



1934 - 2009
History of the NBOME



The NBOME was established by charter in 1934, and has served the public and the osteopathic medical profession with quality service for nearly 75 continuous years. The Board was first established as the National Board for Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons under the leadership of Charles Hazzard, D. O. who served as the first President until 1939. The initial licensing examination was offered in an essay-type format. The NBOP issued its first Diplomate's Certificate in 1936 to Margaret Barnes, D. O. The essay format was used until 1961.

For many years, the licensing examination was administered as the National Board of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (NOBPS) of the United States of America, Parts 1, 2 and 3. That examination sequence used test items in an objective type format. From the late 1940s through the early 1980s Part 3 consisted of a live-patient examination covered under the supervision of approved examiners. Although the concept was years ahead of its time, the "practical examination" was replaced by a totally objective type test item format for Level 3. This examination sequence was discipline-based in design.

The NOBPS was incorporated in Illinois in 1951, and in 1961 was re-incorporated in the State of Indiana. In 1981 the organization incorporated in Indiana under the current name and in the 1990s the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensure Examination of the United States (COMLEX-USA) sequence was developed. The new basis for the sequence arose from the concept that patients present clinically to the physician with problems, and not as a set of organs or disciplines. Further, these problems require that the physician possess certain knowledge and perform certain tasks in order to deal effectively with those problems. Sensitivity to disease prevention, health promotion and an awareness of the nature of the healthcare delivery systems were all deemed to be requisites for the competent practice of osteopathic medicine. The three Levels of COMLEX-USA became fully implemented in the new bi-dimensional (problems vs. tasks) design in 1998.

In the late 1990s, it became apparent to the NBOME that it was not fully testing the competence of the future practitioners as the actual performance of clinical skills was not being assessed. The NBOME undertook the research and development of the COMLEX-USA Level 2 PE (Performance Evalua-

tion) to evaluate the clinical skills of candidates about to enter post-graduate medical training. In September of 2004, the NBOME introduced the implementation of the Level 2 PE. The successful completion of this examination became an accreditation requirement for all graduates of osteopathic medical schools beginning with the Class of 2008.

Until 2005, the COMLEX-USA had been administered twice annually in each of the three Levels in a paper and pencil format at a limited number of locations within the United States. In 2005, the NBOME converted the COMLEX-USA to a computer-based administration offered 40 times per year for each Level nationwide at over 300 professional test centers. Approximately 12,000 administrations of COMLEX-USA are given each year, and the number is growing rapidly as the number of osteopathic medical schools has increased over the years.

The COMLEX-USA is accepted for medical licensure in all 50 jurisdictions of the United States, and is used as an accreditation requirement for all schools and colleges of osteopathic medicine by the Commission on Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine of the American Osteopathic Association. The medical licensure sequence is accepted in the Province of Ontario, and on an individual basis in other international jurisdictions.



Major Milestones and Benchmarks of the NBOME

1934

- Chartered as the National Board for Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons

1935

- Elected first President, Charles Hazzard, D. O.
- Administered first exam (essay)

1936

- Issued first Diplomat Certificate to Margaret Barnes, D. O.

1947

- Live patient examination stated as Part 3 during Internship.

1951

- Incorporated in Illinois as the National Board of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (NBOPS)

1961

- Multiple Choice Examinations introduced

1966

- Developed licensing exam for the Osteopathic Medical Board of Florida

1971

- Introduced computerized scoring

1975

- Developed licensing examinations for the States of California & Michigan

1981

- Developed licensing exam for the State of Pennsylvania

1984

- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Grant to develop competency-based standards

1985

- Developed the licensing exam for the States of Tennessee & West Virginia

1986

- Discontinued “live patient” examinations for Part III
- Incorporated as National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners in Indiana

1987

- Internalized electronic scoring and analysis

1989

- New security system installed

1993

- New committee structure for the NBOME

1995

- COMLEX-USA introduced with Level 3

1997

- COMLEX-USA Level 2 introduced

1998

- COMLEX-USA Level 1 introduced

2001

- FSMB passes resolution 01-03 indicating COMLEX-USA valid for licensing osteopathic physicians

2002

- First full-time President appointed

2004

- Admitted as associate member to IAMRA
- COMLEX-Level 2 PE administered September 23, 2004

2005

- COMLEX-USA Levels 2 and 3 converted to computer based format
- COMLEX accepted in Ontario, Canada for initial registry
- NBOME becomes participant in PAPC
- NBOME becomes “partner” in OIA
- NBOME becomes “associate member” of IAMRA
- The State of Pennsylvania accepts COMLEX-PE in lieu of its own practical examination for licensure

2006

- CBT conversion of COMLEX-USA is completed with Level 1
- COMLEX-USA acceptable for registry in New Zealand once licensure is obtained in any state in the US
- Competency Document published by the NBOME

2007

- COMVEX-USA available in CBT format nationwide
- New PE Standard set
- NBOME contracts with AOBEM to provide first CBT certifying examination
- NBOME releases Faculty Review Examination series for CBT at Prometric sites nationwide
- 1000th Clinical Examination given at NCCST

2008

- FSMB restates the validity of COMLEX and USMLE for their intended purpose in Resolution 08-01
- COMSAE released
- AOBEM contracts with NBOME to convert recertification exam to CBT
- NCCST expanded to accommodate increasing number of student candidates and expertise.

History of the Leadership of the NBOME

The Presidents that have served the NBOME over the course of its history are listed below:

Charles Hazzard, D. O	1935-1939
W. Curtis Brigham, D. O	1939-1944
T. T. Spence, D. O.	1944-1948
S. V. Robuck, D. O.	1948-1963
Spencer G. Bradford, D. O.	1963-1976
Marion E. Coy, D. O.	1976-1980
Lester Eisenberg, D. O.	1980-1985
Thomas F. Santucci, Jr., D. O.	1985-1987
Robert E. Mancini, D. O., Pharm D.	1987-1989
Eugene Mochan, D. O., Ph. D.	1989-1991
John J. Fernandes, D. O.,	1991-1993
Bruce Gilfillian, D. O.	1993-1995
John P. Bruno, D. O., MBA	1995-1997
Gerald Osborn, D. O., MPH	1997-1999
Frederick Meoli, D. O., FACOS	1999-2001
Thomas Cavalieri, D. O., FACOI	2001-2002

In 2002, the NBOME changed its organizational structure and recruited its first full-time President. With the President functioning in an operational capacity, the leadership at the Board level was placed in the control of the Chair of the Board. Frederick G. Meoli, D. O., FACOS has served at the first full-time President. Thomas Cavalieri, D. O., became the first Chair of the NBOME under the new structure during the middle of his term. The Chairs of the Board since 2002 are listed below:

Thomas Cavalieri, D. O., FACOI	2002-2003
Boyd Buser, D. O.	2003-2005
Sheryl Bushman, D. O. FACOOG	2005-2007
William Ranieri, D. O., FACNP	2007-2009

The NBOME looks forward to a bright and challenging future under the leadership of the Board, the support of its dedicated and committed staff, and the legion of professional volunteers that give freely of their time, experience