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Joint Statement from FSMB and NBME CEOs

Drs. Peter Katsuftrakis (CEO of the National Board of Medical Examiners) and Humayun Chaudhry (CEO of the Federation of State Medical Boards) issued the following statement about their joint commentary, "[Improving Residency Selection Requires Close Study and Understanding of Varied Stakeholders](#)," which was recently published online, ahead of print, in *Academic Medicine*.

"We were recently invited by *Academic Medicine* to submit a commentary in response to a thoughtful article entitled, "[Student Perspectives on the 'Step 1 Climate' in Preclinical Medical Education](#)." In our response, we thanked the article's authors for highlighting the concerns of medical students and shared additional context. We included viewpoints of additional stakeholders and reviewed some of the possible benefits and challenges of a change in the score reporting practices of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).

During the editing process of our manuscript, we added a statement about excessive use of Netflix and Instagram which was unfair and inappropriate. As leaders of the USMLE, we believe that students, medical educators, and the public deserve our respect. Our statement was inconsistent with that belief, and we are deeply sorry.

Our organizations value a work-life balance for physicians and medical students and have supported several initiatives to lessen physician (and medical student) stress and burnout.

The NBME and FSMB, alongside the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), held several discussions in 2018 about USMLE scoring. We will continue those conversations in 2019 with stakeholders - including state medical boards, residency program directors, medical students, residents, and medical educators – as options are considered.

Our poor choice of words detracted from the intentions of our article and misrepresented the confidence and respect we have always had for America's future physicians. We sincerely apologize and look forward to working with *Academic Medicine* to correct our mistake."

Sincerely,

Humayun Chaudhry, DO, MACP

Peter Katsuftrakis, MD, MBA

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