

Pacific Crest Trail... Washington



Looking back to Old Snowy Mountain



Panel:

Upcoming Changes in the
USMLE/NBME and the Future of
Resident Candidate Assessment

What the Program Directors Need in Resident Candidate Assessment

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Background:

- Feb 5, 2008
- John Potts, MD Past President of the Association of Program Directors in Surgery
- Newly elected chair of the Steering Committee of the Organization of Program Directors Associations
- Sends email to Executive Director or President of affiliated program directors associations....

“Possible Action by the USMLE”

1. Considering moving from 3-part to a 2-part exam at two patient-centered points:
 - Transition to supervised practice
 - Transition to unsupervised practice
2. Eliminate scoring...

Issues:

- Timing: would program directors have access to information on candidates at the time of ERAS post office opening?
- Would we lose the “yardstick” by which to compare candidates?
- Is it a “done deal”?

SAAC/AAPD Response:

- Survey membership
- Collate input
- Send “strong message” to USMLE/NBME

Letter to USMLE and NBME from SAAC/AAPD leadership:

- Recognize primary purpose of USMLE
- Need for change
- Issues regarding assessment sensitivity, validity, reliability, reproducibility
- Need for “different purposes” of exam
- Pass/fail nature of most medical schools
- Many schools no longer rank students
- Non-discriminating letters of recommendation
- Correlation between score and success in anesthesiology training programs

Program Directors Needs:

- A national summative assessment allowing comparison across backgrounds
- Meaningfully graded scores allowing discrimination amongst the best, the middle and the lowest of the cohort group
- Results available by October 1 of the senior year in medical school

June 2008 posting

- Committee to Evaluate the USMLE Program
- Summary Report and Recommendations
- Comprehensive Review of USMLE
- www.usmle.org

6 Guiding Principles:

...#2 Secondary Uses. Other uses of examination results may be recognized, provided they do not compromise the primary purpose

Secondary Uses:

- “positive value of having multiple, nationally standardized assessments to help in the identification of at-risk students, in the early remediation of deficiencies,
- in the evaluation and improvement of curricula and
- in postgraduate medical education”

More on “Secondary Users”

- It is not clear that any accepted recommendations for changes to USMLE will result in challenges to meeting these needs, but a proactive program of monitoring and meeting these needs is in the best interest of medical education and, ultimately, patient care

CEUP Member:

- Various constituents feel strongly about scoring. The American Medical students are the strongest voice against. The ECFMG is one of the strongest voices for... as are Program Directors
- Timing is up in the air
- Will take up to 4 more years...

