This report compares the performance of examinees from U.S. and Canadian Medical Schools taking Step 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) for the first time with the analogous group from your medical school. The combined performance of first-time examinees taking the examination in the 2000-2001 academic year is shown above. The performance of first-time examinees who failed Step 2 in the 2000-2001 academic year but repeated the examination later in the year is also summarized above. Scores for your medical school are not reported in the lower section of the table if fewer than five first-time examinees met the criteria for the associated administration(s).

The approach to use for interpretation of subscores depends upon the question of interest. To compare performance in a single physician task or discipline across time, the columns labeled Mean and (SD) to the left of the vertical rule should be used. These mean scores have been statistically equated to place them on the same scale over time. These numbers should not, however, be used to compare performance across tasks or disciplines. The task and discipline score scales were initially defined in 1991 to have a mean of 200 and an SD of 20. Shifts in performance across tasks and disciplines have occurred in the interim. Entries in the Difference column were calculated by subtracting the mean for examinees from U.S. & Canadian medical schools from the mean for examinees from your medical school. The Difference column should be used to compare performance across tasks and disciplines; alternatively, the enclosed graph may be used. Please note that this graph is only provided if at least 20 first-time examinees from your school took Step 2 in 2000-2001.

Step 2 test items are deliberately designed to be integrative: many items contribute to the calculation of scores in more than one discipline. Consequently, caution should be used in attributing mean differences in student performance to individual clerkships at your school.