



2020 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

General Session

Friday July 17, 2020 • 12 – 3 pm CT

Dial: (877)369-0926 ~ Meeting ID: 6699930092#

Zoom Video Conference Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6699930092>

*\*Please remember to place yourself on mute if not speaking\**

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|----------|---|--|
| 12 pm    | Call to Order and Welcome   | Ronald R. Burns, DO, President   |
|          | Roll Call and Quorum Establishment  | Kevin M. Klauer, DO, EJD, CEO  |
|          | Osteopathic Pledge of Commitment / AOA Mission and Vision Statement   | Ronald R. Burns, DO, President   |
|          | Invocation  | Tyree M. Winters, DO, President, NOMA                                  |
| 12:10 pm | <b>Action Items:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conflict of Interest Disclosures</li> <li>▪ Adoption of Agenda</li> </ul> | Ronald R. Burns, DO, President   |
|          | <u>Leadership Reports</u>   |  |
| 12:15 pm | President Report  | Ronald R. Burns, DO, President   |
| 12:25 pm | President-Elect Report  | Thomas L Ely, DO, President-Elect                                      |
| 12:35 pm | CEO Report  | Kevin M. Klauer, DO, EJD, CEO  |
|          | <u>AOA Operational Updates*</u>   |  |
| 12:45 pm | Affiliate Relations   | Nicole Blankenship, VP of Affiliate Relations                          |
| 12:50 pm | Certifying Board Services   | Genie James, SVP of Certifying Board Services                          |
| 1 pm     | Communications and Marketing  | Lori M. Wemhoff, SVP of Communications and Marketing                   |
| 1:05 pm  | Graduation Medical Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Single Accreditation System Update</li> </ul>                     | Boyd R. Buser, DO<br>Maura Biszewski, VP of Graduate Medical Education |
| 1:20 pm  | Membership Services Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Engagement Tool</li> </ul>  | Tom Killam, SVP of Membership Services                                 |
| 1:25 pm  | Physician Education and CME   | Debra Levinthal, VP of Physician Education and CME                     |

*\*Operational reports available upon request. Please email Tamara Collum at [tcollum@osteopathic.org](mailto:tcollum@osteopathic.org).*



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|---------|--|---|
| 1:35 pm | Public Policy / Advocacy   | David Pugach, VP of Public Policy                                     |
| 1:40 pm | Break  |   |
|         | <u>Organization Reports**</u>  |   |
| 1:50 pm | Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association   | Angela Kalcec, President  |
| 1:55 pm | Affiliate Partners Updates   | Vicki Whitaker, President, AOSED<br>Linda Taliaferro, President, SOSE |
| 2:15 pm | American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF) Report   | Martin S. Levine, DO, President<br>Rita Forden, CEO                   |
| 2:25 pm | American Osteopathic Information Association (AOIA):<br>Analyzed Provider Relief Funds Survey Data | Norman E. Vinn, Chair<br>Kathleen Creason, Executive Director of AOIA |
| 2:35 pm | National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners  | John R. Gimpel, DO, President and CEO                                 |
| 2:45 pm | House of Delegates Update  | Ray L. Morrison, Speaker, House of Delegates                          |
| 2:50 pm | Recognition of Outgoing Advisors and Members of the<br>AOA Board of Trustees:                      | Ronald R. Burns, DO, President  |
|         | Carisa R. Champion, DO<br><i>Postdoc Trainee Advisor</i>   | Alexis Cates, DO<br><i>Postdoc Trainee Member</i>                     |
|         | Allison Hubschmann, OMS IV<br><i>Student Advisor</i>   | Gregory Harris, DO<br><i>New Physician Member</i>                     |
|         | Matthew Meranda, OMS IV<br><i>Student Member</i>   | Mark A. Baker, DO   |
|         | Closing Remarks  | Ronald R. Burns, DO, President  |
| 3 pm    | Adjournment  | Ronald R. Burns, DO, President  |

*\*\*Additional written organizational reports are included in this packet.*

# Organizational Written Reports to the Board of Trustees

**Report to the American Osteopathic Association Board of Trustees  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
June 2020**

**Board of Deans Update**

The 2020-2021 AACOM Board of Deans Executive Committee members are listed below.

- **Chair:** Margaret Wilson, DO
- **Vice Chair:** William Craver, DO
- **Secretary/Treasurer, Finance Chair:** Paula Crone, DO
- **Immediate Past Chair:** Lori Kemper, DO
- **Assembly of Presidents Representative to the Executive Committee:** Angela L. Walker Franklin, PhD
- **Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators Chair:** Sandra Snyder, DO
- **At-Large Member:** Robyn Phillips-Madson, DO
- **At-Large Member:** Shane Speights, DO
- **At-Large Member:** Wolfgang Gilliar, DO
- **At-Large Member:** Darrin D'Agostino, DO
- **Ex-Officio Member:** Robert A. Cain, DO, FACOI, FAODME, President and CEO, AACOM

**College of Osteopathic Medicine Dean Updates. The following dean has become a new member of the AACOM Board of Deans since our last report to the American Osteopathic Association**

- **Amanda Wright, DO, Interim Dean, Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine**

**Osteopathic Medical School Applications Update**

**Application Cycle Update**

The 2019-2020 AACOMAS application cycle closed on April 10, 2020 with the largest applicant pool to date. By the close of the cycle, there were 23,549 individual paid applicants. This is an increase of 1,182 applicants (+5.28%) compared to the 2018-2019 cycle. There were 206,830 submitted designations, an increase of 9,121 designations (+4.61%) compared to the previous year. Applicants submitted an average of 8.78 designations each, down from 8.84 in 2019. The 2020-2021 AACOMAS application cycle launched on May 5, 2020, and colleges will begin receiving application data on June 15, 2020.

**Choose DO Medical School Virtual Expo(s) & Exploring Osteopathic Medicine for Pre-Meds Event**

AACOM hosted 3 Virtual Expos for prospective medical students in the 2019-2020 application cycle. Overall, the goal of AACOM's medical school virtual expo is to connect with large numbers of premedical students in an online and easily accessible space where AACOM and member institutions can encourage exploration of the DO education, philosophy, and degree. AACOM's hope is that

students leave feeling inspired to become applicants. The data reflected below suggests that executing online expos is one of many tactics AACOM's Recruitment and Outreach team employs to boost application numbers, providing participating institutions with a qualified and informed applicant pool. 2019-2020 AACOM hosted events & corresponding application conversion rates:

- Choose DO Medical School Virtual Expo – 8/13/2019: 60%
- Choose DO Medical School Virtual Expo – 1/20/2020: 26%

### **College Recruitment Fairs**

AACOM continues to participate in multiple national high school and college recruitment events. In 2019-2020 AACOM attended, either in person or virtually, the following events:

- Columbia University Pre-Health Conference – New York, NY
- American Medical Student Association (AMSA) Convention & Exposition – Virtually
- SNMA AMEC – Virtually
- CAAHP Regional Conference – Chicago, IL
- NEAAHP Regional Conference – Boston, MA
- SAAHP Regional Conference – Memphis, TN
- Health Professions Week in Person Event – Boston, MA
- National Society of High School Scholars – Washington, DC
- OMED Pre Soma Event – Baltimore, MD
- AAMC Minority Recruitment Event – Phoenix, AZ
- ABRCMS – Anaheim, CA
- Health Professions Week Virtual Expo
- Alabama Advisors Conference Virtually
- UC Davis Pre-Health Fair – Davis, CA

### **Research Update**

#### **The Project on Osteopathic Medical Education and Empathy (POME2)**

The AOA decided in February 2020 to withdraw funding (\$125,000 per year) for the second and future years of POME2. POME2 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% (median 92%). 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%; a median of 39%, and usable responses totaling 10,746. The Jefferson Survey of Empathy was administered twice to incoming students in the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020. Students and COMs 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 continues to collect data on this project but can no longer afford to work with the consultants, including Principal Investigator Mohammedreza Hojat, at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA. To-date, four articles have detailed the findings of POME2:

**Hojat M, DeSantis J, Shannon SC, Mortensen LH, Speicher MR, Bragan L, LaNoue M, Calabrese LH. The Jefferson Scale of Empathy: a nationwide study of measurement properties, underlying components, latent variable structure, and national norms in medical students. *Advances in Health Sciences Education*. December 2018.** This study was designed to examine measurement properties, underlying components, and latent variable structure of the JSE in a nationwide sample of first year matriculants at U.S. colleges of osteopathic medicine, and to develop a national norm table for the assessment of JSE scores. A web-based survey was administered at the beginning of the 2017–2018 academic year which included the JSE, a scale to detect “good impression” responses, and demographic/background information. Usable surveys were received from 6009 students enrolled in 41 college campuses (median response rate = 92%). The JSE mean score and standard deviation for the sample were 116.54 and 10.85, respectively. Significant gender differences were observed on the JSE scores in favor of women. Also, significant differences were found on item scores between top and bottom third scorers on the JSE.

**Hojat M, Shannon S, DeSantis J, Speicher M, Bragan L, Calabrese L. National Norms for the Jefferson Scale of Empathy: A Nationwide Project in Osteopathic Medical Education and Empathy (POME). *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*. August 2019.** Participants in the study included osteopathic medical students from 41 (of 48) campuses of osteopathic medical schools. Students completed a web-based survey, which included the JSE, in the 2017-2018 academic year. A total of 16,149 completed surveys were used for creating national norm tables. Three national norm tables were developed for first year matriculants, and for students in preclinical (years 1 and 2) and clinical (years 3 and 4) phases of medical school. The norm tables allow any raw score on the JSE for male and female osteopathic medical students from matriculation to graduation to be converted to a percentile rank to assess an individual’s score against national data. The national norms developed in this project, for men and women, at different levels of medical school education, can not only be used for the assessment of student’s individual scores on the JSE, but can also serve as a supplementary measure for admissions to medical school, postgraduate medical education programs, and for breaking the tie in applicants with comparable academic qualifications.

**Hojat M, Shannon S, DeSantis J, Speicher M, Bragan L, Calabrese L. Does Empathy Decline in the Clinical Phase of Medical Education? A Nationwide, Multi-Institutional, Cross-Sectional Study of Students at DO-Granting Medical Schools. *Academic Medicine* June 2020.** Participants in this cross-sectional study included 10,751 students enrolled in 41 campuses of osteopathic medical schools in the U.S. They completed a web-based survey that included the Jefferson Scale of Empathy (JSE) and the Infrequency Scale of the Zuckerman-Kuhlman Personality Questionnaire for measuring “good impression” response bias. Comparisons were made on empathy scores among students in different

years of medical school by using analysis of covariance, controlling for the effect of “good impression” response bias. Also, comparisons were made with data from allopathic medical students. A statistically significant decline in empathy scores was observed when comparing students in the preclinical (years 1 and 2) and the clinical (years 3 and 4) phases of medical school ( $p < 0.01$ ); however, the magnitude of the decline was negligible (effect size=0.13). Comparison of findings with allopathic medical students showed that while the pattern of empathy decline was similar, the magnitude of the decline was less pronounced in osteopathic medical students. Differences in the osteopathic and allopathic medical education systems provide plausible explanations for disparity in the magnitude of empathy decline in osteopathic compared to allopathic medical students. More research is needed to examine changes in empathy in longitudinal study and explore reasons for changes to avert erosion of empathy in medical school.

**Hojat M, Shannon S, DeSantis J, Shannon S, Speicher M, Bragan L, Calabrese L. Empathy as related to gender, age, race and ethnicity, academic background and career interest: A nationwide study of osteopathic medical students in the United States. Medical Education. January 2020.** This article discusses correlates of empathy (e.g., demographics [gender, age, ethnicity], undergraduate major, prior work experiences, future career plans, etc.) Statistically significant and practically important associations were found between empathy scores and gender (in favor of women), race and ethnicity (in favor of African-American and Hispanic/Latino/Spanish), academic background (in favor of ‘Social and Behavioral Sciences’ and ‘Arts and Humanities’ in Samples 1 and 2) and career interest (in favor of ‘People-Oriented’ and ‘Psychiatry’ specialties). Special features of this study (e.g., nationwide representative samples, use of a validated instrument for measuring empathy in patient care, statistical control for the effect of ‘good impression’ response bias, and consistency of findings in different samples from multiple institutions) provide more definitive answers to the issue of correlates of empathy in medical students and increase our confidence in the validity, reliability and generalizability of the results. Findings have implications for career counselling and targeting students who need more guidance to enhance their empathic orientation. This publication is a key publication from the POME2 and is likely to attract attention from the media.

The research department produces reports used by the COMs, departments within AACOM, other health professions, and external researchers on an annual basis from three major core sources of data: AACOM’s application services (AACOMAS), the Annual Survey, and the Student Surveys. In addition, several other surveys are distributed throughout the year on topics ranging from tuition and fees to plans for unmatched students.

In the past 12 months, AACOM’s research department has created a data lake of its applicant, survey, and COM data, as well as data from a data sharing agreement with the American Osteopathic Association for the Physician Masterfile data. In January 2020, it rolled out more than 20 secured, individualized predictive analytics dashboards, illustrating admissions, matriculant, curriculum, faculty, graduate, and alumni data. The Research Department is currently working with several outside researchers using AACOM data to look at rural practice patterns of osteopathic physicians, the impact

of student loan forgiveness programs, and other policy issues, sharing AACOM data with other organizations.

#### **Recently Posted Reports:**

- [Trends in Osteopathic Medical School Applicants, Applications, Enrollment, and Graduates](#)
- [2014-15 to 2018-19 Osteopathic Medical School Attrition Summary](#)
- [Matriculants by COM and Race/Ethnicity 2009-2018](#)
- [FY2017 Revenues and Expenditures by Osteopathic Medical College](#)
- [Applicants by COM by Race and Ethnicity 2002-2019](#)
- [Applicants by COM and Gender 2002-2019](#)
- [2017-18 Osteopathic Medical College Basic Science Faculty by Rank](#)

#### **Research Department Projects & Surveys Currently in the Field:**

- *2019-20 Annual Osteopathic Medical School Questionnaire (Annual Survey)* - the deadline for this survey was extended to August 14, 2020 due to COVID-19 crisis. Three COMs have finalized their survey as of May 29, 2020.
- *2019-2020 Graduating Seniors Survey* – All surveys were sent to 2020 graduates, the response rate is 54 percent as of May 29, 2020 and the deadline for this survey is June 23, 2020.
- *AACOM 2020 Match Week Survey* – the data from all COMs was finalized on May 22, 2020 and the Match Report is scheduled for release in early June 2020.
- *Matchbook* – efforts are underway to release the Matchbook to the COMs.
- *Predictive Analytics* – HelioCampus continues to develop the AACOM research department’s predictive analytics capabilities. Currently HelioCampus’ data scientists are exploring models, such as lead scoring, to support admissions offices, who are now reviewing AACOMAS applications without official MCAT scores and official transcripts due to the impact of COVID-19.
- *Matriculant Data* – the 2019 entering class matriculant report will be produced once all the COMs have finalized their admissions data. Currently one COMs has not finalized their admissions decisions for the class entering in 2019.

#### **Predictive Analytics**

Predictive analytics involves using available data to predict unknown future events, and includes data mining, machine learning, modeling and other techniques to analyze information (often in large data sets, hence, the term “big data”) and make the results of those analyses usable for business decisions.

AACOM’s initiative also includes data visualization, making these patterns and relationships easier to understand through interactive graphical representations. AACOM wants to provide its members, using mostly existing data that our members provide to us, the ability for COMs to incorporate predictive analytics and data visualization into their organizations so that they can become more proactive and forward-looking.



AACOM's proposed Predictive Analytics Initiative involves three steps:

1. The data AACOM currently collects or has access to is aggregated and catalogued in a secure, cloud-based data lake, where each dataset will have a descriptive data dictionary, outlining the data fields that are available and how the datasets are related to each other. Our consultant on this project, HelioCampus, is working on this phase at this time, and has a June 2019 estimated completion date. **This Phase is Complete.**
2. Additional data necessary to answer questions that are important to our member COMs will be collected and added to the data lake. AACOM and HelioCampus developed a pilot groups of Deas and others to help us iterate some dashboards. **The First Phase of This Step Is Complete; It Will Be Ongoing.**
3. The data in the data lake will be linked and used to create analyses and dashboards that answer questions that will help our members better educate tomorrow's physicians and make better business decisions. **The First Phase of This Step Is Complete; It Will Be Ongoing.**

The interactive management Dashboards allow COM leaders to interact with data that they and others have provided to AACOM, including data on their applicants and matriculants, data on COM performance in areas including curricular hours, COMLEX performance, and the match and practice status, as well as location, of graduates. Four groups of dashboards are being rolled out from January – March to all COMs; they include dashboards on applicants, COM information (such as faculty information, curriculum, costs and tuition levels), matriculating students, and graduating students. Additionally, another analytic effort, the MatchBook, an interactive infographic of previous osteopathic graduates' match qualifications and residency match information, is being pilot tested with three COMs currently.

## Medical Education Update

### COVID Responses

**AACOM has developed four adaptive teams to respond to various aspects of the COVID crisis**, as well as other groups surrounding the Match and success in residency. They are:

**Transforming Medical Education through Technology** – This workgroup explores the technology tools used by our campuses both before and after the changes due to COVID-19, and generates ideas for developing shared resources and offerings to students and faculty. Future education models using technology will also be included. AACOM Staff: Pat Delaney and Jeff Tjiputra (new VP of IT).

**Mobilizing the Future Healthcare Workforce** – This interprofessional workgroup is spearheaded by AACOM, and brings together public health, nursing, physician assistant, social work and allopathic medicine to enable students in the health professions to safely aid in the fight against COVID-19. "Students Assist America" officially launched in early April and will serve as a repository for vetted

resources that can help AACOM members learn from each other's experiences and replicate programs in their own states and communities. AACOM Staff: Virginia Bader (consultant) and Mary-Lynn Bender. More information is available here: <https://www.aacom.org/mobilize>.

**The Clinical Education Alternatives Working Group** includes Clinical Deans at the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (COMs) focused on the organization, collection, distribution, and recommendation of alternative methods for delivering curriculum necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We are evaluating the core rotations and common elective rotations and are working to develop an on-line curriculum for this group of students. The committee feels the delivery of medical education will be forever changed and is working to be a center for innovation. AACOM Staff: Tyler Cymet and Alegneta Long.

**Pathways to Practice** – This workgroup looks at the process of getting into and out of undergraduate osteopathic medical education and at current and potential obstacles to traditional application pathways to medical school and residency, develops alternatives, and provides guidelines to COMs and students. AACOM Staff: Jayme Bograd and Mark Speicher.

#### Other Groups

1. AAMC Residency Director Survey – This group both participates in and explores and makes recommendations on the use of data from the new AAMC survey of program directors. AACOM Staff: Mark Speicher and Lynn Bragan
2. ACGME Milestone Data – This group both participates in and explores the transmission of ACGME milestone data to COMs and develops best practices in the use of milestone data by COMs. AACOM Staff: Mark Speicher and Lynn Bragan
3. COVID Information on the Standard MSPE – This group is developing standard information sets and formatting for documenting the impact of the COVID19 crisis on graduating students' medical education and residency search experiences.

#### **2020 and 2021 Match Initiatives**

For the first time in 2020, AACOM worked with the NRMP to separate data used in this year's reports on the NRMP Match for both US DO Seniors and US DO Graduates. That information will help osteopathic medical students and their advisors in preparing for future rounds of the Match. AACOM is finalizing the data for the **Match Report from the 2020 Match, which shows a 99%+ placement rate for 2020 graduates.**

For the 2021 Match, AACOM continues to work with the AAMC on the Residency Explorer, the Diminishing Returns Report and other match tools to include specific information on the match for US DO Seniors and US DO Graduates. Additionally, AACOM is preparing to roll out the pilot **MatchBook residency advising tool** to its first three COMs by the end of May.

**AACOM participated in the Coalition for Physician Accountability workgroups** that have published Medical Students in the Class of 2021 Moving Across Institutions for Post Graduate Training, and the

Report and Recommendations for Learner Transitions from Medical Schools to Residency Programs in 2020. AACOM has developed Frequently Asked Questions and a decision guide for the recommendations on student travel to away rotations, and is planning several educational events for these guidelines in the future, including a webinar next week on virtual interviewing, and a virtual residency fair for US DO Seniors and ACGME-accredited residency programs in August 2020.

### **National Academy of Osteopathic Medical Educators**

The [National Academy of Osteopathic Medical Educators](#) (NAOME) is the premier association for osteopathic medical educators in the US, and grants fellowship in the following areas: Teaching and Evaluation, Education Leadership, the Development of Enduring Educational Materials, and Educational Research. NAOME received six applications for new Fellows for 2020, as well as five applications to renew Fellowship (required every five years). New Fellows will be announced at Educating Leaders 2020; at Educating Leaders 2019, eight new fellows and seven renewing fellows were inducted into (NAOME). NAOME Fellows, inducted annually into the Academy to serve a five-year term, function as leaders and mentors for academic scholarship and excellence within the OME community.

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

The [Task Force on Ethics and Professionalism](#), having rolled out the AACOM Model Policy on Civil Rights Equity Resolution for All Faculty, Students, and Employees (an Executive Summary is also available); the AACOM Model Policy on Chaperoning Patients; and the AACOM Model Policy on Safe Osteopathic Clinical Training for Students, will meet at Educating Leaders 2020 to complete their charge by presenting model curricula for the identification and treatment of those experiencing sexual or other victimization, obtaining consent from patients, and professionalism and the mandatory reporting of colleagues and other abusers; as well as a campus climate survey for its member COMs.

The Task Force also recently released research (sponsored by the Task Force and conducted by students at College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific – Northwest) indicating that one in six students at a COM report experiencing sexual harassment or assault since starting medical school.

- **AACOM recently finalized a Shared Services Agreement with the AAMC.** This agreement will allow COMs to have access to the Visiting Student Learning Opportunities, the Curriculum Inventory, the Financial Information, Resources and Tools (FIRST), and Careers in Medicine programs beginning in July 2020. All programs are provided through AACOM at a discount over what COMs or students would otherwise pay, and two of the services – FIRST and Curriculum Inventory – are not available to COMs at any cost outside this agreement. A series of

educational programs are planned for the next month in order to get COMs ready to take advantage of these new services.

**AACOM's Leadership Development Programs** have been affected by the COVID19 crisis, with some programs being delayed (the Senior Leadership Development Program for Deans, prospective Deans and other COM leaders; and the Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship, a program designed to give osteopathic physicians and medical educators the skills they need to analyze, formulate, and

implement health policy on the local, state, and national levels) while others have moved to a virtual format.

**Educating Leaders 2020**, the AACOM Annual Conference, was held March 23-25 as a virtual event, after three weeks of very active preparation by AACOM's annual conference team. The conference featured six hours of virtual programming each day, including plenary speakers Hojat Mohammedreza, speaking on the importance of empathy and the impact of COVID19 on physician empathy, and others. More than 100 sessions and research posters, as well as recordings of the plenary sessions, are on the conference web site.

### **Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP)**

Krista Niezwaag, PA-C OMS II of the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine was selected as Chair of the COSGP. COSGP has initiated short TED-Like talks at each of their meetings which are videotaped and posted for sharing on the COSGP web pages. These are being called COSGP PowerTalks. **The Mental Health Awareness Task Force is the arm of the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP)** which advocates for mental health support for trainees. Now in its fifth year, the Mental Health Awareness Task Force is providing avenues for COMs to share information on current activities regarding mental health. The Task Force worked with AACOM to provide training in peer counseling for the identification and referral of students at risk for suicide, though the Question Persuade, Refer Institute, to all COMs.

### **Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles (ECOP)**

Becky Giusti, DO, from Western University was chosen as Chair of ECOP for a two-year term. ECOP is working on standardizing teaching on specific topics. Sacral mechanics with attention to motion in pregnancy has been chosen as the area most in need of standardization and a task force is working on a white paper on this topic.

**The Ethics and Professionalism Task Force** has presented a model policy on sexual harassment, bullying, and victimization reporting and investigation, a model chaperoning of patients policy, and a model policy on providing informed consent for OMM in student teaching, at no charge for all member COMs. They are working on model curricula 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; a model curriculum on sexual boundary issues and mandatory reporting requirements; and a program for identifying acceptable and unacceptable behavior on clinical clerkship rotations. A student group recently completed research on the prevalence of sexual harassment on COM campuses, and another group is working on pilot testing a campus climate survey.

**The AACOM Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA) work group** featured innovations in the adoption of EPAs by 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 COMs. The results of a recently completed survey was published in the JAOA. AACOM also provides the book, *Osteopathic Considerations for the Core Entrustable Professional Activities*, a document used by COMs to develop methods for teaching and assessing the EPAs at each respective institution.

### **Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC)**

IPEC held an advanced training workshop for leaders of interprofessional education in Portland OR in October 2019. The next IPEC training session is a virtual session in December 2020, which will touch on interprofessional clinical training, interprofessional professionalism, and assessment. The IPEC includes AACOM's Dr. Robert Cain as a Board member, and Dr. Mark Speicher as a member of the education planning committee.

### **Educating Leaders 2020, the AACOM Annual Conference**

[Educating Leaders 2020, the AACOM Annual Conference](#), was held March 23-25 as a virtual event, after three weeks of very active preparation by AACOM's annual conference team. The conference featured six hours of virtual programming each day, including plenary speakers Hojat Mohammedreza, PhD, speaking on the importance of empathy and the impact of COVID19 on physician empathy, and others. More than 100 sessions and research posters, as well as recordings of the plenary sessions, are on the conference web site.

[Educating Leaders 2021](#) will be held April 21-23, in Washington, DC.

## **Government Relations Update**

### **AACOM-Endorsed Legislation Since January 2020**

Since January 2020, AACOM has endorsed the following legislation in the 116th Congress:

- *Ensuring Understanding of COVID-19 to Protect Public Health Act* ([S. 3595/H.R. 6701](#))
- *Improving Access to Health Care in Rural and Underserved Areas Act* ([S. 3194](#))
- *Opportunities for Heroes Act* ([H.R. 6699](#))
- *Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act* ([S. 3833](#))

### **AACOM Federal Efforts in Response to COVID-19**

As our country continues to respond to COVID-19, AACOM's Government Relations office has worked to advance federal policies and programs that will help support efforts to mitigate the pandemic. These include:

*Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act Resources and Actions:*

- [AACOM Letter to U.S. Department of Education \(ED\) Secretary on CARES Act Implementation](#)
- [AACOM Webinar Recording on how the CARES Act Impacts Osteopathic Medical Schools, Students, and Residents](#)
- [AACOM Analysis of the CARES Act](#)
- [ED to MED Blog Post on how the CARES Act Affects Health Professions Students and Graduates](#)
- [Analysis on how the CARES Act Impacts Medical Residents and Fellows](#)

Additional Federal Actions:

- [Raising Congressional Awareness of COVID-19 Student Mobilization Efforts](#)

- [Supporting Evaluation and Research on the Health Care System's Response to COVID-19](#)
  - [Supporting Health Care Workers' Mental Health](#)
  - [Supporting Health Professions Education Funding in COVID-19 Stimulus](#)
  - [Supporting Health Workforce Training Programs in COVID-19 Supplemental Emergency Funding](#)
  - [Supporting Legislation to Allow PPE Purchasing with Small Business Loans](#)
  - [Supporting Legislation to Protect Public Health through COVID-19 Research](#)
  - [Supporting Legislation to Provide Student Debt Relief to Essential Employees](#)
- 
- [Supporting Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Purchasing with Small Business Loans](#)
  - [Supporting Public Health Funding](#)
  - [Supporting Public Health Infrastructure Funding in COVID-19 Stimulus](#)
  - [Supporting Social Distancing Policies](#)
  - [Supporting Student Debt Relief for Frontline Health Care Workers](#)
  - [Supporting Supplemental Funding for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs COVID-19 Research](#)
  - [Urging the Administration to Solve Ventilator and PPE Shortages](#)

### **AACOM Presents Health Care Workforce Recommendations to COGME Amid COVID-19**

AACOM President and CEO Robert A. Cain, DO, outlined efforts by the osteopathic medical education (OME) community to address COVID-19 during the Health Resources and Services Administration's Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME) [meeting on April 29](#). Dr. Cain served on a panel focused on training and accelerating the entering workforce alongside leaders from other health professions organizations. To supplement Dr. Cain's presentation, AACOM [submitted a statement to COGME outlining OME priorities](#) as the Council develops recommendations surrounding the physician and health care workforce amid COVID-19 challenges.

### **AACOM Outlines OME Priorities in Response to NIH Request for Information**

AACOM responded to the National Institutes of Health (NIH)'s [request for information](#) to gather feedback from stakeholders and encouraged the NIH to partner with the osteopathic community as it

prepares its fiscal year (FY) 2021 – 2025 NIH-wide Strategic Plan. The plan will guide the agency's research efforts and work to advance its mission over the next five years, building upon the previous plan for FY16 – 20. AACOM [strongly encouraged](#) the NIH to support research opportunities for and partner with community-based institutions and emphasized the importance of evidence-based research for integrative health approaches, notably osteopathic manipulative treatment or osteopathic manipulative medicine and the role it can play in serving as a critical approach to addressing medical and musculoskeletal conditions.

### **AACOM Comments on ED Distance Education and Innovation NPRM**

On May 4, [AACOM sent a letter](#) to ED Secretary Betsy DeVos in response to the [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (NPRM) regarding distance learning and innovation for higher education issued on April 1, 2020. The NPRM is the result of consensus-backed language of [2019 negotiated rulemaking sessions](#). AACOM urged ED to recognize the unique nature of medical education and to thoroughly evaluate the unintended consequences that the proposed rulemaking may have on the critical instruction that medical students receive during core, out-of-state clinical rotations. Additionally, AACOM requested

that ED provide language that helps to ensure that colleges of osteopathic medicine do not face undue financial and administrative burdens with respect to distance education, causing further strain to institutions during the global crisis.

### **AACOM Joins Letter and Submits Testimony in Support of FY21 Health and Education Funding**

AACOM [joined 371 organizations](#) in a letter and submitted testimony to [House](#) and [Senate](#) Appropriations Committee leadership calling for an increase to the FY21 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Ed) 302(b) allocation. Chronic underfunding of the Labor-HHS-Ed bill has impeded programs that support education, public health, health research, job training, and social services. Consistent and robust investments in the Labor-HHS-Ed programs through annual appropriations will be critical to address the long-term impacts of COVID-19 and prepare for future pandemics.

### **Federal Advisory Committees**

AACOM continues to advocate for osteopathic medical educators and physicians to serve on federal committees and advisory boards. AACOM nominee **Anne E. Musser, DO**, Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences

College of Osteopathic Medicine, and **Jane E. Carreiro, DO**, Vice President for Health Affairs Dean, the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, was recently appointed to serve on HHS' [Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry](#). In addition, AACOM nominated the following individuals jointly with the AOA to serve NIH advisory committees: **Janice Knebl, DO, MBA**, and **Jay Shubrook, DO**, to the National Advisory Council on Aging; **Patricia LoRusso, DO**, to the National Cancer Advisory Board; and **Timothy J. Barreiro, DO, MPH**, to the National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

### **ED to MED Campaign Activity**

[ED to MED](#), AACOM's national grassroots advocacy campaign, of which the American Osteopathic

Association (AOA) is a national partner, continues to raise the profile of graduate student debt issues in the halls of Congress, giving advocates a voice in the conversation surrounding the reauthorization of the *Higher Education Act (HEA)*, the law governing federal financial aid programs graduate students rely on to finance their education. ED to MED consists of over 10,276 grassroots [advocates](#) and over 220 [Ambassadors](#), highly engaged advocates who have committed to help grow the campaign among their networks and communities. Current efforts to save the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and Grad PLUS Loan Programs have resulted in 327 legislators receiving a total of 1,816 [messages](#) from ED to MED advocates expressing the importance of preserving these key federal programs. Follow the campaign on Twitter at [@ed2med](#) and on Facebook at [@edtomed](#).

### **AACOM Advocacy Opportunities**

AACOM continues to engage membership in grassroots advocacy opportunities in support of the association's policy priorities.

#### *Current Opportunities:*

- [Tweet Congress in support of PSLF and Grad PLUS](#)

- [Urge Congress to Protect the Future Health Care Workforce](#)
- [Urge Congress to Support Primary Care Amid COVID-19 Pandemic by Expanding THCGME](#)
- [Urge Your Members of Congress to Expand the Physician Workforce!](#)

### **AACOM Cosponsors Congressional Briefing to Avoid the Primary Care Cliff**

On February 18, AACOM, along with seven national organizations including the AOA, [sponsored a congressional briefing](#) to highlight the need for the reauthorization of essential public health programs, including the [Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program](#), [National Health Service Corps](#), and [Community Health Centers](#). These programs are crucial to addressing the primary care physician workforce shortage and delivering health care services to vulnerable patients in need.

### **AACOM Responds to President's FY21 Budget Request**

On February 10, President Trump released his FY21 [budget request](#), totaling \$4.8 trillion. [AACOM expressed concerns](#) with the proposal, which included deep cuts to research, public health programs, federal student financial aid and loan forgiveness, and graduate medical education (GME). As in the past, the President proposed merging Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Hospital GME into a single, capped grant program, and drastically cutting funding for health professions education training programs and federal research institutions including the NIH, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Review AACOM's analysis of budget items relevant to OME.](#)

### **Other AACOM Federal Comments**

AACOM submits numerous public comments, statements, and letters to Congress, federal agencies, and the Administration. To view a complete list of recent comments submitted, visit: <http://www.aacom.org/advocacy/in-action/public-statements>.

## **Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators (AOGME) & GME Initiatives Update**

### **Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators (AOGME)**

AACOM's [Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators](#) (AOGME) currently comprises GME professionals, including Directors of Medical Education (DMEs), Designated Institutional Officials (DIOs), Directors of Osteopathic Education (DOEs), program directors, faculty, administrators, resident and fellow physicians, program coordinators and others involved in osteopathic GME. The AOGME continues to host regular monthly webinars on topics such as GME accreditation, scholarship & research, resident/physician/patient well-being, ACGME Osteopathic Recognition and more. Webinars are now offering continuing medical education (CME) credits. The webinar recordings and materials are available [on-demand](#).

### **AOGME Webinars Forums**



The AOGME also continues to offer live webinars for a third year on topics including scholarship and research, Osteopathic Recognition, accreditation, residency match and more. In May 2020, AOGME held a webinar on Virtual Interviews for Residency Applications and shared resources, advice and pros and cons of conducting virtual interviews. [View the webinar recording](#). The next webinar scheduled on June 17, 2020 at 4:00 PM ET on Osteopathic Recognition and strategies to support and engage allopathic resident physicians. [Register for the webinar](#).

### **Virtual Residency Fair**

AACOM/AOGME will host a virtual residency fair on Friday, August 19 1:00 PM ET-9:00 PM ET to give potential candidates and programs an extra opportunity to connect with each other during the 2020-2021 residency application process. Pre-registration for programs is now available, [learn more](#).

### **AACOM UME-GME Digital Resource Library Launch**

The [AACOM UME-GME Continuum Initiative](#)'s faculty development working group launched an online resource library designed to support GME professionals, residents, and others seeking or maintaining Osteopathic Recognition by providing them with a platform for sharing and finding osteopathic GME educational resources. After curating existing resources such as books, webinars, workshops, events and more, this resource currently houses over 126 resources and is available [here](#). Between January 31-April 2019, the library web site has received over 570,000 visits. An editorial board led by the AOGME meets quarterly to discuss improvements to the library and reviews submissions on an on-going basis. The editorial board met on June 2, 2020. View the library and submit resources at [www.aacom.org/library](http://www.aacom.org/library).

### **Osteopathic Recognition Matters: Programs for Optimal Patient Care**

AACOM launched phase II of the Osteopathic Recognition Matters campaign in February 2020 to continue to raise awareness and share educational content and stories related to Osteopathic Recognition and osteopathic focused GME. The Campaign launched a [new blog](#) to feature stories and perspectives on Osteopathic Recognition. In addition, a new student infographic is now available designed to raise awareness among students about Osteopathic Recognition. [View the student infographic](#). Keep up-to date with the campaign on twitter [@OR\\_Matters](#) or on Facebook

at [OR.Matters](#) and visit the website [www.ormatters.org](http://www.ormatters.org). AACOM continues to support Osteopathic Recognition through a suite of resources such as the AOGME [Advance OGME](#) listserv to facilitate discussions related to Osteopathic Recognition and osteopathic training in GME.

### **AOGME GME-LDP Program & Joint ACGME/AOGME Pre-Conference Workshop**

The AOGME hosted the in-person day-long component of the GME Leadership Program in partnership with the Academy for Academic Leadership (AAL) on February 26, 2020 in San Diego, CA. The in-person workshop was led by Dr. Susan Guralnick and Dr. Stan Kozakowski. This event concludes curriculum of the first GME Leadership Program, which included four virtual webinars in the Fall and Winter, and one in-person meeting. The Joint ACGME/AOGME pre-conference for osteopathic programs and institutions was held at the ACGME Annual Educational Conference on February 27, 2020 in San Diego, CA. Over 75 participants attended the event, including many new participants to this year's programming. The

content included accreditation updates and resources, best practices on Osteopathic Recognition, and updates on board certification and the transition to the single accreditation system.

### **AOA & AOGME Osteopathic Recognition Survey of Programs**

The AOA, in partnership with AOGME, disseminated a survey in early March to previous AOA-accredited programs and ACGME programs with DO residents/fellows in their programs (600 programs total), to determine resource needs to support Osteopathic Recognition. The results of the survey will help efforts to raise awareness about Osteopathic Recognition and provide resource to help program apply and achieve Osteopathic Recognition.

### **AACOM Council on Residency Placement**

This year, AACOM launched the Council on Residency Placement (CORP) which is comprised of residency advisors at member institutions and will include liaisons from other AACOM councils, such as the Council on Student Government Presidents (COSGP), and external organizations. The Council will provide a forum for the exchange of ideas; provide support and career development resources for COMs and students to successfully mentor students through the transition to GME, advocate on behalf of member colleges and students and provide a forum for sharing learning and collaboration related to the transition to GME. [View the launch announcement for the Council on Residency Placement \(CORP\).](#)



## AAOE OFFICERS

J. Michael Wieting, DO  
*President*

Alexios  
Carayannopoulos, DO  
*Vice-President*

Jan Zieren, DO  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

Barbara Walker, DO  
*Immediate Past  
President*

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS JULY 2020 REPORT TO THE AOA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE), which is comprised of osteopathic physicians serving on state osteopathic and composite medical licensing boards (AAOE Fellows), serves as the unified authority in matters affecting osteopathic medical licensure and discipline. Strategically, the AAOE acts 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 representatives on 48 out of the 51 possible regulatory boards (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 the winter, at the Annual Meeting of the FSMB in the spring and at the AOA's House of Delegates in the summer.

### Keeping AAOE Fellows Updated on Important Health Policy Trends

The AAOE held its most recent (virtual) business meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, in conjunction with the FSMB's Annual Meeting. During the meeting, FSMB President and CEO Humayun Chaudhry, DO, and FSMB Chair-elect Scott Steingard, DO provided an update to the group on:

- The FSMB's response to COVID-19, including:
  - Creation of the *Ad Hoc Task Force on Pandemic Preparedness* (later renamed the *Pandemic Response Task Force*);
  - Mobilization of FSMB data and advocacy resources to assist states and territories quickly increase their health care workforce capacity;
  - Providing free access to the FSMB Physician Data Center (PDC) to enable hospitals to quickly verify medical licenses;
  - Development of a COVID-19 resource page with state-by-state details on waivers of CME requirements for license renewals, telehealth waivers and FSMB recommendations for license portability during the pandemic.
    - 49 states - modified medical licensure requirements and/or renewals for out of state health care professionals
    - 45 states - modified in-state medical licensure requirements for telehealth from other states
    - 33 states - expedited licensure for retired or inactive physicians
    - 29 states - enacted Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
    - 11 states - allow early MD and DO graduates to provide care under the supervision of a licensed physician before July 1, 2020
  - FSMB & other members of the Coalition for Physician Accountability issued a consensus statement on April 9<sup>th</sup> encouraging stronger state

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efforts to safeguard the public and protect the health care workforce during the pandemic.

- States need:
  - Flexibility to rapidly expand access to quality health care in an emergency
  - Accurate/Current Electronic Data & Records
  - Along with hospitals, medical boards need the capability to rapidly verify qualifications and credentials of physicians and PAs who are already licensed in the US
  - Along with medical schools, medical boards need to move beyond paper credentials (“wet” signatures) and transcripts
  - Safeguards for the public as well as for health care workers
  - Creation of the U.S. Public Health Service’s Ready Reserve Corps under the CARES Act (2020) is timely

Next, the National Board of Osteopathic Examiners’ (NBOME) President and CEO John Gimpel, DO and Board Chair Geraldine O’Shea, DO presented an update on:

- NBOME’s Response to COVID-19 and Issues Related to Licensing Examinations
  - Many exams have been postponed/rescheduled, and some have moved to a self-proctored format
  - Rescheduling fees have been waived
  - Ensuring safe testing environments is a top priority
- UME to GME
  - NBOME has resources available to assist in DOs’ transition from medical school to residency
  - NBOME is conducting outreach to Program Directors re: COMLEX-USA’s Percentile Score Converter
- National Resident Matching Program Match 2020 (first single GME match)
  - 90.7% of OMS IVs matched into residency
  - 81% of DOs matched into fellowships
- 2020 US Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit
  - Summit has been postponed from April 2020 to a date TBD
  - The focus of the summit will be on defining osteopathic distinctiveness
- Hospitals have received financial support during COVID-19; COMs are at a disadvantage because the majority do not have affiliated hospitals

The AOA’s Director of State Government Affairs and AAOE Staff Liaison, Raine Richards, JD, presented an AOA update regarding the impact of COVID-19 on state legislative activity and AOA advocacy:

- All fifty states are scheduled to hold regular legislative sessions this year; 9 are in session currently. Twenty have postponed/rescheduled/canceled their sessions due to COVID-19.
- AOA’s federal public policy team has been advocating for:
  - Financial Relief
  - Medical Liability Reform
  - Protections to shield physician volunteers from additional liability for services rendered in response to a disaster
  - Student Debt Relief
  - Non-Profit Support

○ Paid Medical Leave

- Achievements to date include wins on financial relief for providers, small businesses and student loan borrowers, increased telehealth payment rates and flexibilities, liability protections for physicians and funding for medical supplies.
- At the state level, we have advocated for medical malpractice protections for physicians responding to COVID-19 (9 states), relief from medical malpractice premiums for physicians in solo and small group practices (9 states), flexibility for increased Take Home medication dosages for substance use disorder patients who are currently stable.
- We are also working on extended workers' compensation benefits for "essential workers" who contract COVID-19 in the course of their employment, opposing Medicaid budget cuts, and encouraging state medical board flexibility in licensing renewal/CME requirements during the emergency.

Finally, both Florida and West Virginia passed legislation to eliminate the osteopathic internship requirement for DO licensure, which will help facilitate the licensure process following the completion of the transition to a single accreditation system under the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

AAOE and FSMB Appointments/Elections

During the April AAOE meeting, **Jan Zieren, DO** (Tennessee) was appointed to serve the remainder of Mary Jo Capodice's, DO, term as Secretary-Treasurer (ending in April 2021).

During the April FSMB meeting, **Barbara Walker, DO** (North Carolina) was elected to the **FSMB Board of Directors**, where she joins Jone Geimer-Flanders, DO (Hawaii), Anna Z. Hayden, DO (Florida) and Joseph R. Willett, DO (Minnesota). **J. Michael Wieting, DO** (Tennessee) was elected to the **Nominating Committee**, where he joins Joy M. Neyhart, DO (Alaska). **Scott A. Steingard, DO** (Arizona) is the FSMB Immediate Past Chair for 2020-21.

In addition, the following AAOE Fellows currently serve on FSMB Committees and Workgroups:

FSMB Committees

Anna Z. Hayden, DO (Florida), Wayne J. Reynolds, DO (Honorary Fellow – Virginia) and Joseph R. Willett, DO (Minnesota) serve on the Audit Committee; Sandra Schwemmer, DO (Florida) serves on the Bylaws Committee; Jerry R. Balentine, Jr., DO (New York) serves on the Editorial Committee and J. Michael Wieting, DO (Tennessee) recently completed a three-year term on the Editorial Committee; Scott A. Steingard, DO (Arizona) and Joseph A. Zammuto, DO (California) serve on the Education Committee; Gary R. Hill, DO (Alabama) serves on the Ethics and Professionalism Committee.

FSMB Task Forces, Councils and Workgroups

Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO (FSMB President-CEO) and Jacqueline A. Watson, DO, MBA, CMBE (Washington, D.C. Department of Health) serve on the Ad Hoc Task Force on Pandemic Response; Scott A. Steingard, DO (Arizona) serves on the Advisory Council on Professionalism in Medical Practice; Mary Jo Capodice, DO (Wisconsin) serves on the Artificial Intelligence Task Force; Michelle R. Mendez, DO (Florida) serves on the Workgroup on Board Education, Service & Training; Martin B. Reiss, DO (Arizona) serves on the

Workgroup on Physician Impairment; Katherine L. Fisher, DO (Oregon) and Teresa A. Hubka, DO (AOA) serve on the Workgroup on Physician Sexual Misconduct; Bruce D. White, DO, JD (New York) serves on the Workgroup to Study Risk & Support Factors Affecting Physician Performance.

Maintaining a Strong Relationship with the Osteopathic Medical Profession

The AAOE is represented on the Board of the NBOME by Dana Shaffer, DO (Immediate Past Chair) and Donald Polk, DO, and AAOE leaders participate in the NBOME's annual Liaison Committee Meeting (postponed due to COVID-19). In addition, J. Michael Wieting, DO serves on the NBOME COMAT FSB Task Force and as National Faculty.

AAOE Fellows also contribute to the mission of the AOA by serving on selected committees: Jone Geimer-Flanders, DO, serves as the AAOE representative on the Bureau of State Government Affairs; Barbara Walker, DO serves as the AAOE representative on the Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine. In addition, J. Michael Wieting, DO serves on the Bureau of Osteopathic Education and the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists as Past Chair and as a member of the Standards Review Committee.

Upcoming Activities

Traditionally, AAOE leaders have attended the biennial International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities' International Conference on Medical Regulation and the Osteopathic International Alliance's Annual General Meeting held during the fall; however, both meetings have been cancelled this year due to COVID-19. The next regular meeting of the AAOE will occur during the fall (date TBD), and may be held virtually.

On behalf of the AAOE, I would like to thank the AOA for its ongoing support for our mission and activities, about which additional information is available on our website: [www.aaoe-net.org](http://www.aaoe-net.org).

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michael Wieting, DO  
President, AAOE

Report of the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists  
Raymond M. Depa, DO, Chair  
June 2020

This report highlights activities of the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS) and the various committees that report up to the BOS from March 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020.

#### Appeal Committee

The Appeal Committee convened for the first time ever on a virtual platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee met on April 24, 2020 where they heard and acted on two appeals.

#### Certification Compliance Review Committee

The Certification Compliance Review Committee (CCRC) met on June 2, 2020 to consider a request for certification reinstatement.

#### BOS Executive Committee

The BOS Executive Committee convenes on a monthly basis and has met four times since March of 2020.

- The Committee heard reports and acted on items related to:
  - Requests for board eligibility extension;
  - Addiction Medicine reports (Practice Analysis, Test Specifications, Eligibility Requirements, and Technical Report);
  - Memo of Support for the COCME Item Writing Resolution;
  - Worked with CBS to ensure that none of the candidates and diplomates are harmed by the COVID-19 crisis (extended board eligibility, eliminated PPA requirements, extended certifications, etc. requirements for one year);
  - Request to participate in subspecialty exam prior to obtaining primary certification due to COVID-19;
  - Specialty Board Member nominations;
  - Splitting of Certificates;
  - OMT for Lapsed Certifications;
  - Initial review and comments related to Article II Amendments; and
  - Initial review and comments related to BOS New Handbook Policies Amendments.

#### Standards Review Committee (SRC)

The SRC convened three times over the past four months.

- The Committee considered and acted on several items, most notably:
  - Addiction Medicine reports (Practice Analysis, Test Specifications, Eligibility Requirements, and Technical Report);
  - 2022-2024 Proposed CME Requirements;
  - Splitting of Certificates; and
  - OMT for Lapsed Certifications.

#### Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS)

A special meeting of the full BOS was held in March to consider proposed policies that were subsequently posted for open comment. The BOS then convened virtually for the first time for its Midyear Meeting in April which was widely heralded as a success. During the Midyear Meeting the BOS heard reports and updates from AOA leadership, the Department of Certifying Board Services and various committees and task forces. The BOS acted on items related to:

- Executive Committee Size
- Article II Amendments
- BOS New Handbook Policies Amendments

Greetings from the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents –

We at COSGP are, like many of you, diving into a new year filled with unknowns. As always, COSGP is committed to developing leaders, advocating for all DO students and, this year, embracing flexibility and creativity like never before in the ever-changing landscape in which we are all living. As such, as newly elected board members, we have quickly stepped into our roles and filled our executive board with a group of diverse, talented and motivated student leaders. Our main theme this year is, “The New Front Lines”, understanding that medicine is evolving and that we, as future osteopathic physicians, can begin affecting change now through COSGP nationally and at our COM’s locally.

In a year that is anything but traditional, our board is looking to build virtual engagement in our general council. How do we excite, engage and grow our leaders outside of our traditional quarterly meetings? How do we come together as an organization virtually with the same intensity and tempo as past years? Truthfully, many answers are yet to come, but what we have seen is a group of student leaders who are embracing their roles, facing the unknown and ready to rise to the challenge, so I write you today wholly confident in our ability to grow this year as an organization.

We looked to nature to provide us with themes for our quarterly meetings as well as a solid but flexible framework to build out our year. This summer we will look to “Move Mountains”, this fall working to “Grow the Fire”, in the winter find an “Air of Compassion” and finish out in the spring with “Ride the Wave”. As humans right now, our daily lives are somewhat unpredictable, as leaders even more so. To that end, we want to be able to program and adapt as our Council needs throughout the year and achieve more together.

On behalf of all of us in COSGP, we look forward to working alongside all of you this year in affecting change and leading through uncertainty.

Stand fast,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Krista Niezwaag', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Krista Niezwaag, PA-C  
Chair of the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents





## **NBOME Update for AOA Board of Trustees June 15, 2020**

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is putting extraordinary stress on osteopathic medical, educational, assessment, and practicing physician communities. The NBOME appreciates the continued support of the American Osteopathic Association for osteopathically distinctive assessments for DO licensure throughout the lifecycle from osteopathic medical student and through board certification to osteopathic continuous certification. We want to thank you for all you are doing on behalf of your constituents during this challenging time. In particular, we salute those who are providing frontline care for your patients and communities during the pandemic – thank you for fulfilling the commitment you made to service and altruism. We are pleased to provide you with some highlights of our initiatives and invite you to visit our [COVID-19 microsite](#) for additional information. In addition, the NBOME 2019 annual report, [Amplify](#), is also available on our website.

### **COMLEX-USA Computer-Based Testing**

NBOME partners with Prometric for administration of the COMLEX-USA Level 1, 2-CE and 3. Prometric closed their centers due to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 16. Prometric began reopening test centers and resumed examination administrations on May 1 with significant limitations on capacity due to social distancing guidelines and restrictions of some centers to open due to governmental regulations. As of this writing, all three examinations are offered to our candidates as these circumstances allow. Currently, examination administrations are behind usual volumes, but over 13,000 COMLEX-USA appointments at Prometric Centers are now confirmed for June and July. If test sites remain open as planned and test administrations occur as scheduled, we expect to administer examinations to all Level 1, 2-CE and 3 test takers who want to test before the end of this year. About 90% of COMLEX-USA candidates who were displaced from appointments in April-June are rescheduled by August 31. Additionally, we have been aggressively exploring alternate test delivery options and announced 4 regional Prometric Satellite Centers at colleges of osteopathic medicine to begin testing to help with any backlog beginning in July. Other alternate delivery options continue to be explored and piloted. This will allow additional Prometric seats to become available, and will provide a contingency plan for computer-based COMLEX-USA examination delivery should restrictions recur in the fall or winter months.

### **COMLEX-USA Clinical Skills Testing**

Due to the pandemic and the nature of the examination, the NBOME temporarily suspended administration of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Examination (PE) in early March. Currently, our target for examination resumption is September 1, 2020, with significant administrative modifications to provide for a safe examination experience. This date will be revisited based on evolving state and travel restrictions in the coming weeks. Provided we resume test sessions by September, we will still be able to test the entire DO Class of 2021 prior to graduation, and 25% of that class has already passed the examination. We believe that the numerous safety protocols developed for this examination will maximize protection once we are able to resume. However, in further support of flexibility for candidates in the Class of 2021 as to the timing of their Level 2-PE exam, allowing them to test when they are ready, we enthusiastically supported the decision of COCA to temporarily modify graduations requirements for the Class of 2021. We worked with the AOA,



AACOM and COCA on a [Joint Statement](#) in support of COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE and COCA's temporary modification of graduation standards for the DO Class of 2021.

The NBOME recognizes the State Medical and Osteopathic Medical Boards' reliance on the COMLEX-USA including a national standardized clinical skills assessment to support licensure decisions for osteopathic physicians. We met with the leadership of the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners, who reiterated their reliance on the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE in evaluating the competencies of DOs applying for state licensure. NBOME's decisions regarding the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE are made based on role of the examination in the NBOME's mission of protecting the public and patient safety – the examination is validated and reliable in the assessment of competency in the clinical skills deemed necessary to practice osteopathic medicine. The personal performance of physical examination techniques and osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) is an integral and essential part of the examination, as are the assessment of doctor-patient communication, rapport-building and interpersonal skills. Additionally, the core entrustable activities that include history-taking and physical examination skills, the generation of an integrated differential diagnosis, and development of a cost-effective and evidence-based evaluation and treatment plan, are integral to patient safety and competent osteopathic medical care. As such, we had reached out to the FSMB leadership and the NBME leadership in early May and notified them that we did not consider a virtual or telehealth format to be valid for the fundamental skills assessed in COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE.

The recent publication in [Academic Medicine](#) co-authored by NBOME and FSMB researchers demonstrates the relationship the COMLEX-USA series (including the Level 2-PE) has to the goal of State Medical and Osteopathic Medical Licensing Boards to protect the public, where the "findings provide evidence that the COMLEX-USA delivers useful information regarding the likelihood of a practitioner receiving state board disciplinary action."<sup>1</sup>

## Advocacy

The NBOME continues to advocate for the use of valid, osteopathically distinctive assessments for licensure of osteopathic physicians. We continue to work actively as a member of the Coalition for Physician Accountability to ensure our profession self-regulates and continues to earn society's trust in the nation's physicians. As such, we continue to partner with the Coalitions' 12 member organizations, including the FSMB and the NBME, to assist our nation's physician and medical education communities in continuing to meet the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have advocated that residency program directors not hold students accountable for licensure exam results that they have been unable to take due to the pandemic. We likewise continue to advocate for the equivalency of the DO degree, the COMLEX-USA credential, and osteopathic board certification, not just in the licensure community but in the ACGME residency and fellowship program world and the international arena. We applaud the DO class of 2020 on a 99.2+% residency placement/match rate in this first year of the single NRMP match as part of the maturation of the single GME accreditation system. Congratulations to them and to AACOM and the AOA for the tremendous success of DO applicants this year, resulting in significantly higher match rates for residency and specialty fellowship programs despite record high number of applicants.



## Support of AOA Certifying Board Services

In February of this year, the AOA announced a new partnership with the NBOME that will strategically align with the NBOME for exam development, administration and psychometric services for AOA Board Certification. As the NBOME and the AOA work towards the final stages of this new relationship, the initial partnership will focus on the development and deployment of highly-customized, cognitive assessments for initial and osteopathic continuous certification (OCC). A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in May and the AOA and NBOME are working on the development of an Agreement that would result in the NBOME providing services to the AOA for assessments that will be delivered in 2022.

We appreciate the partnership with the AOA, and look forward to strengthening this relationship further with AOA Board Certification examinations. We stand strong and consider it a privilege to continue to support you in the important work you do for the safety of the public and the patients and communities we serve.

Sincerely,

John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd  
President & CEO  
National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

Geraldine T. O'Shea, DO  
Chair, Board of Directors  
National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners

1. Roberts WL, Gross GA, Gimpel JR, et al. [An investigation of the relationship between COMLEX-USA licensure examination performance and state licensing board disciplinary actions. Academic Medicine.](#) June 2020; 95(6):925-930. doi: 10.1097/ACM.0000000000003046



Return to agenda

“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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2020-2021 Board of Directors:

Shikha Patel, OMS IV Foundation Chairperson  
Ayesha Hasan, OMS IV Director of Financial Affairs  
Renee Wakulski, OMS IV Foundation Liaison

Agilda Dema, OMS III Director of Membership  
Abbey Santanello, OMS III Director of Scholarships  
and Grants

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**Affiliate Report to the American Osteopathic Association**

*Board of Trustees Meeting, July 2020*

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

**SOMA Foundation Board Transition**

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we held a virtual transition process in March 2020 to welcome our new Board of Directors as indicated above. We are excited to be working to provide opportunities to support our fellow osteopathic students and have many upcoming projects. As always, we welcome all AOA members to participate in our annual service projects and events and thank you for your support.

**Scholarships: Spring 2020**

Our Spring scholarship cycle winners were announced during the virtual SOMA Spring Convention.

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

- Total Scholarships distributed: 7
- Total amount: \$7000.00
- Scholarship Recipients
  - **A.T. Still Memorial Scholarship (\$1000 each)**
    - Kathryn A. Hawks, OMS III, LMU-DCOM
    - Kevin Marfiak, OMS III, Nova Southeastern University COM
  - **Leadership in Specialty Medicine Scholarship (\$1000 each)**
    - Ryan Dyches, OMS IV, Midwestern University AZCOM
    - Neil K. Jain, OMS IV, Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine
  - **International Medical Outreach Scholarship (\$1000 each)**
    - Dania Abu-Jubara, OMS III, Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (ARCOM)
    - Vraj Tripathi, OMS I, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM)
    - Anna Tran, OMS III, Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine - Middletown

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.*



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**Grants: Spring 2020**

During the Spring semester, we provided 2 grants to support local SOMA chapters. We also provided travel grants to allow students to attend the national conferences.

- SOMA Chapter Grants
  - **PNWU- Mini Medical School**
    - Students visited Barge-Lincoln Elementary school on three occasions to discuss Osteopathic medicine with the goal to promote higher education and to provide mental, physical, and spiritual health education.
- Travel Grants
  - **The SOMA Foundation Travel Grant (2 recipients for Spring 2020)**
    - Alexis O’Connell, OMS II, Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine
    - Emily Artz, OMS II, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medical School - Athens

**Community Service: Summer 2020**

We will be providing virtual community service opportunities through June-July 2020 and during the SOMA Summer Leadership Meeting.

- **Virtual Blood Drive- June 1-July 23, 2020**
  - Encouraging students to visit any blood donation center locally.
- **Cards for Quarantined Seniors- SLM, July 25-26, 2020**
  - We are partnering with Letters Against Isolation and asking students to write a letter to seniors from different states.

**Future Plans**

We have been continuing to work closely with SOMA, the AOA, and the AOF to establish a new affiliation with the AOF that will allow for the growth and expansion of SOMA Foundation so that we can provide more financial opportunities to our fellow osteopathic medical students. Within the next few months, we are planning to establish a working taskforce with members from the above mentioned organizations to plan for this new development.

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**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 2019-2020 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.

**Call for New Scholarship Sponsors:** Please contact us today if any AOA member is interested in sponsoring scholarships for osteopathic medical students.

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,

Shikha Patel, OMS IV, Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine  
SOMA Foundation Chairperson  
[chairperson@studentdo.com](mailto:chairperson@studentdo.com)

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