

**COMMISSION ON OSTEOPATHIC COLLEGE ACCREDITATION****James M. Lally, DO, MMM, Chair**

This report is for the period from June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008. During this period the AOA Commission on Osteopathic Accreditation (COCA) met three times: August 25-26, 2007; December 8-9, 2007; and April 26-27, 2008. A workshop for the representatives of colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) was conducted on January 12, 2008.

COCA meeting in August 2007

The COCA met on August 25-26, 2007 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL). An orientation session was conducted for newly appointed members. Accreditation action items for the agenda included:

- ❑ One report from a full branch campus on site evaluation was reviewed and accepted for the Georgia – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Suwanee, GA).
- ❑ Two reports for initial provisional accreditation site visits were reviewed and accepted for the Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, CO), and Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA).
- ❑ Initial provisional accreditation was granted to two COMs: Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, CO) and Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA).
- ❑ Two reports from focused site visits were reviewed and accepted: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine – Bradenton (Bradenton, FL) and West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (Lewisburg, WV)
- ❑ One request for a substantive change – class size increase was reviewed and deferred to permit receipt of additional materials for Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Glendale, AZ).
- ❑ One request for a substantive change – class size increase was reviewed and returned because the request failed to include application for substantive change – additional location: Michigan State University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (East Lansing, MI with proposed locations to be in Macomb County, MI, and Detroit, MI).
- ❑ Six progress reports were reviewed and accepted for the following COMs: Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine / A.T. Still University of the Health Sciences (Kirksville, MO); Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kansas City, MO); Michigan State University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (East Lansing, MI); Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Glendale, AZ); and Western University of Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (Pomona, CA).
- ❑ One special report was reviewed and accepted from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine (Stratford, NJ).
- ❑ Follow-up reports based upon review of the annual reports were reviewed and accepted for the following COMs: Des Moines University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, IA); Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine / A.T. Still University of Health Sciences (Kirksville, MO); Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Erie, PA); Oklahoma State University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Tulsa, OK); Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Vallejo, CA); University of New England – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Biddeford, ME), and the University of North Texas Health Science Center – Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Worth, TX).

Policy discussion items for the agenda included:

- ❑ Commentary on proposed revisions to the COM standards was reviewed. Revisions were approved to become effective on July 1, 2008. Draft revisions were approved for public commentary and consideration at the December 2007 COCA meeting.
- ❑ The revised Documentation Pad for site visits was reviewed without changes.
- ❑ A draft interim statement of principles for accreditation of COMs outside the United States was presented and briefly discussed. The draft statement was circulated to the Bureau of International Osteopathic Medical Affairs and Education (BIOMEA) for its input. A representative of the BIOMEA was asked to attend the December 2007 COCA meeting to discuss this issue.
- ❑ Membership on the COCA Appeal Panel was approved for the 2007-2008 year.
- ❑ One nominee to the Evaluators Registry was approved.

#### COCA meeting in December 2007

The COCA held its fall meeting on December 8-9, 2007 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL). Accreditation action items for the agenda included:

- ❑ One report from on-site full survey for continuing accreditation was reviewed and accepted for the Des Moines University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, IA).
- ❑ Continuing accreditation was granted to the Des Moines University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, IA).
- ❑ One special report was reviewed and accepted from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine (Stratford, NJ).
- ❑ Two focused site visit reports were reviewed and accepted from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Erie, PA) and the University of North Texas Health Science Center – Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Worth, TX)
- ❑ Three requests for substantive change – class size increase were reviewed and approved for the following COMs: Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Blacksburg, VA); Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens, OH) and Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Glendale, AZ).
- ❑ Two requests for substantive change – class size increase were also reviewed for the following COMs: Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Vallejo, CA) and Des Moines University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, IA).
- ❑ Five progress reports were reviewed and accepted from: Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA); Midwestern University – Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (Downers Grove, IL); New York College of Osteopathic Medicine (Old Westbury, NY); Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine / A.T. Still University of the Health Sciences (Kirksville, MO); and Nova Southeastern University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Lauderdale, FL).
- ❑ One special report was reviewed and accepted from the Nova Southeastern University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Lauderdale, FL) on the DO / DMD dual degree program.

Policy discussion items for the agenda included:

- ❑ Commentary on a proposed revision to the COM standards previously approved to become effective on July 1, 2008 was received and discussed. The COCA voted to implement the COM standards revisions, as previously approved, without new changes.
- ❑ The Fall 2007 COM class size survey analysis was reviewed. All COMs were found to be in compliance with their approved class size allowances.
- ❑ Representatives of the Bureau of International Osteopathic Medical Affairs and Education (BIOMEA) were present to offer testimony in response to the draft interim statement of principles for accreditation of COMs outside of the United States. The COCA referred this matter to its Executive Committee for further study and report back at the April 2008 meeting.
- ❑ The COCA briefly discussed proposed language for consideration in Standard One and Standard Six that focused on strengthening the clinical education in predoctoral programs and the predoctoral – postdoctoral portion of the osteopathic continuum. The COCA agreed to seek budgetary authority for the Standards Review Committee to have a “stakeholders” meeting to discuss these issues and report back to the COCA at its next meeting.
- ❑ The COM Site Visit Schedule for 2009 was approved.
- ❑ One nominee to the Consultants listing was approved.

Special Presentation:

- ❑ AOA President Peter B. Ajluni, DO, addressed the COCA regarding: (a) COM infrastructure required by the current accreditation standards; and (b) international osteopathic medical education and its potential accreditation.

#### COCA meeting in April 2008

The COCA held its spring meeting on April 26-27, 2008 at the Washington Renaissance Hotel (Washington, DC). Accreditation action items from the agenda included:

- ❑ Three reports from full survey on-site evaluations were reviewed and accepted for the following COMs: Ohio University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens, OH); Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine (Pikeville, KY); and Western University of Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (Pomona, CA)
- ❑ Continuing accreditation was granted to the four following COMs: Ohio University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens, OH); Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine (Pikeville, KY); Western University of Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (Pomona, CA); and University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine (Stratford, NJ).
- ❑ One special report was reviewed and accepted from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine (Stratford, NJ).
- ❑ Three reports from full survey on-site evaluations of developing COMs were reviewed and accepted: A.T. Still University – School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (Mesa, AZ); Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, TN); and Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, NY).
- ❑ Continuing provisional accreditation was granted to the following three developing COMs: A.T. Still University – School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (Mesa, AZ); Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, TN); and Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, NY).

- ❑ One report from a focused site visit was accepted for the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine (Old Westbury, NY).
- ❑ Three progress reports were reviewed and accepted from the following three COMs: Des Moines University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, IA); Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Glendale, AZ); and Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA).
- ❑ Initial approval was given to two COMs who had requested substantive change – additional location and class size increase: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Erie, PA, parent, Greensburg, PA, location) and Michigan State University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (East Lansing, MI, parent; Macomb County, MI, and Detroit, MI, additional locations).
- ❑ Conditional approval of a substantive change – class size increase was given to the Oklahoma State University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Tulsa, OK).
- ❑ Annual Reports for 2007-2008 were reviewed from all 23 COMs offering instruction. Follow-up was requested from eight colleges.

Policy discussion items for the agenda included:

- ❑ The COCA received a revised draft interim policy statement on international accreditation of COMs. The COCA accepted four elements to be added to the draft statement. It was felt that a forum should be convened at a well-attended AOA meeting to discuss potential models of international COMs that would be consistent with the draft statement.
- ❑ The COCA briefly discussed the revised instructions for reviewing the COM annual reports.
- ❑ The COCA received the COCA-EC recommendations on the current instructions for structured telephone interview of affiliated clinical education sites. It was agreed to have the current interview form reviewed by clinical members of the COCA Evaluators Registry.
- ❑ Three (3) nominees to the Evaluators' Registry were approved. One (1) current evaluator was approved for an expansion of scope.

#### COCA - Executive Committee (COCA – EC)

The COCA-EC met by teleconference on July 5, 2007 to review a request for restructuring of the funds in the escrowed reserve account (teach-out) of a COM. After discussion and upon motion duly made and seconded, the COCA-EC approved the restructuring of the funds in the escrowed reserve account.

One by-mail vote was conducted regarding interpretation of a procedure. The matter in the vote was discussed in executive session of the COCA on Saturday, August 25.

The COCA-EC met by teleconference on March 17, 2008 under the direction of the Chair. Three items were considered:

- ❑ The draft interim statement of international accreditation principles was reviewed. The COCA-EC recommended revision of this document to the full COCA.
- ❑ The current policies on conduct of telephone interviews of affiliated clinical education sites were discussed.
- ❑ The revised instructions for review of COM Annual reports were discussed.

#### Annual Report Review Committee

The Annual Report Review Committee did not meet during this period.

### COM Accreditation Appeal Panel

There were no appeals heard during this year.

### Committee on College Accreditation Training (CCAT)

The CCAT met via teleconference on September 25, 2007 to review the agenda for the workshop entitled, “Best Practices and Competencies for COM Accreditation”, scheduled for Saturday, January 12, 2008 at the Westin Kierland Hotel in Scottsdale, AZ, in conjunction with the Osteopathic Medical Education Conference. The topics that were chosen were:

- ❑ A Look at Class Size Expansion: The AACOM Perspective
- ❑ Documenting the Capability for Class Size Expansion – The Three F’s
- ❑ Best practices in developing a high-quality self study
- ❑ Focus on the clinical years
- ❑ Core competencies – how to adapt core competencies from post graduate osteopathic medical education to predoctoral osteopathic education
- ❑ Changes in the Standards that went into effect on July 1, 2007 as a result of recent revisions approved in December 2006.

The CCAT met by teleconference on March 28, 2008 under the direction of its Chair to review the analysis of the workshop held on January 12, 2008 in Scottsdale, AZ, as part of the Osteopathic Medical Education (OME) cluster.

The next CCAT Evaluators’ Workshop is scheduled for January 10-11, 2009 in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The Workshop will be held in conjunction with OME/CME Conferences, which will be held on January 8-10, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 Resort. The CCAT Chair has asked members of the CCAT Committee for suggestions for the program. Some members thought the upcoming program should build upon the 2006 program. Committee members agreed that the program should include professional development for the site visit team chairs as they set the tone of the visit and should provide consistency throughout the process. The CCAT Chair noted that the AOA should define the role of evaluators and that best practices should be developed to ensure that the process is clear and transparent.

### Ad hoc Standards Review Committee (SRC)

The SRC did not meet during this period.

### Continuing Recognition of the COCA by the U.S. Secretary of Education

On May 1, 2006, the Honorable Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education, granted five years of continuing recognition to the COCA. A progress report was due December 8, 2006 to demonstrate full compliance with the following areas:

- ❑ 34 CFR 602.15 Administrative and fiscal responsibilities, subparts (a)(4) educators and practitioners on its evaluation body and (a)(6) controls against conflict of interest. The citation was issued for clarification and codification of current practice.
- ❑ 34 CFR 602.20 (a) Enforcement of standards, subparts (1) and (2) – enforcement of the “24-month” term for compliance. The citation was issued for clarification of current practice
- ❑ 34 CFR 602.22 (b) Substantive change – this subpart addresses substantive changes that are required to be evaluated. The citation was issued because the level of detail for all required substantive changes was not of the same high level as that for more often occurring class size change, curriculum change and branch campuses.

An interim petition with changes approved by the COCA in its conflict of interest procedures in the COCA *Handbook*, and in its procedures stated in the *COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures* was sent to staff of the U.S. Department of Education on December 7, 2006. The U.S. Department of Education staff analysis was that there were no remaining issues and the report should be accepted. This recommendation was presented to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) at its meeting held on May 30-31, 2007. The NACIQI recommendation to the Secretary was to accept the report with a finding of no issues. On August 15, 2007 Secretary Spellings accepted the recommendation of the NACIQI.