2016 Annual Meeting of the NBME Membership

The Membership of the National Board of Medical Examiners held its 102nd Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on March 31 and April 1, 2016. The 2016 Annual Meeting included three plenary sessions: an opening session on the morning of March 31; an afternoon session on March 31; and a closing session on the morning of April 1. The remaining meeting time on March 31 and April 1 was devoted to small group sessions.

The meeting began with a plenary session that included the roll call; welcome remarks by the chair; ratification of appointments of representative members; approval of the 2015 Annual Meeting minutes; announcement of online surveys for meeting evaluation and committee interest to be distributed at meeting end; and presentations by the treasurer, president, and chair.

Members of the NBME and guests assembled in five small groups on March 31 and five different small groups on April 1. Small group participants were visited by 10 teams of individuals from the NBME staff and membership (“topic teams”). Each topic team facilitated discussion of issues focusing on topics selected by the Executive Board Planning and Governance Committee prior to the Annual Meeting: diversity, inclusion, and implicit bias; strategic planning for the future; enhancing Membership engagement; product discovery; research and development; new product development; USMLE and medical school services; other NBME products and services; business operations; and NBME Renewal and member involvement in the next century.

Presentation from the President

Using the poet David Whyte’s exploration of the concept of pilgrimage, Dr. Melnick’s presentation focused on passages in NBME’s history and the milestones that symbolize a “collective NBME journey.” His presentation outlined NBME’s evolution during its first century, centennial anniversary celebration in 2015, and achievements in recent decades, many in which Dr. Melnick participated or which he led. At the conclusion of his presentation, Dr. Melnick spoke of a “different way—or journey—to tread” for himself. He shared his decision to retire from the position of NBME president in 2017. In recognition of Donald E. Melnick, MD, has announced his plans to retire as president and CEO of the National Board of Medical Examiners in the first half of 2017. “In more than 15 years as president and 33 years of service to the NBME, I have been so proud to steward our mission of patient safety,” Dr. Melnick told the Annual Meeting of the NBME Membership in presenting his decision to step down. “It has been a privilege and a joy to work with hundreds of volunteers and staff to develop assessments that contribute to effective, safe care for patients.”

(continued on page 3)

In This Issue:

1 2016 Annual Meeting of the NBME Membership
1 Dr. Melnick Announces His Plans to Retire
4 NBME’s Brian Clauser Appointed Editorial Board Chair for NCME Book Series
5 Eric Holmboe Receives 2016 John P. Hubbard Award
6 NBME and the National Consortium for Credentialing of Health & Wellness Coaches
7 International Foundations of Medicine Looks Forward to Its Second Decade
8 2017 Hubbard Award Call for Nominations

© 2016 NBME
Scenes from the 2016 Annual Meeting

1. Dr. Melnick addressing the Membership
2. NBME treasurer, Dr. Paul Wallach
3. NBME staff and members in small group discussion
4. Dr. Patricia Whitley-Williams receives the Distinguished Service Award
5. Dr. David Steward receives the Distinguished Service Award
6. Mr. David Disbrow presenting the Strategic Futures Committee and Open CI
7. NBME chair, Ms. Suzanne Anderson
Dr. Melnick’s 33 years of service to the NBME, including more than 15 years of leadership as president, members and guests present at the meeting engaged in a standing ovation to honor Dr. Melnick.

Presentation from the Chair

Using a theme of “the next 100 years,” Ms. Anderson’s presentation covered major themes that the NBME might encounter as it embarks on its next century of service after celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2015. She spoke of decisions, opportunities, paths, and NBME’s wish to lead change and drive its future. She provided updates on activities of the past year, key collaborations and events, recognition of NBME volunteers and staff, and the importance of enhancing NBME’s mission as it enters its second century of service to the public and the health professions. She outlined plans for the Executive Board to begin a search for Dr. Melnick’s successor, invited input from NBME members during the search process, and described opportunities for members to contribute, such as service on the Search Committee and participation in a survey on assessing executive search needs.

Presentation from the Treasurer

NBME treasurer and Audit Committee chair, Dr. Paul Wallach, provided a presentation that included, among other topics, 2015 Finance Committee and Audit Committee highlights, 2015 operating performance (revenues and expenses) and investment performance, 2016 budget development, 2015 external audits, enterprise risk management activities, internal controls, and IT security and disaster recovery.

Strategic Futures Committee and Open CI

During the conclusion of the plenary session on March 31, Mr. David Disbrow of the Center for Innovation (CI) announced the creation of a new committee, named the Strategic Futures Committee, to promote a rigorous process of scanning and prioritization across multiple domains, identifying trends and drivers important to the NBME. He invited NBME members to express interest in serving on the committee through the committee interest survey. He noted that the Strategic Futures Committee will rely on input from multiple stakeholders to accomplish NBME goals. He asked all NBME members to engage in environmental scanning for the organization by responding to an email inviting individuals to a site to set up a digital profile using “Open CI,” a platform to continue instigation and exploration for members throughout the year.

Distinguished Service Awards

Ms. Anderson presented the Edith E. Levit Distinguished Service Award to two individuals: Dr. Patricia Whitley-Williams, concluding her final term in the NBME Membership, and Dr. David E. Steward, a volunteer who continues serving the NBME after more than 25 years of contributions. Ms. Anderson directed attention individually to their valuable contributions and many years of loyal NBME service and expressed hope for their continued connections with the NBME.

Presentation of the 2016 Hubbard Award

During the Hubbard Award luncheon, the 2016 John P. Hubbard Award was conferred on Dr. Eric S. Holmboe, member of the NBME and senior vice president, milestones development and evaluation, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (see page 5).
In April 2016, Dr. Brian E. Clauser was appointed as chair of the editorial board for the National Council on Measurement in Education’s (NCME) Applications of Educational Measurement and Assessment book series.

Brian is vice president of Measurement Consulting Services for the NBME and has more than two decades of applied experience in psychometrics and with editorial experience as a former editor of the Journal of Educational Measurement (JEM). The Applications of Educational Measurement and Assessment series is intended to increase understanding and inform research-based applied educational measurement and assessment. Intended audiences include NCME members, graduate students in measurement and assessment, and professionals in related fields engaged in measurement and assessment (e.g., psychology, educational leadership, educational and learning policy, curriculum and instruction, learning sciences, and certification and licensure).

Congratulations, Brian.

(4)
At the 2016 Annual Meeting of the NBME, Eric Holmboe, MD, was selected as the recipient of the 2016 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. Joseph P. Grande, MD, PhD, member of the 2016 Hubbard Award Committee, announced Dr. Holmboe’s selection at the Annual Meeting of the NBME Membership on March 31, 2016.

In presenting the award, Dr. Grande stated: “In recognition of outstanding contributions to evaluation in medicine, I am pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2016 Hubbard Award is one of our own NBME members, Eric Holmboe. Eric is internationally recognized for the consistent quality and significance of his decades of scholarship, teaching, leadership, and service as they relate to the assessment of clinical competence and the development and evaluation of expertise in medicine. Eric has devoted his entire career to the scientific advancement of residency education and standards for accreditation, methods of evaluation for board certification, and perhaps most importantly in the reliable assessment of clinical competence. Eric has the rare ability to convey complex information about the assessment of clinical competence to the least experienced and to the most advanced evaluation professionals equally well.

“Among his many contributions, Eric has contributed greatly in the field of workplace assessment and programmatic assessment. In pursuit of the goal of more reliable clinical evaluation, Eric and his colleagues have developed an outstanding faculty development program that focuses on the scientific application of new and improved evaluation methods. As the lead author of a definitive text on assessment in medicine, his countless scholarly contributions have all had a profound impact on assessment practice. His textbook, A Practical Approach to the Evaluation of Clinical Competence, has sold over 4,000 copies, and at the request of the publisher, he and his co-editor are working on the second edition. Considered one of the three most-recognized leaders in workplace assessment in the world, Eric’s learned support has led to great strides in the field, ultimately laying the foundation for innovations in the field of medical education and engaging a wide variety of stakeholders in a collaborative pursuit of excellence in physician training and assessment. As a colleague and peer I can personally attest to the importance of Eric’s significant contributions and leadership.

“In addition to his scholarly contributions, Dr. Holmboe is also widely known as a being a mentor and teacher of other assessment leaders. Providing leadership and mentorship in the pursuit of excellence in physician training resonates strongly throughout all aspects of Eric’s career.”

Dr. Holmboe is senior vice president, milestones development and evaluation,
In May, 2016, the NBME and the National Consortium for Credentialing of Health & Wellness Coaches (NCCHWC) signed an agreement for the launch of a national certification for individual health and wellness coaches in the United States. Founded in 2010, the NCCHWC supports the development and recognition of professional health and wellness coaches, the integration of basic coaching skills into the practices of existing health professions, and the advancement of a collaborative research agenda with the compilation of evidence on best practices across the field of health and wellness coaching.

The agreement with NBME supports NCCHWC’s efforts to establish a national certification that grounds both professional practice and education standards in the field of health and wellness coaching.

NCCHWC co-founder Margaret Moore, MBA, noted, “It became clear that our field would make a giant leap forward by combining NBME’s first-class expertise and innovation in assessing the knowledge and skills of health professionals and the six-year volunteer accomplishments of NCCHWC in uniting the field around common standards.” NBME president Donald Melnick, MD, added, “NBME has long recognized the need to protect the health of the public through state of the art assessment of health professionals. Moving the spectrum beyond physicians to include health and wellness coaches dedicated to helping the public with lifestyle improvement is part of our long-term vision.”

The intent of the long-term strategic relationship is to build the emerging profession of health and wellness coaches and to finance, develop, implement, and further promote high standards of training, education, research, and credentialing for the health and wellness coaching profession. Both organizations envision a professional community that is dedicated to high quality and continuous improvement and that serves as an advocate for the development and certification of high-quality coaching skills across healthcare, academia, and industry.

Karen Lawson, MD, a co-founder of NCCHWC, stated that this agreement is a “pivotal event in the evolution of health and wellness coaching. We appreciate the assessment expertise, psychometric rigor, testing implementation, and professional credibility offered by the National Board of Medical Examiners.”

The agreement with NBME supports NCCHWC’s efforts to establish a national certification that grounds both professional practice and education standards in the field of health and wellness coaching. The nonprofit NCCHWC assembled a volunteer team of experienced educators and leaders to unify interprofessional perspectives and follow best practices to identify national standards. Key milestones in this process included a national stakeholder summit, a job task analysis, and a national validation survey to clarify the tasks performed, as well as the minimum requisite skills and knowledge needed for effective practice.

The intent of the long-term strategic relationship is to build the emerging profession of health and wellness coaches and to finance, develop, implement, and further promote high standards of training, education, research, and credentialing for the health and wellness coaching profession. Both organizations envision a professional community that is dedicated to high quality and continuous improvement and that serves as an advocate for the development and certification of high-quality coaching skills across healthcare, academia, and industry.
International Foundations of Medicine® (IFOM®) exam program celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2017, so it is worth taking stock of the program as we look back at 10 years of service to the international medical education community and ahead to how we can make the program even more useful to our global colleagues and partners.

IFOM Then. . .

The program launched with the IFOM Clinical Science Exam (CSE) in 2007, with the goal of providing a valid and reliable assessment of the core knowledge of medicine expected of students nearing the completion of undergraduate medical school anywhere in the world. The exam was modeled on the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) exam. The exam was initially used mostly by European medical schools.

IFOM Now. . .

In the years since, the CSE has found a wider and more diverse user base. It is still used by numerous European medical schools and by international students preparing to take Step 2 CK. However, there are now user schools in every region of the world, and the test is used for many purposes, including as a medical school exit exam, an end-of-course or end-of-rotation exam, and as an intern or residency selection exam.

Although we still provide equivalent Step 2 CK scores, the IFOM CSE scores are mostly used independently, and some countries and user schools have worked with NBME to set their own, locally relevant passing standards.

Two exams have joined the IFOM program over the years. In addition to the CSE, an IFOM Basic Science Exam (BSE) was launched in 2011 and is used as an end-of-course exam. An IFOM CSE Self-Assessment Exam was launched in 2013 and is offered in International English and Spanish, with a Brazilian Portuguese version coming in late 2016.

The IFOM CSE and BSE exams are currently available in three modalities: schools and other institutions may administer the exam at their sites as a web-based or paper-and-pencil test (IFOM has no plans to eliminate the paper option in the foreseeable future). Individuals may also take either IFOM exam at a Prometric testing center in any of approximately 50 countries; nearly one-fifth of IFOM examinees now take the exam this way rather than through institution-based administrations. The IFOM CSE is offered in International English and Spanish, as well as in European Portuguese, and we are considering offering a Brazilian Portuguese version in 2017.

IFOM is managed by a committee of physicians representing different medical specialties and regions of the world. IFOM committee members are appointed by the NBME president and serve renewable two-year terms. The committee serves an oversight role, but members also write original items for the IFOM exams and review all test forms for all three exams (CSE, BSE, and the CSE Self-Assessment). Current IFOM committee members are:

- Maya Hammoud – Chair (USA)
- Joseph Adu (Ghana)
- Ángel Centeno (Argentina)
- Ricardo Correa Marquez (USA/Panama)
- Stephen Daniels (USA)
- Christopher Feddock (USA)
- Hamdy Hossam (Qatar)
- Zeina Kanafani (Lebanon)
- Ricardo Komatsu (Brazil)
- Janelle Rhyne (USA)
- Derek Soon (Singapore)
- Michael Wan (Australia)
- Alison Whelan (USA)

The Future of IFOM

The numbers of IFOM user schools and individual examinees grow every year, and users have told us that they value the high quality and sophistication of the exam questions, the knowledge and care applied to creating exam forms that cover all major medical topics and practice areas, and the reliable, expertly produced IFOM scores.
The NBME invites nominations for the 2017 John P. Hubbard Award. This award recognizes individuals who have made a significant and sustained contribution to the assessment of professional competency and educational program development at any level along the continuum of medical education and delivery of healthcare. It is expected that the successful candidate will have demonstrated outstanding achievement in one or more of the following areas:

- A substantial record of fostering the development of evaluation methods and/or measurement techniques; or
- Personal contributions to basic or applied research in the creation or improvement of assessment methodology; or
- Accomplishment in improving the quality of evaluation at an organizational level; or
- Contributions through the education or mentoring of students, colleagues, fellows, or graduate students, to further progress in evaluation.

Please visit www.nbme.org for more information on the Hubbard Award.

The deadline for submissions is September 9, 2016.