

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

This report is for the period from June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007. During this period the AOA Commission on Osteopathic Accreditation (COCA) met three times: September 9-10, 2006; December 9-10, 2006; and April 21-22, 2007. A workshop for the evaluators of colleges of osteopathic medicine was conducted on November 11-12, 2006.

COCA meeting in September 2006

The COCA met on September 9-10, 2006 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL). An orientation session was conducted for newly appointed members. Accreditation action items for the agenda included:

- ❑ Three reports from full survey on-site evaluation were reviewed and accepted, with approval of initial provisional accreditation for: Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, TN); A.T. Still University of Health Sciences – School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (Mesa, AZ) and Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, NY).
- ❑ One report from a focused visitation was reviewed and accepted for the University of Medicine and Dentistry-School of Osteopathic Medicine (Stratford, NJ).
- ❑ Three progress reports were reviewed and accepted: West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (Lewisburg, WV); Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, NY) and Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine (Henderson, NV).
- ❑ Reconsiderations of accreditation actions were heard from: Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Glendale, AZ) and New York College of Osteopathic Medicine – New York Institute of Technology (Old Westbury, NY).

Policy discussion items for the agenda included:

- ❑ Revised language to the *COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures* was reviewed and approved for submission for public comment.
- ❑ Revisions to the *COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures* and *Handbook of the COCA* were made in response to analysis of the U.S. Department of Education. These revisions were submitted in an interim petition on December 7, 2006.
- ❑ Revisions were reviewed and approved for the following documents: Class Size Survey; tabular data review form for the COM Annual Report and the Evaluator's Manual.
- ❑ The COM Accreditation Appeal Panel appointments for the 2006-2007 year were approved.
- ❑ Three (3) were approved for admission to the *Evaluators Registry*.

COCA meeting in December 2006

The COCA held its fall meeting on December 9-10, 2006 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel in Chicago, IL. Accreditation action items for the agenda included:

- ❑ Two reports from on-site evaluation of applicants for pre-accreditation were reviewed and accepted, with approval of initial pre-accreditation for: Robert Morris University School of Osteopathic Medicine (Moon Township, PA); Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, CO).

- ❑ One report from onsite evaluation for initial pre-accreditation was reviewed and accepted for: Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA).
- ❑ Two reports from full-survey evaluation were reviewed and accepted for: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine (Stratford, NJ) and A.T. Still University – Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kirksville, MO).
- ❑ One progress report was reviewed and accepted from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, NY). Upon acceptance of this progress report, initial provisional application was awarded to this college.
- ❑ Four progress reports were reviewed and accepted from: Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine (Henderson, NV); Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, TN); Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Glendale, AZ); and Midwestern University – Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (Downers Grove, IL).

Policy discussion items for the agenda included:

- ❑ Approval of revisions to *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures* for Standard 6: Curriculum. These standards will take effect on July 1, 2007.
- ❑ Review of the COM class size survey results
- ❑ Review of a request from the AOA President for consideration of a proposed revision to *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures*.
- ❑ Approval of the Consultants for College Accreditation
- ❑ Approval of three nominations to the Evaluators Registry
- ❑ Approval of the 2008 site visit schedule
- ❑ Approval of a COCA forum, to be conducted by the Standards Review Committee in March 2007, to receive stakeholder input on key issues needing consensus, including OMM instruction, qualifications of clinical faculty education leaders, and selected other topics. This one-day meeting was held on March 3, 2007 at the O'Hare Hilton.

#### COCA meeting in April 2007

The COCA held its spring meeting on April 21-22, 2007 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel. Accreditation action items from the agenda included:

- ❑ One report from a full survey on-site evaluation was reviewed and accepted with approval of continuing accreditation for: Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (Glendale, AZ).
- ❑ One report from a full survey on-site evaluation was reviewed and accepted with initial approval of accreditation for: Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Blacksburg, VA).
- ❑ Two reports from focused site visits were reviewed and accepted for: Western University of the Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific's Northwest Track (Portland, OR) and Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine; (Henderson, NV).
- ❑ One request for voluntary withdrawal from pre-accreditation was reviewed and approved for: Robert Morris University – School of Osteopathic Medicine (Moon Township, PA). This university announced its decision to cease development of a college of osteopathic medicine.
- ❑ Three progress reports were reviewed and accepted for: A.T. Still University – Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kirksville, MO); University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine (Stratford, NJ) and Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine (Henderson, NV).
- ❑ One progress report was reviewed and accepted from Pacific Northwest University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA). Upon acceptance of this progress report, initial pre-accreditation was awarded to this college.

- ❑ One request for substantive change / class size increase was reviewed for the Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Vallejo, CA).
- ❑ One request for substantive change / curriculum was reviewed for the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine / New York Institute of Technology (Old Westbury, NY).
- ❑ Annual Reports for 2006-2007 were reviewed from all 20 colleges of osteopathic medicine. Follow-up was requested from eight colleges.

Policy discussion items for the agenda included:

- ❑ Three nominees to the Evaluators Registry were discussed and approved.
- ❑ Two nominees to the List of Consultants were discussed and approved.
- ❑ Recommendations for revisions to the COM Standards -- including reporting on mission, qualifications of department chairs, and faculty directing instruction in OPP / OMT were authorized to be sent for public comment.
- ❑ Commentary from the AOA leadership was reviewed and taken under advisement for the standards review process.

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

The COCA-EC met via teleconference in executive session on June 12, 2006 and reviewed a feasibility study for the proposed Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Parker, CO.

The COCA-EC met via teleconference in executive session on June 28, 2006 and discussed interpretation of Standard 2.5.3.

The COCA-EC met via teleconference in executive session on July 24, 2006 and reviewed a feasibility study for the proposed Pacific Northwest University of the Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine in Yakima, WA.

The COCA-EC met via teleconference in executive session on August 22, 2006 and reviewed a feasibility study for the proposed Robert Morris University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Moon Township, PA.

The COCA-EC met by teleconference on October 2, 2006. The meeting was for the purpose of reviewing supplemental information for three feasibility studies for Pre-Accreditation:

- ❑ Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine in Yakima, WA
- ❑ Robert Morris University School of Osteopathic Medicine (RMU-SOM) in Moon Township, PA
- ❑ Rocky Vista University School of Osteopathic Medicine (RVU-COM) in Parker, CO.

#### Annual Report Review Committee

The Annual Report Review Committee met via teleconference on June 19, 2006 and August 24, 2006 to review the Tabular Data Review form, COM Class size Survey, and COM Annual Supplementary Report formats.

#### COM Accreditation Appeal Panel

There were no appeals heard during this year.

Committee on College Accreditation Training (CCAT)

The CCAT met via teleconference on July 10, 2006, August 23, 2006 and September 19, 2006 to prepare for the Evaluators Training Workshop that was held on November 11-12, 2006 at the James Hotel in Scottsdale, AZ. This 1-1/2 day program was by invitation only for: new nominees; those unable to attend the October 2004 workshop, all team chairs, COCA voting members and non-voting attendees. The keynote address and team chair session was given by Barry Dorn, MD, Associate Director, Program on Healthcare Negotiation & Conflict Resolution; Harvard School of Public Health.

The CCAT met by teleconference on January 30, 2007 and March 12, 2007 to review plans for the 2007 Accreditation Training Workshop for COMs. That workshop will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at the Westin Kierland Hotel in Scottsdale, AZ in conjunction with the Osteopathic Medical Education Conference. The topics that were chosen were:

- ❑ Best practices in developing a high-quality self study
- ❑ Focus on the clinical years
- ❑ Core competencies – how to adapt core competencies from post graduate osteopathic medical education to predoctoral osteopathic education
- ❑ Changes in the Standards that are going into effect on July 1, 2007 as a result of recent revisions approved in December 2006.

Ad hoc Standards Review Committee (SRC)

The SRC met by teleconference on June 14, July 6 and August 17 to continue its review of proposed changes to the Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. The SRC expressed its opinion that the committee was unable to reach consensus on selected topics in clinical education and recommended an open forum be conducted for this purpose.

At the direction of the COCA, the Standards Review Committee held an open forum meeting at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The purpose of the meeting was to determine whether consensus existed among the clinical disciplines on selected COM standards topics pertaining to Standard 4 – Faculty and Standard 6 – Curriculum. Based upon this meeting, consensus was found on some of the topics under Standard 4 – Faculty and brought forward to the entire COCA for review at its April 21-22, 2007 meeting.

A short discussion of instruction in OMM took place. A representative of the Education Committee on Osteopathic Principles (ECOP) reported that the ECOP was submitting a document on predoctoral OMM curriculum and competencies to the AACOM Board of Deans at their upcoming June 2007 meeting. The participants welcomed the opportunity to review this document when it becomes available. It was appreciated that widespread acceptance of such a document could serve as the basis for development of more complete COCA standards in this area.

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

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

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

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