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## Training in Policy Studies Fellowship Program

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

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

The program will seek to develop the following skills:

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

### Meeting Participation:

Fellows will participate in a total of seven learning sessions, including a final presentation. Of these sessions, three will be in-person, and four will be held digitally. The program will start in October 2023 and conclude at the 2024 OMED. Final presentations will be presented at the OMED meeting. TIPS Fellows must participate in at least 6 of the meetings to receive a certificate at the end of the program.

### Engagement:

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

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

Agenda:<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Dates	Subject(s)	Description and Assigned Reading Due Dates
<p><b>In-Person Meeting:</b> <b>Oct 6, 2023</b></p>	<p><b>Program Overview</b></p> <p><b>Part 1:</b> Introduction to the TIPS Program and Policy Analysis</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b> 2024 Policy Outlook</p>	<p>AOA leadership will welcome the new cohort of Fellows and lead a discussion on the importance of physician involvement in policymaking.</p> <p><b>Part 1:</b></p> <p>Discussion will provide fellows with a brief insight into the policy making process and how to approach policy analysis. Discussion will address evaluating policy from different stakeholder perspectives and considering unintended consequences.</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b></p> <p>Discussion will provide an overview of trends that are shaping the policymaking landscape in 2024, addressing areas that will likely be of focus for Congress and federal agencies.</p>
<p><b>Virtual Meeting:</b> <b>Dec 12, 2023</b> <b>7:30pm ET</b></p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b> Legislative Process Overview</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b> Medicare Payment Reform</p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b></p> <p>Discussion will provide an overview of the federal legislative process, with a focus on how to influence various stages of the process to maximize impact</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b></p> <p>Discussion will provide an overview of the current state of physician payment, implications for the broader healthcare marketplace, and potential solutions being discussed by stakeholders for comprehensive reform.</p>
<p><b>Policy Brief Due Friday, January 21, 2023, April 13-14</b></p>		
<p><b>Virtual Meeting:</b> <b>Feb 21, 2024</b></p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b> Primer: The Regulatory Process</p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b></p> <p>The first portion of this meeting will describe the rulemaking process, how federal agencies implement laws passed by Congress, and opportunities for stakeholder engagement</p>

<sup>1</sup> Topics subject to change based on current events and evolving policy landscape.

<p><b>7:30pm ET</b></p>	<p><b>Part 2: Writing Workshop</b></p>	<p>within this process. The discussion will also provide a case study on a current regulatory issue.</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b></p> <p>This segment will outline expectations for the TIPS fellows final project and the two options for work products: an article developed to the <i>Journal of Osteopathic Medicine</i> standards or a policy white paper. Discussion will provide guidance on drafting, and address paper structure, tone, supporting literature, and other considerations for fellows as they develop their final papers.</p>
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**DO Day Virtual Leadership Conference**

<p><b>In-Person Meeting: April 19-21, 2024  Washington, DC</b></p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b> State Policy Overview</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b> Federal PBM Reform</p> <p><b>Part 3:</b> State-Level PBM Reform</p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b> Discussion will provide a panorama on issues affecting the osteopathic profession and patients at the state level. Issues addressed include telemedicine, liability issues, and scope of practice, and the varying approaches states take to each.</p> <p><b>Part 2 and Part 3:</b></p> <p>The remaining portions of the meeting will provide an overview of pharmacy benefit managers, their role in the healthcare marketplace, their potential impacts on patient drug costs, and efforts to reform PBM practices at the federal and state levels.</p>
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**White Paper Draft Due June 2, 2024**

<p><b>Virtual Meeting: Jun 14, 2024 9:30am ET</b></p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b> Issues impacting physician residents</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b> Grassroots engagement in the U.S. political system, and how its impact</p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b></p> <p>Discussion will provide an overview of current policy issues uniquely impacting physician residents, including loan reform and deferment, and equity in residency programs.</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b></p> <p>Discussion will focus on the role of grassroots/advocacy in the policymaking process and the impact of stakeholders in shaping policy.</p>
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<p><b>Virtual Meeting: Aug 14, 2024 7:30pm ET</b></p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b> Regulation of Health Information Technology and Health Data</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b> Regulating AI in Health Care</p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b> Discussion will provide an overview of the current landscape for regulation of health data, outlining the roles of various federal agencies, including the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, the HHS Office for Civil Rights, and the Federal Trade Commission.</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b> Building on part 1, discussion will address, at a high level, some the unique challenges faced with regulating AI technologies used in healthcare, particularly in light of the broad range of technologies being developed, their differing uses, and the gaps within current regulatory frameworks.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Final Papers and Presentation Due Monday, August 12, 2024</b></p>		
<p><b>OMED Meeting, San Antonio, TX: Sep 19- 22</b></p>	<p>Proposal Presentations and Program Conclusion</p>	<p>Fellows will present their policy proposals and leadership from AOA and AOF will conclude the program with the fellows.</p>