



NBPME Reports



The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Newsletter The American Podiatric Medical Licensing Examination Series

New Board Members

The NBPME welcomed three new members to their first meeting in March. Kirk Contento, DPM, was elected as a nominee of the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards. He practices in Illinois. Jaime Escalona, DPM, was elected based on his service as a member of the Puerto Rico Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners. Paul Naylor, PhD, was elected as the board member who has extensive experience with testing and measurement. Dr. Naylor has served as an advisor to many state and national licensing and certification agencies. In addition, the board greeted Christopher Girgis, a student at The Dr. William M. Scholl of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in Chicago, Illinois, as the liaison designated by the APMSA. Dr. Haber, NBPME President, said he and the board are constantly focusing on staying informed of developments in the profession, and they all were pleased with the new additions.

Faculty Liaisons to Test Committee

The Board also welcomed two new persons to serve as faculty liaison members to the Board's test committee. Sanjay Sesodia, PhD, and Denise Freeman, DPM, attended the test committee meeting and the board meeting. Dr. Sesodia is a professor in the basic sciences curriculum at Barry University and was selected by his colleagues on the Council of Faculties. Dr. Freeman is a member of the clinical faculty at the Arizona School of Podiatric Medicine at Midwestern University. Both have been contributors and participants at numerous NBPME test development workshops over the years. Their role is to provide the test committee with insight into the goals and direction of the faculties at the various schools and colleges of podiatry. Faculty members at the schools are the sole source of new items that are written for the APMLE Part I and II examinations. A particular point of discussion is the jointly developed curriculum guide, now approaching its fourth edition. Dr. Naylor, Chair of the committee welcomed the new members and encouraged their active participation.

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March Board Meeting

The board discussed a variety of issues at its most recent meeting. Arti Kumar, President of the APMSA, was invited to hear the presentation by Prometric and to discuss matters of concern to the students.

Julie Kernan, Jennifer Romero and Stephen Williams of Prometric gave a presentation on matters of current concern. In addition to a thorough discussion of issues that have arisen during tests administered since last July, they provided a complete description of the item development and review process. All three written tests in the APMLE series are tied to specifications that are developed and updated regularly based on national surveys of practicing podiatrists. Since these tests are intended for licensure, it is essential that they demonstrate related tasks and knowledge areas that are used in actual practice.

All questions from Part I and II are written exclusively by faculty members at the podiatry schools and colleges. Each draft item is reviewed by a joint panel of faculty and practitioners for relevancy, significance and correctness before it is used in an examination. Further reviews are done after each test is administered and before final scores are calculated to ensure accuracy. One point that was emphasized is that, in addition to the “operational” questions that comprise each candidate’s score, there are additional questions used for pre-test or other purposes. The proportion of operational items in each topic adheres to the exact requirements of the test specifications. Pre-test and other items do not necessarily follow those rules, so candidates may have the impression they saw a disproportionate number of questions in one topic or another. However, only operational items count for scoring.

The board appreciated the detailed description of the process. Dr. Haber said he thought that both the board and liaisons and visitors benefitted from the presentation.

As part of their report on investments and progress in other areas, Prometric informed the board that all three parts of the written tests now accommodate scheduling via Prometric’s Candidate Management System (CMS). This increases ease and convenience for the candidates. The remaining step to be completed is to set up to have CSPE done through the same mechanism.

CSPE with NBOME

Registration for the 2016 session of the Clinical Skills Patient Encounter (CSPE) examination is now underway. A [Candidate Information Bulletin](#) describing the test and the registration process has been published, a set of orientation videos has been prepared, and more than 200 students from the Class of 2017 have already completed the registration and scheduling process.

The test is being developed with assistance and guidance from the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME). It will be administered at their state-of-the-art clinical testing

CSPE with NBOME (continued)

facility in Conshohocken, PA, near Philadelphia. The test will be very similar in format and administration to the earlier version overseen by the National Board of Medical Examiners.



Scheduling for this session of CSPE should be much more convenient for the students because the test will be offered over a several week period from mid-August until late October. In addition, candidates will have a choice between a morning or an afternoon session that should help accommodate those who travel long distances. Complete information is available on the APMLE web site (<http://www.apmle.com/about-the-exam/part-ii-cspe/>).

Expert Panel Members Needed

The National Board is continually seeking new volunteers to serve at test development and review workshops. Participants are provided travel, per diem, an honorarium and continuing education contact hours. Workshops are held in Arlington, VA or by telephone and web conference calls that are typically three-hour calls from 2:00 to 5:00 Eastern Time. Eligible persons will have completed a residency program and all three parts of the APMLE series. Please submit a CV with email contact information to nbpmeofc@aol.com.

2017 Exam Dates

Part I

July 11, 2017

October 4, 2017

Part II

January 4, 2017

February 15, 2017

May 3, 2017

Part III

June 7, 2017

December 6, 2017