The Mission Statement of the NBEO is to serve the public and the profession of optometry by developing, administering, scoring, and reporting results of valid examinations that assess competence.

The purpose of TestPoints® is to share with the various optometric communities the news, events, and changes that are happening at the National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO). Comments and questions may be directed to nbeo@optometry.org.

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A Note from the NBEO CEO ... To the Future of Laser Use in Optometry!

Dr. Mark Cinalli, a lifelong friend and Secretary/Treasurer of the West Virginia Association of Optometric Physicians, recently reminded me of an Op-Ed that I wrote 40 years ago about the use of therapeutic medications (TMs) in optometry. The profession of optometry has done a superb job over the intervening years of jumping the therapeutic fence! In part, the relatively brisk assimilation of therapeutics into optometric clinical practice included the role of the National Board through development, administration, and acceptance by the profession of the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease (TMOD) exam.

The first TMOD was administered in 1985, when 7 states permitted ODs to use TMs to treat ocular disease. The TMOD provided state boards with a national credential by which optometric licensure applicants could document their competence to utilize TMs.

Jack E. Terry, OD, PhD
NBEO CEO
A Note from the NBEO CEO ... To the Future of Laser Use in Optometry (continued)

The complex wheels of legislation began to turn, slowly swelling the ranks of states that allowed ODs to treat eye disease. Schools/colleges of optometry expanded pharmacology and treatment courses within their curricula, and continuing education courses increasingly focused on these issues. By 1998, all states and Washington DC entitled ODs to treat ocular disease once they took and passed the TMOD examination and thus demonstrated an acceptable level of proficiency within this critically important facet of optometric practice.

It is hoped that the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE) will drive the profession in similar fashion toward the next logical, appropriate practitional summit, which is for most states to pass legislation that privileges ODs to perform laser and surgical procedures once they meet specific requirements, including passage of the NBEO LSPE. Several schools and colleges of optometry already routinely offer these new skills within their curricula. Over time, it will become commonplace for ODs to offer these services to their patients, in a standardized manner that assures quality care and protects the public, thereby remaining a consistent, confident, and viable profession into the next century and beyond as optometrists provide high-quality eye and vision care to their patients.

As the Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease (TMOD) was instrumental in rapidly transforming the practice of optometry in the 1980s-90s, it is hoped that the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE) will assist in propelling the profession toward the next, logical, significant expansion of optometric scope of practice in the late 2010s-20s.

LSPE development is detailed in the article on Pages 4-8 that covers laser and surgical procedures in this issue of TestPoints. Please take a few minutes to review and become familiar with the information, and begin to consider how this concept will continue to invigorate and enhance the profession of optometry into the future.

The National Board Welcomes Mr. John Sicotte to the Board of Directors

Following interviews and discussions of previous professional experience, the NBEO Board of Directors voted unanimously to invite Mr. John Sicotte to join the BoD as only the fifth Public Member in the history of NBEO. John brings an impressive array of board-level skills to the National Board's leadership.

Mr. Sicotte earned a BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Rhode Island and an MBA from the Syrac University Whitman School of Management. Mr. Sicotte was a senior strategic/operational corporate officer with extensive general management experience at Corning Incorporated, the world leader in specialty glass and ceramics. John displayed a consistent record of providing high impact leadership by reducing complex strategies to simple focused execution plans to improve both short-term and long-term results with process-based management systems.

Mr. Sicotte demonstrated expertise in directing highly efficient and strategically aligned global integrations, and introduced structure and process into operations to facilitate enterprise-wide best practice management systems. His management skills were put to good use as he was directly responsible for Corning’s 15 joint ventures on multiple continents, to include Russia, Egypt, Thailand, Indonesia, India, Brazil, China, Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, South Africa, and the USA. While serving as a global business leader, he worked seamlessly across a broad diversity of cultures to drive consistently strong outcomes. He created synergistic global relationships with customers, partners, and management teams.

Following various earlier positions at Corning in engineering and sales/marketing, John ultimately served as:

- Senior VP of Entity Management & Emerging Markets; Corning Cable Systems, Hickory, NC
- President & CEO of Advanced Cable Systems; Tokyo, Japan
- Senior VP of Asia Pacific & Emerging Markets, Corning Cable Systems; Hickory, NC
- President of Corning International KK; Tokyo, Japan
- Director of International Operations, Corning Optical Fiber; Corning, NY

The National Board is very pleased to welcome Mr. John Sicotte as the Public Member of the NBEO Board of Directors! Based on John’s global record of accomplishment, he is an excellent addition to NBEO leadership!
The NBEO Discontinues Use of 9-Digit Social Security Number In Database

The NBEO ‘Create User Account’ screen has taken on a new look. Because of contemporary global concerns about the challenges in protecting personal identifiers within all databases, the National Board has developed a registration method that eliminates the use of the 9-digit social security number as the NBEO continues to maintain a database that prevents duplication among registrants. The OE Tracker number remains the primary identifier of ODs and OD students.

The new system employs the 5 parameters of Optometrist, First Name, Last Name, Last 4 SSN Digits, and Graduation Year. The probability that two individuals will share these same five exact identifiers is very low. The updated profile-creation feature went into effect on October 20, 2016.

NEW National Board registrants need only to provide the last 4 digits of their SSNs.
The 9-digit SSNs of EXISTING NBEO registrants have been replaced with only the last 4 digits.

Inter-Organizational Communications and Collaboration Committee (IOCCC) Meets in Denver, Colorado

Two decades ago, because of their shared bonds and dedication to valid testing to protect the public, the NBEO, ARBO (Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry), and ASCO (Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry) commonly were referred to as the Tripartite. This was the first iteration of the Inter-Organizational Optometry Communications and Collaboration Committee (IOCCC). These original meetings served to both communicate and collaborate across common exam-related optometric topics.

After a quiescent period, the organizations decided to reinstate routine meetings in 2012-2013. The American Optometric Association (AOA) was invited on board, as well as the American Academy of Optometry (AAO). The time was appropriate to bring together the viewpoints of these similar but diverse organizations so that areas of common value and concern could be explored.

With the assistance of professional facilitator Rick Dorman of the Catalyst Group of Alexandria, the first IOCCC Agenda was developed and the inaugural meeting took place in Denver, Colorado in August 2016. From the beginning, it was hoped that the IOCCC would become a worthwhile central forum for discussing a multitude of topics of mutual interest to all of the organizations in attendance.

At the most recent meeting, the topics of discussion included the accreditation of continuing education in optometry, specialization in optometry (most notably in the area of Low Vision), and enlarging the applicant pool of highly qualified candidates hoping to gain admission to optometry schools/colleges. In addition, the IOCCC members formed an advisory group to work collaboratively across the communication staff of each organization on unified and effective public relations programs as well as to advance technologies in healthcare.

The IOCCC is devoted to merging a diversity of professional perspectives across optometry as the groups continue to communicate and collaborate. The goal is to enable the optometric profession to concentrate on remaining a consistent and confident profession into the next century and beyond as optometrists provide high-quality eye and vision care to their patients.

NBEO representatives to the IOCCC meeting. Drs. William Rafferty, Jill Martinson-Redekopp, and Dr. Jack Terry
Update: Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE)

The NBEO soon will offer a standardized, national credentialing examination for any practitioner who performs or wishes to perform certain laser procedures and specific ocular surgical procedures. The National Board will welcome professionals who would like to demonstrate and document proficiency in these several ocular anterior segment procedural skills. Research and development are well underway toward the launch of the National Board’s new Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE), to be administered at the NBEO’s National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO) in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Efforts to develop and introduce this new, elective examination have been ongoing for a number of years, through several meetings, and will continue into the future:

1) **January 2012, Laser Task Force:** A meeting was held in January 2012 to investigate the feasibility and need for development of an exam to assess laser and surgical procedures skills. The availability of training for these procedures within the schools and colleges of optometry and post-graduate programs was surveyed. The task force discussed when such an exam appropriately would be made available to practitioners, and which specific laser and surgical skills would be tested. The group broadly considered equipment needs, eligibility requirements, examiner qualifications, and the use of standardized patients.

2) **April 2016, Laser and Surgical Procedures Exam Development Committee:** As a follow-up to the original laser task force meeting, the first committee meeting convened in April 2016. The committee members and NBEO representatives made the decision to move forward with plans to develop the new assessment, to be called the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE). The group produced a tentative list of covered skills to include selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT), YAG capsulotomy, laser peripheral iridotomy (LPI), chalazion excision, and suturing.

Research and development resulted in a selection of specific equipment to be evaluated over the next several months. Sample equipment components were purchased and appraised. The state-of-the-art *Lumenis Selecta® Duet™* laser was selected, acquired, and installed in the LSPE exam room in the National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO), home of the Part III Clinical Skills Exam (CSE).

The committee concluded that the LSPE will consist of two sections.

- First, a written test of 75-100 items will be given in computer-based testing (CBT) format at the NCCTO in its CBT test center. This venue currently hosts the in-house Online State Law Exams (OSLEs). Subject matter will cover fundamental knowledge that should be known by practitioners involved in the practice of laser and surgical procedures. Item generation commenced during this initial exam development committee meeting.
- Second, a laser and surgical procedures clinical skills test will be provided in the designated LSPE exam room at the NCCTO.

3) **August 2016, Laser and Surgical Procedures Exam Development Committee:** The committee gathered for its second meeting in August 2016.

### Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE) Meeting Participants – August 2016

**Committee members:**
- Dr. Jeff Anastasio, Louisiana Family Eyecare (Covington, LA)
- Dr. Rex Ballinger, Baltimore VA Medical Center (Baltimore, MD)
- Dr. Rich Castillo, Northeastern State University College of Optometry (Tahlequah, OK)
- Dr. Cliff Caudill, University of Pikeville (Pikeville, KY)
- Dr. Michelle Dent, Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center (Wichita, KS)
- Dr. James Hunter, Indiana University College of Optometry (Bloomington, IN)

**Phase I Pilot Study ‘Candidates’**
- Dr. Nathan Lighthizer (Tahlequah, OK)
- Dr. Michael Sullivan-Mee (Albuquerque, NM)
- Dr. Nimesh Patel (Houston, TX)
- Dr. Jason Rhynes (Durant, OK)

**NBEO representatives:**
- Dr. Bill Rafferty, Liaison to NBEO Board of Directors (Winston-Salem, NC)
- Dr. Jack Terry, Chief Executive Officer (Charlotte, NC)
- Dr. Lyndon Wong, Director of the NCCTO and Part III CSE (Charlotte, NC)
- Dr. Jill Bryant, Chief Operating Officer (Charlotte, NC)
The meeting began with group inspection of the tentatively fully outfitted LSPE exam room. The committee then retired to the NBEO conference room to refine the exam items for the written portion of the LSPE.

Shown here are Drs. Rich Castillo, Jim Hunter, Cliff Caudill, Jack Terry, and Jeff Anastasio

In addition to the formal committee members, four ODs experienced in performing laser and surgical procedures were invited to serve as candidates for the Phase I Pilot Study for the clinical skills portion of the exam. The LSPE pilots included Drs. Nathan Lighthizer, Michael Sullivan-Mee, Nimesh Patel, and Jason Rhynes. These candidates took the exam as if they were standard NCCTO Part III CSE examinees. They donned white coats, were given armbands, and underwent the identity-check procedure, complete with photo. Their performances were captured on video, as are all exams taken in the NCCTO exam rooms.

Seated are Drs. Nimesh Patel, Michael Sullivan-Mee, Jason Rhynes, Nathan Lighthizer, Jill Bryant, William Rafferty, and Michelle Dent; standing are Drs. Cliff Caudill, Jeff Anastasio, and Rex Ballinger

From left to right are Drs. Michael Sullivan-Mee, Jason Rhynes, Nimesh Patel, and Nathan Lighthizer as they prepare in the NCCTO orientation room for the pilot LSPE
LSPE candidates began the LSPE by taking a patient history and then proceeded with a basic slit lamp exam on the standardized patient; following these basic steps, the YAG, SLT, and LPI procedures were performed.

**YAG capsulotomy**

**Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT)**

**Laser Peripheral Iridotomy (LPI)**
The NBEO Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE) Update (continued)

Surgical Skills

Following performance of the YAG capsulotomy and SLT and LPI procedures, LSPE candidates demonstrated their surgical skills of chalazion excision (left) and suturing (right).

Pictured left to right are Drs. Michelle Dent (Wichita, KS); Jill Bryant (Chief Operating Officer); Rex Ballinger (Baltimore, MD); and Rich Castillo (Tahlequah, OK).

After all four pilot ODs had completed their exams, the LSPE Committee reviewed their videos, evaluated their performances, and solicited their comments. The clinical skills segment of the exam was appreciably amended in light of the invaluable feedback gleaned from the pilot candidates. The results of the Phase I Pilot Study can be summarized as follows:
The NBEO Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE) Update (continued)

- Laser and surgical procedures skills successfully were incorporated into the exam at that point, including selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT), YAG capsulotomy, chalazion excision, and suturing.

- Skills that may be included in the LSPE if appropriate eye models can be identified, procured, assessed, and accepted are laser peripheral iridotomy (LPI) and skin tag removal with infiltrative anesthesia.
  
  o **NOTE:** The LPI photos shown on Page 6 represent the LPI model currently under investigation for use in the LSPE; this model was not employed in the Phase I Pilot Study.

4) **January 2017, Laser and Surgical Procedures Exam Development Committee:** The next LSPE Development Committee meeting is scheduled for January 2017. A Phase II Pilot Study will be conducted. Another round of administrational and/or equipment improvements will be devised and implemented, based on the feedback garnered from the pilot study. The exam committee will finalize the written items for the CBT portion of the Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination.

It is anticipated that the exam will be offered for use in mid-2017. As time passes, interested parties will find additional information on the NBEO website (www.optometry.org) and in future issues of the NBEO newsletter, TestPoints. Descriptions of all eye models and equipment ultimately chosen for use in this exam will be available on the LSPE Site Information and Equipment List on the NBEO website prior to the inaugural administration of the examination. Any questions or comments may be emailed to nbeo@optometry.org.

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**Summary Details of the 2-Part Laser and Surgical Procedures Examination (LSPE)**

- Written computer-based test segment of 75-100 items to cover the conceptual knowledge required for competent performance of laser/surgical procedures
- Clinical testing using laser on model eyes and model skin tissue to assess the clinical skills required for successful performance of these skills
- Both LSPE segments will be taken on the same test day, in the NBEO NCCTO

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**Happy Retirement to NBEO Staff Member Barbara Faulk**

The NBEO Human Resources Manager, Mrs. Barbara Faulk, retired in September 2016 after nearly four years of service to the National Board. Barbara came on board as a short-term human resources contractor, but her valuable contributions to the organization resulted in the creation of, and her significant participation in, a permanent part-time position. During her tenure with the NBEO, Barbara enthusiastically functioned in the traditional HR roles of recruiting, hiring, and in-processing the diverse, talented individuals who skillfully and professionally carry out its mission and seamlessly meet its goals and objectives. She became an integral part of the constant, essential need to maintain a well-trained, competent corps of Standardized Patients (SPs) for clinical skills assessment in the National Center of Clinical Testing in Optometry (NCCTO).

Now that she has retired, Barbara is actively engaged in home renovation projects, gardening, and plans to travel and see the world. A trip to Florida is in the works, as well as a cruise to Alaska that will include a week-long tour of the Denali Forest. The NBEO office staff thanks Barbara for her valued service to the National Board and misses her constantly smiling presence. We all wish Barbara a very happy retirement!!!

*Mrs. Barbara Faulk, Human Resources Manager,*
*and Dr. Jack E. Terry, NBEO CEO*
Part I ABS: Pearson VUE Seat Availability is Limited for March 2017 ABS Exam

Registration for the first-ever computer-based testing (CBT) version of the Part I ABS exam opened on Monday, August 29, 2016. The March 2017 ABS exam will be only one day in length, and is being offered on four separate days due to space limitations at some testing centers. A different form of the exam will be administered on each of the four days. **The Part I exam will be offered on March 21, 22, 23, and 24, 2017.** The exam will be delivered by computer at Pearson VUE testing centers across the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico.

Many candidates heeded NBEO’s recommendation to register early for the Part I ABS exam. Seating at some individual testing sites already is filled to capacity. Because seating at other testing centers is likely to reach capacity, the National Board continues to recommend that candidates register for the March 2017 ABS exam as soon as possible.

Candidates also should apply promptly if they are seeking testing ADA accommodations for the March Part I exam. Candidates who plan to apply for ADA accommodations are advised to register for the exam and select a testing site, and then submit their documentation for special testing circumstances. Prompt submission of both the application and the justification paperwork is especially important for candidates who are seeking a private room for testing, because some Pearson VUE centers do not have a private room available.

**Registration for the March 2017 administration of the Part I exam opened on August 29, 2016. It is highly recommended that any Part I ABS candidates who have not registered do so as soon as possible to schedule a first-choice seat, or even a second-choice seat, at a preferred Pearson VUE test center, on your preferred date. Pearson VUE will specifically reserve seats for the March NBEO Part I examination until the close of business on January 19, 2017.**

*After this date, Pearson VUE will release seats for general use, which will make it nearly impossible to acquire a seat at popular test centers. Please register now, if you haven’t yet done this!*

Part I ABS: NBEO Announces Item Ranges for 2017 ABS Examination

The table on Page 10 shows the item ranges that will be used for the National Board’s Part I ABS exam for 2017. The 2017 exam will include 350 scored items and 20 pre-test items. The ranges shown in the table are for the 350 scored items.

The 2017 exam will be given in one day, and will consist of two 4-hour sessions. Because a total of 370 items will actually be administered (due to the inclusion of the 20 non-scored pre-test items), each session will consist of 185 items. Candidates will not know which items will be scored and which are pre-test.

From 2009-2016, the Part I ABS exam consisted of 500 items, so the 350 scored items on the 2017 exam represents a 30% reduction in items. The item ranges for 2017 have been reduced 30% across all areas, so there is no difference in emphasis between the 2017 exam and prior ABS exams.

The number of items on the ABS exam is being reduced in conjunction with the exam switching from paper-and-pencil administration to computer-based administration in 2017. Along with the change to computer administration, the exam is being reduced from a 2-day exam to a 1-day exam.

Candidates should note that the item ranges for 2017 may change in 2018. The National Board recently completed a job task analysis (JTA), of over 1,100 optometrists from across the country. The data from the JTA currently are being reviewed. The Board of Directors of the National Board will analyze results from the JTA at its Annual Meeting this December, and will consider whether or not changes to the Part I item ranges are warranted in 2018, based on the results of the JTA.

In addition to being shown on the next page, the Part I ABS item-range chart has been posted on the NBEO website, specifically the Exam Content Matrix. An abundance of additional information is linked to the chart on the website, including subject matter definitions and sample items.
Part I ABS:  NBEO Announces Item Ranges for 2017 ABS Examination (continued)

As long as the Part I ABS exam was administered as a paper-and-pencil exam, an entire corps of support personnel was required to produce it. The effort was monumental as it originated from the NBEO’s Part I ABS Director and the exceptional Part I Exam Development Committees and Councils who generated the exams year after year. Much of the responsibility fell to the NBEO Executive Assistant who coordinated the many stages of exam administration. She managed the printing of the exam, collected the associated testing paraphernalia, boxed it all up, and mailed the numerous boxes to the 24 testing sites. She then received everything back following exam administration and in-processed the various exam components.

The NBEO Site Coordinator worked closely with her many impeccably reliable associates to coordinate the testing sites and arrange for the many individuals needed to host/proctor the exam. Our Chief Proctors were responsible for receiving, unpacking, dispensing, administering, and then repacking and returning the exams and related items back to the NBEO in Charlotte. They also chose and worked with the Proctors to ensure that an appropriate, dependable exam experience was presented to our exam candidates. The NBEO notably enjoyed working with these diverse groups of assistants at the optometry schools/colleges and universities.

Our ABS Chief Proctors had many positive things to say about the optometrist group of candidates. One Chief emailed that, ‘The students that participated in these tests always seemed to have the utmost integrity and respect.’ Another Chief shared that, ‘We came to love, yes to love, the candidates and their good cheer and dedication to their profession. They inspired us to do the best we could for them. We will miss them.’

The NBEO offers many thanks to our faithful Chief Proctors, Site and Event Coordinators, and Proctors who made it possible the past many years to administer our paper-and-pencil Part I ABS examination. We very much appreciate their outstanding dependability, reliability, and the great care they took with our exam booklets, candidates, and exam administration during this historic testing era!
Part I ABS: The NBEO Greatly Appreciates Contributions of Dr. Julie DeKinder


Dr. DeKinder graduated from NSUOCO in 2004 and completed a residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses at the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Optometry in 2005. Dr. DeKinder is a member of the faculty at the University of Missouri-St Louis College of Optometry where she serves as Director of Academic Programs, Director of Residencies, Chief of Contact Lens Services and Program Coordinator for the Cornea and Contact Lens Residency. She is also responsible for overseeing students in contact lens clinic and is a co-instructor in the Introduction to Contact Lenses course.

Dr. DeKinder is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) and is a member of the American Optometric Association (AOA), as well as the Missouri Optometric Association (MOA). She is the faculty advisor for Beta Sigma Kappa and Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (SVOSH) at UMSL. She currently serves as a member of the AAO Residency Committee and the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) Residency Committee.

During the August 2016 Part I ABS Disease Committee meeting, Dr. Jill Bryant, NBEO COO, presented Dr. DeKinder with a THANK YOU plaque intended to serve as a token of gratitude when members cycle off of exam development committees and councils. The National Board is very grateful to Dr. Julie DeKinder for her many contributions to its basic science examinations over the past many years, and we wish her the very best into the future!!

Part I ABS: The NBEO Extends Many Thanks to Dr. Muriel Schornack

Dr. Muriel Schornack served on the Part I ABS Refractive Conditions Committee from 2009-2016. During her first year of service on the committee, she was an invaluable part of the exam’s transition from the Part I Basic Science (BS) exam to the Applied Basic Science (ABS) examination. She currently remains on the Part I ABS Council, which has enjoyed her expertise and many exam-development contributions since 2013.

Prior to joining the Refractive Conditions Committee, Dr. Schornack served as an Examiner for the Part III Clinical Skills Exam (CSE) administered at the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago. Dr. Schornack commented that she enjoyed her annual trips to the city, and ‘learned so much from the other examiners with whom I was privileged to work.’ She served as Station Examiner, then Assistant Chief Examiner, and ended her service as Chief Examiner during the last few years of the multi-site Clinical Skills Examination events.

During the September 2016 Part I ABS Refractive Conditions Committee meeting, Dr. Jill Bryant, NBEO COO, presented Dr. Schornack with a plaque that serves as a THANK YOU memento. Members receive these small tokens of appreciation as they cycle off of exam development committees and councils.

Dr. Schornack shared that, ‘It has been a tremendous privilege to serve on the ABS refraction committee.’ She was a part of the transition to ABS and contributed a valuable perspective to the committee through those early exams since she was not affiliated with a school of optometry. Rather, Dr. Schornack was and is employed at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

The National Board deeply appreciates Dr. Muriel Schornack’s significant contributions to the Part I Applied Basic Science Committee over the past many years, and we are most fortunate that she will continue to serve on the Part I ABS Council through the 2017 exams!!
Part I Applied Basic Science (ABS)
August 2016 Exam Administration

On August 2-3, 2016, the non-targeted Part I Applied Basic Science (ABS) examination was administered. The examination consisted of 500 stand-alone multiple-choice items given during four 3.5-hour sessions, each consisting of 125 items. Following detailed exam results analysis, the total number of scored items on the August 2-3, 2016 ABS was 499 items.

A total of 643 candidates took the August 2016 test; 273 (42.5%) passed the exam. Of the 643 candidates who sat for this exam, 51 (7.9%) were student candidates taking the test for the first time; 26 (51.0%) of the first-time student candidates passed the examination. Among the 306 repeat student candidates, 128 (41.8%) passed the exam. Of the 286 non-student examinees (graduate first-timers, graduate repeaters, and sponsored candidates) 119 (41.6%) passed the Part I ABS exam.

The graph above presents the distribution of scaled scores for the non-targeted August 2016 Part I ABS exam, in 100-point increments. The distribution reveals that a total of 273 candidates achieved a passing scaled score of 300-699 while 370 examinees earned a scaled score of 100-299, with the lowest possible ABS scaled score being set at 100. The peak scoring range was in the 100-199 range, in which 208 candidates scored. A group of 2 examinees earned scores in the interval of 600-699, the highest interval represented in the August 2016 Part I ABS exam.

The scaled score range for the Part I ABS exam is based on a 100-900 scale, where 100 represents the lowest scaled score and 900 represents a perfect score. In cases where the scaling procedure results in a raw score being converted to a score of less than 100, a scaled score of 100 is assigned. In addition, the exam pass-fail cutoff score is scaled so that it always equals 300.
The Part II Patient Assessment and Management (PAM) Disease Exam Development Committee met on August 25-28, 2016 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Opening plenary remarks were made by Dr. Jack Terry on the first morning of the meeting, via webcam, as he was unable to attend the meeting in person.

Further welcoming comments were provided by Dr. Nicole Stefani, the Director of the PAM/TMOD exam, who then summarized the writing webinar and the on-site writing workshop that was held earlier in the summer. Dr. Stefani described the many new Part II cases that were produced during the authoring workshop.

The committee then began reviewing Part II cases, minicases and solo items. Each member had been assigned to specific sections of exam material to be assessed prior to the meeting; each participant served as the discussion leader as his/her material came up for review. Exam entities were refined until they were ready for use on future exams.

The exam material content matrix was evaluated, and the 2016 Job Task Analysis (JTA) was discussed, in relation to the matrix. A conference call held toward the end of the meeting was hosted by Dr. Terry and Dr. Brett Foley, Alpine Solutions psychometrician. The purpose of the call was to review the JTA and to explain how the results would affect the Part II subject matter content matrix. Committee members were asked for their input to the pre- and post-JTA report review. Suggestions were made and appropriate edits to the JTA results and the content matrix were summarized within the Part II PAM/TMOD Disease topics, subject to NBEO Board of Director review and approval.

Loose ends were wrapped up on Sunday and the 2016 PAM Disease Committee came to a close.

The NBEO would like to express a resounding THANK YOU to the members of the 2016 PAM/TMOD Disease Committee in recognition of the significant amount of time, effort, and expertise they provide to the PAM/TMOD exam, before, during, and between meetings! Without the invaluable contributions afforded the National Board by its committee and council members, it would not be possible to construct the state-of-the-art board exams administered by the NBEO and administered to all optometry students, in an effort always to protect the public.
Part II Patient Assessment and Management (PAM) Refractive Exam Development Committee met on September 15-18, 2016 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Dr. Jack Terry opened the meeting with a plenary session, including a discussion of the recent NBEO-sponsored Job Task Analysis (JTA) that assists the National Board in generating a relevant exam-material content matrix. Following the explanation of method, receipt of results, and analysis of results, Dr. Terry solicited feedback from the meeting attendees regarding the JTA and how it ultimately will affect item representation within NBEO examinations, in particular, within the refractive aspect of the Part II PAM/TMOD exam.

Pictured from left to right are Drs. Marc Taub (Southern College of Optometry; Memphis, TN); Kristine Hopkins (UAB School of Optometry; Birmingham, AL); Nicole Stefani (Director of PAM; Charlotte, NC); Stan Hatch (Eye Care of the Adirondacks; Plattsburgh, NY); Long Tran (Jacksonville, FL); Joan Miller (Baseline Vision; Hillsboro, OR); James Kundart (Pacific University College of Optometry; Forest Grove, OR); and Elli Kollbaum (IU School of Optometry; Bloomington, IN)

Following Dr. Terry’s meeting introduction, Dr. Nicole Stefani, the Director of the PAM/TMOD exam, further welcomed the committee members. She then described for the group how the June 2016 PAM Authoring Workshop had gone and outlined the new refractive cases that were produced during the authoring event.

Several weeks prior to the Part II exam development meetings, Dr. Stefani had assigned committee members to specific sections of exam material that would be refined during the meeting. Participants were asked to assess all material available for comment before the trip to Charlotte, NC, but especially were responsible for their assigned exam entities.

Following their pre-meeting review, members traveled to Charlotte and each served as the discussion leader when his/her material came up for evaluation during the meeting. The committee then worked its way through the cases, minicases and solo items to be reviewed, updated, and refined. Over the course of the next several days, the Refractive Committee perfected the exam entities until they were appropriate for inclusion in future exams.

The National Board deeply appreciates the indispensable contributions made by members of the 2016 PAM/TMOD Refractive Committee. Many thanks to the committee members for the considerable amount of time, effort, and expertise they always afford the PAM/TMOD exam as they review and edit exam material prior to each meeting and then work tirelessly to perfect exam material during each meeting. Members then continue to support the cause between meetings during results analysis conference calls following exams, in addition to the random requests for assistance with images and subject-matter expertise throughout the year!
NBEO Solicits Exam Material Authors and Ocular Images

Are you interested in joining the case authoring or item writing team for any NBEO exam? If so, you are encouraged to send an email to nbeo@optometry.org and mention the exam with which you would like to become involved. Your communication will be forwarded to the appropriate exam director (Part I ABS, Part II PAM/TMOD, ACMO, or CPDO). In addition to new case authors and item writers, the National Board also is always in need of new photographic images of normal and atypical ocular structures, disease and refractive problems, test results, and the like. Please consider sharing your excess ocular images with us! Images can be emailed to the NBEO at nbeo@optometry.org, would be greatly appreciated, and likely will be used as the basis for new Part II, ACMO, or CPDO cases.

OSLE: The National Board Welcomes Nevada as an OSLE State

The Nevada State Board of Optometry is one of the regulatory boards that requires its optometry licensure applicants to take a state optometry law examination. The subject matter tested includes the Nevada Revised Statutes, the Nevada Administrative Code, and the Nevada Board Policies that govern the practice of optometry in that state. The Nevada Board made the decision during the September 2016 Board of Directors meeting to begin to administer its optometry law exam through the NBEO. The Nevada OSLE (Online State Law Exam) is under development and is expected to be available to NV optometry licensure candidates by late October or early November. Exam details for the new NV OSLE are available from the OSLE webpage. Please check back frequently for updated information.

It is anticipated that the Nevada online state law exam (OSLE) will consist of 100 items that are worth 1 point each and that the passing score will be 75%. Candidates for this test will have 4 hours total in which to complete their exams, from the time they generate their exams to the time they submit it for scoring. Because test time will be limited, it is suggested that Nevada OSLE examinees carefully study and become familiar with the Nevada optometry laws prior to pulling up the exam. Additional Nevada-specific information can be found on the NBEO website.

For nearly 7 years, the National Board has offered the Online State Law Exam (OSLE) program to assist state boards by administering their optometry jurisprudence exams in one of three available online versions. These are described in great detail on the NBEO website.

State boards interested in becoming an OSLE state should contact the NBEO at nbeo@optometry.org. There is no cost to state boards for this service and candidate fees are nominal.

Part III CSE: Equipment Change Update for the 2017-2018 Clinical Exam

On August 10, 2016, Drs. Jack Terry (NBEO Chief Executive Officer) and Lyndon Wong (Director of Clinical Skills Testing) communicated with all of the schools and colleges of optometry to notify faculty and staff of an equipment change that will go into effect on August 1, 2017, for the 2017-2018 Part III CSE testing year.

Over the past 5 years, Incident Reports (IRs) have been filed by exam candidates during the administration of the Part III Clinical Skills Examination (CSE) concerning the use of the Heine Video BIO Omega 2C Set with A-Cam and +2.00 D Oculars. The IRs ranged from the headset being too large, to the PD being too wide, to the fact that too many wires connected to the BIO.

In May 2016, the NBEO Board of Directors approved using the Keeler Vantage Plus Slimline BIO Video System for Part III CSE beginning August 2017, for use during the 2017-2018 Part III CSE testing cycle. The Keeler system offers the following advantages to the headset:

- Adjusts to fit smaller head circumferences
- Accommodates smaller pupillary distances
- Is a wireless headset.

In addition, the Keeler BIO has the following overall advantages:

- Enhanced quality of the video image
- LED light source

The National Board will provide additional information about the Keeler BIO on the NBEO website as more details become available (www.optometry.org/pdf/NCCTO/CSE_Site_Information_Equipment_2018.pdf).
The Part III Clinical Skills Examination (CSE) was administered over the time interval of August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016. A total of 2,169 exams were administered; 1,727 passing scores were achieved. Of the 2,169 total exam attempts, 1,636 were students taking the test for the first time; 1,370 (83.7%) passed. Among the total 533 attempts from student repeaters and non-traditional examinees (graduate first-timers, graduate repeaters, and sponsored candidates), 357 (66.9%) passed the exam.

The graph presents the distribution of scaled scores for the 2015-2016 Part III CSE, in increments of 100 points. The distribution reveals that a total of 1,727 candidates earned a passing scaled score of 300-900. A total of 442 test-takers placed in the 100-299 score interval, which includes 102 candidates who received a scaled score of 100 (the lowest possible score). The peak scoring range was in the 500-599 range, in which 554 candidates scored. One examinee earned a score in the interval of 800-900, the highest interval possible in the August 2015 - July 2016 Clinical Skills Exam.

The scaled score range for each NBEO exam is based on a 100-900 scale, where 100 represents the lowest scaled score and 900 represents a perfect score. In addition, the exam pass-fail cutoff scores are scaled so that they always equal 300. In cases where the scaling procedure results in a raw score being converted to a score of less than 100, a scaled score of 100 is assigned.

From a different perspective, it is of interest to note that as of July 31, 2016, 96.2% of the Class of 2016 candidates successfully had passed the Part III clinical exam.
Did You Know ... ???

... that the occasional *third-year student* fails to register by the late registration deadline for the Part I ABS exam, and infrequently, a *fourth-year student* misses the late registration deadline for the Part II PAM/TMOD exam?

- To promote and facilitate timely registrations by all interested exam candidates, the NBEO hosts an annual webinar for all *college liaisons*, during which upcoming registration deadlines are reviewed.
- Registration/testing information is posted on the *NBEO website* well in advance of any of the registration/testing dates.
- In addition, registration for the *next* administration of any specific exam given thru Pearson VUE *typically opens a few days after that particular exam is administered*. This includes Part I, Part II, TMOD, ACMO, and CPDO.
- Finally, registration and test date information is posted in the NBEO newsletter, *TestPoints*, which is emailed to all optometry students who have created an NBEO profile account.
- Students are encouraged to review the information available to them on the NBEO website and in the NBEO newsletter, as well as any guidelines presented to them by their respective college liaisons.

... that when students do realize they have not registered for an impending board exam, there is one final avenue of resolution? After the regular and late deadlines are exhausted, students may initiate an appeal to potentially register by clicking on [http://www.optometry.org/appeals.cfm](http://www.optometry.org/appeals.cfm). Potential candidates should *submit the appeal as soon as possible* so that the necessary paperwork at the NBEO can be started, and updated registration files can be uploaded for Pearson VUE use. The sooner Pearson has the registration information, the sooner candidates are able to select a test seat that is as close as possible to their preferred location. An appeal fee of $150 is required to cover the administrative costs of handling a late registration.

... that the *Florida online state law exam (OSLE)* is given by appointment only, at the NCCTO? Because of the limited nature of the available OSLE test seats at the NCCTO, and due to the seasonal demand for these time slots, it is important that appointments not be missed due to ‘no-shows.’ The policy has been established that when a candidate decides to NOT take a scheduled FL OSLE, and FAILS TO CANCEL the appointment, that specific law exam registration will be deactivated. If that candidate wishes to sit for the FL OSLE at a later time, he/she will need to re-register and re-submit the registration fee. As a courtesy to fellow FL OSLE candidates, examinees are asked to cancel any unneeded Florida OSLE appointments as soon as possible prior to the test date.
## General Information

### NBEO Board of Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William B. Rafferty, OD</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Winston-Salem, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis N. Reich, OD, PhD</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Memphis, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill R. Martinson-Redekopp, OD</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Minot, ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan J. King, OD</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dickinson, ND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Hoppe, OD, MPH, DrPH</td>
<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td>Pomona, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerry A. Richt, OD</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Cleveland, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melvin D. Shipp, OD, MPH, DrPH</td>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Goodyear, AZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Sicotte</td>
<td>Public Member</td>
<td>Asheville, NC</td>
</tr>
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### NBEO Chief Executive Officer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack E. Terry, MS, OD, PhD</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fort Mill, SC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact Information

National Board of Examiners in Optometry  
200 South College Street, Suite 2010  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
General email: nbeo@optometry.org  
Part III email: nccto@optometry.org  
Phone: 704.332.9565  
Toll-Free: 800.969.3926  
Fax: 704.332.9568

### Additional Information

Website: [www.optometry.org](http://www.optometry.org)

## 2016 – 2017 National Board Exam Schedule *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Deadline</th>
<th>Test Date</th>
<th>Registration Deadline</th>
<th>Late Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part III CSE / ISE</td>
<td>Regular, through April 30, 2017</td>
<td>7 days prior to exam</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special, through July 31, 2017</td>
<td>7 days prior to exam</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part II PAM / TMOD</td>
<td>December 6 or 8, 2016</td>
<td>Expired</td>
<td>Expired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TMOD Stand-Alone</td>
<td>December 8, 2016</td>
<td>Expired</td>
<td>Expired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part I ABS</td>
<td>March 21 or 22 or 23 or 24, 2017</td>
<td>January 20, 2017</td>
<td>February 10, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPDO</td>
<td>March 10, 2017</td>
<td>January 13, 2017</td>
<td>February 3, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACMO</td>
<td>June 23, 2017</td>
<td>April 28, 2017</td>
<td>May 19, 2017</td>
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*Additional exam date and registration information is available on the NBEO website and can be located by clicking on the EXAM INFORMATION tab.*

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Fall 2016 TestPoints®

[Image of National Board of Examiners in Optometry logo]