



**NBOME**  
NATIONAL BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS

American Osteopathic Association  
Board of Trustees Midyear Business Meeting  
February 2018  
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Greetings from the Board of Directors, Staff and National Faculty of the NBOME, a nonpractice affiliate of the AOA with a mission to protect the public by providing the means to assess competency for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions.

To supplement our oral presentation at your meeting, the following brief report is designed to keep AOA Board Members and executive staff as well as AOA stakeholders updated on the NBOME and its COMLEX-USA licensure examination program. As always, we appreciate our close affiliation with the AOA and will be available for on-site questions on Wednesday and Thursday of your meeting, prior to departing for the ACGME Annual Educational Conference in Orlando.

#### [NBOME 2017 Annual Board Meeting: Elections](#) and Awards

The NBOME Board of Directors met in December 2017 under the gavel of Chair, Gary L. Slick, DO, MA. During this meeting, the Board installed new Chair, Dana C. Shaffer, DO, from Pikeville, KY and elected Geraldine T. O'Shea, DO, from Jackson, CA, as Vice-Chair, and Richard J. LaBaere II, DO, MPH, from Ortonville, MI, as Secretary-Treasurer. The Board awarded its highest honor, the [Santucci Award to Wayne R. Carlsen, DO](#), from Athens, OH who served as NBOME Board Chair from 2013-2015. Dr. Gary Slick was recognized for his exemplary leadership as NBOME Board Chair 2015-2017.

#### NBOME 2017 National Faculty Award Winners, Scholarly Activity and Recruiting

The NBOME Board recently announced [2017 Test Item Writer and Case Author of the Year Awards](#) for the COMLEX-USA and COMAT examination programs. The NBOME greatly appreciates the dedication and expertise of our elite 700+ member NBOME National Faculty, with their immeasurable contributions to NBOME test development, committees, and governance.

Faculty members who participate in NBOME activities find it to be a meaningful opportunity for faculty and professional development, CME credits, scholarly activity and fellowship. Opportunities for scholarly activity for faculty members are very important in academic promotion and tenure as well as accreditation in the ACGME Single Accreditation System.

We are currently recruiting for DOs and other subject matter experts in key areas within foundational biomedical sciences (especially anatomy, pharmacology and physiology), clinical sciences (specifically radiology, pediatrics, OBGYN, and general surgery) as well as health care delivery and patient safety (including biostatistics, medical ethics, jurisprudence and professionalism, public health and preventive medicine). Please have interested faculty members contact Tracy Spinks, NBOME National Faculty Program Manager at [tspinks@nbome.org](mailto:tspinks@nbome.org).

## COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019, Candidate Eligibility Enhancements Begin in 2018 with COMLEX-USA Level 3

Scheduled for implementation with the 2-day COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination in September 2018, the comprehensive presentation of the enhanced, competency-based COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint and test specifications is now [available here](#).

Note: The current COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint and test specifications and administration format will continue for Level 3 through April 2018, after which there will be a [“black out” period with no Level 3 exams](#) administered until September 2018. Eligibility for the enhanced 2-day Level 3 in 2018 will require attestation that the resident is in good academic and professional standing by a residency program director. NBOME’s recommendation, but not a requirement, is that the resident has completed a minimum of six months of residency training prior to taking Level 3.

Please also note that the enhanced COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint, test specifications, and eligibility requirements are scheduled for implementation for COMLEX-USA Level 1 in May 2019, Level 2-CE in June 2019, and Level 2-PE in March 2019.

### Standard Setting for COMLEX-USA Examinations

Further information about passing standards for COMLEX-USA is available on the NBOME website. Recent [standard setting activities for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation](#) are under review for implementation in the new testing cycle that begins March 19, 2018. [Standard setting for COMLEX-USA Level 1](#) is underway, with the potential for a new passing standard effective with the new test cycle that begins May 21, 2018. As noted on the website, COMLEX-USA Bulletin of Information, and Terms and Conditions for candidates, score report release is subject to delays when a new passing standard is under review, so candidates taking [Level 2-PE in February 2018](#) and [Level 1 in May 2018](#), might anticipate a longer than usual time to release scores. This is to allow sufficient time for the standard setting process to set a minimum passing score and statistically validate candidate performance for the new testing cycles. Thereafter, we anticipate a normal reporting time for score releases, subject to other delays contingent upon candidate scheduling, standard setting, or other variables.

### NBOME Sponsoring Joint AACOM & AOGME 2018-2020 Annual Conferences

NBOME is excited to announce that it has increased its support for AACOM and will serve as the exclusive Diamond Sponsor for the AACOM/AOGME Educating Leaders 2018, 2019 and 2020 conferences, and will host a [pre-conference workshop](#). We look forward to providing information and discussing stakeholder feedback on the COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint 2018-2019 and enhancements, as well as on NBOME’s COMAT examination program including COMAT Foundational Biomedical Sciences. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn more about new test specifications and provide input. In addition, the NBOME will again offer its informative “NBOME and COMLEX-USA Luncheon Presentation” on Friday, April 20, 2018.

### COMAT Program Enhancements

Thanks for your continued support of the COMAT examination program. Nearly all COMs are now actively engaged and participating in NBOME’s COMAT program.

The newest COMAT initiative, COMAT-Foundational Biomedical Sciences (COMAT-FBS), is expected to launch fixed-form comprehensive versions through an exciting cost-free initial release that will be made exclusively to COMAT-using COMs in December 2018 and January 2019. Feasible COMAT-FBS fixed test windows are planned to begin following the pilot in 2019. COMAT-FBS exams targeted to individual organ body systems and disciplines are expected to be available starting December 2019. We will provide more details and gather additional stakeholder input about this new exam series, including at the upcoming AACOM & AOGME Annual Conference.

## COMSAE Examinations Add New Test Forms in 2018

New COMSAE forms are designed to align more closely to enhancements and scoring for the corresponding COMLEX-USA level examinations. A new COMSAE Phase 1 test form (sequestered for use by COMs that partner with students for self-assessment) is anticipated for release by January 2019. A new individual-use Phase 1 form for students is also scheduled for release by January 2019. The new COMSAE Phase 2 test form corresponding to the Master Blueprint will be released by January 2019. The new Phase 3 form, which will correspond to the new two-day Level 3 examination to be implemented in September 2018, is scheduled for release by June 2018.

We anticipate release of COMSAE test items via a new longitudinal assessment format using NBOME's CATALYST platform by year end, with a beta-test to take place March-May 2018, in which all COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE eligible students will be invited to participate. Invitations to students will go out in February. Stay tuned for more details! More information on the COMSAE self-assessment is available in the COMSAE page of our [website](#). For more information on the COMSAE CATALYST beta test contact Joe Flamini, MBA, FACHE, Vice President for Administration/COO, [jflamini@nbome.org](mailto:jflamini@nbome.org).

## NBOME and AOA Certification Boards Complete Third OCC CATALYST Pilot; AOBFP Modules for Non-clinically Active Physicians expected to be released in 2018

NBOME staff and National Faculty members recently completed their third CATALYST pilot that investigated the use of CATALYST as a potential replacement for the AOA's Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) Component 3 recertification exam. CATALYST is the NBOME's formative assessment platform for continuous assessment, featuring easy and ready access to brief assessment opportunities, immediate feedback, spaced repetition, and practice relevant learning. After two highly successful pilots with AOBIM and AOBP in 2017, the NBOME and the AOBG recently completed a third pilot in February. In each of these pilots, NBOME staff members have worked closely with AOA Certification Board staff members and Board leaders. Results from the first two pilots demonstrated significant user acceptance, with diplomats expressing almost unanimous preference for CATALYST assessment over traditional proctored multiple-choice examinations for recertification. One hundred percent of the pilot participants agreed or strongly agreed that participation in CATALYST will help them stay current in their specialty. Ninety six percent strongly agreed or agreed that participation in CATALYST assessment improved the care they give to their patients! As the AOBIM CATALYST also demonstrated a significant statistical correlation between performance on CATALYST and traditional examinations, the AOBG pilot was designed to further study this relationship with the upcoming March recertification exam. NBOME staff members will be presenting results at the April AACOM/AOGME Annual Meeting and hope to be granted the opportunity to present a more complete update at the Spring AOA-BOS Meeting.

The AOBFP-NBOME collaboration on modules for OCC component 4 shifted into development mode late in 2017, with hopes that 3-20 modules on NBOME's OPAIM/Learning Center platform will be released by the end of 2018.

The NBOME has enjoyed the collaborative assessment services (e.g., test development, test publishing, examinee scheduling and support services, psychometrics and scoring services) it has provided for a number of AOA Certification Boards over the past 20+ years and wishes the AOA all the best as it moves most of these services "in house" in 2018-2019.

## Single Accreditation System (SAS) for GME Update: DO students "Perfectly Matched" with COMLEX-USA!

*FAST FACTS on COMLEX-USA and the ACGME. Did you know?*

COMLEX-USA is highly regarded and accepted by the ACGME, its Review Committees (RCs), and residency program directors (RPDs). While there are a minority of RPDs who formerly reported not typically interviewing or ranking DOs for their programs (source: [NRMP PD Survey 2016](#)), and not

using COMLEX-USA (about 20% per this same survey), we suspect this is multifactorial and also decreasing. DOs had historic high matching numbers in 2017 in all of the major residency matching systems (e.g., NRMP, AOA, military, etc.).

The [ACGME](#) specifically cites COMLEX-USA as a trusted measure of milestone achievement in the “Medical Knowledge” competency by numerous RCs (e.g., emergency medicine, anesthesia), and continues to assist RPDs and other stakeholders in understanding the osteopathically distinctive qualifications of DOs in the GME arena. ACGME recently announced further changes to the ACGME Common Program requirements eliminating the confusing Fellowship Eligibility Exception Requirement designed for international medical graduates and needing USMLE, further clarifying for program directors, fellowship directors, DO students and residents, and faculty advisors the equivalent status of COMLEX-USA and USMLE in regards to applications for ACGME Fellowship programs. NBOME representatives will be making two national presentations to RPDs and program coordinators at the upcoming Annual ACGME Conference in March 2018. Unfortunately, we continue to encounter misinformation in the osteopathic medical education community.

With the AOA, the NBOME stands firmly in support of DO students, residents, practicing physicians and their distinctive and valid qualifications. We will continue to advocate for the osteopathically distinctive philosophy of health care that requires osteopathically distinctive AOA-COCA COM accreditation, and osteopathically distinctive assessment for licensure designed for and with validity evidence for the practice of osteopathic medicine. Our patients and the public deserve this. Most of our MD colleagues already do or are coming to understand and respect this. We continue to advocate for distinctive osteopathic board certification. We firmly believe that working together across our profession, we can help to ensure the future for our patients in being able to choose distinctive osteopathic medical care is very bright!

The NBOME has continued discussions with AOA leaders and planning for a third United States Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit, potentially in the Fall of 2018, and will be meeting with AOA Board leaders as well as leaders from other organizations responsible for licensure, accreditation, certification and assessment across the continuum for osteopathic medicine for a planning meeting in May.

On behalf of our NBOME Board of Directors, led by Dana C. Shaffer, DO, Chair, our entire staff in our Chicago and Philadelphia national offices and two National Centers for Clinical Skills Testing, and our distinguished National Faculty, I again want to thank you for all that you “DO”. As always, please don’t hesitate to contact me if you need further information or if any of us at the NBOME can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,



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President & CEO

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Official Affiliate Report

Respectfully submitted by Katharyn Cassella, OMSIV, SOMA National President

## **SOMA National Leadership 2017-2018**

### **Board of Trustees:**

- National President:** Katharyn Cassella, OMS IV, MUCOM
- National Vice President/Speaker of the House:** Simran Behniwal, OMS IV, TUNCOM
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- National Board of Directors Chair:** Nicholas Tackett, OMS IV, MWU-CCOM
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- Region IV Trustee:** Kate de Klerk, OMS III, MWU-CCOM
- Region V Trustee:** John Rajala, OMS II, BCOM
- SOMA Foundation Chairperson (ex officio):** Katherine Kirby, OMS IV, VCOM-VC
- Student Representative, AOA Board of Trustees (ex officio):** Vanessa Halvorsen, OMS IV

### **National Board of Directors:**

- Strategic Partnerships Director:** Harris Ahmed, OMS II, BCOM
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- Research Director:** Charles Lopresto, OMS IV, TouroCOM-Harlem
- Community Service Director:** Zachary Gottlieb, OMS III, UNTHSC-TCOM

## **Membership Details**

- 2017-2018 total membership: 14,112
- Total number of SOMA chapters: 45
- Total number of Pre-SOMA chapters: 33 active chapters; 16 new charter applications

The Fall 2018 membership drive will begin in June and run through October. SOMA thanks the AOA for their continued support of our recruitment efforts by providing the *Gilroy Atlas of Anatomy* from Thieme Publishers as a membership incentive.

## **National SOMA:**

This year, SOMA has undergone multiple exciting changes.

Our 2015-2018 Strategic Plan came to its completion during this term. This report will touch upon our goals from the 2017 Summer Report to the AOA, in the context of the pillars from the past Strategic Plan.

## **Voice**

- We are grateful to have had the chance to give reports to the NBOME, COCA, and the AOA throughout the year and discuss issues that our members find important.
- **Political Affairs**
  - Our Get Out the Vote Campaign in Fall 2017 incentivized our chapter leaders to register their classmates, vote in the fall elections, and encourage members to become more involved in advocacy at the state and local levels.
  - We continue to support other political organizations like OPAC and Omega Beta Iota by hosting informational sessions for these organizations at SOMA conferences and publicizing recruitment campaign information throughout the year.
- **Parliamentary Procedure:** We are on track to submit our projected total 20 resolutions for the 2017-2018 term. We had 11 resolutions submitted to the Fall House of Delegates. Eight of those resolutions were approved and three were referred back to author. Five of the approved resolutions will be submitted to the AOA during the 2018 Summer AOA HOD.
  - F-17-09: INCREASING THE EDUCATION AND PREVENTATIVE PRESCRIBING OF NALOXONE USE FOR OPIOID OVERDOSE
  - F-17-08: URGE CONGRESS TO RETAIN DACA PROTECTIONS
  - F-17-05: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE
  - F-17-04: STANDING AGAINST RESTRICTIVE HOUSING AND SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR JUVENILE INMATES OF PRISON SYSTEMS IN THE US
  - F-17-02: CANNABIS RECLASSIFICATION: EFFECT ON RESEARCH
- We have dedicated a Task Force to updating our Constitution and Bylaws (C&B). Many of our edits were editorial, and others reflected our current practices that differ from past edits of the C&B. We look forward to presenting the proposed edits to the C&B as a resolution at the Spring House of Delegates.
- A policy compendium and online open reference committee process are moving forward in the planning stages. We hope that over the next year, we will be able to implement one or both of these.

## Development

- **Strategic Partnerships:** We have been able to enroll the majority of our partners into our new tiered system, and anticipate enrolling the remaining few by this Spring. We have generated over \$10,000 dollars for SOMA through our partnerships since last summer, with anticipation to raise more before Spring Convention. Our partners are very happy with us and our partnerships are strong with great engagement. Our members have become better aware of and more frequently use the discounts we offer. Moving forward we hope to expand SOMA's partnerships to new areas including clothing lines, medical equipment, food and housing.
- In addition there have been four schools and over one hundred students thus far that have participated in the **Social Medicine Program**. This program seeks to improve the knowledge base of current medical students on the social determinants of health via academic subjects like medical sociology and the medical humanities.
- **Professional Development:** Our professional development resources have been updated and uploaded to our website. We are currently developing a list and calendar of the Professional Osteopathic Conferences throughout the year.
- **Insight:** We successfully recorded our first episode of the Insight Podcast. The Insight Task Force has discussed the next steps moving forward to encourage member and mentor participation.
- The **OPP Task force** has developed programs and resources for chapters and chapter members in the following areas: OPP Community Outreach, OPP International Medical Trips, and advocating for Osteopathic Medicine at Alma Maters. These resources and programs can be implemented by the next OPP Chair. We are also working on a study that compares opinions and perspectives on Osteopathic Medicine between Osteopathic and allopathic students.
  - At the Fall Convention, SOMA and SAAO collaborated to conduct a workshop in which representatives from different schools teach an OMT modality and technique.
- Collaborative Efforts:
  - Council of Student Government Presidents (**COSGP**):
    - We are currently collaborating with COSGP in order to make recommendations concerning student representation in the AOA HOD.
    - We continue to serve on the Mental Health Task Force. We are also partnering with COSGP for “DO Day of Wellness” specifically on the “POST-ITivity” campaign, an initiative designed to encourage affirmative messages throughout the osteopathic medical student community.
    - Collectively, we submitted a statement to COCA asking for better awareness and addressing harassment. We are working on a resolution to submit to the SOMA House of Delegates that will expand upon the AOA’s “Discrimination and Other Harassment Prevention” to include employees, members, and attendees to AOA-sponsored events.
  - National Outreach for Diversity (**NOD**): This year we had twelve schools participate in the National Outreach for Diversity program that seeks to recruit and provide mentorship for underrepresented minorities in medicine.
  - **ED to MED:** We became an official partner of AACOM's ED to MED campaign. Our goal is to involve SOMA members in the campaign and the student debt discussion. To accomplish this goal, SOMA has hosted advocacy workshops at SOMA conferences led by AACOM government relations staff, penned a guest blog for the ED to MED campaign encouraging SOMA member activism in the campaign, and regularly informed members of important political events to provide opportunities for members to contact their representatives in Congress regarding important educational issues.

- The **SOMA Foundation** continues to offer scholarships and grants to Osteopathic Medical Students across the country, and collaborate with SOMA on philanthropic efforts at each of our conferences.

## Accountability

- **SOMA Sundays** are a weekly email communication to chapter leaders with national updates, deadlines, scholarships, and opportunities from our NBD and affiliated organizations from which they build their weekly “Member Monday” email for their chapter. This ensures comprehensive dissemination of information to our membership while limiting the number of regular email communications they receive weekly to one message.
- Our chain of communication does our best to uphold **48h response time** to email, keeping us connected as a national board and helping our members accomplish their goals under tight deadlines.
- **Master Action Item Lists** have been developed, providing a centralized document for both BoT and NBD to remain accountable throughout the year.
- The **National Treasurer** reviewed and updated our financial policies and created a budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. With the passed resolution at the Fall HoD, we will begin sharing our budget with our chapter leaders at the Summer Leadership Meeting (SLM).
- The **Revenue Task Force** meets throughout the year to evaluate and brainstorm sources of revenue.
  - 2017-2018
    - Revenue Goal: \$12,000
    - Membership Drive Goal: \$175,000
- We created a new Strategic Plan to run from 2018-2022, built upon the following four pillars:
  - Pillar 1: Voice in Public Policy and Healthcare Advocacy
  - Pillar 2: Professional and Career Development
  - Pillar 3: National Visibility and Public Image
  - Pillar 4: Governance Alignment and Accountability

## Visibility

- We are currently planning for our **Spring Convention** in Washington DC from March 4-6. This conference will include our Spring House of Delegates, a workshop to help prepare students for clinical rotations, workshops for developing our leaders and members, a social event with OBI, preparation for DO Day on March 7, and more.
  - The **Fall House of Delegates minutes** will be approved at the Spring House of Delegates and will be posted on our website.
- Our **SOMA Promotional Video** will be rolled out in the next month, as well as new strategic plan and branding handouts and resources for chapters to support their membership drives.
- We are working with the AOA on AOA/SOMA **co-branded marketing**. For example, SOMA supplied two explanatory slides to the AOA for use in their COM campus visits. SOMA appreciates the opportunity to be included in the discussions regarding marketing, media, messaging, board certification, etc., as we move towards better integration of our organizations.
- **Charity Miles**: Twenty-four teams, a total of 774 participants, across the country took place. They walked, biked, and ran 41,938.78 miles, and raised **\$8,748.83** for charity.
- **Office Hours**: We have hosted five Facebook Live Office Hours, discussing SOMA business and, most recently, going through the process of writing and submitting resolutions.
- **Website**: With the support of the AOA, we have a brand new website to connect with our members and share updates from SOMA, our partners, and our affiliates.

- **Social Media Presence:** We have dedicated more time and money than ever to our social presence.
  - We have used Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, and Slack almost daily to strengthen our reach and spread relevant information.
  - The @SOMApolitics Twitter handle was created to inform our members of important, relevant political issues, and connect them to resources for political activism. We have uses the handle to mobilize political activism within the SOMA network during the many advocacy calls to action by the AOA and other organizations.
- **Research:**
  - We partner with the AOA Research Development and the Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine (BIOM) to promote the **AOA-SOMA Research Poster Competition** and the BIOM's Symposium hosted at OMED 2017. Additionally SOMA contributes financially to the AOA-SOMA Research Poster Competition and our Research Director serves as a judge for these competitions.
  - SOMA's Research Director serves as the student member of the the **Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA) Editorial Board**.
  - **AOA OMS Research Fellowship Grants** are actively promoted.

## **Mentorship**

- **Pre-SOMA** hosted the annual Pre-SOMA at OMED conference in October, National Osteopathic Night Out at 17 locations across the country in November, and we are in the process of planning ShaDO Week for April.
  - Sixteen new chapters applied for a charter.
  - Over 1,200 members have joined but are not part of a local chapter.
  - At OMED, Pre-SOMA hosted undergraduates in sessions that included "Intro to Osteopathic Medicine", a resident panel, an interview workshop, and more.
- **Research:** The "**AOA Research Mentor Request Form**" was distributed to our members, and we continue to connect career researchers with students in finding a Research Mentor.
- Our **Summer Leadership Meeting (SLM)** in July focuses on leadership development and mentorship for our new chapter leaders to support their success on their local campuses. We provide guidance on effectively carrying out national SOMA initiatives like the membership drive, Insight, and advocacy efforts.
- Our **Resolutions Committee** allow senior members to work with chapter leaders representing their region to form a consensus opinion on resolutions at each of our HoD.

## **Region Reports:**

### **Region 1:**

- Composed of:
  - Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM)
  - Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine - Seton Hill (LECOM Seton Hill)
  - New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYIT-COM)
  - Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM)
  - Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine (RUSOM)
  - Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine - Harlem (TouroCOM-Harlem)
  - Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine - Middletown (TouroCOM-Middletown)
  - University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNECOM)

- Region I has been very busy these past few months. Inspired by the SOMA House of Delegates session at the Fall conference, many chapters have hosted Health Policy Forums and Advocacy outreach events in an effort to get more students involved in healthcare advocacy.
- **PCOM's** chapter has hosted a four-part event to bring speakers to PCOM's campus to talk about and discuss national healthcare policy. These speakers included Pamela Murphy from AACOM, Dr. Alexis Coates from OPAC, members of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, and other leaders who work every day to advocate for physicians as well as osteopathic medical students at the state and national levels. These events were a great way to get more information about the issues affecting our profession at the governmental level. PCOM reported a phenomenal turnout and mentioned the "Dinner with a Doc" event with POMA was the most popular event. PCOM's chapter has been working really hard all year to strengthen the student's relationship with their state society and has received very positive feedback for their efforts.
- **UNECOM's** Chapter also hosted several resolution writing workshops in conjunction with their SGA. They have also placed a large emphasis on community service this year. They had great success at their annual Florence House Bake-off where they were able to raise \$200.00 to donate to the Florence House, an organization that provides safe, supported permanent housing to chronically homeless women in Portland, Maine.
  - They also held their annual "Dodging for Camp Sunshine" dodgeball tournament and raised \$600.00 to donate to Camp Sunshine, a summer camp for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.
  - UNECOM also has begun a new relationship with a local organization called THRIVE, which is a multi-disciplinary group (DO, PA, PT, etc.) of community members that want to improve the health of the Biddeford, ME community. Some of the projects they're working on include monthly events related to educating community members on nutrition, exercise, meditation, and relaxation.
- **TouroCOM-Middleton** has been placing emphasis on student well-being and personal development. They hosted a Financial Workshop and offered 1 on 1 appointments for students to meet with financial advisors regarding a variety of topics for student loans, credit card debit, buying a car and obtaining a mortgage.
- Across the Region, students have been actively involved in their chapters, campuses, and communities. They are passionate about medicine and eager for the upcoming DO Day experience so that they may share their passion with their state leaders and advocate for medicine for their fellow students, colleagues, and future patients.

## Region 2:

- Composed of:
  - Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM)
  - Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine (CUSOM)
  - Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine - Bradenton (LECOM Bradenton)
  - Lincoln Memorial University DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (LMU-DCOM)
  - Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine (NSU-COM)
  - Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine - Georgia Campus (GA-PCOM)
  - Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine Virginia - Auburn (VCOM-Auburn)
  - Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine - Carolina Campus (VCOM-CC)
  - William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (WCUCOM)
- Region II has been a very active region this year. I am very proud of the work that each of the chapter leaders have done to increase membership and participation in SOMA.

- From volunteer events, to leadership conferences, the chapters of Region II have been busy making known that SOMA is the student arm of the AOA and is a professional organization to represent osteopathic medical students.
- One of the biggest goals of Region II this year is to become more active in the resolution process, and I am pleased that several chapters have setup resolution committees and will be submitting resolutions for the Spring Convention.
- Region II is full of amazing and emerging leaders for the osteopathic and medical communities.

### Region 3:

- Composed of:
  - University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM)
  - Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (LUCOM)
  - Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MUCOM)
  - Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine - Athens (OU-HCOM Athens)
  - Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine - Cleveland (OU-HCOM Cleveland)
  - Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine - Dublin (OU-HCOM Dublin)
  - Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine - Virginia (VCOM-Virginia)
  - West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM)
  - Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM)
- **Fall Advocacy Project: Partnership for a Healthier America:**
  - Region III voted to dedicate its fall term to advocating for Partnerships for a Healthier America in their local communities. The mission of Partnership for a Healthier America focuses on ending childhood obesity. Our chapters are focused on developing community gardens, starting childhood healthy activity programs, and developing strong community networks towards healthy eating and physical activity. Below are some examples of the projects which supported the fall initiative:
  - **OUHCOM- Cleveland** is creating and maintain a garden at their school to support the Region III fall advocacy project event for Partnership for a Healthier America! They just got their compost bins for inside the school as well. They will collect compost items and then add them to the big compost out by the garden. All the produce grown by the students will be donated to the local community and hospital to encourage healthy food choices!
  - **OUHCOM Athens** SOMA members hosted a local area Girl Scouts troop to help them earn their nutrition badge for their Partnership of Healthier America activity. The girls got basic nutrition education and learned to make four different healthy snacks: savory-hummus, sweet-yogurt dipped fruit kabobs, energy- monster cookie protein balls, and slurpy- fruit and veggie smoothies. Finally they got the recipe cards of the snacks they made and decorated their own recipe boxes to keep them in
  - **MUCOM** hosted their fall advocacy project event for Partnership for a Healthier America at the school fall fest last week! All the kids loved trying to guess how much sugar there is in beverages! It was also so great to see how many children wanted apples, oranges, and green peppers! Our food was graciously donated, and each child could also take recipes home with them!
- **Professional Development:**
  - **KYCOM's** chapter of SOMA and SAACOFPP co-hosted *Medicine in the Mountains—Get to know your Peers and Protégés*, a networking event to bring together medical students, residents, physicians, and health care administrators from Eastern Kentucky and Appalachia. One of the events of the evening included a round of speed networking,

which enabled all students the opportunity to meet the physicians/administrators in attendance and gain insight on medicine and healthcare.

- **Political Advocacy:**
  - On September 18, 2017 **VCOM-Virginia's** SOMA's Political Action Committee teamed up with the Ed to Med Ambassadors to put on the *DO the Vote* event to encourage student political activism and voter education. In an hour and a half, over 50 students from the first and second year classes ordered their absentee ballots for the 2017 election!
  - While students filled out the ballot requests, they received handouts on the VA Governor candidates, hot topics in healthcare policy, and why voting – absentee or at the polls – is extremely important. It was a very successful event!
- **Pre-SOMA Outreach:**
  - **KYCOM** hosted a Premed COMference at KYCOM on October 21. The event was a huge success!! They hosted 100 premed students on the day from all across the Midwest, South, and East coast (they even had someone from Philly!). The speakers for the day included the Dean, Dr. Boyd Buser, Stephanie Wurth from AACOM, and Chapter President Derek Mounsey from SOMA/PreSOMA. There were 7 other COMs in attendance in addition to create a little COM fair for all of the students to ask questions and learn about other schools. They did a variety of workshops from intubation, to interview prep, and OMT in the afternoon. They ended the day with a student-only Q and A and a few giveaways. Lastly, the chapter raised \$300 to donate to the SOMA foundation to continue to support scholarships and grants for SOMA members!

#### Region 4:

- Composed of:
  - A.T. Still University Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (ATSU-KCOM)
  - Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (CCOM)
  - Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine (DMU-COM)
  - Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCU-COM)
  - Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OSU-COM)
  - Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVU-COM)
  - University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine (UIWSOM)
  - University of North Texas Health Science Center Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNTHSC-TCOM)
  - Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (ARCOM)
  - New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine - Arkansas (NYIT-AR)
- We've had our chapters start to implement the social medicine program. **NYIT-AR** had a great first session with more than 30 people in attendance. They decided to focus their first session on the general topic of Social Medicine. **ARCOM** also had a very successful first session where they discussed Racial Bias and Social Determinants of Health.
- Region IV Chapter Leaders have also been making moves to develop closer ties with their state societies. **OSU** continues to host events with OOA several times per year. **DMU** has taken steps to build a new partnership with IOMA. They have hosted several events together, including a membership recruitment program at the beginning of the year. They've also implemented a new mentorship program and partnered around certain legislative priorities. **ATSU-KCOM** has also been working closely with their state society, hosting several programs with them this year, including a CV writing workshop. **NYIT-AR** hosted members from AOMA on their campus and have been partnering with them around political advocacy efforts.

- Our chapters also continue to excel with community outreach initiatives. **OSU** hosted a really successful Rural Health Fair at the beginning of the school year. **DMU** has been hosting monthly outreach events at a local elementary school, helping them to develop a better understanding of healthy practices and the medical professions. **ATSU-KCOM** has done a terrific job supporting their community through fundraisers this year. They raised funds for victims of natural disasters this fall and they also made a big push to raise funds for Thanksgiving meal baskets for Kirksville families in need. Meanwhile **CCOM** continues to implement the NOD initiative at a local middle school in Indiana, hosted a successful toy drive for homeless children in transitional housing, and hosted a very successful conference focussed on educating the community about health inequities.
- The **CCOM** chapter also launched a unique campaign called Stop The Crazy Talk to try and combat the stigma around mental health. Through a series of talks, some by students, some by practicing clinicians, they generated open spaces for students to talk about and hear about mental health challenges in medicine.
- **CCOM** has also been working closely with their administration and clinical education departments to implement a Poverty Simulation at the school. After many months of negotiating, a full Poverty Simulation will be held in March, in conjunction with the clinical medicine course at **CCOM**.
- **ARCOM** gained chapter status and they've really engaged their class and have put together some super successful social, political, and community outreach oriented other events.
- **UIWSOM** has applied and will be voted on at spring convention.

#### Region 5:

- Composed of:
  - A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine - Arizona (ATSU-SOMA)
  - Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (AZCOM)
  - Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM)
  - Western University College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (WUCOMP)
  - Western University College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, Northwest (WUCOMP-NW)
  - Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (PNWU-COM)
  - Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine - Utah (RVUCOM-SU)
  - Touro University California College of Osteopathic Medicine (TUCOM)
  - Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine (TUNCOM)
- Region V has had a great year with SOMA.
- We've seen a new chapter develop at **RVUCOM-SU** Campus, voted in during our Fall House of Delegates at OMED.
- We are currently in discussion with **Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine** and expect a new chapter to be granted charter at our Spring House of Delegates in Washington D.C. in March.
- **BCOM** is hoping to conduct 80+ undergraduate interviews in April.
- We're exploring resolutions on:
  - Nutrition and it's vital role in medical education
  - Exploring the ERAS application to ensure equal opportunity for DO applicants.
  - Expanding our inclusion of cultures in OMM lab, and expanding the diversity of applicants to DO medical schools.
  - Furthering the discussion regarding NP and PA scope of practice.

**Report to the AOA Board of Trustees  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
February 28, 2018**

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) provides leadership for the osteopathic medical education community by promoting excellence in medical education, research and service, and by fostering innovation and quality across the continuum of osteopathic medical education to improve the health of the American public. AACOM currently represents the 34 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States accredited to deliver instruction at 49 teaching locations in 32 states. Six of the colleges are public, 28 are private.

**Board of Deans Update**

**AACOM Board of Deans Executive Committee:**

- **Chair:** Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO  
Dean, Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Immediate Past Chair:** Michael B. Clearfield, DO  
Dean, Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine – California
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Lori A. Kemper, DO  
Dean, Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University
- **Branch Campus Representative:** H. William Craver III, DO  
Dean and Chief Academic Officer, Osteopathic Medical Program, Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **At-Large Member:** Wolfgang G. Gilliar, DO  
Dean, New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **At-Large Member:** Kayse M. Shrum, DO  
President, Provost and Dean, Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **At-Large Member:** Margaret A. Wilson, DO  
Dean, A.T. Still University - Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Assembly of Presidents Chair:** Kenneth H. Johnson, DO  
Executive Dean, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine

**College of Osteopathic Medicine Dean Updates (as of February 2018):**

- **Andrea Amalfitano, DO, PhD**  
Interim Dean, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Bret Ripley, DO, MS**  
Interim Dean, Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **David Forstein, DO, Martin Diamond, DO, Representative Dean**  
Dean, Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine-New York
- **Don Peska, DO, MEd**  
Interim Dean and Chief Academic Officer, Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Frank Filippetto, DO**  
Interim Dean, University of North Texas Health Science Center Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine
- **Mark Kevin Kauffman, DO, MS (Med Ed), PA**  
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine - Bradenton Campus
- **Robert Hasty, DO**  
Founding Dean, Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine

## AACOM Membership Growth

### AACOM Launches AOGME (Formerly AODME)

In November 2017, the AACOM Board of Deans voted to approve the memorandum of understanding (MOU) and integration of the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (AODME) and its current members within AACOM as the AACOM Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators (AOGME). AODME officially dissolved as a separate legal entity in December 2017. On January 1, AACOM launched the [AOGME](#).

AOGME's purpose is to strengthen and develop the medical education continuum in accordance with the osteopathic philosophy by:

- Supporting leadership and professional development for those engaged in graduate medical education (GME)
- Fostering excellence in the clinical learning environment; and
- Assisting in the development of new community-based GME programs

AOGME's membership currently stands at 328 and is comprised of directors of medical education, program directors, and support personnel working in ACGME- and AOA-accredited osteopathic programs. For more information on AOGME, including programs and activities, visit the [AOGME web page](#) on AACOM's website.

### Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine

After meeting accreditation and other membership standards related to joining, AACOM gained the

Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine (ICOM) in Meridian, ID as a new member on September 26, 2017. With the addition of ICOM, AACOM membership grew to 34 member colleges at 49 locations in 32 states.

## AACOMAS Update

### AACOMAS 2018 Application Cycle

The 2018 application cycle began on May 4, 2017, with the opening of the 2018 AACOMAS application. Current submitted applications as of January 29, 2018, total 20,483 from 19,342 verified applicants. The 2018 application cycle ends April 2, 2018, although many colleges maintain submission deadlines before and some after this date. To view information for potential applicants, visit <http://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/applying>.

## Research Activities

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

The Project on Osteopathic Medical Education and Empathy (POME2) is moving forward. The project, sponsored by AACOM, is a collaboration between the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, and the Cleveland Clinic. This study seeks to assess empathy of all newly-entering first-year medical students and of all first-, second-, third-, and fourth-year students at the end of the 2017-2018 academic year. It is the first study of empathy in osteopathic medical education in the United States at this national level and scope. The POME2 is a two-phased project: Phase I an initial cross-sectional study followed by Phase II envisioned as a longitudinal study subsequent to the completion of Phase I. Designated research coordinators at each of the 43 participating college of osteopathic medicine campuses have been instrumental in presenting the research study to their first-year matriculants. On August 1, AACOM distributed a [press release](#) on the [Project in Osteopathic Medical Education and Empathy \(POME2\)](#).

### Broad Research Initiatives

AACOM Research continues to work with external organizations, key researchers, and our COMs to make osteopathic medical education data available for broader research initiatives while maintaining the appropriate confidentiality and business process data protections. Current projects include:

*Accelerating Change in Medical Education:* Based on a grant to three osteopathic medical schools and in association with the AMA. Data are in the process of being extracted for this project. To move this project forward more quickly, AACOM is exploring hiring temporary support.

*AOA/AACOM Database:* The joint AACOM/AOA database is live and under review by the research department. Additional efforts to make the data more accessible, such as online dynamic reports generators, are being added to the AACOM/AOA database. This is important because the goal is to make the database available for researchers outside of AACOM and AOA as a way to increase and encourage research on osteopathic medicine workforce, outcomes, and education issues. In addition, AACOM/AOA is exploring developing a research committee to review requests from external researchers who want to use this data to develop scholarly reports.

## **AACOM Research Reports**

The AACOM Research Department continues to develop and expand data on osteopathic medical education and make such data available to the osteopathic community and the public through the AACOM website at <http://www.aacom.org/reports-programs-initiatives/aacomreports>.

## **Graduate Medical Education**

### **ACGME Winter Quarterly Board Meeting**

The ACGME Board of Directors met on February 1-5, 2018, for its first quarterly meeting of the year. AACOM President & CEO Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH, attended the meeting and presented on AACOM's activities and priorities since the last ACGME board meeting in September 2017. Topics discussed at the meeting include the single accreditation system, physician wellness, the changing political landscape and other factors impacting graduate medical education in the future. The board meets next on June 8-10, 2018.

### **ACGME Annual Education Conference**

The ACGME's 2018 Annual Educational Conference will be held March 1-4 in Orlando, FL. AACOM will be exhibiting at the conference with several staff members disseminating information and data on OME. Several additional AACOM staff members and leadership will be attending the meeting, including hosting a pre-conference reception, and taking in programming while at the conference.

### **Single Graduate Medical Education Update**

AACOM continues to work with ACGME and the AOA on operational, implementation, and educational efforts toward establishing the single GME accreditation system. AACOM provides regular updates and resources on the transition to member colleges, students, and other stakeholders in the osteopathic community on our [Single GME Accreditation System web page](#).

## **Government Relations Update**

### **AACOM 2018 COM Day on Capitol Hill**

In order to maximize AACOM's COM Day on Capitol Hill efforts, AACOM will be holding its next COM Day on September 26-27, 2018. This move will create consistency for membership as well as provide needed separation from the American Osteopathic Association (AOA)'s DO Day, which is held in the spring close to AACOM's conference.

### **Advocacy Alerts**

Government Relations staff regularly issue information and action alerts on the wide range of policy activities AACOM is addressing, and on federal funding and other opportunities. [View the alerts](#), or [sign up to receive AACOM alerts](#).

## **AACOM Annual Conference**

### **Educating Leaders 2018**

Educating Leaders 2018, the AACOM Annual Conference, is set for April 18-20, 2018, in Washington, DC under the theme "Building Successful Collaborations." This will be the first annual

conference to take place after the integration of AOGME (formerly AODME) into AACOM. The new meeting brand of *Educating Leaders* is part of a multi-faceted rebranding effort for the conference that aims to enhance the programming, sponsorships and exhibits, aesthetics, etc. to better serve our membership. AACOM opened online registration in December (closes March 27) and has recently launched its first-ever online program planner. Additional event details can be found on the [Educating Leaders 2018 web page](#).

## Leadership Development

### AACOM Leadership Institute

In November, AACOM announced the [AACOM Leadership Institute](#), which is comprised of new and longstanding programs designed to address different professional development needs based on a range of career stages and trajectories. The goal is to cultivate strong leaders for a growing and dynamic osteopathic profession. The Institute offers a variety of programs based on a range of career stages and trajectories. Current program offerings include:

- [Senior Leadership Development Program \(SLDP\)](#)  
*In partnership with Academy for Academic Leadership*
- [Administrator Leadership Development Program \(ALDP\)](#)  
*In partnership with Academy for Academic Leadership*
- [Training the Osteopathic Professions Core Educators \(TOPCE\)](#)
- [Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship \(OHPF\)](#)  
*In partnership with Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine*
- [Osteopathic Health Policy Internship \(OHPI\)](#)

## Diversity

### AACOM Diversity Committee

AACOM recognizes the lack of diversity in medical education as a critical issue impacting health care in this country. In response, we have formed a diversity committee that includes in-house staff as well as representatives from our member colleges. In December, we hosted the second annual AACOM Diversity Committee meeting, which provided a forum for information sharing on best practices, pipeline programs, cultural sensitivity, safe place spaces for students and faculty training. Outcomes of this meeting include, among other items, information sharing with the AOA, fundraising opportunities to expand diversity scholarships, and input from the group on AACOM's upcoming strategic planning process. Our goal is to help the COMs become diversity-minded environments where all are welcome, valued, and successful in the study of medicine.

### Sherry R. Arnstein Minority Student Scholarship

AACOM administers the Sherry R. Arnstein Minority Student Scholarship, which provides scholarships to underrepresented minority students enrolled in and/or matriculating to our member colleges. The selection of awardees is based on an essay content that promotes innovative ideas on ways to enhance the recruitment and retention of URM students. AACOM has given over \$100,000 in the last few years. Our evergreen goal is to continue to grow and advance the program to better serve our URM students.

## **Initial Development of Task Force**

Early last week, AACOM issued a statement [AACOM Statement - Stephen Shannon](#) in response to the conviction of Larry Nassar. In addition to initial external messaging, after consulting with various internal stakeholders, AACOM has begun assembling a Task Force on Ethics and Professionalism to be chaired by AACOM Board of Deans Executive Committee Member Dean Margaret Wilson, DO. This distinguished group will be charged to:

- Evaluate how standards of professionalism and medical ethics are incorporated into the osteopathic medical education (OME) admission practices and curriculum
- Assess the extent to which the identification of sexual exploitation is taught within the OME curriculum and determine what changes, if any, need to be made
- Recommend curriculum expectations for the development of competencies related to professional self-regulation and the duty to report

Updates on the progress and work of this group will be available down the line.

# ADVOCATES FOR THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

## 2018 Midyear Report to AOA BOT

As President of the Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association for 2017-2018, my theme is **ADVOCACY ADVANCES OSTEOPATHIC ACCOMPLISHMENT**. The AAOA Board has focused our efforts on deliberate and concise acts to achieve this goal, while staying committed to our mission of Supporting and Promoting the Osteopathic Profession. We remain loyal and dedicated to the AOA and the Osteopathic Physician in our efforts as a Board.

As identified in my theme that **ADVOCACY ADVANCES OSTEOPATHIC ACCOMPLISHMENT**, we have pinpointed 4 strands of Advocacy to accomplish our goal. The first strand is **INFLUENCE**. The AAOA exerts influence on all individuals we encounter; whether it is within our community at home or at specific events such as DO Day on the Hill. During advocacy events, our efforts provide a channel allowing us to have an impact on legislation to positively influence policy. That in turn ripples out to the communities and people who need and benefit from Osteopathic Medicine. Advocacy uses this knowledge consciously, harnessing its energy to achieve our objective.

The second strand that the Advocates utilize is **EDUCATION**. To advocate effectively on behalf of the osteopathic community we serve, we need to carefully evaluate where to put our energies and resources to maximize our reach. Education begins in all advocacy efforts; so, as we continue to educate our communities, our patients, and the public on the role that Osteopathic medicine plays in today's health care arena..... we must also continue to educate these individuals on what Osteopathic Medicine is and what it is not. Through AAOA's programs such as Special Projects and SAA/IRAA groups, we can educate our members and communities on the benefits offered and delivered through Osteopathic Medicine.

The next important element of this year's theme is **SUPPORTING our OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN** as well as **PROMOTING OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**. This is the central theme of the AAOA's mission statement and

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Advocates National Office  
Lawrence Cunningham,  
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is integrated with the AAOA's continued relationship and work with our SAA/IRAA family members. We recognize that establishing contact early, at the grass roots level, is more likely to result in long term and mutually beneficial relationships. We work to make certain that there is encouragement and support offered to the student doctors families as well as their significant others. And to ensure that their roles and needs are understood, particularly as they change through their years of training and practice.

The last strand in this theme is **SERVICE**. More specifically, providing an appropriate avenue of service for each of our members. Through the many programs and events offered by the AAOA and our relationship with the AOA, we can ensure that acts of Advocacy occur regularly and one's that give back to the Osteopathic profession that has given us so much, either directly or indirectly.

As the AAOA began the year under this theme, we then met at a board retreat in December 2017 for a strategic planning session. We discussed how the AOA BOT could integrate the above-mentioned theme while evaluating the most efficient and productive approach of action for the next 5 years. We identified 4 areas of initiatives that we could use to push forward towards our goals. These were

- Our Social Media Strategy-this is an area that can bring a significant impact, with over 80% of American adults using some form of social media on a regular basis, it is clearly an important tool in reaching our audience and ensuring our initiatives receive the attention we want.
- School Advisor Outreach-this program shows much potential, providing an opportunity to create a program that is designed to engage a more diverse membership, which in turn will enhance our overall effectiveness.
- Remote programs for mid-stage members-these programs are focused on lifestyle topics, and the initiative aims to begin with identifying the most effective methods of facilitating the interactions with mid stage members. This could be through online forums, conference calls, webinars, or other digital communication methods.
- Advocate event at the House of Delegates in July -hosting social events are always popular, and a great way to enthuse, motivate and engage with advocates. As successful event will raise our profile, help promote awareness in AAOA's programs and provide a means for our members to connect.

In addition to the above listed initiatives, the AAOA remains involved with other programs. These include the Physician Wellness Task Force. We have 3 board members that are actively collaborating with AOA committees to identify current issues facing physicians and develop a means for assistance in

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navigating these challenges. This task force has become a priority to the AAOA for promoting the mental and physical health of our profession and its members.

The AAOA continues our affiliation with the AOF to assist in sponsoring the Donna Jones Moritsugu Award. The significance of this award recognizes outstanding partners of graduating osteopathic medical students and helps with the development of Advocacy efforts at the beginning stages of training. This alliance between the AAOA and AOF represents our continued commitment and support of distinguishing spouses who go above and beyond in their encouragement of the osteopathic physician.

In regard to OMED 2018, the Advocates are busy planning our Still Fit For Life FUN RUN in San Diego. We are pleased and excited to have Dr. Norm Vinn agree to serve as our Honorary Chair for this wonderful event. This will be the only fundraiser for the Advocates this year. All proceeds raised fund SOMA scholarships and our SAA Special Projects. Please plan to participate and sponsor a donor level in our FUN RUN.

In addition to our FUN RUN event at OMED, we will install President Elect Lauren Stremers (MI) as President of the Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association. Lauren has demonstrated strong leadership skills and commitment to the Osteopathic profession for many years. Lauren will be assuming this new role on the heels of finishing her year as President of the Advocates for the Michigan Osteopathic Association.

In building on our organizations' Past Presidents, Pam Kolinski and Linda Kazen Garza, the AAOA is both challenged and committed in "taking the traditions of yesterday into tomorrow"; while "embracing a new era of advocacy."

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy McDonald, RN

President

Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association

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“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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Sara Kaskowitz, OMS III *Director of Financial Affairs*

Mitali Mali, OMS III *Director of Membership*

Sneha Shah, OMS III *Foundation Liaison*

Hannah Mirzakhani, OMS IV *Director of Scholarships and Grants*

Sherri Wise, CPA *Foundation Advisor*

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### **Affiliate Report to the American Osteopathic Association *Mid-Year Report, February 2018***

#### **SOMA Foundation Logo Update**

Since our July 2017 new logo debut, we have had an amazingly positive response. Our new logo includes an image which resembles A.T. Still holding a femur bone. We are very excited to continue to support osteopathic medical students and hope our new logo will increase new donors' knowledge of our mission.



#### **2017-2018 Donations**

We have been very fortunate thus far to have the following donations for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. We look forward to utilizing these funds to continue our mission of supporting osteopathic medical students.

- 119 Donors (*all tier levels*)
- \$7657.00 Donations



“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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### **Scholarships**

Our Fall Scholarship winners were announced during the SOMA Foundation Reception on October 7, 2017.

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

- Total scholarships distributed: 9
- Total amount disbursed: \$6500.00
  
- Recipients:
  - **New Member Scholarship (\$500.00 each, \$2500.00 total)**
    - Alan Wang, OMS I, PCOM
    - Bahadar Srichawla, OMS I, Touro College of Medicine - Middletown
    - Kristen Ruckstuhl, OMS I, OU-HCOM
    - Rebecca Lee, OMS I, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine - Carolinas
    - Thu Nguyen, OMS I, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
  
  - **Community and Preventive Medicine Scholarship (\$1000.00)**
    - Nichole B. Shumway, OMS II, Des Moines College of Osteopathic Medicine
  
  - **Humanism in Medicine Scholarship (\$1,000.00)**
    - Michelle Brenner, OMS III, Des Moines College of Osteopathic Medicine
  
  - **Robert S. Juhasz, DO, Innovative Leadership in Osteopathic Medicine Scholarship (\$1000.00)**
    - Katharina de Klerk, OMS III, CCOM
  
  - **Women in Medicine Scholarship (\$1000.00) \*\*BRAND NEW SCHOLARSHIP\*\***
    - Jacqueline Levene, OMS IV, Western University of Health Sciences COMP-NW



“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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### **Grants**

During the fall semester we distributed 1 grant to student leaders for the following COM project.

- Total Grants distributed: 1
  - **LECOM-Erie - Single Resident Occupancy Tenants**
  - “*This patient population is underserved and deserves more education and access to health services. The community dinners will allow a bridge to form between future healthcare professionals and the Single Residency Occupancy tenants. This project will benefit the residents from receiving relevant health education topics, free nutritious meal, and meaningful interactions with medical students. This program will also benefit the medical students attending each dinner. There is a lack of education in medical school curriculum on addressing the underserved and population of mental illness. Joining the residents at community dinner will give students an exposure to this population. This will help them in their future interactions as their career grows.*”
- **Total funding: \$493.30**

### **Community Service**

We have hosted three events since the summer of 2017 to serve local communities while attending national Conferences.

- AOA House of Delegates 2017
  - **Heart on Your Sleeve**
  - Physicians, students, and attendees of the AOA House of Delegates had the opportunity to participate in the collaborative SOMA Foundation, National SOMA, COSGP, and the Mental Health Task Force’s group project. Our goal was to help fight the stigma concerning mental health and the stress of our profession. Participants were encouraged to fill out their paper emotion cards to literally “wear your heart on your sleeve” Though this event we encouraged the medical community that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness.



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

2017-2018 Board of Directors:

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Mitali Mali, OMS III *Director of Membership*  
Hannah Mirzakhani, OMS IV *Director of Scholarships and Grants*

Sara Kaskowitz, OMS III *Director of Financial Affairs*  
Sneha Shah, OMS III *Foundation Liaison*  
Sherri Wise, CPA *Foundation Advisor*

Heart on Your Sleeve



- Chicago, IL July 2017
  - Greater Chicago Food Depository
  - Students attending the National SOMA Summer Leadership Meeting took a break from medical advocacy and policy making to give back to the community of Chicago at the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Students assisted in sorting and packing of fresh produce set to go out to local food banks to provide for those who need it most. At the end of the day, medical students worked hard with other members of the community and packed over 11,000 pounds of sweet potatoes.





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- Philadelphia, PA 2017 OMED 2017
  - **11th Annual Philadelphia VisionWalk**
  - Participants of the event volunteered and helped to supervise the children’s play area prior to the walk beginning. It was amazing to talk with the families that come year after year to support this outstanding cause.
  - From the [VisionWalk website](#): Since its inception in the spring of 2006, VisionWalk has raised over \$45 million to fund sight-saving research. As promising treatments move into critical human studies, the need for research funding is greater than ever.



**Vision Walk**



**Reception**

### **Fall Reception**

We hosted our annual Fall Reception during the conference at OMED 2018 on October 7, 2017. We had over 200 people in attendance to the event and enjoyed everyone’s attendance. During the event, we honored our Donors, Fall Scholarship winner, and the 2017 Northrup Educator of the Year Award. We look forward to hosting our next reception at OMED 2018.



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**2017 Northup Educator of the Year Award**

The 2017 Northup Educator of the Year award was presented to Dr. Thad Wilson from Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He was chosen by the National SOMA House of Delegates of Spring 2017 by a ballot vote. He received a crystal award and \$250.00 for this achievement.

For more information see: <https://www.somafoundation.org/current-award-recipient.html>



*Photo: Dr. Thad Wilson, Dr. Donald Sefcik (Dean of Marian), and Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine students.*



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**Upcoming Events:**

- **2018-2019 Foundation Board of Directors Appointment**
  - The new board will be selected on March 4, 2018.
  
- **Spring Convention March 5-6, 2018, Washington D.C.**
  - Presenting the 2018 Spring Scholarship Recipients
  - 2018 Northup Educator of the Year Award Vote
  - Health and Wellness Screening for the Community of Washington D.C.
    - Street Sense at Washington, D.C.
  - Foundation Night Out: Sudhouse
    - \*10% of proceeds will be donated back to the Foundation, which will go towards the 2018 Grant Program
  
- **DO Day on the Hill March 7, 2018**
  - *\*\*Stop by our table during the morning events. \*\**
  
- **Spring 2018 Grant Distribution *Continuing***

**Call for new partners**

Please contact us if any AOA member is interested in sponsoring a new scholarship for osteopathic medical students.

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

Sincerely,

Katherine D. Kirby, OMS IV  
SOMA Foundation Chairperson



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

142 East Ontario Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2864 ph 312 202 8000 | 800 621 1773

Bureau of Emerging Leaders Update  
Wednesday, February 28, 2018

AHP/ OMEL : LEAD Conference

Jennie H. Kwon, DO, MSCI  
Chair

The BEL was approached by the AOA to provide suggestions for topics that would interest students, postdoctoral trainees, and new physicians in practice at the LEAD conference in January 2018. Bureau members decided to promote a session on “Approaching Crucial Conversations and Conflict Resolution,” and invited Madeline Maxwell, PhD, a Professor in Communication Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, to speak to attendees. The session was well attended and well received by the audience, and we look forward to providing input at next year’s conference.

BEL Clarification Task Force

Katharyn Cassella, OMSIV  
Sonbol Shahid-Salles, DO  
Co-Chairs

We amended resolution H505 “Amendment to the American Osteopathic Association Constitution & Bylaws – Bureau of Emerging Leaders and New Physicians in Practice” to define the eligibility of postdoctoral trainees for candidacy on the AOA Board of Trustees. We defined postdoctoral trainee as an intern, resident, or fellow. We also expanded the title of the section heading for Article V, Section 11 to “Representation of Osteopathic and Allopathic Physicians in Postdoctoral Training and/ or New Physicians in Practice” to mirror the language approved in resolutions from the AOA House of Delegates in 2017. These amendments allow for consistent, clear language to be used throughout the resolution and Constitution and Bylaws. Our discussions on resolution H505 are ongoing and will be discussed at our March 2018 teleconference.

Communications Task Force

Caleb Hentges, OMSIV  
Chair

A social media strategy directed towards BEL constituents is necessary to ensure engagement of our generation of DOs. The BEL believes that creating a specific Facebook page for students, postdoctoral trainees and new physicians in practice is needed to better engage, connect, communication and advocate for their constituents. The goals of this page are to:

1. Increase the new generation’s engagement within the AOA;

2. Connect with students, postdoctoral trainees, and new physicians in practice to gain insight and feedback from them to better meet their needs and communicate them to the AOA;
3. Improve communication from students, postdoctoral trainees, and new physicians in practice on bureaus/ councils/ committees, task forces, etc;
4. Advocate for the new generation of osteopathic physicians and students.

#### Leadership Development Task Force

Kevin Cope, DO  
Vanessa Halvorsen, OMSIV  
Co-Chairs

The BEL recognizes that leadership development and succession is a priority within the AOA. Because of this, the members of the BEL believe one of our responsibilities is to find better ways to mentor and connect with the next generation of osteopathic medical students. During our discussion of how we can better mentor and connect with students, we realized a mentorship program for BEL members would be beneficial. Though we are in a leadership position, we recognize that we are all young physicians and students who are just beginning our careers, and that we would benefit from the wealth of knowledge and experience that those who have been involved with the AOA for many years have.

We would highly appreciate it if each current member of the AOA Board of Trustees could mentor one member of the BEL. This focused mentorship would provide the opportunity to learn about leadership at the highest level at the AOA and provide guidance for future leaders.

In addition, we thought that having each student, postdoctoral trainee, and new physician in practice member of a B/ C/ C mentored by someone who had at least one year of experience on that B/ C/ C would be beneficial. We believe that this would be a two-way connection. It would give the opportunity for young students and physicians to glean from a giant of the profession while allowing the mentor to connect with the future of the profession and play a significant role in influencing a future leader of the profession.

#### NRMP Student Director Nominations Task Force

Vanessa Halvorsen, OMSIV  
Chair

The BEL understands the crucial role we play as liaison between students, postdoctoral trainees and new physicians in practice and the AOA. As such, when positions arise within the AOA or other medical organizations, we work fervently to submit names to the AOA that represent our profession. We had an opportunity to exercise this duty when the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) sought out nominations for osteopathic students for student representation on their board. Within the BEL, we created a task force which asked for applicants through our newly created LinkedIn page, e-mails and social media postings. After receiving over a dozen applications, we rated each applicant based on their letter of intent and CV. We, as a task force, voted on the top five applicants, whom were reviewed and voted for approval by the whole bureau to be submitted to

the AOA. It was a privilege to aid in this process and we hope that the BEL is used more frequently in seeking out students, postdoctoral trainees and new physicians in practice for various positions.

### OMED 2017 Activities

Sarah Wolff, DO  
Participant

#### Mental Health Panel

This emotionally charged panel had a broad spectrum of participants ranging from students, residents, physicians, and educators. This well-attended event provided raw and uncensored reality of the struggles that could occur throughout the process training and practicing medicine as a career. After each panelist was asked to share their story that brought them to the panel, we were asked to reflect upon the important things that could be done to strengthen our wellness and allow support to others within the current system. After initial conversation ended, audience members were given time to comment or ask questions of those around them. In this deeply moving piece for the experience, several members publically identified themselves as needing help and were physically embraced by their known and unknown colleagues. We hope that the spirit of this panel and purposed solutions live on at each college of osteopathic medicine, residency, and practice to allow those suffering in silence to step forward and realize that they are not alone. It is through initiatives like this that support AACOM and AOA's initiatives to support mental health and prevent burnout of physicians across the country.

#### Specialty Mentoring Sessions

This event created a forum for communication regarding commonly sought after topics and advice for medical students. Over 70 students signed up for small group discussions with representatives from over 10 specialties. Students participated in these round table conversations and addressed their personal questions and concerns about moving through medical education and eventually choosing a specialty.

### Strategic Planning Task Force

Alice Chen, DO  
Chair

The BEL is asking critical questions and taking important steps to create infrastructure that supports its goal of creating engagement opportunities that are agile, flexible, task-oriented, time-bound, and capitalize on the varied and unique strengths of our constituents. One example is our continual evaluation and discussion of how to best engage membership. We find ourselves continuing to make assumptions on the values and concerns of our constituents. We feel the need to better understand our "unengaged" membership because "un-engagement" leads to a lack of membership renewal and a lack of participation in osteopathic activities. For all physicians in training and newly practicing physicians - What are their values? What are their concerns? This clarity is essential for efficient use of resources as the AOA develops into more relevant organization for all physicians who practice osteopathically. We request continued discussion on this topic.

One infrastructure development we are using to answer these questions is the creation of a task force procedural document. This document serves as a guide for us to quickly assemble and appropriately dissolve small working groups that will accomplish strategically crafted objectives that meet the overarching goals of the BEL. We hope to use this as a way to meaningfully engaging DOs who have unique skills and knowledge to contribute to the AOA. Should the AOA find this useful, we would be happy to create a version for more versatile adaptation across other B/ C/ Cs.

## EDITOR IN CHIEF'S REPORT – February 2018

Robert Orenstein, DO

Four years ago, I took the helm of the JAOA as its editor in chief. With the additional leadership of JAOA Associate Editors Michael A. Seffinger, DO; Jay H. Shubrook, DO; Kendi Lee Hensel, DO, PhD; and Elizabeth K. McClain, PhD, EdS, MPH, we've made enormous strides in increasing the value and visibility of the JAOA, amplifying not only the research published in our pages but also the osteopathic medical profession.

Although the JAOA faces challenges in content and scholarly activity, which drive our initiatives and goals, I'd like to first highlight recent accomplishments.

### Enhancing JAOA.org

Medical journals are increasingly read online, with a growing proportion of visitors accessing content on their mobile and tablet devices (48% for JAOA.org). With these changes, the JAOA has continued to enhance its online presence.

Recognizing the need to enhance our website, in 2015 the JAOA launched a new, responsive-designed website. After seeing increased interest in and consumption of multimedia content, in February 2017 we added a multimedia page to highlight supplemental video content (including our new video series "OMT Minute"). In appreciating authors' desires to track the influence of their articles, we added Altmetric scores in April 2017. In November 2017, after recognizing a need for more timely releases of high-priority content, we launched "Online First," which allows the editorial team to publish important content online ahead of print. For example, we used this functionality to publish a review on the neurobiologic effects that occur in survivors of sexual assault and how DOs can take an osteopathic approach to caring for these patients. The timed online publication allowed us to release the article early in the "Me Too" movement, leading to an article in Newsweek.

### Media Coverage

With the leadership of the AOA's Division of Media Relations, the JAOA's content is being covered as never before. In 2017, the JAOA saw a record 2575 media placements, including articles in The Atlantic, The Huffington Post, Modern Healthcare, USA Today, Vice News, The Washington Post, and many others, including broadcast coverage through CBS News. These placements have helped JAOA content reach a record 1.7 million page views.

### Encouraging Scholarly Activity

With the unified single accreditation system, we have sought to engage students, residents, and faculty in scholarly activity with the JAOA. We have seen increased submissions from our COMs through our Engage Initiative, in which we feature a given COM in a single issue of the JAOA. Our SURF section, for students, residents, and fellows, has seen high-value submissions, including a research article on the benefits of group exercise that received enormous media attention around the New Year.

## On the Horizon

As we continue to enhance the JAOA for the osteopathic medical profession, we have several key goals for 2018:

- **Engagement:** Although we've had some success in engaging COMs, in the coming months we will be exploring new avenues to engage our academic centers. These avenues will include actions such as identifying key faculty at COMs and elsewhere to participate in peer review and writing and leveraging relationships to create niche topic areas to cover in the JAOA.
- **Focus:** After evaluating the access rates of various sections in the JAOA, we will be retiring several minor article categories, including "In My View," "In Your Words," and special reports. Eliminating these non-citable sections will allow the JAOA to focus on critical content—namely, research and reviews. Perspectives and essays will find a new home on The DO. In addition, we will be more selective of case reports, requiring strong osteopathic relevance and literature reviews, and The Somatic Connection will evolve to provide brief reviews of recent research in manual therapies and treatments for a given condition.
- **Expenses and Revenues:** With our enhancements to JAOA.org, we are gradually reducing our print circulation, which is now about 18,500, saving the AOA tens of thousands of dollars in expenses related to printing and mailing the JAOA each month. With a smaller circulation and less print advertising revenue, we are revisiting circulation revenues and will be implementing a new tiered pricing structure for institutional subscriptions.
- **Specialists:** The JAOA's content is diverse by nature of the diverse practice areas of DOs. Beginning this spring, the JAOA will begin to send focused e-alerts to specialists highlighting recent relevant JAOA content. These alerts may bring added revenue dollars with targeted advertising.
- **Student Reviewers:** To further engage students in scholarly activity, we will begin adding student reviewers to our peer review process. These students will be advised by their mentors in how to conduct valuable critiques of clinical research, thereby enhancing their understanding of research.