

Reflecting on 2024

As December draws to a close, we want to express our appreciation to the many volunteers from the medical licensing community who devoted their time and effort to support the USMLE program this past year. In particular, we would like to thank those who served on the USMLE Composite and Management Committees in 2024: Andrea Anderson, MD (DC); Jeffrey Carter, MD (MO); Sarvam TerKonda, MD (FL); Danny Takanishi, MD (HI); Nicole Gilg, MD (IA); Jade James-Halbert, MD (MO); Kristin Spanjian, MD (MT); Bryant Murphy, MD (NC); Cheryl Walker-McGill, MD (NC); and Patricia Hunter (VT). We thank these individuals and the many additional volunteers from the state board community who served on other USMLE committees and panels. Their contributions and perspectives are invaluable.

The USMLE program benefited immensely this year from the input of key stakeholders such as our State Board Advisory Panel and Medical Student & Resident Advisory Panel. The same can be said for the participants at our annual USMLE workshop for state medical board members and staff. Their insight and thoughtful input on program activities will continue to help shape our efforts going forward.

We enjoyed the opportunity to inform and update many of you on the USMLE this past summer through the program created and conducted jointly by FSMB and Administrators in Medicine (AIM) for licensing specialists. We are already looking forward to working with the next cohort of licensing specialists registered for the 2025 session.

This year included unique challenges to USMLE governance and staff charged with protecting the security of the USMLE. The enhancements and changes already implemented have further safeguarded the integrity of the USMLE, helping to inform your licensing decisions.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to strengthening USMLE's ability to assess key physician competencies valued by the licensing community. Accordingly, we will keep you apprised of ongoing pilot work on testing formats that can further enhance USMLE assessment of key competencies, e.g., clinical reasoning and communication. At the same time, we will continue exploring new and enhanced ways to keep you informed on USMLE activities.

Finally, we wish all the staff and members at the state medical and osteopathic boards a happy and healthy holiday season.



David Johnson
FSMB Chief Assessment Officer



Alex Mechaber, MD
NBME Vice President of USMLE

USMLE State Board Advisory Panel



The USMLE State Board Advisory Panel met at FSMB's Texas offices on November 13, 2024. The panel brings together board members and staff from state medical and osteopathic boards for in-depth discussions between the licensing community and USMLE program staff. For more than a decade this panel has convened annually as a reactor panel and sounding board offering feedback, advice and input from the medical licensing community on all aspects of the USMLE program.

Current members include the following board staff and members (pictured left to right in the photo above):

- Mustafa Hamed, MD, Michigan-Medical
- Gerard Dillon, PhD, Pennsylvania-Medical
- Maria Laporta, MD, Illinois
- Shami Goyal, MD, Illinois
- Rebecca Robbins, Alabama (Licensure Commission)
- David Herlihy, Esq, Vermont-Medical
- Stephen Boese, New York (Licensure)
- Guillermo Guzman, MD, Idaho
- Stephen Brint Carlton, JD, Texas (not pictured; participated virtually)
- Mark Spangler, MA, CMBE, West Virginia-Medical (not pictured; participated virtually)

Topics discussed during the meeting included examination security; impact of recent USMLE changes, specifically, the attempt limit change, Step 1 pass/fail outcome reporting and discontinuation of Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS); program updates (research, performance data, new item formats); ECFMG Certification expiration and USMLE eligibility requirements; and impact of the impending 2025 change in accreditation of Canadian medical schools on USMLE eligibility requirements.

Annual USMLE Report

The 2024 *Annual Report on the United States Medical Licensing Examination* is now available and has been provided along with this newsletter. The report is distributed via email to all state medical boards and provides a timely snapshot into major developments within USMLE, as well as foundational information explaining the program.

As of 2023, approximately 63% of the 1,062,460 physicians licensed in the U.S. have taken all or part of the USMLE sequence; 58% have taken all Steps (1, 2 and 3). This represents a 2% increase in both measures since 2022. *(Note: Physicians with a partial USMLE sequence include those who took a combination of USMLE and either the previously administered NBME Parts examination or the FLEX examination.)*

Medical licensing authorities and their representatives continue to be key stakeholders and contributors to the USMLE program. In 2024, 44 individuals from 26 state medical and osteopathic boards across the U.S. participated in USMLE in some capacity. Since implementation of the USMLE in 1992, 360 members and staff from state medical boards have participated in the USMLE program in some capacity. These individuals represent 65 different medical and osteopathic licensing boards throughout the country. More detailed information about state boards' involvement with USMLE is provided in the "State Medical Boards Participation in USMLE" section of the report.

State board members and staff who are interested in learning more about USMLE or serving on a USMLE committee, panel or task force can contact Frances Cain, fcain@fsmb.org, for information about participating in the annual USMLE Orientation.

USMLE Meetings Calendar

Management Committee
December 3-4, 2024

Committee for Individualized Review
December 3-4, 2024

Composite Committee
February 11, 2025

Committee for Individualized Review
March 5-6, 2025

Resources

USMLE.org
Bulletin of Information
FAQs

Social Media



Contact

Frances Cain
Director of Assessment Services
fcain@fsmb.org
(817) 868-4402