

## **ADVOCATES FOR THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION 2019 Midyear Report to AOA BOT**

As President, my theme this year is “Advocacy Always,” to highlight the importance of advocating for the Osteopathic Profession through each step of this journey, as well as continuing to grow and change our organization while remaining tied to our rich history.

As with past years, we continue this year to build upon the history and foundation of our group, while adapting to the everchanging landscape of a national organization and continuing the forward motion and progress we have made.

Already this year we have strengthened our relationship with the AOF as we partner on the Donna Jones Moritsugu Award, which recognizes the partners of graduating osteopathic medical students who have been supportive and involved with their student’s career during medical school. We are so grateful to have a more involved role in this award and are looking forward to our growing partnership on other important initiatives with the AOF.

Another highlight of the Advocates is our involvement with the AOA Physician Wellness Taskforce. President Elect, Angela Kalcec, Past President, Wendy McDonald, and Director, Jamie Hentges have played an important role in many taskforce initiatives and continue to make the Advocates proud with various presentations and behind the scenes contributions. The Physician Wellness Taskforce has provided us an opportunity to continue and grow one of our oldest initiatives: The Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program. The Yellow Ribbon Program has been around since 1994, and we have had involvement for over 15 years. This year we plan to send one of our board members to Colorado to be trained as a Yellow Ribbon Program trainer. In 2016 we had the founders of the Yellow Ribbon, Dale and Dar Emme present at our annual business meeting. We have also started selling yellow brooches at our membership table and donate \$5 from each sale to raise awareness for this important program. We have distributed cards at our membership tables and have begun distributing cards to our affiliate organizations and COMs if they are interested.

As an organization, we are working to talk to as many affiliates as we can. We have visits scheduled in Florida, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Texas, as well as being present at the AOA House of Delegates and LEAD conferences. It is inspiring to see what our state osteopathic organizations are passionate about and with the visits we are able to see how the national advocates can help each state. An important way we can aide our affiliate organizations is through our Special Projects fund. Groups can apply to receive money for various service projects that promote the osteopathic profession, and our osteopathic families.

The AAOA continues to invest time and energy into the development of our SAA (Student Advocate Associations) and IRAA (Intern Resident Advocate Association) groups across the country. Starting last year, and continuing this year, we have had a greater presence on social media, sending out surveys and holding google chats so that we can connect with the groups throughout the year, not just once at our SAA/IRAA event during OMED. We have received positive feedback about these remote meetings, and we are able to address common struggles such as medical marriage, finances, and raising kids through med-school/residency. It is

important to realize that we are not alone during this difficult time, and other people have been there and can offer support and encouragement or advice. Our SAA/IRAA committee this year has begun a push to identify the resident groups that we have been missing for a while. We have a couple of strong and active IRRA groups, but we are working to find the disconnect between SAA members and when they join a state organization.

Our SAA/IRAA event continues to be well attended during OMED and would not be possible without the support of the AACOF. In Baltimore you can once again look forward to this phenomenal event, in addition to our other annual events. These include a family fun activity to which spouses/children of OMED attendees are invited to attend. We will also be hosting our annual Still Fit for Life Fun Run, and we are honored to have Dr. Craig Magnatta as our Honorary Chair. The run this year will be along the Inner Harbor and promises to be one of the more scenic runs we've had.

At our last annual business meeting in October, our organization showed its willingness to grow and progress by passing a bylaw change which would allow members to register and attend our meeting remotely utilizing the Zoom platform and online voting and credentialing. We continue to work hard to transform the AAOA into a more effective and relevant organization. We also continue the practice of board development, and I am proud to have the most unique board makeup in many years. Our board this year is comprised of many young board members, several student and resident spouses, and for the first time ever two members that are not spouses but are family members and friends and colleagues of Osteopathic Physicians. I think this speaks volumes to the commitment and passion our board has for the AAOA, and for Osteopathic Advocacy in general, and it will be very exciting to watch this board grow and develop further.

The AAOA has continued to grow and evolve over the past several years, while remaining grounded in our roots, and continuing our basic mission: supporting and promoting the Osteopathic Profession and creating a strong, close network of people who are passionate, like us, about osteopathic advocacy and advancement. We thank the AOA for the continued partnership and opportunities to collaborate, and look forward to further collaboration in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Stremers  
President, 2018-2019  
Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association



**AAOE  
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**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS  
FEBRUARY 2019 REPORT TO THE AOA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE), comprised of osteopathic physicians serving on state osteopathic and composite medical licensing boards, is the unified authority in matters affecting osteopathic medical licensure and discipline. Strategically, the AAOE serves as the voice of osteopathic medicine within the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and collaborates to understand and respond to state regulatory and licensing issues that impact osteopathic medicine.

We currently have representation on 48 regulatory boards of the possible 50 states (only DC, Louisiana and Massachusetts lack osteopathic representation). The AAOE meets three times a year, at the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) Leadership, Education, Advocacy and Development (LEAD) Conference in January, at the Annual Meeting of the FSMB in April and at the AOA's House of Delegates in July.

Keeping DOs on State Boards Up to Date on Important Health Policy Trends

The AAOE held a summit meeting during the LEAD Conference in Lake Las Vegas, NV. During the meeting, Dr. Mayo presented an update on the growth and changing demographics of the osteopathic medical workforce, and initiatives that the AOA is undertaking to respond to the future needs of DOs and advance the profession.

Dr. Gimpel, Dr. O'Shea and Sandra Waters presented a National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) update, including the recently published and pending articles and the rollout of a new COMLEX Level-3 2-day exam blueprint in September 2018. A similar blueprint for Levels 1 and 2 will be rolled out this year. The AMA passed a resolution recognizing equality between COMLEX and USMLE in November, and a resolution has been introduced to encourage COMLEX and USMLE to explore transitioning from standard numerical scoring to pass/fail.

Josh Prober updated the group about the AOA's work to oppose trademark filings and misleading advertising practices by "Osteopathic Manual Practitioners," a group that is unaccredited in the US and was first brought to our attention last summer.

Dr. Chaudhry informed the group about the FSMB's "Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Health Care: the Role of Medical Boards" symposium which was held in November. The symposium was conceived to educate attendees on new developments and future concerns regarding AI, including its increased use in a "physician assistant" capacity to help evaluate patients for possible diagnoses and treatment options. At some point, medical boards may need to consider regulating AI and including it in the definition of "practicing medicine," and grapple with questions regarding malpractice and liability for errors caused by the use of AI in health care decisionmaking.

The FSMB Ethics Committee is examining how students and physicians use social media, and the Work Group on Sexual Boundary Violations (Teresa Hubka, DO is a member) may be extended in order to properly consider and develop recommendations on this complicated topic.

The AAOE also heard from AOA staff regarding relevant 2019 legislation, including new scope of practice expansion attempts such as independent practice (“Optimal Team Practice”) for physician assistants, licensure for new types of health care providers (i.e. “Graduate Physicians”), and legislative changes related to insurance (i.e. balance billing, network adequacy, state health care exchange stabilization and Medicaid expansion and demonstration waivers). During the roundtable discussion portion, physicians from three licensing boards shared issues and concerns.

The AAOE continues to work with the AOA to promote the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Compact). As a reminder, the AAOE and AOA worked together to ensure adequate osteopathic representation on the Compact Commission. The Commission was created in 2015; 24 states have signed on to join the Compact and legislation is currently pending in six states.

#### Participating in Federation of State Medical Boards Activities

AAOE Fellows continue to be active participants in FSMB leadership and committees, providing valuable insight from the osteopathic profession.

##### FSMB Leadership

Scott A. Steingard, DO (Arizona) serves as the Chair elect and Anna Z. Hayden, DO (Florida) serves on the Board of Directors.

##### FSMB Committees

Joseph R. Willett, DO (Minnesota) serves on the Audit Committee; Wayne J. Reynolds, DO (Virginia) and J. Michael Wieting (Tennessee) serve on the Editorial Committee; Jone Geimer-Flanders, DO (Hawaii) serves on the Education Committee; Joy M. Neyhart, DO (Alaska) serves on the Ethics and Professionalism Committee.

##### FSMB Workgroups

Michelle R. Mendez, DO (Florida) serves on the Workgroup on Board Education, Service and Training; Jerry R. Balentine, DO (New York), Ronald R. Burns, DO (AOA), Anna Z. Hayden, DO (Florida), Timothy J. Kowalski, DO (AACOM) and Lynn G. Mark, DO (New York) serve on the Workgroup on Education about Medical Regulation; Katherine L. Fisher, DO (Oregon) and Teresa A. Hubka, DO (AOA) serve on the Workgroup on Sexual Boundary Violations.

#### Maintaining a Strong Relationship with the Osteopathic Medical Profession

In September 2018, I represented the AAOE at the Osteopathic International Alliance meeting in Dubai, and AAOE Immediate Past President Anna Z. Hayden, DO represented the organization at the biannual International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) conference in October, which was also held in Dubai.

I also plan to represent the AAOE at the 2019 IAMRA Symposium on Continued Competency, which will take place in Chicago in September 2019.

In addition to being represented on the Board of the NBOME, the AAOE participates in the annual Liaison Committee Meeting, where representatives from different groups meet to discuss clinical skills assessments products for osteopathic medical students and physicians.

AAOE Fellows contribute to the mission of the AOA by serving on selected committees: Jone Geimer-Flanders, DO, was recently appointed to fill the remainder of James Griffin, DO's term as the AAOE representative on the Bureau of State Government Affairs (BSGA); and I currently serve as President of AAOE, and as the AAOE representative on the Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine (BIOM).

The AAOE website, [www.aoe-net.org](http://www.aoe-net.org), contains relevant, timely information for members and the public and is updated regularly through support from the AOA.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara E. Walker, DO  
President, AAOE

**Report to the American Osteopathic Association Board of Trustees  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
February 26, 2019**

**Board of Deans Update**

The 2019-2020 AACOM Board of Deans Executive Committee members are listed below.

- **Chair:** Lori A. Kemper, DO
- **Vice Chair:** Margaret Wilson, DO
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** William Craver, DO
- **Immediate Past Chair:** Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO
- **Assembly of Presidents Representative to the Executive Committee:** Angela L. Walker Franklin, PhD
- **Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators Chair:** Lisa R. Nash, DO
- **At-Large Member:** Kayse Shrum, DO
- **At-Large Member:** Wolfgang Gilliar, DO
- **At-Large Member:** Paula Crone, DO
- **Ex-Officio Member:** Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH

**College of Osteopathic Medicine Dean Updates (*as of January 2019*)**

- **Andrea Amalfitano, DO, PhD**, Dean, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Kenneth Paul Anderson, Jr., DO, MS, CPE**, Interim Dean, Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Wolfgang G. Gilliar, DO**, Dean, Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **John W. Graneto, DO**, Founding Dean, California Health Sciences University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Rance McClain, DO**, Dean, Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Laura M. Rosch, DO, CS, MS, FACOI**, Campus Dean, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine - Joplin
- **Italo Subbarao, DO, MBA**, Dean, William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Jerry Balentine, DO**, Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine and Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs, New York Institute of Technology
- **Dana Shaffer, DO**, Dean, University of Pikeville - Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine

- **Thomas Boyle, DO**, Dean, Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

### **Other Leadership Updates (as of January 2019)**

- **Michael J. Lawler, PhD, MSW**, President, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences
- **James W. Nemitz, PhD**, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Florence Dunn**, President, California Health Sciences University

### **AACOM President and CEO to Retire**

In July, Stephen Shannon, DO, MPH, AACOM President and CEO, announced his plan to retire, effective June 30, 2019. Board of Deans Chair Lori Kemper, DO, appointed a search committee chaired by Thomas Cavalieri, DO, Immediate-Past Chair of the Board of Deans, to work with an external search firm to find Dr. Shannon’s replacement. Other members of the search committee include Margaret Wilson, DO; Lisa Nash, DO; Robyn Phillips-Madson, DO; and Clint Adams, DO.

## **AACOM Membership Growth**

With the addition of a new college and three new teaching sites, AACOM membership grew to 35 member colleges at 55 locations in 32 states since AACOM’s last report to the Board of Trustees.

### **New College Joins AACOM Membership**

After meeting accreditation and other membership standards, AACOM welcomed the California Health Sciences University College of Osteopathic Medicine (CHSU-COM) in Clovis, CA by vote of the AACOM Executive Committee as a new member on January 8, 2019.

### **New Additional Teaching Locations Are Established**

For the Lincoln Memorial University—DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (LMU-DCOM), COCA granted the request to establish an additional location campus in Knoxville, TN.

For the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM), COCA granted a substantive change request to establish an additional location in Elmira, NY.

For the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (OSU-COM), COCA granted a substantive change request to establish an additional location in Tahlequah, OK. This will be the first tribally-affiliated college of medicine in the United States, established through a partnership between the Cherokee Nation and Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences.

### **College Welcomes Inaugural Class:**

Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine (ICOM) in Meridian, ID welcomed its first class of students this past fall after becoming an AACOM member college in December 2017.

## **Government Relations Update**

### **AACOM Releases its Public Policy Agenda for the 116th Congress**

AACOM has released its [Public Policy Agenda for the 116th Congress](#), which reflects the federal advocacy priorities on behalf of the osteopathic medical education (OME) community. These priorities include investing in graduate medical education (GME), supporting the physician workforce, addressing medical student debt, integrating osteopathic medicine into the nation's federal research infrastructure, and advocating for osteopathic representation on federal committees and advisory boards.

### **AACOM Endorses THCGME Bill**

On January 31, U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Jon Tester (D-MT), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Doug Jones (D-AL), John Boozman (R-AR), Joe Manchin (D-WV), and Kamala Harris (D-CA) introduced the *Training the Next Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act of 2019* (S. 304), a bipartisan bill aiming to increase the primary care physician workforce in medically underserved areas by reauthorizing the Teaching Health Center GME (THCGME) Program for five years and providing enhanced funding and a pathway for growth in the number of residents trained. The program is set to expire on September 30, 2019. AACOM has [strongly endorsed](#) this legislation and [joined](#) with six organizations as part of the Teaching Health Center coalition in support of the bill.

In addition, AACOM has supported the *Community and Public Health Programs Extension Act* (S. 192) introduced by Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA). The bill would extend five years of federal funding for the THCGME Program, community health centers, the National Health Service Corps, and two other federal health programs.

### **2018 COM Day and Virtual Hill Day**

AACOM held its 2018 COM Day on Capitol Hill and Virtual Hill Day on September 27. Osteopathic medical school deans, educators, and students came from all over the country to Washington, DC to participate in COM Day 2018. This year, 27 colleges of osteopathic medicine participated, visiting more than 100 congressional offices. Issues raised included support for the invest in both Medicare GME funding and THCGME reauthorization as well as support for the reauthorization of the *Higher Education Act* and other key educational priorities.

Advocates also raised their voices in meetings and online, along with ED to MED's [national partners](#), during our Virtual Hill Day to let lawmakers know why protecting federal programs such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness, Grad PLUS, and THCGME provides critical support for the future physician workforce and the health of our nation's patients.

To learn more about AACOM's ED to MED campaign, please visit <https://edtomed.com/>. Visit the ED to MED blog web page at <https://edtomed.com/blog/>.



### **AACOM Nominee Appointed to USDE Negotiated Rulemaking Subcommittee**

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE)'s Accreditation and Innovation Committee held its first Negotiated Rulemaking session January 14-18, 2019. AACOM [nominee](#) Sue Huppert, Des Moines University Chief of External and Government Affairs, served as a negotiator on the Subcommittee on Distance Learning and Educational Innovation. The Subcommittee is one of three that will make recommendations to the full Committee. This Committee, as well as the Subcommittees for Distance Learning and Educational Innovation, TEACH Grants, and Faith-Based Entities, met to discuss proposed revisions to the regulations governing the accreditation landscape. While little consensus was reached during this first session, the USDE and its committees will meet again on February 12 for its second session in the rulemaking process.

### **AACOM Efforts on Combating the Opioid Epidemic**

In October, the House and the Senate passed H.R. 6, the *Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act*. This comprehensive legislation includes Medicaid, Medicare, and public health reforms to combat the opioid crisis through recovery initiatives, research grants for pain management, and prevention improvement. Included in the bill is language similar to AACOM-endorsed legislation, H.R. 5102, the *Substance Use Disorder Workforce Loan Repayment Act of 2018*, which will create loan forgiveness opportunities for health care professionals who work in substance use disorder roles in communities with the highest number of opioid deaths.

In addition, H.R. 6 allows for NHSC professionals who work in substance use disorder roles in communities to provide mental and behavioral health services at schools and community centers. It also establishes a grant program for medical schools and teaching hospitals to support the development of curricula that will help health care practitioners obtain a waiver to prescribe medically assisted treatment. AACOM strongly supported the inclusion of these provisions.

### **AACOM Efforts with Department of Veterans Affairs**

Last summer, Jane Carreiro, DO, Vice President of Health Affairs and Dean, University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, participated in a private invitation-only roundtable hosted by the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs to discuss GME training experiences at the VA, the collaboration between the VA and external partners, increasing health care access in rural and underserved areas, and the 1,500 GME slots authorized by the *Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014*.

In addition, AACOM supported the passage of the *VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act* (P.L. 115-182), which aims to help recruit and retain health care professionals at the VA. Specifically, this legislation designates scholarships for physicians who commit to employment at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Further, this legislation will create a new education loan repayment program, which will create a new incentive program for those physicians who are employed in the VHA for physicians in medical specialties for which the recruitment or retention of qualified professionals is difficult.

[Learn more](#) about AACOM's efforts with the VA and its OME and VA Academic Affiliations Task Force.

### **AACOM Launches 2019 Financial Aid Debt Management Modules**

Effectively advocating for your financial future requires financial literacy. AACOM's [2019 Financial](#)

[Aid Debt Management Modules](#) contain information and resources to help osteopathic medical students borrow strategically and ensure they are prepared to responsibly repay their loans after they graduate and enter residency training. AACOM offers these modules as part of a continuing commitment to help provide osteopathic medical students, graduates, and financial aid professionals at the nation's osteopathic medical schools with the best educational debt management tools possible. [View](#) the modules online and [download and share](#) AACOM's 2019 Financial Aid Debt Management Modules flyer.

## **Osteopathic Medical School Applications Update**

### **Application Services 2018-2019 AACOMAS Cycle**

The 2018-2019 AACOMAS application cycle launched on May 3, 2018, and colleges began receiving application data on June 15, 2018. As of February 11, 2019, there were 21,755 individual paid applicants, an increase of 474 applicants (+3.29 percent) compared to 2018. There were 194,171 submitted designations, an increase of 19,238 designations (+11.00 percent) compared to the previous year. As of February 11, there was also an average of 9.1 designations per applicant, up from 8.6 in 2018. The 2018-2019 application cycle closes April 13, 2019, although many colleges maintain submission deadlines before this date. AACOM attributes the increase in applications to several factors, including the August Medical School Virtual Fair and the implementation of individualized online marketing

### **Virtual Osteopathic Medical School Fair**

AACOM, together with participating colleges of osteopathic medicine, hosted the profession's second Virtual Osteopathic Medical School Fair on January 17. The Virtual Osteopathic Medical School Fair provided the faculty, staff, and current students at AACOM member colleges the opportunity to engage with prospective students across the country, while also providing a free online way for potential applicants to interact with different colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs), ask questions, and gain important insight into the osteopathic medical school application process and student experience. When attendees were surveyed about the fair, 53 percent of respondents self-identified as graduate students, with 37 percent self-identifying as undergraduate students, and 37 percent of all respondents had initiated at least one AACOMAS application.

## **Graduate Medical Education Update**

### **AACOM Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators**

The [Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators](#) (AOGME), launched within AACOM in January 2018, continues to proceed to work on behalf of the osteopathic graduate medical education community and its members. In July, the AOGME Board met during the AOA House of Delegates week and outlined new strategic goals and initiatives that align with AACOM's strategic plan. As part of AACOM, the revised mission of AOGME is to improve the health of the public and enhance the training of medical residents by advancing excellence in the osteopathic learning environment and increasing the number of graduate medical education programs obtaining Osteopathic Recognition. AOGME's strategic goals for 2018-2019:

1. Provide resources to assist graduate medical education programs in successfully achieving and maintaining continued accreditation.

2. Provide leadership and professional development opportunities that contribute to the success of AOGME members and their programs, and support members in adapting to their changing roles and responsibilities.
3. Promote the value of the osteopathic learning environment to residency training and patient care and provide support to programs in obtaining Osteopathic Recognition.
4. Create a learning community of osteopathic medical educators to advance excellence and innovation throughout the osteopathic learning environment.

- **Webinars**

Since the beginning of 2018, the AOGME has planned 20 webinars, all offered free of charge to all AOGME and AACOM members and the broader medical education community. So far in 2019, the AOGME has hosted two webinars, “AACOM’s Office of Government Relations and the Public Policy Agenda for the 116th Congress” and “A Distinctive Osteopathic Pediatric Residency Curriculum.” On February 22, Paul Johnson, MFA, Executive Director of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Institutional Review Committee will discuss preparing for the ACGME institutional site visit.

The AOGME webinar series in 2018 focused on peer-to-peer advice for the ACGME continued accreditation process, a Scholarship and Research series, a series focused on Physician and Learner Wellness, and Osteopathic Recognition. [Learn more and access the AOGME webinar series.](#) The 2018 webinar series included:

- *The Physician Job Search: How to Get Started*, Susan Sanford, JD, BA
- *Peer-to-Peer Advice: Moving from Initial to Continued Accreditation for Internal Medicine*, Mo Som, DO, MS
- *Peer-to-Peer Advice: Attaining Continued Accreditation in Family Medicine*, Saroj Misra, DO, FACOFP
- *Navigating the Accreditation Forest: On the CLER Path*, Nicole Qualls, JD, MPH
- *Transitioning Your Traditional Rotating Internship (TRI) to Transitional Year*, Cheryl Gross, MA, CAE
- *Osteopathic Recognition: Application & ADS Updates*, Tiffany Moss, MBA
- *OPP Integration Within the Single Accreditation System*, Russell Maier, MD, FAAFP
- *Preventing Suicide in Healthcare Setting*, Bettina Bernstein, DO
- *Musculoskeletal Health Disparities: Breaking the Vicious Cycle*, Tamara Huff, MD
- *Narrative Competence and Empathy in Patient Care*, Daniel J. Waters, DO, FACOS
- *Researching and Writing an Effective Background Section of Research Paper*, Lori Fitterling, M.L.S.
- *Ask a Biostatistician: Developing Your Data Analysis*, Mark R. Speicher, PhD, MHA & Suporn Sukpraput-Braaten, MSc, MA, PhD
- *Conference Abstract Writing: Tips & Tricks*, Mark R. Speicher, PhD, MHA
- *Integrating Research into Osteopathic Clinical Practice*, Kimberly Wolf, DO, FACOP, FAAP
- *Ask a Biostatistician: Developing Your Research Question and Conducting a Literature Search*, Mark R. Speicher, PhD
- *Quality Improvement: Why and How in GME*, Daniel Lombardi, DO, FACOEP
- *Developing a Wellness Curriculum*, Margaret M. Wilkins, DO, FACOFP

- *Recognizing Warning Signs of Burnout and Depression in Learners*, Margaret M. Wilkins, DO, FACOFP

- **Leadership**

The AOGME will operate under a transition board until April 2019 when the new board structure for AOGME will be in place. The current AOGME Chair is Lisa R. Nash, DO, MS-HPed, FAAFP. [View the current AOGME Board Leadership.](#)

- **Advance OGME**

The AOGME launched an online listserv or community in August 2018 to advance discussions related to Osteopathic Recognition and osteopathic training in graduate medical education (GME). With a growing number of listserv participants (nearly 70), the community hopes to introduce potential colleagues to one another, expand collective knowledge and resources on the osteopathic clinical learning environment, and showcase ongoing activity to promote and support osteopathic training and Osteopathic Recognition. [Learn more](#) and sign up to the listserv by emailing [aogme@aacom.org](mailto:aogme@aacom.org).

- **Residents and Fellows Council**

In September 2018, the AOGME Residents and Fellows Council (RFC) opened membership for the inaugural year 2018-19. The RFC is a unique membership opportunity specifically for residents and fellows and serves as a platform for trainees to exchange ideas, network, influence national efforts in osteopathic medical education and access professional development opportunities. Several activities specifically for residents and fellows are planned at the Educating Leaders 2019, the AACOM Annual Conference. [Learn more.](#)

- **Collegium of Fellows**

The AOGME Collegium of Fellows officially launched the 2019 application cycle in October. The Collegium is an assembly of leaders who have earned the award of “fellow” in recognition of their dedication and commitment to osteopathic medical education. [Learn more.](#)

- **AOGME Programming at Educating Leaders 2019**

AOGME members will access a range of activities at the upcoming conference, between April 9-13, 2019. In addition to sessions on a variety of topics spanning the undergraduate and graduate medical education continuum, AOGME members will also enjoy member-only activities. Below are the planned AOGME activities:

- 4/9/2019 AOGME Council of GME Consortia Leaders Meeting
- 4/9/2019 AOGME Board of Trustees Meeting/Dinner
- 4/10/2019 AOGME Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon
- 4/11/2019 AOGME New Member Breakfast
- 4/11/2019 AOGME Collegium of Fellows Luncheon
- 4/11/2019 AOGME Chair's Reception: Collegium of Fellows, Awards Ceremony
- 4/12/2019 AOGME Collegium of Fellows Breakfast
- 4/12/2019 AOGME Resident and Fellows Council Luncheon
- 4/13/2019 AOGME Board of Trustees Meeting
- 4/13/2019 AOGME All-day Residents and Fellows Council Leadership Track

## Single Accreditation System Update

### **AACOM UME-GME Continuum Initiative**

The [AACOM UME-GME Continuum Initiative](#) was launched in May 2017 and led by a 13-member steering committee and is now fully underway. The steering committee, chaired by John Kauffman, DO, established five working groups, engaging 51 experts, that are currently working on key priorities identified by the AACOM Board, these include:

- Supporting Residency Programs through the Single GME Accreditation Process Working Group (Chair, Richard LaBaere, DO)
- Models for Clinical Education Collaborations Working Group (Future of the OPTIs) (Chair, Thomas Boyle, DO)
- Faculty-Development for Programs with Osteopathic Recognition Working Group (Chair, Lisa Nash, DO)
- Preparing COMs, Students, Programs for the Residency Match Working Group (Chair, Karen Nichols, DO)
- Scholarship & Research Working Group (Chair, Robert Hostoffer, DO)

The Steering Committee met on October 30-31, 2018, to review the progress of the task force efforts and recommend additional issues for the task force to address. Key outcomes of the task force to date include developing an osteopathic awareness/marketing campaign, launch of a digital resource library on faculty development, publication of two working papers on the osteopathic learning environment and clinical education collaborations and several educational webinars.

### **Key Working Group Outcomes**

- **Surveys:** Conclusion of two needs assessment surveys: 1) to assess the faculty development needs for programs with Osteopathic Recognition, 2) to assess needs of organizations supporting programs through the single accreditation process to achieve continued accreditation and/or Osteopathic Recognition. Results from the faculty development survey are now being prepared for submission to the *Journal of Graduate Medical Education (JGME)*.
- **Working Papers:** The clinical education collaborations working group completed two papers written by members of the working group, and that will comprise a compendium to be published in April 2019. Individual members of the group continue to work on sections of the compendium to include faculty development, models of clinical education collaborations, GME development and costs.
  - Working Paper I, [The Value of Collaboration for the Osteopathic Medical Education Clinical Learning Environment](#) by John Kauffman, DO, Thomas Boyle, DO, Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH
  - Working Paper II, [The Osteopathic Learning Environment](#) by Robert Cain, DO
- **Residency Match Resources:** The working group on preparing for the residency match formed in March 2018. The group planned the ‘Transition to Residency’ series of sessions at the AACOM Annual conference in April 2018. In addition, the group orchestrated a webinar on August 10 on [interviewing strategies for residency](#). Five sub-groups are now working on issues related to unmatched students, resource needs on preparing for the residency match process, a group focused on student issues, residency program directors, and MSPEs and student advising.

The group developed and disseminated a survey in September, to learn more about any common patterns and characteristics of students who did not match into a residency position.

- **Digital Resource Library:** The faculty development working group developed an [online resource library](#) that organizes and displays faculty development resources for osteopathic recognition. After curating existing resources such as books, webinars, workshops, events and more, the group made the resource available broadly in January 2019.
- **Peer-to-Peer Resources:** The supporting residency programs through the single GME accreditation process working group organized the AOGME peer-to-peer webinar series on continued accreditation for family medicine and internal medicine. In addition, the group worked to connect peers within specialties within a “buddy system” to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information.
- **Osteopathic Recognition Campaign:** The working group recommended that AACOM lead efforts to raise awareness about Osteopathic Recognition among programs, institutions, residents, students and others through a comprehensive and sustained marketing campaign. AACOM hired a firm, Beekeeper Group, Inc, to assist in these efforts in October 2018. AACOM, AOA and ACGME are working collaboratively in this effort and all are committed to supporting and promoting Osteopathic Recognition.

### **Educating Leaders 2019**

Educating Leaders 2019, the AACOM Annual Conference, will be held April 10-12 in Washington, DC. The theme for this year’s event is “Big Data,” and will feature programming with the best new research and scholarly work from across the broad osteopathic medical education landscape.

Changes to this year’s conference:

- In order to provide more AACOM members with an opportunity to showcase their work, we offered two types of abstract submissions. Presenters could select to submit a Research Abstract or a Best Practices abstract. Both types of abstracts will be eligible for publication in *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* (JAOA) following the conference.
- We are now offering tracks for pre-clinical, clinical, and graduate medical education.
- We will have three separate poster competitions, one for faculty, one for residents and fellows, and one for students.
- We are encouraging our councils to offer collaborative workshops with other AACOM councils, and to limit their meeting time during Educating Leaders 2019 in order to reduce conflicts.

This year’s conference will feature the following tracks:

- Admissions/Recruiting
- Clinical
- General Interest
- GME
- Pre-Clinical

This year’s conference will feature programming under the following topics:

- Advocacy and Policy
- Data
- Development of Skills
- Health System Science
- Humanism and Professionalism
- Osteopathic Medical Education
- Teaching and Learning

## **Research Activities**

### **Project on Osteopathic Medical Education and Empathy (POMEE)**

POMEE is the first study of empathy in osteopathic medical education in the United States with a national scope. Phase I, Round 1 was a survey of incoming first year students, saw 43 campuses participate with an average response rate of 86 percent (median 92 percent). Phase I, Round 2, a survey of end-of-academic-year students in years one through four, concluded in August 2018, with 43 campuses again participating with a mean response rate of 44 percent; a median of 39 percent, and usable responses totaling 10,746. Initial results of Phase II were presented at the AOA’s 2018 OMED in October; results were provided to participants who voluntarily disclosed an email address. Students and colleges of osteopathic medicine were also provided a nationally normed table to help interpret the results, as well as suggestions for improving their empathy while in osteopathic medical school.

AACOM greatly appreciates AOA’s financial and consultative support for POMEE Phase 1, and hopes to continue this collaboration with Phase 2.

The first publication, which included a national normed table for matriculating students as well as psychometric qualities of the survey in osteopathic medical students, was published in the in late 2018. A second publication, including national normed tables for osteopathic medical students in years one through four, was submitted to the JAOA in February 2019.

Phase 2, a longitudinal study of changes in empathy over the four years of osteopathic medical school, was introduced at the 2018 OMED meeting in San Diego, and data collection will begin in summer 2019.

## **Task Force on Ethics and Professionalism**

### **Ethics and Professionalism Task Force**

After several in-person meetings held over the past year and a half, the work of the Ethics and Professionalism Task Force and its various studies will culminate in a series of extensive and detailed outputs to be posted on AACOM’s website. Currently, the Task Force is working to finalize the following outputs:

#### Policy Outputs:

- Model policy on sexual harassment, bullying, and victimization reporting and investigation
- Model chaperoning of patient’s policy

- Model policy on providing informed consent for OMM

#### Curricular Outputs:

- Model curriculum and instructional materials on identifying and responding to victimization in patients, including reporting requirements
- Model peer and faculty development programs on identifying and responding to victimization in students and residents, including reporting requirements
- Bystander training
- Model curriculum on sexual boundary issues and mandatory reporting requirements
- Model curriculum and instructional materials on teaching obtaining informed consent and informed consent for OMM
- Model list of professional behaviors: What is acceptable and unacceptable

#### Research Outputs:

- Campus climate survey
- Prevalence of sexual harassment
- Knowledge of and effectiveness of student wellness and support resources and interventions
- Communication toolkits for COMs to use with students, residents and faculty

## **Research Reports and Activities**

The research department is responsible for producing reports used by the COMs, other departments within AACOM, other health professions, and external researchers on an annual basis from three major core sources of data: AACOMAS, the Annual Survey, and the Student Surveys. In addition, several other surveys are administered throughout the year.

Recently, the research department worked to develop and implement a data lake. We are working with an outside provider to aggregate, catalog, and link all our data in a cloud-based data site that will allow AACOM and its members better access to its data for publication of reports and research; a number of interactive data visualizations will be rolled out to members as well in summer 2019.

### **Recent Reports**

The department makes such data available to the osteopathic community and the public through [aacom.org](http://aacom.org). Most recently published/updated reports include curriculum topics, enrollment, designations, medical school faculty, and revenue and expenditures.

Examples of recently-published reports include:

- [2018 AACOMAS Applicant Pool Profile Summary Report](#)
- [Preliminary Enrollment Report Fall 2018](#)
- [2017-18 Osteopathic Medical College Cost of Attendance](#)
- [2017-18 Osteopathic Medical College Curriculum Topics](#)

[Click here](#) to view all AACOM's latest reports.



## **AACOM Leadership Institute Program Updates**

Several programs in AACOM's [Leadership Institute](#) have recently closed application cycles for their upcoming program years. The Leadership Institute was created to offer faculty and leadership development opportunities to wide sections of our college of osteopathic medicine (COM) faculty, staff, and students.

### **Administrator Leadership Development Program**

The Administrator Leadership Development Program (ALDP), an AACOM Leadership Institute offering, is for osteopathic administrative leaders serving as department chairs, vice chairs, directors, heads, assistant deans, and associate deans who lead departments and programs at U.S. COMs. The program assists new and experienced administrators with similar academic and administrative responsibilities to develop and enhance critical leadership and management competencies. The Institute's objective is to ensure that fellows have a positive impact on their institutions, and that COMs have the leadership necessary to meet the challenges and identify the opportunities presented by a dynamic health care environment.

The ALDP was conceived and developed together with AACOM leadership in close consultation with the Academy for Academic Leadership (AAL). The ALDP began April 2018 and will conclude in April 2019 with the 30 participants presenting the Capstone Projects.

### **Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship**

By an action of the AACOM Board of Deans in 2016, AACOM's Leadership Institute is the new home for the Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship (OHPF), which is currently underway with 15 fellows for the 2018-2019 program cycle under the guidance of its [strategic planning committee](#). This planning committee also announced two new co-directors, Daniel Skinner, PhD, Assistant Professor of Health Policy in the Department of Social Medicine at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-HCOM) and Al Pheley, PhD, Associate Dean for Research of the proposed Minnesota College of Osteopathic Medicine. The year-long, nine-session fellowship completed a three-day session at AACOM's Government Relations offices in Washington, DC this past fall where the fellows heard from staffers at ARHQ, DOE, and other agencies. The 2019-2020 fellowship application cycle opened February 1.

### **Senior Leadership Development Program (SLDP)**

Applications are not being accepted for the Senior Leadership Development Program (SLDP). The program was designed for individuals in senior leadership positions at COMs. The program was intended to assist new and experienced deans, current, interim, or designated deans, and others identified by their schools as potential future deans to develop and enhance critical leadership and management competencies. The SLDP was conceived and developed together with AACOM leadership in close consultation with the AAL. After applications are assessed, the program will begin in April 2019.

## **Entrustable Professional Activity Development**

During the Educating Leaders 2019, the Entrustable Professional Activity (EPA) working group will provide a combined EPA poster session and workshop, to both feature and foster innovation in the

adoption of EPAs by our AACOM's member COMs. This year's focus is on reporting EPAs to residency programs, and on obstacles and best practices in implementation of EPAs at our COMs. The results of a recently-completed survey on these issues will be presented at this session. AACOM also provides the book, *Osteopathic Considerations for the Core Entrustable Professional Activities*, a living document that COMs use to develop methods for teaching and assessing the EPAs at each respective school

## **AACOM Marketing and Communications Update**

### **New Recruitment Brand Launch**

On Thursday, February 7, AACOM launched [Choose DO](#), the Association's first medical student recruitment sub-brand. This new initiative reflects AACOM's commitment to promoting osteopathic medical education as a preferred pathway for future physicians and looks to increase the number of qualified physicians available to meet U.S. health care needs. The story was featured in AACOM's [Inside OME](#) and also published on a national online news wire, Business Wire.

In early 2018, AACOM's Marketing and Communications team began developing the Choose DO brand by working with an external youth marketing agency, YMC, and surveying stakeholder audiences. Data gathered from these surveys was used to inform the development of the Choose DO brand look, voice, and strategy. The brand was soft-launched to internal audiences and select health profession advisors in fall 2018 in order to gain critical feedback necessary to finalize resources and assets such as the Choose DO website – [choosedo.org](http://choosedo.org), advisor toolkit, and more, which are now public after the formal brand launch this month.

Choose DO is designed to help serve the growing osteopathic medical education community by providing tailored resources that engage and guide students interested in becoming physicians to learn more about their options for osteopathic medical school. The brand also serves as a national platform for osteopathic medical school recruitment by providing branding, language, and resources that AACOM's member colleges can choose to use to augment their own respective recruitment efforts.

### **National Reach**

In 2018, AACOM's Marketing and Communications team drove audience reach and engagement to unprecedented heights. Through targeted promotions of Association events and initiatives, as well as ongoing education and outreach efforts in tandem with the COMs, student groups, influencers, and organizational partners, we:

- Generated more than **10 million impressions** on Facebook—a nearly 500 percent increase from 2017
- Fueled a steady increase in engagement levels on both Facebook (approximately 36,000) and Twitter (approximately 7,500)
- Continued to expand our new Instagram account, which reached more than 1.6 million accounts and surpassed 5,000 followers in January 2019

Recent Highlights:

- [Dr. Mehmet Oz retweeted](#) AACOM on Friday, February 8, to his more than 4 million followers

- AACOM continues to serve as a leading go-to resource for stories addressing trends and topics related to OME, including this [January 30, 2019 piece in \*Forbes\*](#)



“Supporting the education and professional development of osteopathic medical students through a not-for-profit commitment to administering scholarships and promoting philanthropy.”

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2018-2019 Board of Directors:

Sarah Cottrell-Cumber Director of Scholarships and Grants  
Renee Wakulski Foundation Liaison Apprentice  
Hector Zelaya Director of Financial Affairs/Foundation  
Chairperson-Elect

Angela Peper Director of Membership  
Sneha Shah Foundation Liaison  
Sara Kaskowitz Foundation Chairperson

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**Affiliate Report to the American Osteopathic Association**  
*Midyear Report, February 2019*

Thank you for offering the Student Osteopathic Medical Association Foundation an opportunity to provide an update on our recent activities.

**Donations: 2018-2019 Fiscal Year**

We have been very fortunate thus far to have the following donations for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. We look forward to utilizing these funds to continue our mission of supporting osteopathic medical students.

- 350 Donors (*all tier levels*)
- \$18,654.45 Donations

**Scholarships: 2018-2019 Fiscal Year**

Our Fall Scholarship winners were announced during the SOMA Foundation Reception on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

For more information: <http://www.somafoundation.org/scholarships.html>

- Total Scholarships distributed: 9
- Total amount disbursed: \$6500.00
- Scholarship Recipients
  - **New Member Scholarship (\$500.00 each, \$2500.00 total)**
    - Brooke Grill, OMS I, West Virginia SOM
    - James Kramer, OMS I, Pacific Northwest University Health Science COM
    - Matthew Heffelfinger, OMS I, Nova Southeastern University-KPCOM
    - Harleen Sethi, OMS I, A.T. Still University SOM Arizona
    - Elsie Ikpot, OMS I, Ohio University Heritage COM
  - **Community and Preventive Medicine Scholarship (\$1000)**
    - Brianne R. Feldpausch, OMS III, Michigan State University COM
  - **Humanism in Medicine Scholarship (\$1000)**
    - Justine Lazatin, OMS III, University of New England COM
  - **Robert S. Juhasz, DO, Innovative Leadership in Osteopathic Medicine Scholarship (\$1000)**
    - Nasir Malim, OMS IV, TouroCOM-Middletown
  - **Women in Medicine Scholarship (\$1000)**

SOMA Foundation  
142 E. Ontario St  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-202-8193

[www.SOMAFoundation.org](http://www.SOMAFoundation.org)  
Tax ID number: 36-2967404

*To celebrate the education and accomplishments of osteopathic medical students and the impact they have within the community.*



“Supporting the education and professional development of osteopathic medical students through a not-for-profit commitment to administering scholarships and promoting philanthropy.”

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Sara Kaskowitz Foundation Chairperson

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- Harleen Sethi, OMS I, A.T. Still University SOM

### Grants: 2018-2019 Fiscal Year

During the Fall semester, we distributed 2 grants, approved 2 more grants to student leaders of the following COM projects, and created 2 grants for the upcoming Spring Semester.

- Total Grants Distributed: 2
  - **TouroCOM – Harlem- PHR National Student Conference**  
Total Funding: \$1000
  - **TouroCOM- Harlem- OMM Rent-a-Bed** (*Grant submission 1 year prior*)  
Total Funding: \$500
- Total Grants Approved Waiting Distribution: 2
  - **University of the Incarnate Word SOM- ;SOMA Cenas!**  
Total Approved Funding: \$500.00/Total Funding to Date: \$151.20
  - **University of the Incarnate Word SOM- Mini DO Day**  
Total Funding Approved: \$500.00
- New Grants
  - **The SOMA Foundation Travel Grant (2 recipients)**  
Total Funding: \$500 each recipient

### Community Service

We have hosted three events since the summer of 2018 to serve local communities, volunteer organizations, and the medical community while attending National Conferences

- AOA House of Delegates 2018
  - **Words of Wisdom**  
Participating physicians wrote their advice down cards displayed for attendees at the AOA conference to provide encouragement, and guidance to students interested in the medical field
- Chicago, 2018 SOMA Summer Conference
  - **Caitlin’s Smiles Craft Kits**  
Created kit for Caitlin’s Smiles, a non-profit organization that distributes arts and crafts kits to hospitals for children with chronic or life-threatening illnesses.  
For more information about Caitlin’s Smiles visit <http://www.caitlins-smiles.org/>
- San Diego, 2018 OMED

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○ Cooking Up Courage

Former chef Andrea Weir, OMS II, the SOMA Foundation, and National SOMA’s Community Outreach Director Justine Lazatine partnered with the San Diego-based organization PATH (People Assisting The Homeless), an organization that helps people transition out of homelessness. We created nutritious and well-balanced meals for 130+ residents of the PATH home.

**Fall Reception**

We hosted our annual Fall Reception during the conference at OMED 2018 on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. We had an estimated 150 guests in attendance. During the event, we honored our Donors, Fall Scholarship winners, and the *2018 Northrup Educator of the Year*, **Dr Jonathan Lowery, PhD**, from Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine. We look forward to hosting our next reception at OMED 2019.

**ADVISORY BOARD**

Over the past years, we have organized a SOMA Foundation Advisory Board to help the Foundation receive feedback from donors and members of the osteopathic community. The Foundation would like to recognize and thank the members of the 2018-2019 Advisory Board: **Dr. Robert S. Juhasz, DO; Mr. Tal Frank; Dr. Edward G. Loniewski, DO; Dr. Lee VanderLugt, DO; Dr. Karen J. Nichols, DO; Mr. Mike Roseman** and a special thanks to **Ms. Sherri Wise, CPA** who serves in an advisory role to the SOMA Foundation Board.

On behalf of the SOMA Foundation I thank you all for your continued support and guidance as we strive to celebrate the education and accomplishments of osteopathic medical students and the impact they have within the community.

Sincerely

Hector Zelaya- *OMS IV: SOMA Foundation Chairperson-Elect & Director of Financial Affairs*

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