### Newer Approaches to Medical Student Assessments

Bruce P. Bates and Melanie V. Nelson

International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE) Audio Series– February 27, 2014

Aligning Assessment with Curriculum

**Customized Assessment Services The Global Evaluation Management System** 

Melanie V. Nelson Program Manager National Board of Medical Examiners®



### Overview

- Introduction to NBME:
  - Customized Assessment Services (CAS)
  - Global Evaluation Management System (GEMS<sup>®</sup>)
- Fast facts about each platform
- Examples of how each online tool can be used to support creative assessment planning
- Future directions for CAS and GEMS



#### **NBME Assessments for Medical Education**

#### **Subject Examination Program**

- Discipline-based basic and clinical science exams
- Comprehensive Basic Science
- Comprehensive Clinical Science
- Advanced Clinical Exams



Online Platforms for Creating, Managing and Delivering Exams

- Customized Assessment Services
- Global Evaluation Management System



#### **Key Features of CAS**

- Online tests customized to fit the curriculum
- Secure pool of 10,000+ items commonly taught in basic science coursework
- Detailed test specifications using USMLE<sup>®</sup> Step 1 content hierarchy
- 31 NBME pre-designed organ system blueprints to fit integrated courses
- Customizable score reporting categories
- Item analysis group statistics provided for comparison with USMLE Step 1 reference group
- Online review of item analysis statistics along with full item text



## **Building a Customized Test**





- Drill down to specific content areas using Step 1 hierarchy
- Set target # of items
- Set image specifications
- Set vignette specifications

- Review items in each topic area from draft test
- Keep or replace items from overage provided
- Set reportable score categories



### Who Uses CAS?

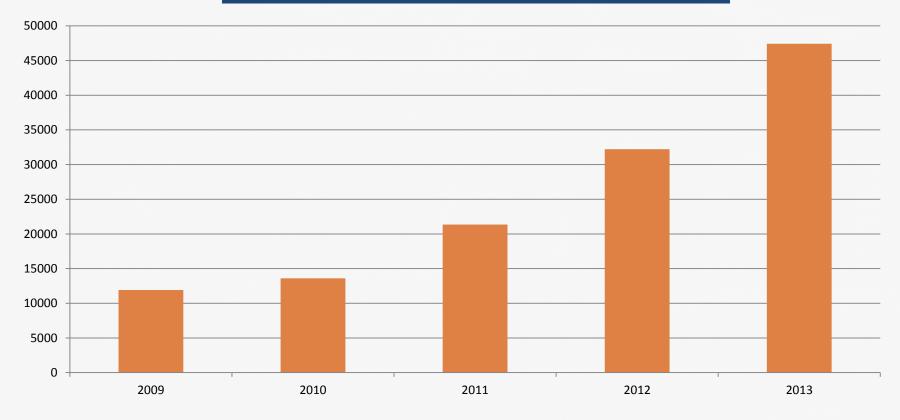
#### Currently 79 institutions

- 68 allopathic
- 2 osteopathic
- 9 international
- Includes 11 of the 16 schools accredited by the LCME since 2007
- 350+ faculty have access to the system



#### CAS Growth Since 2009

#### Customized Assessment Services Exam Usage 2009-2013





### How is CAS Used?

Exams have been created for:

- integrated courses
- end-of-course assessment
- end-of-year evaluations
- problem-based learning
- progress testing at set intervals
- other educational objectives
- In 2013, 350 customized tests were created and administered.



### **CAS Benefits – Institutions**

- Assessments aligned with curriculum
- Item bank that includes multi-disciplinary clinical vignettes
- Possible contribution to overall improvement in USMLE Step 1 performance
- Customized student and school reports to assess student learning and curriculum



## **CAS Benefits - Faculty**

- Exposure to carefully vetted high-quality items
- Use of items that assess students' ability to apply their knowledge
- Structured approach to creating a test blueprint
- Time saver more efficient than writing own items



#### **CAS Benefits - Students**

- More exposure to and practice with USMLE item types
- Access to high quality items that assess application of knowledge
- Benchmarking against other students in testing group
- Feedback identifying areas of strength and weakness



### **Innovative Uses of CAS**

#### Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine Cumulative Achievement Test (CAT)

- Year 1 and Year 2 curriculum: The Foundations of Medicine and Health
  - Six multi-discipline integrated blocks
  - After initial block, the remaining five comprise basic science education and are integrated across entire biological systems complemented by:
    - Clinical immersion experiences
    - Early contact with patients
    - Simulated clinical experiences



- Medical knowledge judged primarily through essay exams in order to drive thinking and learning, but
  - Recognize that experience with MCQs is important for licensure testing purposes
    - Iocal MCQ exams are developed
    - Cumulative Achievement Tests are built using CAS to assess retention of basic science across continuum
      - administered at end of Blocks 2 through 5

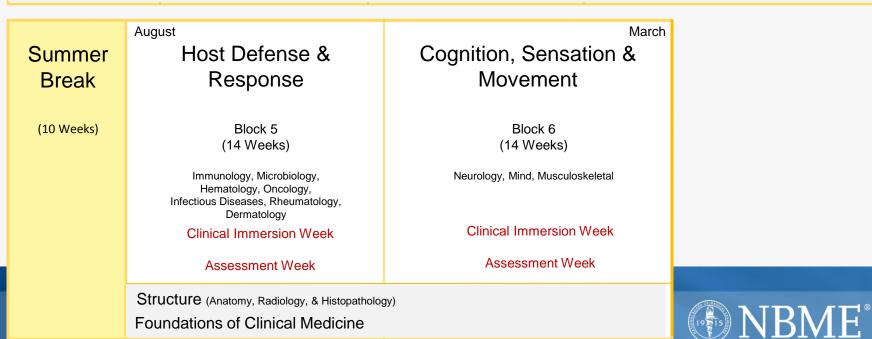


#### **Foundations of Medicine and Health**

| Becoming a Doctor  | The Human<br>Blueprint   | Food to Fuel                              | May<br>Homeostasis   |
|--|--|---|--|
| Block 1<br>(5 Weeks)   | Block 2<br>(11 Weeks)  | Block 3<br>(11 Weeks)                     | Block 4<br>(14 Weeks)  |
| Population Health,<br>Epidemiology, Biostatistics,<br>Bioethics, Health<br>Disparities | Endocrinology, Reproduction,<br>Development, Genetics,<br>Molecular Biology,<br>Cancer Biology | Gastrointestinal, Nutrition, Biochemistry | Cardiovascular, Pulmonary, Renal, Cell<br>Physiology, and Pharmacology |
| Field Experiences  | Clinical Immersion Week  | Clinical Immersion Week                   | Clinical Immersion Week  |
| Assessment Week  | Assessment Week  | Assessment Week                           | Assessment Week  |

Structure (Anatomy, Radiology, and Histopathology)

Foundations of Clinical Medicine (Tuesday Seminars, Communications, Physical Diagnosis, Patient Based Experiences)



### **CAT Exam Blueprint**

#### Blocks 2 - 5

Each test has 100 items related specifically to block content *plus* repeated item groups from previous blocks to assess retention.





#### **Test Administration/Feedback**

- Tests are low stakes (no grade).
- Students are required to sit for each test.
- Only student and student's advisor see CAT score report.



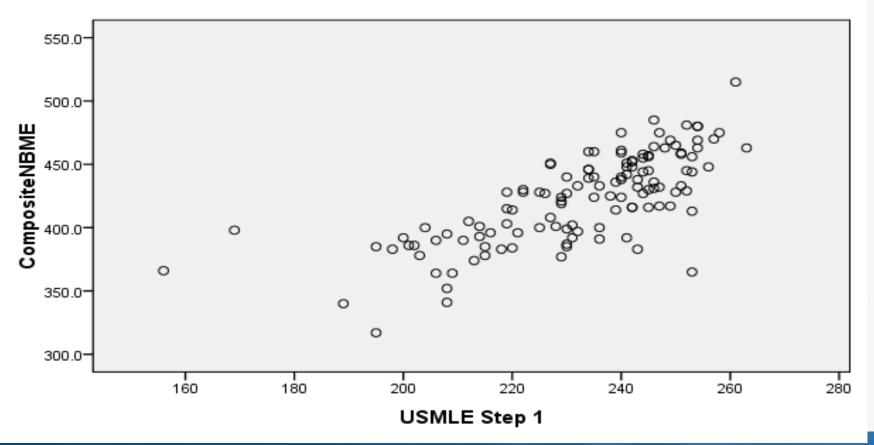
#### **Performance Results**

- Able to advise students in bottom quartile, especially those who are "repeaters"
- Aggregate scores on CAT provide the best correlation with Step 1 scores



Class of 2010

USMLE Step 1 Scores & NBME CAT Composite Scores





## Innovative Uses of CAS – Future

The University of Texas System's *Transformation in Medical Education* (TIME) Initiative

- Eleven schools (6 colleges, 5 medical schools)
- New model of premedical + medical education
  - True continuum, shortened duration
  - Competency-based
  - Reformulated coursework: shift some biomedical science into college years



## Innovative uses of CAS – Future

#### **Approach to Test Development**

Need to standardize competencies (including medical knowledge) at the transition from college to medical school  $\rightarrow$  CAS

- Representatives from 11 schools
- Used Step 1 content outline to categorize topics:
  - 1. Especially appropriate / full coverage expected
  - 2. Appropriate as examples &/or basic principles
  - 3. Systematic coverage will occur on medical campus
- Consensus document = CAS exam blueprint
- Faculty group to select items
- Will develop multiple forms



#### **Global Evaluation Management System**



#### An Integrated Platform for Creating, Managing and Delivering Your Examinations



## About GEMS

- Introduced in July, 2012 on a limited basis to US medical schools
- Now extended to medical schools and other health profession programs worldwide
- Provided in collaboration with Internet Testing Systems, NBME's technology partner for webbased testing



## **Key Features**

- Collaborative tools for creating, classifying, editing, and reviewing items
- Capability to import items, media and statistics from local item banks
- Limitless item classification
- Support for 49 languages
- Robust data feed component
- iPad test delivery option



# Using GEMS to Improve Learning at Albany Medical College

#### Curriculum

- Overall focus on principles of comprehensive care with emphasis on thinking and critical analysis of information
- Year 1 basic sciences organized into 9 conceptual/organ system themes
- Year 2 themes focus on attention to and understanding of pathophysiology
- Starting January 2013, tests created across both years to assess performance in all themes



# Using GEMS to Improve Learning at Albany Medical College

- Pilot conducted in 2013 using Neurosciences theme
- Purpose:
  - To determine where students (especially consistently low 1-2%) were having difficulty studying
  - To identify strategies to strengthen curriculum based on competencies



# Using GEMS to Improve Learning at Albany Medical College

- Items were created and multiply tagged according to:
  - Bloom's Taxonomy classification available in GEMS
  - Local learning objectives imported into GEMS
- Test divided equally into thirds with items tagged for remembering, understanding and analyzing
- Classifications used as score categories for student feedback



# Using GEMS to Improve Learning Albany Medical College

- Mid-term (Nov 2013) and Final (December 2013) exams administered to 142 and 138 Year 1 students, respectively
- Faculty used feedback to help resource students and improve learning
- Pilot was a success same approach now being used for all themes
- GEMS testing also being expanded to Physician Assistant Program



# Using GEMS to Improve Learning Albany Medical College

#### What's Next

- Hope effort translates to better Step 1 scores and improved critical reasoning in clinical years
- Hold twice-yearly combined clerkship/theme director meetings to better assess integration of material
- Use GEMS "editor review" of items feature to enable clinical faculty to:
  - comment on items used in Years 1/2
  - see how material is taught so that concepts can be emphasized in Years 3/4



# Where are CAS and GEMS Going? BXILR & TEST BATTERY Late March, 2014

- Select one or more subject or CAS exams to be administered to the same group of students in one test session.
- Create CAS "modules" that augment the content covered by subject exam that might be more reflective of local curriculum



### Where are CAS and GEMS Going?

- CAS addition of clinical science items
  - Build exams to assess performance in longitudinal clerkships
  - Expand to other health education programs, such as Physician Assistant or Pharmacy
- New online test management platform that combines both GEMS and CAS
  - Create a single exam using NBME content and your content



## Where are CAS and GEMS Going?

#### GEMS – add new USMLE item types

- Analysis and interpretation of literature
  - pharmaceutical ads and research abstracts
- Integrated cases
  - Unfolding multi-item sets assessing new tasks, e.g., admission orders, differential diagnosis



## For More Information:

- Customized Assessment Services: <u>customtest@nbme.org</u>
- Global Evaluation Management System: <u>gems@nbme.org</u>
- Visit the NBME website at <u>www.nbme.org</u>

#### Thank You!





#### **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL SCIENCE EDUCATORS (IAMSE)**

**Bruce P. Bates, D.O., C.M.D. Senior Vice President for Cognitive Testing** 

> "To protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions"



#### **Objectives**

- Describe the Mission and Assessment Products
   of the NBOME
- Describe the construct and purpose and Use of COMAT examinations
- Appreciate the correlations of the psychometrics of COMAT
- Describe Future directions of COMAT
- Outline the potential of a new product CDM





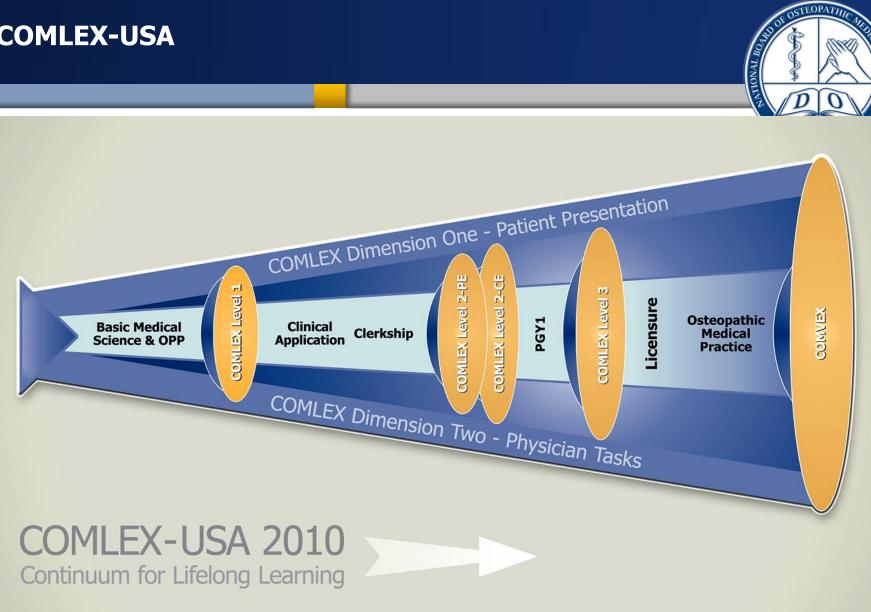
#### **Mission**

#### To protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related healthcare professions



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**Team Approach to Performance Excellence** 

## **Organizing by Products**













National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners



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| Information for |             |               |           |           | SEARCI   |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Candidates      | Osteopathic | Physicians in | Program   | Licensure | National |
|                 | Colleges    | Practice      | Directors | Boards    | Faculty  |



#### quick links

#### COMLEX-USA

COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information

Score Release Information

COMLEX-USA Exam Calendar

Transcripts and Score Reports

Percentile Score Converter

Client Registration System Tutorial & Login

Name Change Requests

Item Writing

COMAT

COMSAE

National Center for Clinical Skills Testing Travel Information

NBOME on Facebook

#### **Protecting the Public**

The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners is the leading assessment organization for the osteopathic medical profession. Our mission is to protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related <u>health care</u> professions. Our COMLEX-USA examination series provides the pathway to licensure for osteopathic <u>physicians</u> in the United States.

#### strategic plan

The NBOME is pleased to present our **2012-2016** <u>Strategic Plan, Directions for the future</u>. Read about our mission of protecting the public and how we will achieve it through the strategic objectives and goals outlined.



#### the latest news

NBOME announces National Faculty Leadership Appointments FEBRUARY 8, 2013

NBOME launches new website with improved navigation and new features FEBRUARY 7, 2013 Osteopathic Medical Leadership convenes in response to changes, challenges in America's healthcare DECEMBER 19, 2012

Dr. Bruce Bates joins NBOME in key Senior Leadership role DECEMBER 11, 2012







# Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Test (COMAT)



- Initial Pilot in 2010 Family Medicine initially used retired COMLEX-USA items
- Seven (7) Core Clinical Disciplines designed for end-ofclerkship/clinical rotation or course evaluations (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, OB-GYN, OPP, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery) each with own panel of SMEs and pretesting
- Osteopathically distinctive assessments; Content Blueprint reflects development of the subject and consensus "best practice" guidelines for high frequency/high impact presentations
- Online adaptability and flexibility web delivery
- Proctored and secure



## **Core Exams**



- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- OB-GYN
- OPP
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Surgery

- 10-15 forms
- Blueprint designed
- Validity and reliability referenced
- EBM referenced
- SME written
- SME reviewed
- Pretested
- Psychometrically reviewed
- Web-based delivery via ITS
- Site proctored



## NATIONAL BOARD OF CETED/DATING MEDICAL EXAMINES

## \*NEW 2013-2014

- OH-HCOM
- OSU-COM
- NYCOM-NYIT
- NSU-COM\*
- MSUCOM
- LMU-DCOM
- LECOM-BRADENTON

(All COMs except 1 use one or more COMAT)

- LECOM-ERIE
- KCUMB-COM
- DMU-COM
- MWU-COM
- MWU-CCOM
- ATSU-SOMA
- ATSU-KCOM

**COMAT** Partners

- WVSOM
- WUHS-COMP
- WCU-COM\*
- UP-KYCOM
- UNTHSC-TCOM
- UNECOM
- UMDNJ-SOM
- TUNCOM-NV\*
- TUCOM-CA
- TUCOM-NY
- RVU-COM\*
- PNWU-COM
- PCOM-GA
- PCOM-PA



## **COMAT Advisory Committee (COMATAC)**







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# Advisory Council

- Blueprint
- Discipline Chairs for each COMAT
- Professional members
- Reviews Discipline Committees actions
- Approves Item writers Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)
- Oversees Pretesting and Validation process
- Reviews score reporting



## **COMAT Blueprint**

## PEDIATRICS

PURPOSE: The purpose of the COMAT Pediatrics Subject Examination is to assess the scope of knowledge and cognitive skills for clinical problem-solving of osteopathic medical school students at the end of the Pediatrics rotation and/or to provide a summative assessment of their Pediatrics scope of knowledge and cognitive skills for clinical problem-solving.

| DIMENSION 1 - PATIENT PRESENTATION |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| TOPIC %                            |        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Normal Growth and Development      | 14-21% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Skin                               | 4-8%   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CNS – Behavior/Psychiatry          | 15-22% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| HEENT                              | 4-8%   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cardiology/Respiratory             | 15-22% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gastrointestinal                   | 7-12%  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Renal/Urinary                      | 4-8%   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hematology/Lymphatics              | 4-8%   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Musculoskeletal/OPP                | 4-8%   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Endocrine/Metabolism               | 4-8%   |  |  |  |  |  |  |

#### **DIMENSION 2 - PHYSICIAN TASKS**

| TOPIC   | %      |
|---|--------|
| Health Promotion/Disease Prevention<br>Health Care Delivery | 10-20% |
| History & Physical  | 35-50% |
| Diagnostic Technologies                                     | 10-20% |
| Management  | 15-25% |
| Scientific Understanding of Mechanisms                      | 5-10%  |



Updated Nov. 24, 2010

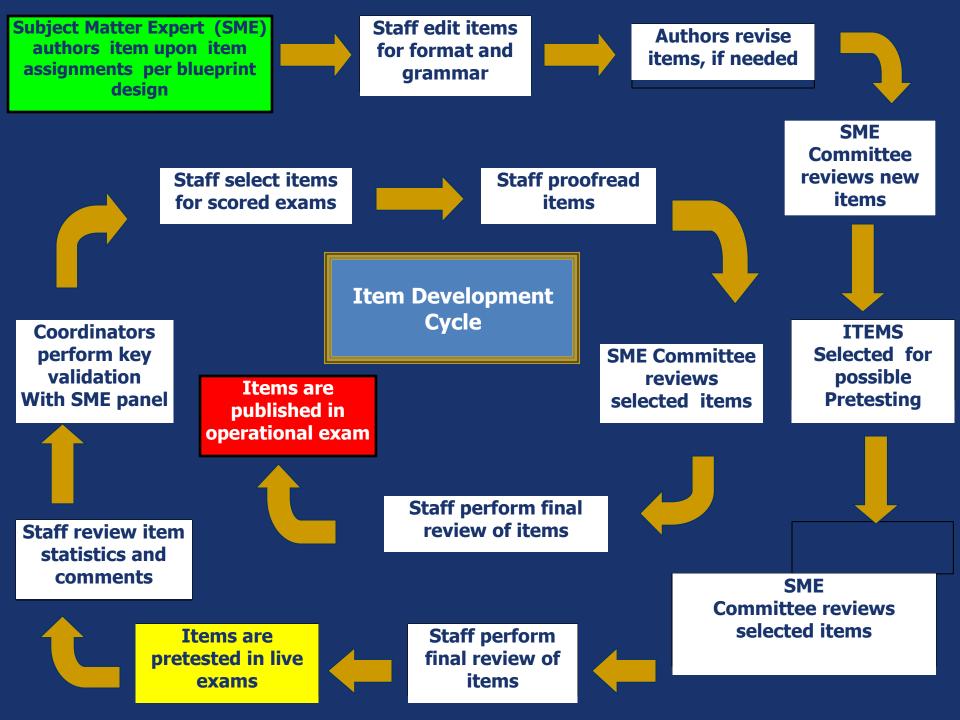


# "24-Month or Better" Process

- National subject matter expert input

   BALANCED AND DIVERSE REPRESENTATIVES
- Extensive item review processes
- Multiple forms of exam
- Referenced and EBM based item
- Improved Psychometric parameters









WEB INFORMATION

## - **BLUEPRINTS**

# - COMAT OBJECTIVES BY DISCIPLINE

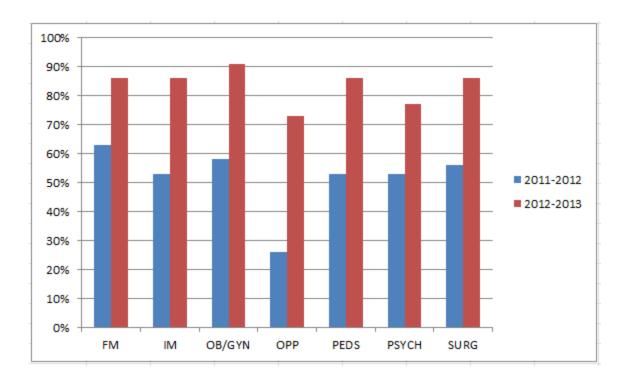
- LEARNING RESOURCES BY DISCIPLINE

## - PRACTICE EXAM



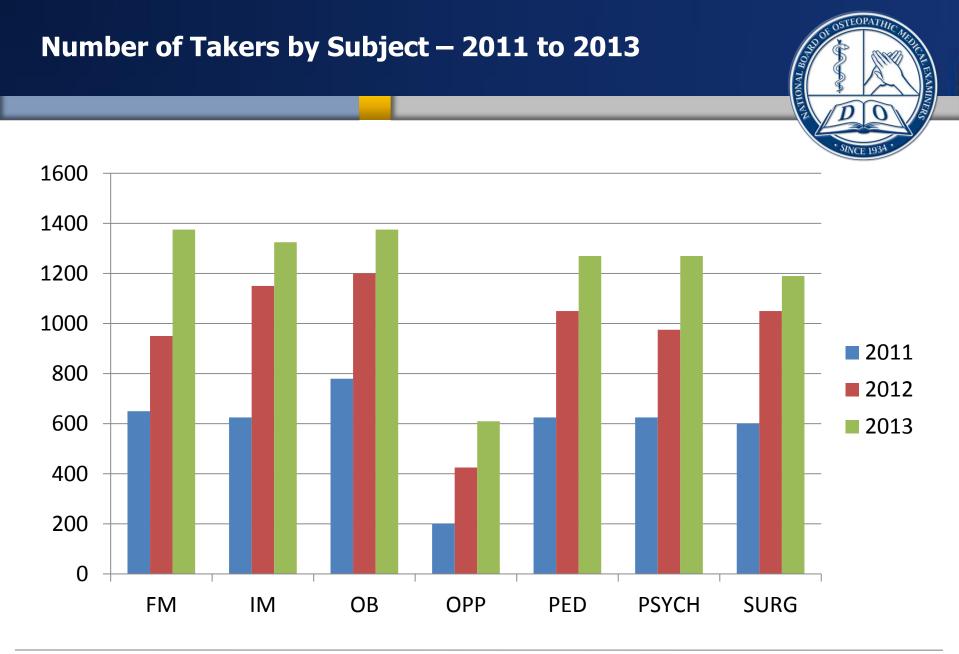


# • Percent increase in COMs using COMAT as a grade determinant for their students





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| COMAT           | 2012 – 2013* |         | 2011 - | - 2012  | # Increase | % Increase |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|--------|---------|------------|------------|
| Subject<br>Exam | #            | % Total | #      | % Total |            |            |
| FM              | 2635         | 14.2%   | 2374   | 14.9%   | 261        | 11.0%      |
| IM              | 2703         | 14.5%   | 2235   | 14.1%   | 468        | 20.9%      |
| OB/GYN          | 2658         | 14.3%   | 2374   | 14.9%   | 284        | 12.0%      |
| OPP             | 3378         | 18.2%   | 2432   | 15.3%   | 946        | 38.9%      |
| PEDS            | 2420         | 13.0%   | 2135   | 13.4%   | 285        | 13.3%      |
| PSY             | 2153         | 11.6%   | 1934   | 12.2%   | 219        | 11.3%      |
| SURG            | 2658         | 14.3%   | 2417   | 15.2%   | 241        | 10.0%      |
| Grand Total     | 18605        | 100.0%  | 15901  | 100.0%  | 2704       | 17.0%      |

• Contracted number of takers, can change slightly in actual administrations.

• Numbers do not include 2012 -2013





- The number of takers on COMAT Subject Exams increases continuously – 29% last year;
- The student performance stats are stable and more schools report using COMAT exam scores for higherstakes decisions;
- Electronic score reporting and national-normed standard score for student and school was launched in November 2012 including performance profile and key phrases reporting;
- Quality of COMAT exams meet or exceed the industry standard.





# **COMAT Scoring and Reporting**



- 07/01/2011 10/31/2012: Report *percent correct* scores; 11/01/2012: Report *standard* scores
- Standard Scores
   Item calibration → Convert raw scores to Logit scores
   Define the norm group and construct a national mean/standard → Convert Logit scores to standard scores
   Standard scores have a mean of 100 and a standard of 10
- Electronic Score Reporting
   Score reports are "on demand".
   Score reports have "key phrase" analysis.
   Help schools search for score information more conveniently and efficiently.
   Schools determine how to use scores for grading.



## **COMAT Electronic Score Reports**

|  |                          |                      |   |                |                                   | NUTIN      | DO             |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------|
|  |                          |                      |   |                |                                   | 1 A        | DO             |
| COMAT Score Information - Search             |                          |                      |   | Sw             | itch to Cumulative Re             | eports     | · SINCE 1934 · |
| Search: Subject: [All]                       |                          | ▼ Testing Cycle:     | 2012-2013 🔻 Da                              | te Range:      | to                                |            | ALCE 130       |
| Proctor: [All]  Location: [All]              | •                        | Score Type:          | Standard 💌 Rows                             | Per Page: 15 💌 | Sea                               | arch       |                |
| COMAT Individual Scores                      |                          |                      |   |                | (Multiple Score                   | e Reports  |                |
| COMAT Individual scores                      |                          |                      |   |                |                                   |            |                |
| NBOME ID Last Name First Name                | ne <u>Subject</u>        | Exam Date            | Stnd. Pro                                   | ctor Loc       | cation 4                          |            |                |
|  | Family Medicin           | e 11/15/2012         | 82  |                | Sco                               | ore Report |                |
|  | Obstetrics / Gynec       | ology 02/26/2013     | 107   |                | Sco                               | ore Report |                |
|  | Pediatrics               | 01/15/2013           | 116   |                | Sco                               | ore Report |                |
|  |                          |                      |   | 0              | Outitala ta la dividua            | Danada     |                |
| COMAT Score Information - Searc              | h                        |                      |   | 0              | Switch to Individua               | ar Reports |                |
| Testing Cycle: 2012-2013 💌 Date Rar          | nge:                     | to                   | Score Type: Star                            | ndard 👻 Rows   | Per Page: 15                      | •          |                |
| COMAT Cumulative Scores                      |                          |                      |   |                |                                   |            |                |
| м  | umber of Number          | of School            | <u>School</u>                               | Nat'l          | <u>Nat'l</u>                      | Number of  | Noti           |
|  | inistrations Candidat    | os Moan Stand        | <u>Standard</u><br>Deviation Stand.         | Mean Stand.    | <u>Standard</u><br>Deviation Stan | Candidat   |                |
| Family Medicine                              | 4 107                    | 97.6                 | 10.3  | 99.1           | 9.9                               | 1039       | Score Report   |
| Internal Medicine                            | 8 116                    | 98.6                 | 11.3  | 100.2          | 10.2                              | 1351       | Score Report   |
| Export<br>Single Administration Score Report | rts                      |                      |   |                |                                   |            | 1              |
| NOTE: Single administration reports may ta   | ake several seconds to d | isplay in the pop-up | window.                                     |                |                                   |            |                |
| Exam Date Family Medicine Int                | ernal Medicine Obst      | etrics / Gynecolog   | Osteopathic<br>y Principles<br>and Practice | Pediatrics     | Psychiatry S                      | Surgery    |                |
| 07/25/2012                                   | Score Report             |                      | and Mactice                                 |                |                                   |            |                |
|  |                          |                      |   |                |                                   |            |                |



OSTEOPATHIC

## **COMAT Electronic Score Reports**





#### Family Medicine SCHOOL PERFORMANCE REPORT -

School:

#### SUMMARY STATISTICS

| No. of     | Mean           | SD             | Minimum        | Maximum        |
|------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Candidates | Standard Score | Standard Score | Standard Score | Standard Score |
|            |                |                |                |                |

#### PERFORMANCE PROFILE

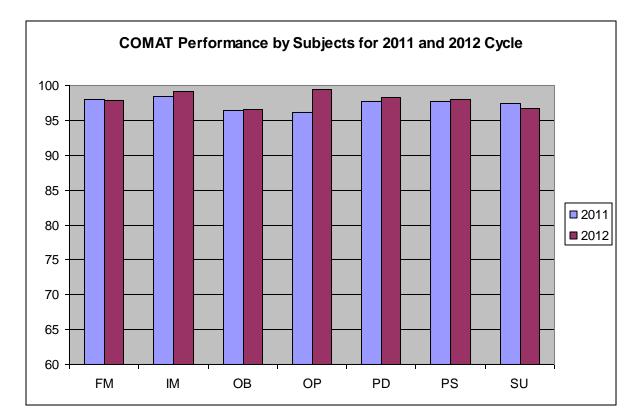
|  | Lower<br>Performance | Average<br>e Performance |   | Higher<br>Performance |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Patient Presentation                               |                      |                          |   |                       |
| Asymptomatic/General/Fever & Hypothermia           |                      |                          | • |                       |
| Bleeding & Respiratory Difficulties                |                      |                          |   |                       |
| Cognitive Difficulties/Conscious Alterations/Fatig |                      |                          | • |                       |
| Digestive Difficulties                             |                      | •                        |   |                       |
| Discharge/Masses & Edema/Skin, Hair, Tooth Disorde |                      | •                        |   |                       |
| Genitourinary Disorders/Issues & Pregancy/Childbir |                      | •                        |   |                       |
| Musculoskeletal Difficulties/Muscular Pain         |                      |                          | • |                       |
| Physician Task                                     |                      |                          |   |                       |
| Health Promotion/Disease Prevention/Health Care De |                      | •                        |   |                       |
| History & Physical/Diagnosis                       |                      | •                        |   |                       |
| Management   |                      | •                        |   |                       |
| Scientific Understanding of Mechanisms             |                      |                          | • |                       |



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## **COMAT Performance**





FM-Family Medicine; IM-Internal Medicine; OB-Obstetrics/Gynecology; OP-Osteopathic Principles and Practice; PD-Pediatrics; PS-Psychiatry; SU-Surgery





- The COMAT subject exam performance is <u>moderately correlated</u> with performance on COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE ranging from .43 to .63.
- The more COMAT subjects a student takes the stronger the correlation.
- COMAT performance had a <u>moderate correlation</u> with ABEM (Emergency Medicine) Certification performance (publication in progress)
- All COMAT subjects' performance together as predictors explained about 51% variance of Level 2-CE performance, which was similar to what the NBME reported for their subject examinations and the USMLE Step 2-CK examination (Zahn, et al., 2012).
- Future research will look at how COMs participate in the COMAT subject examinations, how COMs utilize COMAT as part of student assessment, and how these decisions might influence students' performance on the COMLEX-USA examinations.





## **2012 High Stakes Takers**

|                              | OB   | ОР   | PSY  | PEDS | FM   | IM   | SURG |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| OB                           |      | 0.33 | 0.46 | 0.53 | 0.49 | 0.52 | 0.51 |
| OP                           |      |      | 0.27 | 0.30 | 0.36 | 0.35 | 0.36 |
| PSY                          |      |      |      | 0.45 | 0.42 | 0.46 | 0.42 |
| PEDS                         |      |      |      |      | 0.48 | 0.50 | 0.48 |
| FM                           |      |      |      |      |      | 0.51 | 0.48 |
| IM                           |      |      |      |      |      |      | 0.53 |
|                              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| COMLEX-<br>USA Level<br>2-CE | 0.59 | 0.45 | 0.50 | 0.58 | 0.56 | 0.65 | 0.60 |







## Test Enhancement

- Additional Pretesting
- Greater use of clinical scenarios
  - Test Application > Recall
- Expand video encounters, heart and lung sounds, imaging and photo exhibits
- iPad/Tablet Option
  - Discussion with vendor

## COMAT Emergency Medicine – Planning in Process

- Blueprint completed and SMEs constructing items for pretesting Target 2015 for Implementation
- COM Survey
  - Additional subject areas, reports, technology, test integrity





# **COMLEX-USA Key Features Assessment**

A Focus on Assessing Physician Competency in Clinical Decision-Making



## Disclosure

- The Key Feature/Clinical-Decision assessment is modeled after the work of Georges Bordage, MD, PhD, and the Medical Council of Canada.
- The model remains in development and pilot testing and has NOT yet been adopted by the NBOME.





## 1992

- Replaced Patient Management Problems
- Supplements MCQ as the basis for licensure
- Less pattern recognition / recall /cueing from the answer options
- Requires <u>application</u> of knowledge to specific situations
- Constructed around <u>Critical Decision Points</u> for assessing a patient presentation – what to consider/do/not do
- Critical Decision Points are called <u>Key Features</u>





## Given a patient who presents with...

- What are the challenges associate with the presentation?
  - What are the likely difficulties candidate would encounter?
  - What are the critical errors that could be made?
  - What are diagnostic or management challenges that must be considered?
  - What are the cost-effective/resource utilization or system-based challenges?
- Only the critical points or actions





- Not the entire process or each step in the diagnostic/management algorithm
  - Just the key decision points
- Not a reach for doing all things to all
  - Collecting too much data or doing too many things (being thorough) does not equate improved Dx/outcome
    - Hatala 1998
  - Is an indicator of uncertainty
    - Elstein, Shulman and Sprafka 1978
- Not knowledge alone (describe the S&S of DVT)
  - Instead given a patient presenting with...
    - Recognize DVT
    - Order the following
    - Manage with





## **Clinical Scenario – 30-35 cases**

# Each case has 2-5 questions

Aimed at leading dx/consideration; diagnostic steps (H&P, lab, imaging, etc.) and/or management/follow-up

## Responses

Short answer: fill in the blank (e.g. Leading Dx) Menu: select X# from a list of 15-20 that may include correct, no harm options as well as "KILLER" options Extended write in: List up to X# (lose credit of exceed #)





Given a woman experiencing third-trimester painless transvaginal bleeding, the candidate will:

- KF 1 Consider Placenta Previa as a leading diagnosis
- KF 2 Avoid performing a pelvic examination
- KF 3 Avoid discharge home
- KF 4 Order Pelvic ultrasound



## You may select up to three. Select 13 if no steps are indicated.

- 1. Artificially rupture membranes
- 2. Cervical Swab for Chlamydia
- **3. CBC**
- 4. CT abdomen
- 5. Cross and match for transfusion
- 6. Discharge home to return if bleeding worsens

- **7. INR**
- 8. Pelvic Ultrasound
- 9. Manual Pelvic Examination
- **10. PTT**
- **11. Vaginal probe** ultrasound
- 12. Vaginal swab for group B streptococcus
- 13. No active steps are needed







- Face validity from Clerkship Directors
   92% agreement with existing KFs
- Reliability from adequate sampling (30-35 cases)
- Content validity allows a more precise assessment of key decision points
- Varied formats of response options
  - Allows focused scoring
- Fidelity and discrimination power
  - Efficient means of identifying weaker candidates





- 1991 College des Medicine du Quebec
- 1992 Canadian Medical Schools
- 1993 College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan
- 1995 American College of Physicians (MKSAP)
- 1996 American College of Colon and Rectal Surgeons – 9 cases – 30 KFs; Crb  $\alpha$  = .95 overall
- 1997 Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
- Swiss National Examination Board
- 2002 Hatal & Norman ( Crb  $\alpha$  = .49) Clerkships
- 2005 German Medical Schools





- Engaged consultant Georges Bordage, MD, PhD
- Assembled initial SME Task Force Panel Face-to-Face and virtual tutorial and engagement
- Case selection per Blueprint and defined KFs
- Case writing and review 44 cases prepared
- Pilot testing phases beginning
  - Acceptance testing
  - Logistics testing (CBT administration and scoring)
  - Pre-testing
- Expand SME panel; Further case development 130 cases
- GOAL: Implement 2017 if Pilots successful



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Thank You!

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"To protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions"