Lewis R. First Elected Chair of NBME

At the Annual Meeting of the NBME Membership on April 1, 2011, Lewis R. First, MD, MS was elected to a two-year term as Chair of the NBME. Dr. First, a board-certified pediatrician, graduated from Harvard College in Cambridge, Massachusetts with a BA in biochemical sciences in 1976. He received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1980 and an MS in epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1985. Dr. First completed residency training in pediatrics at Children’s Hospital, Boston, including service as Chief Resident, followed by service as Clinical Fellow in ambulatory/emergency pediatrics.

Dr. First is Professor and Chairman of Pediatrics at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and Chief of Pediatrics, Vermont Children’s Hospital at Fletcher Allen Health Care, positions he has held since 1994. From 2003 through 2008, he also served as Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education at the University of Vermont. Currently, he serves as Editor-in-Chief of Pediatrics, the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. His media and communications activities include weekly radio and television segments, as well as a newspaper column, “First with Kids.”

A sought after speaker and the author of numerous publications, Dr. First’s major research interests are innovations in medical school curriculum design, faculty development in teaching skills, and effective teaching methods for healthcare providers in community-based settings. Dr. First has been (continued on page 7)

2011 Annual Meeting of the NBME Membership

On March 31 and April 1, 2011, members of the NBME gathered in Philadelphia for their 97th Annual Meeting. The meeting focused on development of a research agenda that would measure the social impact of the NBME in pursuing its mission and vision. This topic was introduced in the reports of the Chair and President and by the keynote speaker, Eric S. Holmboe, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President, American Board of Internal Medicine. John J. Norcini, PhD provided commentary in response to Dr. Holmboe’s presentation. (continued on page 3)
In 2008, the Membership of the NBME requested the development of a series of policy statements regarding health system reform. The approximately 80 Members of the NBME have participated with staff in identifying the areas of focus and in drafting the policy and background language. The rationale for the policy document is to support the goals of healthcare reform and to commit the NBME to promoting these goals, particularly where NBME assessment instruments can emphasize their importance. Health system reform offers the opportunity to improve many elements that contribute to overall health system quality and efficiency. The document urges policy makers to continue to consider specific recommendations for change that the NBME believes will improve our healthcare delivery system.

The policies were approved in principle at the March 2009 Annual Meeting. The document was approved in principle by the NBME Executive Board in October 2009, along with directions to seek feedback and commentary from sister organizations in the House of Medicine. The majority of the organizational comments that were received commended the NBME’s efforts to articulate policies that will facilitate the development of measures to assure the quality of the future healthcare system. There were also several areas where clarification to the policies was suggested, although no substantive changes have been made to the document. The NBME Membership formally adopted the policies at its 2011 Annual Meeting, and the document can be found at www.nbme.org/about/health-system-reform-policies/.

The Public Stakeholders Task Force has been involved in providing advice and guidance to transform each of the policies into concrete recommendations for action. This task force was appointed in 2008 and is charged with guiding the NBME as it seeks to be more engaged with stakeholders outside of the medical community. The task force is responsible for identifying ways in which the NBME can nurture effective engagement of and collaboration with public stakeholders, including individual patients and patient advocacy or representative organizations, to further the mission of the NBME. This includes identifying and evaluating potential collaborative efforts, making recommendations for priorities in NBME strategic focus, evaluating potential roles for lay participants in the USMLE process, and considering NBME structure for optimal interface with public stakeholders.

One of the most important action steps from the Public Stakeholders Task Force has been the identification (continued on page 6)
In small groups, members and guests brainstormed around this topic; they rated some of the suggestions arising from the small group discussions using an audience response system during a plenary session of the meeting.

The Chair and President, W.T. Williams, Jr, MD and Donald E. Melnick, MD, outlined NBME achievements in the past year. Dr. Holmboe reviewed research on the relationship of examination scores to outcomes in patient care, noting that increasingly authentic measures are likely to be required to demonstrate solid connections between assessment and practice outcomes. Dr. Norcini framed a series of questions and challenges for consideration by members during the small groups.

The Treasurer, Lewis R. First, MD, MS reported on 2010 expenses and revenues from operational programs and services, investment in developmental programs, other financial results of the prior year, and the 2011 budget. After discussion of 2010 fiscal performance and the 2011 budget with the Treasurer and finance team in small groups, members endorsed the 2011 budget. Despite increasing program and service output, NBME added no new staff positions in 2009 or 2010, and staff received no salary increases.

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IN MEMORIAM: Rubens J. Pamies, MD

NBME Executive Board Member Rubens J. Pamies died suddenly on February 26, 2011. Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and Dean for Graduate Studies at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Dr. Pamies was in his native Haiti when he passed away. An esteemed colleague and friend, Rubens’ association with the NBME spanned over 10 years, and his legacy of caring and commitment to others will remain a shining example to all who carry on his work and will continue to inspire his colleagues in the governing board of the NBME.

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in 2010. Staff received modest budgeted salary increases, in line with increases in the cost of living, at the beginning of 2011. A contingency is included in the budget for a few new staff positions in critical areas of need, such as growth of international programs.

The NBME Membership participated in small group discussions on NBME governance and infrastructure. Following discussion in small groups, the Membership took the following actions in plenary session:

- Endorsed the NBME health system policy document.
- Referred the draft vision statement (“improving world health through assessment”) back to the Executive Board for further development guided by discussion in small groups.

In addition to these topics, program-oriented small group discussions focused on Medical Education and Student Services, USMLE (including the Comprehensive Review of USMLE) and the Clinical Skills Evaluation Collaboration (CSEC), Services for Practicing Physicians and for Health Professions Organizations, International Collaborations, and research and development (including the Assessment of Professional Behaviors program) and Center for Innovation.

The 2011 John P. Hubbard Award was presented to Judy Shea, PhD (see page 5). Retiring members Douglas W. Laube, MD, MEd, Ralph F. Jozefowicz, MD, and Ruth-Marie E. Fincher, MD were presented with the Edythe J. Levit Distinguished Service Award. On nomination by the Executive Board, the Membership elected Laurence B. Gardner, MD to Honorary Membership for life in recognition of his nearly 30 years of unstinting and much valued service to NBME.
At the Annual Meeting of the NBME Membership on March 31, 2011, the NBME announced that Judy A. Shea, PhD was selected as the recipient of the 2011 John P. Hubbard Award. The award is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the pursuit of excellence in the field of evaluation in medicine. Susan M. Spaulding, a member of the 2011 Hubbard Award Committee, announced Dr. Shea’s selection.

In presenting the award, Ms. Spaulding stated: “I am pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2011 Hubbard Award is Judy Shea, in recognition of her sustained contributions to advancing the methodology of evaluation in medicine. Dr. Shea’s career in the field of assessment spans almost 30 years. She has consistently made significant contributions to the theory and understanding of the field, and she has applied these to relevant questions and issues. Her work has been exemplary in contributing to the level of evaluation at local, regional, and national levels. Major contributions by Dr. Shea and her colleagues include multiple studies applying, examining, and improving absolute standard setting methods. The Hubbard Award Committee described Dr. Shea’s standard setting work as ‘profound,’ with its substantial impact on medical education processes and in multiple organizations. Other areas of major contributions include conceptual and practical work in medical education program evaluation; advancing more generally the science and application of measurement; instrument development; and leadership and service.

“Dr. Shea has an extensive record in fostering the development of evaluation methods and measurement techniques. This includes her very early promotion of video assessment for evaluating authentic clinical performance. Looking at the current developments around assessment in the workplace, she was 20 years ahead of us. Her expertise as a psychometrician, her creativity, and her ability to work with medical professionals in the field have led to a plethora of new assessment and evaluation approaches in numerous areas of medical education: ground breaking work on the evaluation of clinical faculty, program evaluation tools, the mini-clinical evaluation tool, video assessment, chart-stimulated recall, oral case presentation skills, patient satisfaction tools, and more. She also has an extensive record of instrument development and validation in clinical-based areas. In all, she has made a huge contribution to the development of new assessment procedures in medical education, which

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has influenced assessment practices worldwide.

“Dr. Shea’s contributions are extremely impressive and her expertise is widely respected. For her contributions to measurement, to scholarship and knowledge in the field, and to providing answers to questions of wide interest and concern, the Hubbard Award Committee considers Dr. Shea to be extremely deserving of this high honor.”

Dr. Shea is professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. She is associate dean of Medical Education Research and director of the Office of Evaluation and Assessment in the Academic Programs Office, School of Medicine. Prior to joining Penn she was a senior psychometrician at the American Board of Internal Medicine.

The NBME established the John P. Hubbard Award in 1983 in special tribute to the late John P. Hubbard, MD. Honoring Dr. Hubbard as a principal, guiding force of the NBME, this award acknowledges his creative and inspired leadership of the organization during his 25-year tenure as its chief executive. Dr. Shea deservedly joins the ranks of the distinguished individuals whom the NBME has honored over the years with this prestigious award. Dr. Shea’s selection as the recipient followed a call for nominations published widely in the spring of 2010. The 2011 Hubbard Award Committee, chaired by Professor Dame Lesley Southgate, included as members Antoinette F. Hood, MD, Michael Jodoin, PhD, Susan R. Johnson, MD, MS, Susan M. Spaulding, and Patricia N. Whitley-Williams, MD.

The National Council on Measurement in Education has selected NBME’s own Dr. Brian E. Clauser as Editor of the Journal of Educational Measurement. Brian is Vice President, Measurement Consulting Services, and has been on staff at NBME for over 18 years. Brian’s term as Editor will run from January 2011 to December 2013.
INSIDE THE NBME

Supporting Innovation in Medical Education Assessment:  
*The Edward J. Stemmler, MD, Medical Education Research Fund of the NBME*

The goal of the Stemmler Fund is to provide support for research or development of innovative assessment approaches that will enhance the evaluation of those preparing to, or continuing to, practice medicine. The Stemmler Fund’s annual “Call for Letters of Intent” (CFLOI) invites Letters of Intent from LCME- or AOA-accredited institutions.

Applicants are invited to submit brief Letters of Intent describing their proposed research. Following a round of review, a subset of applicants is invited to submit full proposals to be considered for funding. These proposals are then reviewed by peers, and two to three awardees are selected by the Stemmler Fund Steering Committee at its meeting in March (see below for the 2010-2011 Grantee award winners.)

For more information on the Stemmler Fund and the Call for Letters of Intent please visit http://www.nbme.org/stemmler.

**2010-2011 Stemmler Fund Grantees**

**University of Toronto**
Principal Investigator: Dr. Shiphra Ginsberg  
Grant Amount / Duration: $91,975 / 2 years  
Project Title: *Towards a predictive model of residents’ performance: Exploring a novel method for analyzing written comments on residents’ ITERs*

**University of California, San Francisco**
Principal Investigator: Dr. Sandrijn van Schaik  
Grant Amount / Duration: $150,000 / 2 years  
Project Title: *Developing a tool of assessing individual interprofessional teamwork skills across clinical settings*

**McMaster University**
Principal Investigator: Dr. Kelly Dore  
Grant Amount / Duration: $147,419.80 / 2 years  
Project Title: *Ensuring diversity and test security: an examination of the reliability, validity, feasibility, and acceptability of the computer-based assessment for sampling personal characteristics (CASPer) in diverse populations of medical school applicants*

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Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award and the American Academy of Pediatrics National Education Award.

Serving in many different roles, Dr. First has been associated with the NBME since 1995, when he was appointed as a member of a test development committee. In 1998, he was appointed to the Membership of the NBME as a representative of the test committees.

Dr. First was elected as an at-large member of the Executive Board in 2005 and served as Treasurer of the NBME from 2009 to 2011. Dr. First’s other NBME roles have entailed active involvement in test development and program oversight for the USMLE, including service as Chair of the USMLE Step 2 Committee.