- Antitrust Reform for Physicians
- Reduce Hardship Exemption from EHR Penalties for Small and Solo Practices
- Medical Malpractice Reform
- RAC Reform



# The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners

*Board Meeting*



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# Prometric Updates

# Investments and Planning

# Monitor Upgrade



- Prometric has implemented plans to further enhance the testing experience by investing in high-performance test display monitors.
- Monitors feature the latest in industry standards, including larger 23” displays, optimized viewing with a 16:9 aspect ratio and higher resolution quality with a 1920 x 1080 resolution.
- Candidates will experience sharper text and a greater accuracy of colors and images that are better able to display stunning details that can command and hold attention compared to traditional test display monitors for an optimal testing experience.

# Monitor Upgrade





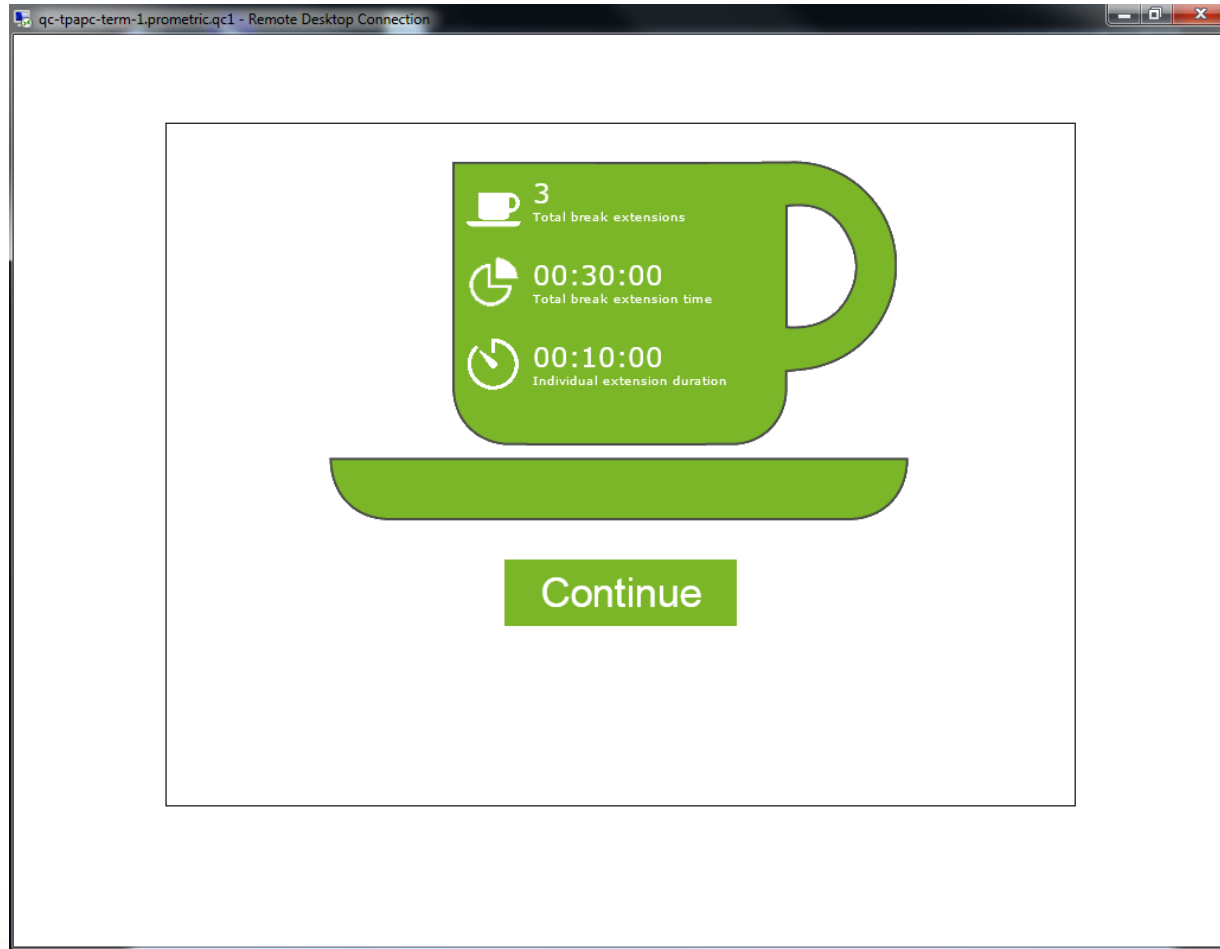
- Upgrade of our test center infrastructure to improve the quality and performance of the testing centers with advances in Operating Systems and software
  - Enhances the performance of the servers and testing workstations
  - Keeps global infrastructure current with ongoing test delivery/publishing demands
  - Prepares the network for more significant transformational change with the implementation of virtualization
- Deployment of 800 new, robust servers and implementation of Windows Server 2008 **complete**
- Deployment of Administrator's workstations with Windows 7 **complete**
- Domestic and International workstation virtualization with implementation of Windows 7 in **progress**
  - Deployed to beta sites with a success rate of 99.8%
  - Full rollout to all workstations scheduled for Q-2

# Testing Accommodations- TA 2.0

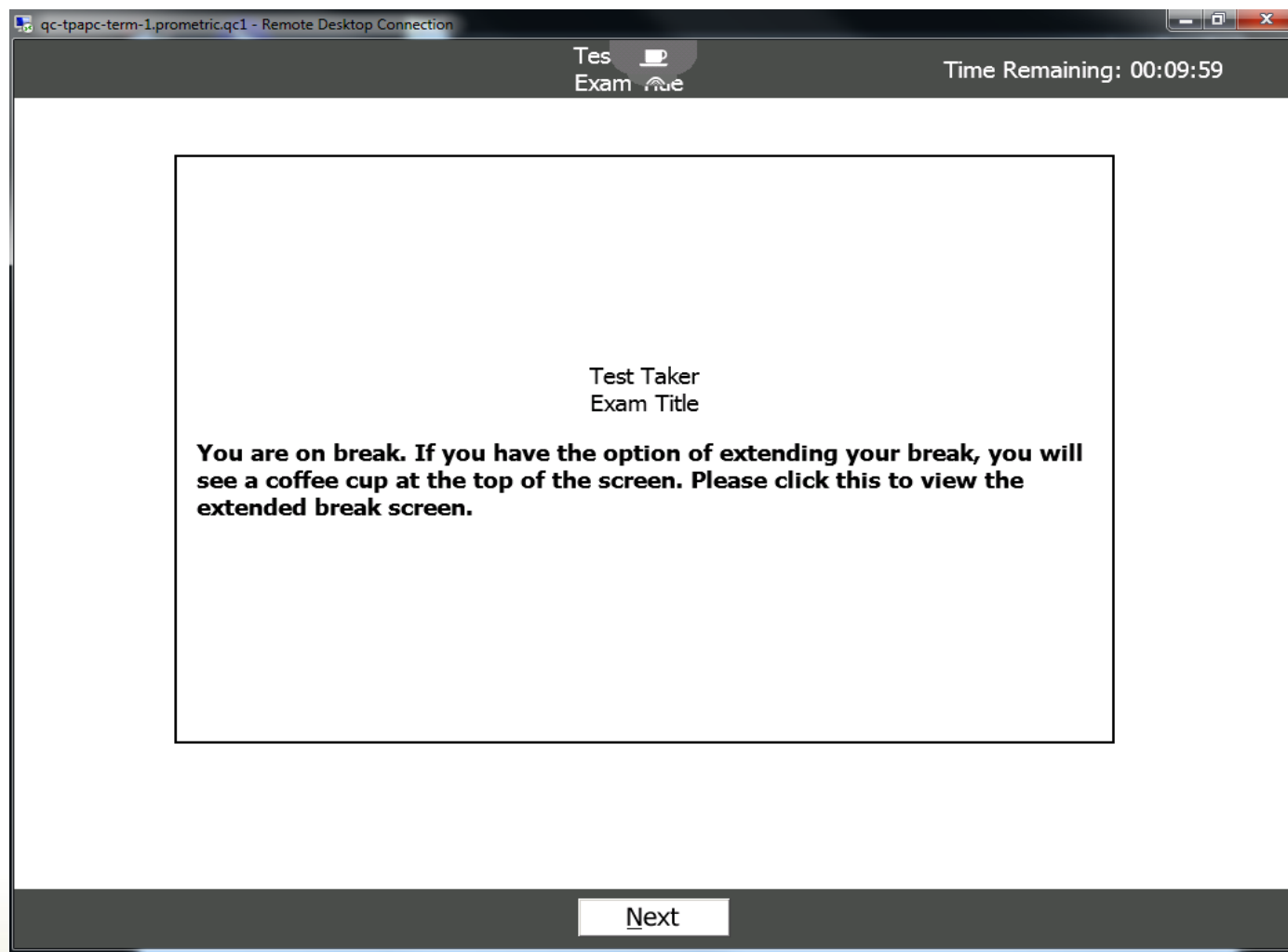


- From 2013 to 2015 YTD- 124 candidates (2.5%) tested with accommodations
- Release of new Testing Accommodations features in 2015
  - Ability to change number and duration of breaks allowed per section or per exam
  - Support variable timing for exams

# Testing Accommodations- TA 2.0




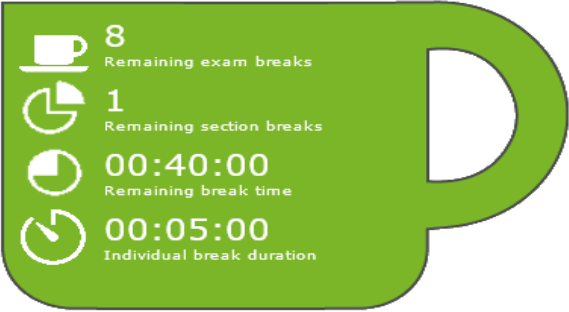
# Testing Accommodations- TA 2.0



# Testing Accommodations- TA 2.0

qc-tpapc-term-1.prometric.qc1 - Remote Desktop Connection

Tes Exam  Time Remaining: 00:02:58



8  
Remaining exam breaks

1  
Remaining section breaks

00:40:00  
Remaining break time

00:05:00  
Individual break duration

**Return**

**Start Break**

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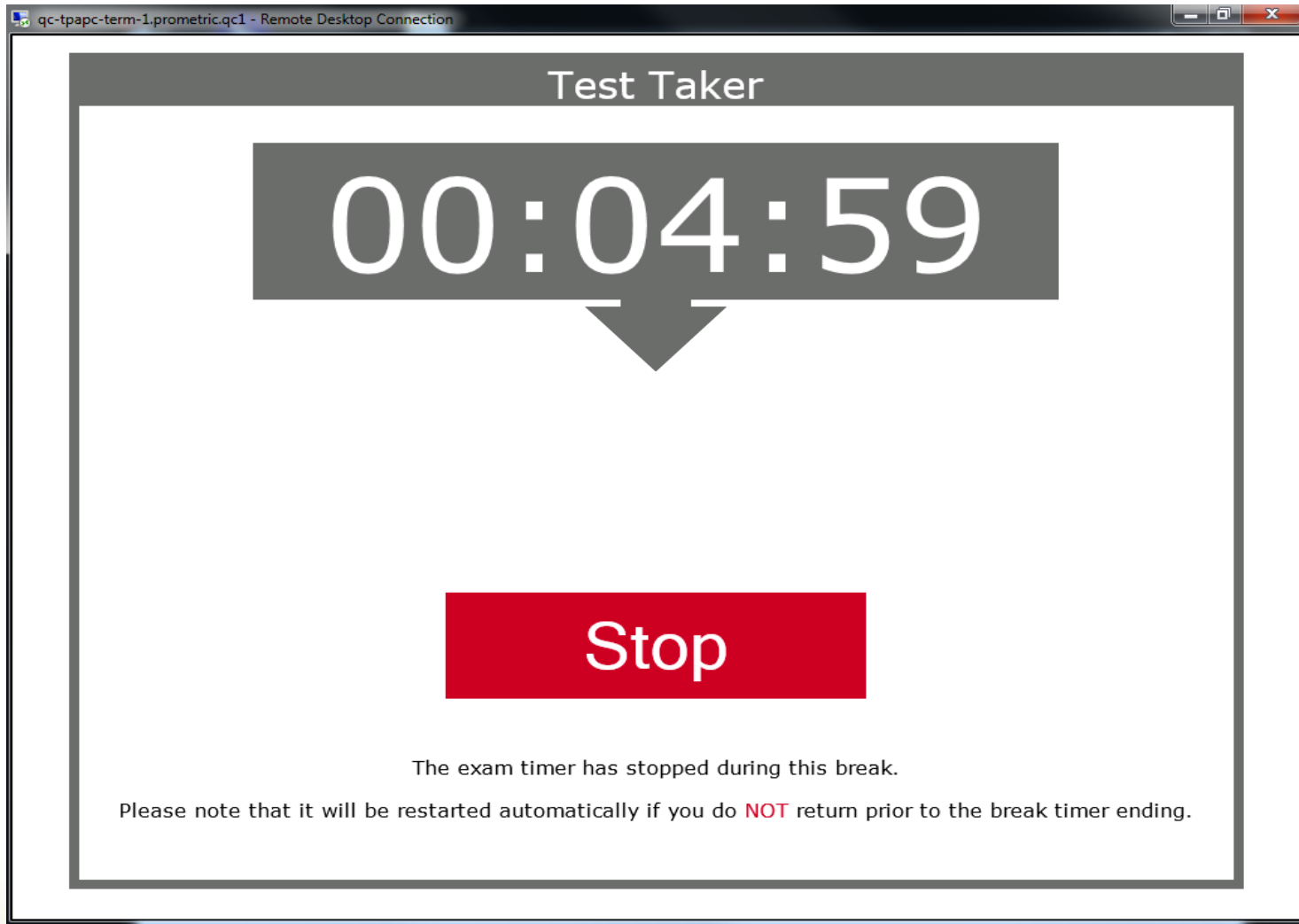
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Yes

No,

**Next**

# Testing Accommodations- TA 2.0



qc-tpapc-term-1.prometric.qc1 - Remote Desktop Connection

Test Taker

00:04:59

**Stop**

The exam timer has stopped during this break.  
Please note that it will be restarted automatically if you do **NOT** return prior to the break timer ending.

# Test Center Network Snapshot



Region	Prometric Locations	Workstations
North America	289	5,217
International	107	1,765
<b>Totals</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>6,892</b>

# Domestic Channel Expansion 2015

- Expanding the Domestic Channel by 318 seats in 44 Markets
  - Adding labs in Washington DC, Chicago, and NYC
- New Markets
  - Bakersfield, CA
  - Mansfield, OH
  - Regina, SK
  - Victoria, BC
- Adding seats in 24 markets
- Converting IT seats in 13 markets



# NBPME Updates

## Candidate Management System

- Candidates able to apply electronically beginning with the class of 2016
  - Electronic Dean approval
- Successfully implemented and utilized for July & October 2014 Part I exams

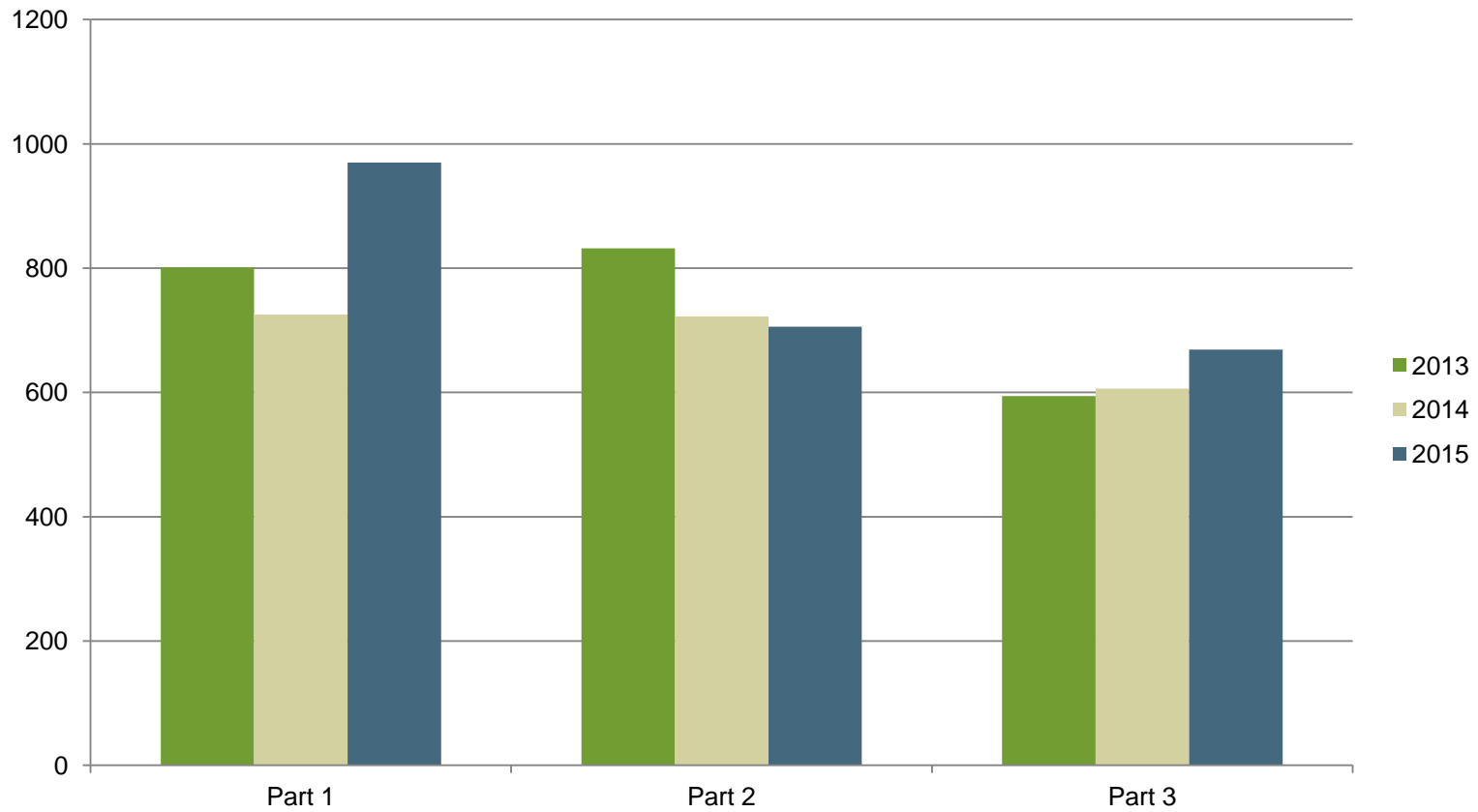
# Testing Volumes and Growth 2013-2015



Year	Jan Part 2	Feb Part 2	May Part 2	Jun Part 3	Jul Part 1	Oct Part 1	Dec Part 3	Total
<b>2013</b>	625	147	60	315	639	162	279	2227
<b>2014</b>	591	90	41	321	619	106	285	2053
<b>2015</b>	575	93	45*	349*	650*	120*	320*	2152*

\* Indicates projected volumes

# Testing Volumes and Growth 2013-2015



## Part 2- CSPE

- New Clinical Skills exam delivered for the first time in August, 2014
- Candidates tested in NBME's Clinical lab
  - Prometric collected registrations, created eligibilities, and reported scores
- Volumes:
  - August, 2014- 548 candidates
  - February, 2015 (retake)- 38 candidates

## 2015 Examination Dates

### Part I

July 8, 2015

October 7, 2015

### Part II

January 6, 2015

February 18, 2015

May 6, 2015

### Part II CSPE

February 2-3, 2015

August TBD

### Part III

June 3, 2015

December 2, 2015

# 2016 Proposed Examination Dates



## Part I

July 6, 2016

October 5, 2016

## Part II

January 6, 2016

February 17, 2016

May 4, 2016

## Part II CSPE

TBD

## Part III

June 1, 2016

December 7, 2016

Thank you.