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L. Thompson Bowles, MD, PhD, Appointed President

The National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) has announced the appointment of L. Thompson Bowles, MD, PhD, as its new president. The appointment, effective July 1, 1992, was made by the NBME Executive Board at its February meeting. Dr. Bowles will succeed the Board's current president, Robert L. Volle, PhD, who is retiring in July.

In making the announcement, Edward J. Stemmler, MD, chairman of the National Board, stated: "Dr. Bowles has demonstrated his commitment to the NBME and its goals in his past decade of involvement in the affairs of the National Board. His vision, broad intellect, incisiveness, and equanimity under pressure were the hallmarks of his leadership as chairman of the Board over the past four years. The Board will experience a very smooth transition in leadership with Dr. Volle's retirement in July 1992."

Dr. Bowles' appointment follows an extensive nationwide search and the recommendation made by a Presidential Search Committee chaired by David S. Citron, MD, former director of medical education, Charlotte Memorial Hospital and Medical Center. "The NBME is very fortunate to have Dr. Bowles as its next president," stated Dr. Citron. "His experience with a large medical center, together with his background as a practicing physician and former chairman of a medical licensing body, are ideally suited to this period in the history of the Board. With the implementation of the

United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) as a joint program with The Federation of State Medical Boards, the NBME is entering a new era for which Dr. Bowles is uniquely qualified."

Dr. Bowles received his bachelor's degree, with election to Phi Beta Kappa, from Duke University; he received his medical degree, with election to Alpha Omega Alpha, from Duke University School of Medicine. He pursued his residency in general surgery and thoracic surgery at Bellevue Medical Center at New York University and at Triboro

Hospital, Jamaica, New York, respectively. While pursuing his postgraduate training, he received a master's degree in surgery and a doctor of philosophy degree in higher education from New York University. Dr. Bowles is certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery.

Dr. Bowles subsequently held academic appointments at New York University, Baylor Medical School, and Cornell University Medical College. He served in a staff position with the Association of American Medical Colleges from 1970 to 1973 as director,

Division of Curriculum and Instruction. Joining the faculty at George Washington University Medical Center in 1970, he rose through the academic ranks to serve as dean for academic affairs, and to his current positions of vice president for medical affairs and executive dean, Bloedorn professor of administrative medicine, and professor of surgery.



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Dr. Bowles has had a long association with the National Board of Medical Examiners since his election as a member-at-large on the National Board in 1982. He subsequently served a two-year term as an elected member of the Executive Board and was elected chairman in 1986. He has served on multiple committees and task forces, including chairmanship of the Committee on the Use of NBME Examinations by Medical Schools in 1982.

Dr. Volle commented: "I can think of no one more eminently qualified than Tom Bowles to assume the leadership of this organization. He has had a distinguished record of service with the National Board. His keen insight into the critical issues facing the organization assures that the transition in leadership will sustain the necessary momentum to achieve the Board's goals for the future."

Dr. Bowles has served in key leadership roles with the Association of American Medical Colleges, including chairman of the Council of Deans and member of the AAMC Executive Council. He has also held leadership positions with the American

College of Surgeons and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons. He was elected chairman of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine. Dr. Bowles served as president of the District of Columbia's Commission on Licensure to Practice the Healing Arts and on several committees of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He has served as chairman of the Editorial Board of *Academic Medicine*. He is widely published in the fields of surgery and medical education and is a sought-after speaker at medical schools and professional associations.

In an interview with Dr. Bowles about his appointment, he stated: "I am enormously excited about assuming the presidency of the National Board. I look forward to working with the Board and its committees, its excellent staff, and the other organizations and agencies with which the Board relates."

Dr. Bowles and his wife, Judy, who have three grown daughters, currently reside in Washington, DC.

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