



NBPME Reports



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

Board Acknowledges Service of Dr. Robert Eckles



Dr. Robert Eckles served as a member of the NBPME from August 2014 until April 2021. He was acknowledged at the March meeting for providing exceptional service to advance the mission of the board during his entire tenure. Dr. Alyssa Stephenson, board president, praised Dr. Eckles for his dedication and thoughtful contributions that consistently helped advance the role of the NBPME in its support of the public interest and the profession.

The Future of the CSPE Examination

At its last meeting, the board unanimously agreed that the CSPE was a unique, valid, reliable examination to test skills not being evaluated in the APMLE written examinations. The decision was then made to investigate alternatives to the suspended version of the clinical skills patient encounter examination. It was also acknowledged that the earlier versions of CSPE examination were unpopular among the student population mainly because of the expense to the candidates.

As the National Board of Podiatric Medical Examiners took on the responsibility to develop a clinical skills program at the request of the APMA to aid the profession in its drive for parity, the board became convinced of the appropriateness of testing these unique skills that are crucial to safe, effective, independent practice. That perspective is also shared by other licensing examination boards and state licensing boards.

According to the board's president, Dr. Alyssa Stephenson, "The board needs to remember that the NBPME mission is different from that of other podiatric stakeholders. As a licensing examination board, it is our duty to protect the public by developing and administering valid, reliable examinations that the state licensing boards can rely on for licensing decisions.

"NBPME is committed to the clinical skills program, to working with its partner, the NBOME, and to providing routine updates to the stakeholders of the profession, including the AACPM, APMA, APMSA, FPMB and CPME, as we strive to further our mission and to create an examination that is valid, reliable and cost-effective."

CSPE and Score Reporting

The CSPE examination is currently suspended. Investigation and evaluation of alternatives has only begun. Although it may be possible, it is unlikely that a new design would be developed, piloted and ready for administration for the Class of 2022.

The effect of the suspension is that there is no examination for the Class of 2021, so a requirement to pass CSPE does not exist for this cohort. Further, because CSPE is suspended in its current form, any candidates who had previously failed and were planning to retest cannot do so; therefore, such candidates should be considered as though they are exempt from taking the CSPE.

Part III Practice Analysis Underway

The NBPME has begun its update of the practice analysis study to validate the test specifications for the Part III test. This is done every five years to ensure that the test plan and specifications accurately reflect what practitioners are currently doing. The conclusion of the study will include a ranking of the significance of such areas as surgery, medicine, orthopedics and other topics. A survey form will be released in coming months and all practitioners are encouraged to respond.

Board Nominations Sought

The following position on the Board will be open for election to a three-year term at our annual meeting in August, 2021.

An individual currently serving, or having had experience within the five years prior to his or her term, as a director of a podiatric residency program approved by the Council on Podiatric Medical Education.

Interested individuals should forward a letter and curriculum vitae no later than June 1, 2021 to: nbpmeofc@aol.com.

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, Conshohocken, PA 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.

2022 Examination Dates

Part I	July 7, 2022
	October 3, 2022
Part II	January 4, 2022
	February 16, 2022
	May 4, 2022
Part III	June 2, 2022
	December 1, 2022