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Congratulations on the launch of your medical education!

We are the presidents of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), the two organizations that work together to co-sponsor the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE) – the exam you will take during the course of your medical education and training in order to achieve your ultimate goal of obtaining a license to practice medicine in the U.S.

We know that taking the three steps of the USMLE can be a daunting part of your medical training. However, passing each step of the USMLE marks a milestone as you begin the next phase in your education. So even though you may often feel that there is an overwhelming amount you have yet to learn, you can be confident that you are exactly where you should be at the many stages along the way to becoming a competent, compassionate physician.

Taking your medical licensing exam is also something of a rite of passage. One of us (Peter) took the NBME Certifying exams (as they were known) as a student at UC San Diego's School of Medicine and as a resident at Santa Monica Hospital, and the other (Humayun) took the NBOME Parts Exam as a student at New York Institute of Technology's College of Osteopathic Medicine and as a resident at Winthrop-University Hospital (see photos from our med school graduations below!).

We want you to know that the FSMB and the NBME are already available to you with information on your pathway to licensure, resources to help you get there, and much more. Please visit our websites, [www.fsmb.org](http://www.fsmb.org) and [www.nbme.org](http://www.nbme.org), as well as [www.usmle.org](http://www.usmle.org) to see everything we have to share.

We also want to hear from you. If you have a significant question or concern about the USMLE, please let us know. You can email either one or both of us at the email addresses below, and we will respond to your query as soon as possible. We want to be sure the USMLE experience helps you achieve your ultimate goal – to meet a standard of knowledge and skill that means you are ready to care for patients safely and effectively.

Again, congratulations on this achievement. We wish you the best of luck as you embark on your medical career!

Sincerely,

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A Joint Program of the Federation of State Medical Boards of the U.S., Inc. and the National Board of Medical Examiners®



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