



Training in Policy Studies Fellowship Program

Website: <https://osteopathic.org/residents/tips-program/>

The AOA's Training in Policy Studies (TIPS) Fellowship Program is training the next generation of leaders in health policy. This program will provide residents with an understanding of current health policy issues and help them build skills necessary to tackle complex public health challenges through policy. Issues addressed in the program include effectively communicating policy proposals, payment model reform, building the future health care workforce, and policy approaches to addressing public health issues.

The program will seek to develop the following skills:

- Policy analysis: Fellows will enhance their analytical skills by reviewing policy proposals and evaluating their impact, as well as through developing their own proposals.
- Data translation: Fellows will hone their ability to translate research and data into usable information for policy makers.
- Writing for policy change: Fellows will develop a policy paper during the fellowship to adapt and apply their writing abilities to the public policy environment.
- Leadership and communication: Fellows will gain a greater understanding of how to be an effective spokesperson for their patients and for the profession. Fellows will also have the opportunity to engage with professionals in the health policy field.

Meeting Participation:

Fellows will participate in a total of seven learning sessions, including a final presentation. Of these sessions, three will be in-person, and four will be held digitally. The program will start in October 2022 and conclude at the 2023 OMED. Final presentations will be presented at the OMED meeting. TIPS Fellows must participate in at least 6 of the meetings to receive a certificate at the end of the program.

Engagement:

Reading and projects outside of class sessions help support Fellows' learning and facilitate thoughtful discussion and policy analysis during meetings. We recognize the time constraints that residents face, and have worked to design assignments to be accomplished in the time allotted without overburdening residents. Assignments will include:

- Readings for each discussion session will be assigned 1 to 2 weeks before the meeting.
- 1 policy brief (1 page)
 - Fellows will draft a policy brief based on a subject of their choosing, which will serve as a building block for starting the final research paper
- 1 final paper (3-4 pages)
 - The final paper will evaluate a unique public health or health policy issue and propose policy changes that can be implemented to address the issue. The paper will be research-based and will help Fellows enhance their translation and analytical skills. Fellows will have two "tracks" to choose from for this final product: to develop a public policy white paper or a literature review that Fellows can submit to the JOM for review and potential publication.

Agenda:¹

Meeting Dates	Subject(s)	Description and Assigned Reading Due Dates
<p>In-Person Meeting: Oct 27-30, 2023</p>	<p>Program Overview</p> <p>Part 1: Introduction to the TIPS Program</p> <p>Part 2: Introduction to the Policy Analysis</p>	<p>AOA leadership will welcome the new cohort of Fellows and lead a discussion on the importance of physician involvement in policymaking.</p> <p>Guest Speakers: Barbara Ross-Lee, DO, FACOFP, AOF President-elect</p> <p>We will discuss the objectives of the TIPS program, work that the Fellows will engage in, and approaches to writing a literature review. The writing workshop will help prepare Fellows to complete their final paper.</p> <p>Discussion will provide fellows with a brief insight into the policy making process and how to approach policy analysis. Discussion will address evaluating policy from different stakeholder perspectives and considering unintended consequences.</p>
<p>Digital Meeting: Feb 6, 2023</p>	<p>Adapting to an Evolving Congressional Landscape: Advocating to Advance Physician Payment Reform</p>	<p>Guest Speaker: Jennifer Young, Partner, Tarplin, Downes, & Young</p> <p>Discussion will provide insight into the current congressional landscape, priorities for the current congress, and how advocates should adapt to an evolving policy environment. The need for adaptation will be demonstrated through the need for advocates to align messaging with shifting priorities in a changing political landscape, with federal budget concerns as a case study.</p>
<p>Digital Meeting: Monday, May 8, 2023</p>	<p>Part 1: Primer: The Regulatory Process</p> <p>Part 2: Regulatory: Case Study</p>	<p>Part 1: The first portion of this meeting will describe the rulemaking process and its importance in implementing laws.</p> <p>Part 2: The cohort will evaluate a recent/ongoing regulatory effort to implement legislation passed by Congress. Potential topics for discussion based on ongoing efforts include health IT and digital health technology regulation, and efforts to support use of emerging technologies.</p>

¹ Topics subject to change based on current events and evolving policy landscape.

Policy Brief Due Friday, June 2, 2023		
<p>In-Person Meeting: June 14-15, 2023 Washington, DC</p>	<p>Part 1: Current Legislative Issues and Stakeholder Mapping</p> <p>Part 2: Perspectives from the Hill</p> <p>Part 3: Writing Workshop</p>	<p>Part 1: The first portion of this meeting will focus on current legislative issues impacting physicians and patients, including current drug pricing reform efforts. Following discussion of the policy issue, the cohort will engage in a stakeholder mapping exercise to evaluate what stakeholders will be impacted by various policy changes, and what their perspective may be.</p> <p>Part 2: This segment will build off of the May meetings legislative issues discussion and provide fellows an opportunity to engage with legislative staff for members of Congress on issues important to the osteopathic profession.</p> <p>Part 3: This segment will focus on how to develop a policy white paper that can be used in advocacy. The discussion will provide guidance on drafting and address paper structure, tone, supporting literature, and other considerations for fellows as they develop their final white papers.</p>
White Paper Draft Due Friday, August 4, 2023		
<p>Digital Meeting: Thursday, Aug. 17, 2023</p>	<p>Part 1: Overview on State Legislative Issues and Policy Making</p> <p>Part 2: Grassroots engagement in the U.S. political system, and how its impact</p>	<p>Part 1: Discussion will provide a panorama on issues affecting the osteopathic profession and patients at the state level. Issues include telemedicine, liability issues, and scope of practice.</p> <p>Guest Speakers:</p> <p>Raine Richards, Vice President for State Government and International Affairs, AOA</p> <p>Bre Schmidt, Associate Director, State Government Affairs, AOA</p> <p>Part 2: Discussion will focus on the role of grassroots/advocacy in the policymaking process and the impact of stakeholders in shaping policy.</p> <p>Guest Speakers:</p> <p>Sean Neal, Vice President, Advocacy and Political Affairs,</p>

		<p>AOA</p> <p>Chris Hughes, Director, OPAC and Grassroots, AOA</p>
<p>September 2023</p>	<p>Part 1: Current Issues in Payment Policy</p>	<p>With the comment period for the CY2024 Medicare physician fee schedule concluding in September, the group will discuss recent issues in Medicare payment. Discussion will first address changes proposed in the fee schedule, and then delve into considerations for broader payment reform.</p>
<p>Final Papers and Presentation Due Friday, September 22, 2023</p>		
<p>OMED Meeting: October 6-8, 2023</p>	<p>Proposal Presentations and Program Conclusion</p>	<p>Fellows will present their policy proposals and leadership from AOA and AOF will conclude the program with the fellows.</p>