

## **DEVELOPING HIGH-QUALITY SINGLE-BEST-ANSWER QUESTIONS USING PATIENT VIGNETTES TO ASSESS APPLICATION OF BASIC SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE**

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Aims of the Workshop: Writing good tests is challenging. Multiple-choice questions (MCQs) often contain technical flaws providing advantages to “test-wise” examinees, and they sometimes focus on content that is unimportant from clinical and life-long learning perspectives. Reflecting world-wide shifts toward integrative curricula, this workshop focuses on writing basic science questions that assess application of knowledge in clinical situations, rather than recall of isolated basic science facts. Participants will learn to:

- Recognize, correct and avoid commonly occurring technical flaws in phrasing
- Write/rewrite single-best-answer questions (SBAs) testing application of basic science knowledge in clinical situations
- Participate effectively in group review of test questions

Format: The workshop will use an interactive format covering the following topics:

1. Pretest assessing “test-wiseness”
2. Importance of designing assessments to reinforce basic science learning goals
3. Avoiding technical flaws commonly occurring in test questions
4. Writing SBAs using patient vignettes to test application of knowledge
5. Revision of “factoid” questions (provided by workshop faculty) in small groups
6. Full-group review of questions rewritten by small groups
7. Organizing question writing and review activities to improve test quality
8. General question-and-answer session

Each participant will receive a free copy of Case and Swanson’s Constructing Written Test Questions for the Basic and Clinical Sciences published by the National Board of Medical Examiners (also available in English and Spanish as a PDF download from <http://www.nbme.org/publications/item-writing-manual.html>).

Presenters: Kathy Holtzman and Dave Swanson from the NBME will facilitate the workshop. Both have extensive experience working with medical school faculty and postgraduate organizations to develop high-quality test material.