

## **AADPRT Supports Consensus Statement Regarding Acceptance of COMLEX-USA and USMLE Scores for Doctors of Osteopathy**

In 2015 The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) began a five-year process to create a single accreditation system for graduate medical education in the United States. That process was completed on 30 June 2020. Psychiatry residencies across the country have M.D.'s and D.O.'s training and working side by side. During the 2023 Match 1343 M.D. seniors and 403 D.O. seniors matched into categorical psychiatry training programs. Historically, many D.O graduates have been advised of a need to take both Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examinations (COMLEX-USA) and United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) when applying to psychiatry residencies. Taking two sets of examinations should be unnecessary. Passing COMLEX-USA examinations is required for graduation with the DO degree from Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and for licensure in numerous jurisdictions. The Federation of State Medical Boards has stated that the evidence for the validity for COMLEX-USA examinations for DOs for medical licensure is exemplary. ACGME accepts COMLEX-USA scores for application for residency training, and the AMA likewise advocates for equivalent use of COMLEX-USA for DOs, as does the AOA and the Coalition for Physician Accountability. Although the literature is limited, there also appears to be a strong correlation between COMLEX-USA and USMLE scores (Sandella, Gimpel Smith & Boulet 2016; Kane, Yenser et al., 2016, Barnum, Craig et al 2022) and extensive validity evidence for COMLEX-USA. Despite this data, many osteopathic graduates have felt the need to take USMLE examinations to compete for interviews at residency programs that have traditionally only considered USMLE scores. The cost of these redundant examinations and related test prep places a considerable and unfair financial burden on osteopathic applicants. We encourage all psychiatry residency programs to clearly state their policy regarding the acceptability of COMLEX-USA and USMLE scores and recommend that programs accept COMLEX-USA when considering DO applicants to their training programs.