



# NBPME Reports

## The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners Newsletter

### In Memory

Michael L. Stone, D.P.M., a Board Member for nine years died suddenly on July 8, 2004. During that time he served as Treasurer, Vice President and President. In those capacities he demonstrated his leadership and commitment to our mission and to the profession.

In his quiet, unassuming manner, Mike was instrumental in supporting the change from a paper and pencil format to computer based testing. There were many occasions when his calm approach to a controversial issue helped resolve the problem despite the emotional/political points of view at the time.

We were fortunate to have Mike's abilities and standards for those nine years. Needless to say, he will be missed by each of us.

### Annual Meeting

NBPME's Annual Meeting was held August 21, 2004 in Boston in conjunction with the APMA's yearly educational sessions. Members elected for a three-year term were:

Council Experience Member – Stephen F. Stern, D.P.M.  
 FPMB Member – Michael J. Hriljac, D.P.M.;  
 State Board Member – Jeffrey S. Gerland, D.P.M.  
 Specialty Board Member – Mindy Benton, D.P.M.

The officers elected for 2004-05 are:

President – Stuart L Tessler, D.P.M.  
 Vice President – John H. McCord, D.P.M.  
 Treasurer – Jeffrey S. Gerland, D.P.M.

Mindy Benton received her Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Degree, summa cum laude, from the Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine. Dr. Benton completed an internship and a surgical residency at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis. She has been certified in foot surgery by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery (ABPS). Dr. Benton was a committee member of the Council of Teaching Hospitals and a member of the ABPS Examination Committee.

The members of NBPME welcome Dr. Benton to the Board.

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**Annual Meeting (continued)**

Marie Keplinger joined the Board as the APMSA Representative at our mid-winter meeting in April, 2004 in Arlington, VA. She is a second year student at the Iowa school. In only two Board meetings, Marie has impressed us with her diligence and willingness to discuss the issues facing all of us. She is an excellent representative of the students.

**NBPME Seeks Nominations**

The following positions on the Board will be open for election to three year terms at our Annual Meeting in August, 2005:

- Practicing Podiatric Physician
- Public Member
- Psychometrician
- State Board Member
- Residency Director.

Interested individuals should forward a letter and curriculum vitae no later than June 15, 2005 to:

Ellen Veruete  
NBPME  
P. O. Box 510  
Bellefonte, PA 16823.

**NBPME 2004-05 Budget**

1. Income-100% from Examination fees for Part I, II, III
2. Expenses
  - Test Development – 69%
  - Insurance, Professional fees, Reserves – 21%
  - Salaries – 5%
  - Office Rent – 0%
  - Travel Board and Staff – 3%
  - Telephone, Postage, Miscellaneous – 2%

**Practice Examinations**

NBPME will implement practice examinations, for concurrent administration, three forms each of the Part I and Part II examinations for on-line, real time Internet delivery.

The Chauncey Group will utilize existing inactive items to construct the three forms (for both Part I and II) and each form will be comprised of 60 multiple-choice questions with no graphics. The practice examinations will be assembled according to the Part I and Part II content plan and the questions will be reviewed for overlap from examination to examination.

There will no paper and pencil option available to take any of the practice examinations.

Once registered to take the practice examination, test takers will have 24 hours in which to access and complete the practice examination. Test takers may access the site multiple times within the 24 hours.

Test takers will be given an opportunity to take the examinations in either study mode or exam mode; study mode will provide the correct answer key and rationale immediately following each examination question; exam mode will provide the correct answer keys (and rationales) at the completion of the examination.

Our plan is to have the Part II practice examinations available in January, 2005 and the Part I practice examinations available two months before the July, 2005 Part I test.

There will be no charge to the students for using the practice examinations.

**College Visitations**

A member of NBPME's Board will visit each of the colleges during the 2004-05 year. The purpose of the visit will be to improve communication with the students and the college faculty and administrators. There will be a Power Point presentation followed by a question and answer session.

**Security and Integrity of the Examinations**

Parts I, II, III are used by State Boards to license Doctors of Podiatric Medicine. The security and integrity of the examinations are directly related to the credibility of the scores. The scores reflect whether the candidate possesses the knowledge and skills necessary to protect the public in the practice of podiatric medicine.

Therefore, the following policies were adopted to insure the items and the examinations remain secure.

1. **Copyright.** All proprietary rights in the examinations, including copyright and trade secret, are jointly held by the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners and The Chauncey Group International, Ltd. In order to protect the integrity of the examinations and to assure the validity of the scores that are reported, candidates must adhere to strict guidelines regarding proper conduct in handling these copyrighted, proprietary examinations. Any attempt to reproduce all or part of an examination is strictly prohibited by law. Such an attempt includes, but is not limited to: removing materials from the examination room; aiding others by any means in reconstructing any portion of an examination; or selling, distributing, receiving, or having unauthorized possession of any portion of an examination. Alleged copyright violations will be investigated and, if warranted, prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. It should also be noted that examination scores may be invalidated in the event of this type of suspected breach.
2. **Score Validity.** The National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners shall either retain or reserve the sole right to determine whether or not an examination is valid or invalid. The acceptance of a candidate's application to take the examination or the scoring thereof or the release of said examination results to any party shall not act in any way to amend the right of the National Board to determine whether such examinations or the scores achieved thereon are valid or invalid in whole or in part. A determination that an examination and the scores achieved thereon are invalid may be made at any time by the National Board. The National Board also reserves the right to cancel any scores that may already have been reported when subsequent information raises doubt of their validity.

Unlike cases of individual candidate misconduct, occasionally testing irregularities occur that affect a group of test takers. Such problems include, without limitation, administrative errors, defective equipment or materials, improper access to examination content and/or the unauthorized general availability of examination content, as well as other disruptions of test administrations (e.g., natural disasters and other emergencies). When group testing irregularities occur, Chauncey Group will conduct an investigation to provide information to the National Board. Based on this information, the National Board may direct the Chauncey Group either not to score the examination or to invalidate the examination score. When it is appropriate to do so, the National Board will arrange with Chauncey Group to give affected test takers the opportunity to take the examination again as soon as possible, without charge. Affected test takers will be notified of the reasons for the invalidation and their options for retaking the examination. The appeal process does not apply to group testing irregularities.

**Security is a Standard in Licensing Examinations****National Examination Boards**

(Selected Examples)

United States Medical Licensing Examination

National Council of Architectural Registration Boards

National Association of Boards of Pharmacy

**Security is a Standard in Licensing Examinations (continued)**National Examination Boards  
(Selected Examples-continued)

National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examination  
 Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy  
 National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
 American Institute for Certified Public Accountants

Descriptions of unacceptable behavior which threaten the security of the examination (taken from the Bulletins of the Boards mentioned above).

1. Content of any question must not be disclosed after the examination administration.
2. Reconstructing examination items and/or responses in any format.
3. No part of the examination may be copied or reproduced in part or whole by any means whatsoever, including memorization.
4. Receiving or providing unauthorized information about the content of an examination.
5. Transmitting test questions in any form.
6. Seeking and/or obtaining unauthorized access to examination materials.
7. Any unauthorized reproduction by any means, including reconstruction through memorization, and/or dissemination of copyrighted examination materials.

**Test Development**

Writing items, extensive review of those items before and after the administrations of each examination, setting the passing score and related activities are all part of our test development programs. Recent workshops include:

01/04 Part II Test Review Workshop	08/04 Part II Item Review Workshop
02/04 Part I Item Review Workshop	10/04 Part II Test Review Workshop
03/04 Part II Cut Score Workshop	10/04 Part III Item Writing Workshop
03/04 Part III Item Review Workshop	11/04 Part I Cut Score Workshop
06/04 Part III Test Review Workshop	11/04 Part II Item Review Workshop
07/04 Part I Cut Score Workshop	12/04 Part III Test Review Workshop.

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