



ADVOCATES FOR THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

In my role as AAOA President this year, I am working with the incredible AAOA board members to implement our theme of “Advocate with Action” to highlight the importance of advocating for the Osteopathic Profession through each step of the professional journey. The theme supports our continued growth, while still reflecting our rich history. As in past years, we are building upon the AAOA’s history and foundation, while adapting to the ever-changing landscape of a national organization and continuing the progress we have made.

We have several steps to advocate with action this year. We have made a commitment to our strategic plan and vision to provide resources and programs remotely for our membership and beyond. We have continued partnerships with the AOF and the AOA Physician Wellness taskforce. We also committed as an organization to update our website, increase our social media presence, and continue supporting SOMA and special projects, with our annual Fun Run at OMED.

This year, in conjunction with the AAOA Educational Endowment Fund we have offered a series of 6 webinars to our DO family all over the country. Our webinars revolve around wellness from relationship to financial. We will bring in subject-matter experts, including Guy Golan who works with physicians and their spouses through life coaching, Tiffany Sweeney who works with mental health and suicide prevention in the state of Montana, and the White Coat Investor who has authored many books on the very specific finances of physicians.

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

Another highlight of Advocate work is our involvement with the AOA Physician Wellness Task Force. Our Director, Jamie Hentges and I have worked on many taskforce initiatives and continue to help with various presentations and behind-the-scenes contributions. The Physician Wellness Taskforce has provided us an opportunity to continue and grow one of our oldest initiatives: the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program. The Yellow Ribbon program has been around since 1994, and the Advocates have been committed to this work for over 15 years. This year we plan to send one of our board members to Colorado to receive instruction as a Yellow Ribbon Program trainer.

As an organization we also identified a need to modernize our internet presence. This year we will be launching an entirely new website, including an online store where you can buy our ties and brooches, as well as pay for membership exclusively on the web. We are hoping that this virtual overhaul will help increase traffic to and usability of our website for everyone.

AAOA President

Angela Kalcec

President Elect

Caryn Tabby

AAOA Advisor

Richard Thacker, DO

AAOA Executive Director

Lawrence Cunningham



ADVOCATES FOR THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

The AAOA continues to invest time and energy into the development of our SAA (Student Advocate Association) and IRAA (Intern Resident Advocate Association) chapters around the country. Starting last year and continuing this year, we have had a greater presence on social media, sending out surveys and holding virtual gatherings so that we can connect with the groups throughout the year, not just annually at our SAA/IRAA event during OMED. We have received positive feedback about these virtual meetings, and through them we are able to address common struggles such as “medical marriage”, finances, and raising kids through med-school/residency. It is important to realize that we are not alone during this challenging time, and others have been there and can offer support and encouragement or advice. Our SAA/IRAA committee this year has begun a push to identify the resident groups that we may have overlooked. We have a couple of strong and active IRAA groups, but we are working to find those that are in the gap period between SAA membership and when they join a state organization.

Our SAA/IRAA event continues to be well-attended during OMED and would not be possible without the support of the AACOFP. In Austin, you can once again look forward to this Phenomenal event, in addition to our other annual activities. These include a family fun activity which spouses/children of OMED attendees are invited to attend. We will also be hosting our annual Still Fit for Life Fun Run, and we are honored to have Dr. Mark Baker serve as our Honorary Chair. We hope that each of you will help support our Fun Run this year. All of the money raised goes directly back to SOMA, SAAs, as well as a variety of other organizations supporting osteopathic medicine.

Our board this year is comprised of many young board members, several student and resident spouses, and two members that are not spouses but rather family members, friends, and colleagues of Osteopathic Physicians. I think this speaks volumes to the commitment and passion our board has for the AAOA, and for Osteopathic advocacy in general, and it will be very exciting to watch this board grow and develop further. We couldn't do it without the amazing support of Dr. Thacker and all of you. Thank you for ALWAYS supporting what we DO.

The AAOA has continued to evolve over the past several years. We are grounded in our roots and continue our basic mission: supporting and promoting the Osteopathic Profession and creating a strong, close network of people who are passionate, like us, about osteopathic medicine and advocating with action. We thank the AOA for their continued partnership and opportunities to collaborate and look forward to future collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela M. Kalcec
President, 2019-2020
Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association

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

Board of Deans Update

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

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

College of Osteopathic Medicine Dean Updates. The following deans have become new members of the AACOM Board of Deans since our last report to the American Osteopathic Association

- **Beth Longenecker, DO,** Dean, Athens Campus, Ohio Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Ray L. Morrison, DO,** Dean, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Louisiana Campus
- **Thomas J. Mohr, DO,** Dean, Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Matthew Cannon –** Dean, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Carolinas Campus
- **Charles Henley, DO,** Founding Dean, Sam Houston State University – College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Steven J. Halm, DO,** Dean, Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **James Powers, DO,** Interim Dean, Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine

Other Leadership Updates (*as of January 27, 2020*)

AACOM Membership Growth

With the addition of a new branch campus, AACOM membership grew to 57 locations in 33 states since AACOM's last report to the Board of Trustees.

New Branch Campus in Texas

The American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) granted Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (SHSU-COM) in Montgomery County, TX candidate status with permission to recruit. SHSU-COM has become a member of AACOM.

Osteopathic Medical School Applications Update

Application Cycle Update

As of January 27, 2020, AACOMAS has received 22,407 submitted applicants, a 5.29% increase over January 28, 2019. There were 198,117 submitted designations (or individual applications to medical schools), which is a 4.02% increase over last year. Each applicant submitted an average of 8.8 designations. We've added two additional AACOMAS programs for a total of 42 programs. Those programs are VCOM-Louisiana and California Health Sciences University COM.

Applicant Resources – Blog Posts

It is well known that one of the most effective ways to build brand awareness, while providing relevant and useful content to a target audience is through consistent blogging. Given that the ChooseDO brand and website is newer, our team set out to work strategically with the MARCOM staff to create real-time content, written by physicians, current students, and applicants alike to help drive traffic to the ChooseDO webpage. Our goal is to continue to boost ChooseDO's search engine optimization, develop and strengthen relationships with current and future applicants, connect our constituents with our brand, and create opportunities for sharing amongst their own communities. We have posted 2 blog posts since December 2019 with 6 more in the pipeline.

Medical School Fairs

AACOM, together with participating colleges of osteopathic medicine, successfully hosted a ChooseDO Medical School Virtual Expo in August of 2019 and has another Virtual Expo on January 30, 2020. These expos continue to provide faculty, staff, and current students at AACOM member colleges the opportunity to engage from a home computer with prospective students across the country, while also providing a free online way for potential applicants to interact with different colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs), ask questions, and gain important insight into the osteopathic medical school application process and student experience.

In November 2019, AACOM hosted an in-person medical school expo in partnership with the Georgia Institute of Technology. The decision to host an event at Georgia Tech was data driven. AACOM compared the number of applicants to MD institutions vs the number of applicants to DO institutions by undergraduate institutions, finding large disproportions in the southeast. To engage applicants who may not have considered DO schools previously, our team worked with Georgia Tech to deliver an in person medical school expo, on a college campus, in an easily accessible city. Over 172 prospective students and their guests traveled from 101 different undergraduate institutions to Atlanta, GA to participate in the ChooseDO Medical School Expo, geared toward aspiring physicians interested in learning more about the osteopathic medical profession and meeting with member colleges.

In all, 25 main and branch campuses of colleges of osteopathic medicine chose to participate. With 172 attendees, 73.68% were in the inquiry stage, meaning that they had not yet applied to AACOMAS in the past. In addition to the survey feedback received from medical schools, AACOM asked respondents how likely they were to attend a COM after attending the event, and 100% indicated that they were very likely OR somewhat likely.

Research Update

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

Examples of [recently-published reports](#) include:

- [2018-19 Osteopathic Medical College Basic Science Faculty by Rank](#)
- [2018-19 Clinical Clerkship by Osteopathic Medical College](#)
- [U.S. Osteopathic Medical Schools by Year of Inaugural Class](#)
- [2018-19 Osteopathic Medical College Cost of Attendance](#)
- [2019 Designations](#)

In addition to these reports, each of the COMs received an applicant and graduating senior survey school-specific report sent directly to the deans. This report shows COM specific data compared to the aggregate data. Ad-hoc requests for data, reports, and other research needs of the COMs are addressed throughout the year.

GME 2020 Match Report

In 2019, AACOM reported that 98.48 percent of all DO graduates seeking GME placed to a position ([Report on Osteopathic Medical Placements in 2019 Matches](#)). The research department is currently revising the Match survey to simplify the data collection process and ensure accurate data are collected as we transition into the single GME pathway.

Project on Osteopathic Medical Education and Empathy (POMEE)

A full report on POMEE Phase I, the first study of empathy in osteopathic medical education in the United States with a national scope, was provided at Educating Leaders 2019. Phase I, Round 1, 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. Initial results of Phase II were presented at the AOA's Osteopathic Medical Education meeting (OMED) in October 2018; results were also provided to participants who voluntarily disclosed an email address. Students and COMs were also given a nationally normed table to help interpret the results, as well as suggestions for improving their empathy while in osteopathic medical school. Three manuscripts have already been published from this work to-date, with a fourth recently submitted.

POMEE Phase 2, a longitudinal study of changes in empathy over the four years of osteopathic medical school, was introduced at the 2018 OMED meeting, and data collection began in summer, 2019. The American Osteopathic Association again agreed to co-sponsor this important research, which began with the survey of matriculating students in the class of 2023, and will continue with a second survey in Spring 2020.

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 at this time.

Medical Education Update

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 Leadership Institute Programs

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

The 2019-2020 [Senior Leadership Development Program](#) (SLDP) program began in April 2019 and will conclude in April 2020. It comprises 13 leaders in COMs and other organizations in the osteopathic profession. The program is intended to assist new and experienced deans, current, interim, or designated deans, and others identified by their schools as potential future deans to develop and enhance critical leadership and management competencies. The SLDP was conceived and developed together with AACOM leadership in close consultation with the Academy for Academic Leadership (AAL).

- **Administrator Leadership Development Program (ALDP)**

In April 2019, twenty-eight individuals presented their group Capstone Projects and graduated from the [Administrator Leadership Development Program](#) (ALDP). This program targeted osteopathic administrative leaders serving as department chairs, vice chairs, directors, heads, assistant deans, and associate deans who lead departments and programs at U.S. COMs. Through the use of curricular tracks, the two leadership programs have been combined into the 2020 SLDP. Applications for this program recently closed, and the new cohort will be announced in February 2020, to begin the program in March at Educating Leaders 2020.

- **Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship (OHPF)**

The [Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship](#) (OHPF) recently completed its fourth session, in January 2020, hosted by AT Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona. AACOM's government relations office hosts one session each year; the introductory session is also held at AACOM; other sessions, covering all aspects of advocacy and leading policy change, are held throughout the year at various COMs. The program, sponsored by AACOM and led by Dan Skinner of Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine and Al Pheley of Michigan, is in its second year under AACOM's direction. Its current class of 12 fellows graduates in September 2020.

Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP)

Sam Zarbock, OMS III from Rocky Vista University – Southern Utah was selected as Chair of the COSGP. This year's theme is leadership. The council will continue its focus on mental health including promotion of the medical student day of wellness other issues related to mental health. 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.

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.

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 in April in Washington, DC, 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, will be held March 25-27, 2020 at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC under the leadership of conference chair, Patricia Matto, DO, Vice President for Medical Education at the Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton, North Carolina. The theme is "Advocating Wellness Advancing Education," and will feature programming with the best new research and scholarly work from across the broad osteopathic medical education landscape. There are three days of planned activities and meetings for the AACOM Board of Deans and the Assembly of Presidents, and 12 of AACOM's Councils, which consist of interest groups of COM faculty, staff, students, and others, will meet during Educating Leaders 2020.

The 800+ attendees at the conference will be attending over 160 oral and poster presentations, including four workshops, including workshops on the Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) and a workshop for faculty on preparing a dossier for promotion or advancement in rank, as well as the following pre-conference workshops:

- Student Advising & Strategies to Maximize Residency Match Success
- Take Your EPA Assessment Strategies to the Next Level
- NIH Grants and Fellowship Opportunities
- Assessment of Foundational Biomedical Sciences in Osteopathic UME

[Educating Leaders 2021](#) will be held April 21-23, in Washington, DC. The theme has not been announced.

Government Relations Update

Government Relations

Efforts to Secure THCGME Program Funding

AACOM worked with U.S. Senator Susan Collins' (R-ME) and U.S. Representative Raul Ruiz's (D-CA) offices to introduce the *Training the Next Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act of 2019* (S. 1191/H.R. 2815), for which AACOM [announced](#) its strong support. AACOM also led six other national health organizations as part of the Teaching Health Center coalition in [support](#) of the bills. In addition, Senator Collins published a [press release](#), which quotes Jane Carreiro, DO, Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of New England, and Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH, AACOM immediate past President and CEO, about the legislation's importance.

These bipartisan bills would expand the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)'s Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Program for five years, providing enhanced funding and a pathway for growth in the number of residents trained. AACOM played an active role in ensuring that the bill included provisions critical to the osteopathic medical education (OME) community. Funding for the THCGME

Program, which was set to expire at the end of fiscal year (FY) 2019, was extended by two short-term continuing resolutions signed by the President on September 27, 2019 and November 21, 2019. On December 20, the President signed into law the *Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020* (H.R. 1865), one of the two FY20 spending packages that would extend funding through May 22, 2020.

GME Legislation Relevant to OME

AACOM continues to support legislation that will increase graduate medical education (GME) as well as protect against any possible funding cuts. AACOM has endorsed the following GME bills in the 116th Congress:

- ***Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act of 2019* (H.R. 3425).** In July, this bill was incorporated into the *Beneficiary Education Tools Telehealth Extender Reauthorization Act* (H.R. 3417), which was passed by the House Ways and Means Committee.
- ***Community and Public Health Programs Extension Act* (S. 192).** With the leadership and support of U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA), the HELP Committee passed S. 1895, the *Lower Health Care Costs Act of 2019*, a bipartisan package that includes a provision similar to S. 192.
- ***Opioid Workforce Act of 2019* (H.R. 3414/S. 2892).** The House Ways and Means Committee passed an amended version of the bill in June.
- ***Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2019* (H.R. 1763/S. 348).**
- ***Rural Physician Workforce Production Act of 2019* (S. 289).**
- ***Supporting Graduate Medical Education at Community Hospitals Act of 2019* (H.R. 3753/S. 2116).**
-

CMS Finalizes GME Provision in FY20 IPPS Final Rule

On August 2, 2019 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the [final rule](#) for inpatient prospective payment systems. The final package includes, among other updates, a provision related to Medicare GME for teaching hospitals and payments to critical access hospitals (CAHs). AACOM [commented](#) in support of this proposal that would change how full-time equivalent (FTE) resident time may be counted when residents train at CAHs. Previously, CAHs were not considered nonprovider sites for the purposes of direct GME and indirect medical education payments, which created barriers to training residents in rural areas and hindered efforts to increase the practice of physicians in rural areas. Therefore, effective October 1, 2019, a hospital may include FTE residents training at a CAH in its FTE count as long as it meets the nonprovider setting requirements. U.S. Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) previously introduced the [AACOM-endorsed Restoring Rural Residencies Act of 2019](#) (S. 1240), which would have provided a similar fix.

CMS Releases Final Rule for the 2020 Physician Fee Schedule

On November 15, 2019, CMS published the [final rule](#) for the calendar year 2020 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Among other updates, the package includes a provision stating that “the extent of the teaching physician’s participation in services involving residents may be demonstrated by notes in the medical records made by a physician, resident, or nurse.” AACOM previously submitted [comments](#) to CMS in support of the agency’s continued focus on reducing administrative burdens through the Patients Over Paperwork Initiative and provided recommendations regarding the review and verification of medical record documentation. The rule is effective January 1, 2020.

AACOM Efforts on Addressing Rural Health Issues

AACOM recently joined with the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) to [respond](#) to HRSA's [request for information](#) on rural access to health care services. The RFI is intended to inform the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Rural Health Task Force created by HHS Secretary Alex Azar. AACOM and the AOA provided comments and recommendations on the core health care services needed in rural communities and how those services can be delivered; outlined important programs that support the future health care workforce, particularly in rural and underserved areas; and described other factors related to the sustainability of health care services in these communities.

Additionally, AACOM [responded](#) to the House Ways and Means Committee's Rural and Underserved Communities Health Task Force's RFI regarding priority topics that affect the health status and outcomes for populations living in rural and underserved communities. The Task Force was [launched](#) by the Committee in July to bring together Members and experts in the field to "discuss the challenges of delivering health care in rural and underserved areas and explore holistic bipartisan policy options that could improve outcomes and care in these communities."

New AACOM Opioid Epidemic Initiative & Working Group

AACOM GR, in coordination with AACOM's Medical Education and Research Department and the Office of the President, is spearheading an initiative to strategically position the association and its membership to capitalize on opportunities created by the implementation of the new opioid law—the *Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act*. Prior to the law's passage, AACOM advocated for the inclusion of various provisions that were successfully incorporated into the final bill text. Staff involved in this initiative are developing an opioid policy and research survey to collect vital information to inform AACOM's efforts to represent our membership in this area, creating a new web page to showcase the OME community's ongoing efforts to address the crisis, and have established an ad hoc advisory group comprised of member experts.

The AACOM Opioid Advisory Task Force will help ensure the OME community is prepared to take advantage of the opportunities in the *SUPPORT Act*, particularly given the high membership investment in addressing this issue. The Task Force held its initial coordinating call on October 22 and will support the OME community by:

- Serving as an expert resource for AACOM to evaluate legislative and regulatory policies, specifically the implementation of the *SUPPORT Act*;
- Providing guidance on research priorities and responding to data collection efforts and other inquiries about ways in which OME can or is making a difference in treating pain and caring for those with substance use disorders;
- Developing or guiding the advancement of curricular resources to support addressing patients' pain, safely prescribing opioid medications, and treating substance use disorder; and
- Sharing best practices among AACOM membership.

AACOM's 2019 COM Day on Capitol Hill and Virtual Hill Day

Twenty-six teams of osteopathic medical students, deans, and educators from the nation's colleges of osteopathic medicine and the Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators convened in Washington, DC on October 16 – 17, 2019 for AACOM's 2019 COM Day on Capitol Hill, the association's annual advocacy day. During

nearly 100 congressional meetings, attendees shared their stories with legislators and voiced their support for federal health and higher education policies and programs that are vital to the full continuum of osteopathic medical education. On social media, AACOM's 4th annual Virtual Hill Day engaged the wider health professions education community on issues affecting graduate student debt, loan repayment, and forgiveness. U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and U.S. Representatives Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) and Debbie Lesko (R-AZ) spoke with attendees during the event's welcome reception and dinner. Senator Collins and Representative

McMorris Rodgers provided remarks, discussing the importance of the HRSA's [THCGME Program](#). Both Members are long-time champions of this highly innovative and successful program that is crucial to addressing the primary care physician shortage in rural and underserved areas and have introduced legislation that would extend the THCGME Program, which AACOM strongly endorsed.

ED to MED Campaign Activity

[ED to MED](#), AACOM's national grassroots advocacy campaign, 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 10,190 grassroots [advocates](#) and over 215 [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 and Grad PLUS Loan Programs have resulted in 321 legislators receiving a total of 1,775 [messages](#) from ED to MED advocates expressing the importance of preserving these key federal programs. As Congress continues to negotiate HEA reauthorization, grassroots advocacy will be crucial to ensuring federal financial aid and loan repayment programs continue to support a robust, diverse future physician workforce equipped to treat vulnerable patient populations. Follow the campaign on Twitter at [@ed2med](#) and on Facebook at [@edtomed](#).

Rally for Medical Research Hill Day

On September 19, 2019 AACOM participated in the 7th annual Rally for Medical Research National Day of Action to raise awareness about the importance of sustained funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). NIH research leads to innovative medical discoveries contributing to causes, treatments, and cures for common and rare diseases and overall disease prevention. AACOM remains committed to advocating on behalf of federal research advancement.

Opioid GME Day of Action

On December 5, 2019 AACOM GR participated in the Association of American Medical Colleges' 2019 GME Day of Action as part of the GME Advocacy Coalition, which is composed of over 70 individual hospital, physician, and health care advocacy associations and societies. The event raised awareness of the importance of expanding GME training to treat patients with pain and substance use disorders. Over one million individuals, including policymakers, were reached through this day of advocacy. Throughout the day, AACOM urged Congress to pass the *Opioid Workforce Act of 2019*, which would provide Medicare support for an additional 1,000 GME positions over five years in hospitals that have, or are in the process of establishing, accredited residency programs in addiction medicine, addiction psychiatry, or pain medicine, and highlighted efforts and research currently being undertaken by the nation's colleges of osteopathic medicine to help address the opioid epidemic.

2019 Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship Seminar

AACOM GR hosted its 2019 Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship (OHPF) Seminar on December 11 – 14, 2019 to provide fellows with a comprehensive overview of the federal government’s role in health and higher education policies. Over the course of the seminar, officials from the U.S. Departments of Education (ED), HHS, Veterans Affairs (VA), and the U.S. Government Accountability Office presented to the fellows. Judith Mun, AACOM Director of Government Relations, and Julie Crockett, AACOM Senior Federal Regulatory Affairs Manager, provided fellows with welcome remarks and an update on AACOM’s government relations efforts to open the seminar, followed by a presentation by Mark Speicher, PhD, MHA, AACOM Senior Vice President for Medical Education and Research, on AACOM’s medical education and research initiatives.

Offered through AACOM’s [Leadership Institute](#), the OHPF is a year-long training program designed to give osteopathic physicians and individuals with an established connection to the osteopathic profession the skills they need to analyze, formulate, and implement health policy on the local, state, and national levels with the purpose of increasing access to affordable, quality health care. [Learn more.](#)

Federal Advisory Committees

AACOM continues to advocate for osteopathic medical educators and physicians to serve on federal committees and advisory boards. AACOM nominees currently serving on federal advisory committees include:

- Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO, on the VA National Academic Affiliations Council, and Vice-Chairman of the ED National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation
- Kenneth J. Veit, DO, MBA, on the HRSA Council on Graduate Medical Education
- Thomas E. McWilliams, DO, Chair of the HRSA Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry

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) celebrated its one-year anniversary within AACOM in January 2019. AOGME’s membership currently comprises GME professionals, including Directors of Medical Education (DMEs), Designated Institutional Officials (DIOs), Directors of Osteopathic Education (DOEs), program directors, faculty, administrators, support personnel and others involved in osteopathic GME. In addition, the membership now also includes residents and fellows in the newly launched [Residents and Fellows Council](#). 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](#).

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. In

February 2019, AOGME issued a request for proposals to develop a national osteopathic curriculum that will assist GME training programs in obtaining and maintaining Osteopathic Recognition. This curriculum is intended to be flexible enough to be delivered on-line or live, depending on the resources available at each program. Proposals are requested by July 1, 2019. [Read the Request for Proposals.](#)

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 85 resources and is available [here](#). Between January 31-April 2019, the library web site has received 165,000 visits. The AOGME established the first editorial board for the digital resource library to review and approve submitted content. The editorial board is currently [soliciting](#) submissions with a deadline of July 15, 2019. [Submit a resource today.](#)

Osteopathic Recognition Matters: Programs for Optimal Patient Care

AACOM will soon launch an awareness campaign for Osteopathic Recognition targeting programs, institutions, residents, students and Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (COMs). This marketing campaign will be comprehensive and sustained and will be led by the marketing firm, Beekeeper Group, Inc. The campaign name is "Osteopathic Recognition Matters: Programs for Optimal Patient Care." The official launch for the campaign is anticipated in summer 2019.



Graduate Medical Education Leadership Development Program (GME-LDP)

In collaboration with the Academy for Academic Leadership (AAL), AACOM will soon launch the AOGME Graduate Medical Education Leadership Development Program (GME-LDP). This program will focus on leadership and faculty development for GME leaders, including Directors of Osteopathic Education. This program will be organized in a hybrid model, including both virtual webinars and one face-to-face meeting for the selected cohort in 2020. For this first year, the program targets new and junior faculty in GME programs and will launch the webinar portion in Fall 2019 and hold the in-person meeting in early 2020.



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

2019-2020 Board of Directors:

Sarah Bechay Director of Scholarships and Grants
Renee Wakulski Foundation Liaison
Jessica Frazelle Director of Membership

Shikha Patel Director of Financial Affairs/Foundation
Chairperson-Elect
Hector Zelaya Foundation Chairperson

Affiliate Report to the American Osteopathic Association
Midyear Report, February 2020

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

Donations: 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

We have been very fortunate thus far to have the following donations for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. We look forward to utilizing these funds to continue our mission of supporting osteopathic medical students.

- 170 Donors (*all tier levels*)
- \$14,143 Donations

Scholarships: 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

Our Fall Scholarship winners were announced during the SOMA Foundation Reception on October 26th, 2019.

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

- Total Scholarships distributed: 9
- Total amount disbursed: \$6500.00
- Scholarship Recipients
 - **New Member Scholarship (\$500.00 each, \$2500.00 total)**
 - Navreet bhangru, OMS I, MSUCOM
 - Mahlaqa, OMS I, NYIT COM
 - Melvin Grimes, OMS I, VCOM Auburn
 - Briana Krewson, OMS I, PCOM
 - Sridevi Narayanan, OMS I, PNWUCOM
 - **Community and Preventive Medicine Scholarship (\$1000)**
 - Brittany Ann Lore, OMS I, PNWUCOM
 - **Humanism in Medicine Scholarship (\$1000)**
 - Karen Custodio, OMS IV, Rowan SOM
 - **Robert S. Juhasz, DO, Innovative Leadership in Osteopathic Medicine Scholarship (\$1000)**
 - Jenna Seeley, OMS II, PNWUCOM

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

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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- **Women in Medicine Scholarship (\$1000)**
 - Claudia Green, OMS I, LECOM Brad

Grants: 2019-2020 Fiscal Year

During the Fall semester, we distributed 3 grants.

- Total Grants Distributed: \$1500
 - **Burrell COM SOMA Chapter – COMPASS Health Fair Grant**
Total Funding: \$500
 - **The SOMA Foundation Travel Grant (2 recipients)**
Total Funding: \$500 each recipient
 - Joseph Barber, OMS II, ACOM
 - Anh Lam, OMS II, OSUCOM

Community Service

We have hosted two events since the summer of 2019 to serve local communities, volunteer organizations, and the medical community while attending National Conferences

- AOA House of Delegates 2019
 - **Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital 5K Run for Gus**
Over 20 osteopathic medical students participated in the 17th annual 5K Run for Gus, which was an opportunity for students to raise money for pediatric brain tumor research. Students also prepared handmade coloring books for the children at Lurie’s Hospital.
- Baltimore, 2019 OMED
 - **Helping Up Mission**
17 SOMA and SOMA Foundation members volunteered at Helping Up Mission, a community focused on helping men and women fight addiction and homelessness. Volunteers spent the day with these men and women and also assembled hygiene kits for individuals in the program.

NAOF Annual Conference 2019

The SOMA Foundation had the honor of presenting to the National Association of Osteopathic Foundations (NAOF) during their annual conference. The SOMA Foundation was given the opportunity to update the

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congregation on the philanthropic work that the foundation performs to give financial support to SOMA members through grants and scholarships. The SOMA Foundation also took part in discussions on foundation investments oversights, strategies for funding and fundraising, and provided student perspectives on many topics. The conference was a huge chance for the SOMA Foundation to take ideas back and learn.

Fall Reception

We hosted our annual Fall Reception at OMED 2019 on October 26th, 2019. We had upwards of 150 guests in attendance. During the event, we honored our donors, Fall Scholarship winners, and the *2019 Northrup Educator of the Year, Dr Stephanie Zeszutek, D.O.*, from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harlem for her outstanding commitment to the education of osteopathic medical students. We look forward to hosting our next reception at OMED 2020.

Future Plans

We are working closely with SOMA, the AOA, and the AOF to establish a new affiliation with the AOF that could expand the financial opportunities the SOMA Foundation offers to osteopathic medical students.

ADVISORY BOARD

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

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

Sincerely

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

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