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## Training in Policy Studies Fellowship Program

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

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

The program will seek to develop the following skills:

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

### Meeting Participation:

Fellows will participate in a total of six learning sessions, including a final presentation. Of these sessions, with the pandemic in mind, if possible, two will be in-person, and four will be held digitally. The program will start in October 2021 and conclude at the 2022 OMED. Final presentations will be presented at the OMED meeting. TIPS Fellows must participate in at least 6 of the meetings to receive a certificate at the end of the program.

### Engagement:

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

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

Agenda:<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Dates	Subject(s)	Description and Assigned Reading Due Dates
<p><b>Digital Meeting: Week of October 18</b></p>	<p><b>Program Overview</b></p> <p><b>Part 1:</b> Introduction to the TIPS Program</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b> Introduction to the federal legislative process</p>	<p>AOA leadership will welcome the new cohort of Fellows and lead a discussion on the importance of physician involvement in policymaking.</p> <p><b>Guest Speakers:</b>  <b>Joseph Giaimo, DO, AOA President</b>  <b>Rita Forden, AOF CEO</b>  <b>Barbara Ross-Lee, DO, FACOFP, AOF President-elect</b></p> <p>We will discuss the objectives of the TIPS program, work that the Fellows will engage in, and approaches to writing a literature review. The writing workshop will help prepare Fellows to complete their final paper.</p> <p>Discussion will provide fellows with a brief insight into the policy making process from when a bill is introduced to when it is signed into law. The discussion will address how stakeholder requests or needs are incorporated into legislation. This background will then be used to describe how varying stakeholders approach reforming the healthcare system.</p>
<p><b>Literature Review/White Paper Outline: Due December 21<sup>st</sup></b></p>		
<p><b>Digital Meeting: Jan. 26, 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b> Overview on State Legislative Issues and Policy Making</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b> Grassroots engagement in the U.S. political system, and how its impact</p>	<p>Discussion will provide a panorama on issues affecting the osteopathic profession and patients at the state level. Issues include telemedicine, liability issues, and scope of practice.</p> <p><b>Guest Speaker: Raine Richards, JD, Senior Director of State Government Affairs, American Osteopathic Association</b></p> <p>Discussion will focus on the role of grassroots/advocacy in the policymaking process and the impact of stakeholders in shaping policy.</p> <p><b>Guest Speaker: David Pugach, JD, Senior Vice President of Public Policy, American Osteopathic Association</b></p>

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

**Draft of Literature Review or White Paper Due Two Weeks Before March Meeting**

<p><b>Digital Meeting: Mar. 30, 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b> Primer: The Regulatory Process</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b> Regulatory: Case Study</p>	<p>The first portion of this meeting will describe the rulemaking process and its importance in implementing laws.</p> <p><b>Guest Speaker: Bridget Dooling, JD, Research Professor, George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center</b></p> <p>Case Study: IRS Notice 2019-45 – establishing a safe harbor that allow pre-deductible coverage of treatments.</p> <p><b>Guest Speaker: Katie Spangler, Principal Spangler Strategies</b></p>
<p><b>In-person Meeting in DC: Apr. 26-27, 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b> Physician Mental Health Policy: Case Study</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b> Social Determinants of Health</p>	<p>Case Study: Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act: background on the need for the policy, drafting of legislation, overcoming opposition, path to becoming law.</p> <p><b>Guest Speaker: Ryan McBride, MPH, Director of Congressional Affairs, American College of Emergency Physicians</b></p> <p>A discussion on issues that impact social determinants of health and potential solutions.</p> <p><b>Guest Speaker: Tomas Bednar, JD, Senior Vice President and Counsel, Healthspieren, LLC</b></p>

**Literature Review/White Paper Draft Due 2 Weeks Before July Meeting**

<p><b>In-person Meeting, HOD: July 14-16, 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b> Mental Health: Resiliency</p>	<p>Discussion on how policy can address physician burnout and promote physician wellness.</p> <p><b>Guest Speaker: TBA</b></p>
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<p><b>September 2022</b></p>	<p><b>Part 1:</b> Media Training</p> <p><b>Part 2:</b> Insurance Benefit Reform</p>	<p>AOA Communications staff will provide a training to TIPS fellows on how to communicate messages effectively on social media and share best practices for engaging with the media.</p> <p><b>Guest Speaker: TBA</b></p> <p>The second part of the discussion will discuss insurance reform and how the ACA needs to be improved to expand preventive coverage or certain services that have limited coverage.</p> <p><b>Guest Speaker:</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Final Papers and Presentation Due 2 Weeks before October Meeting</b></p>		
<p><b>OMED Meeting: October 27-30, 2022</b></p>	<p>Proposal Presentations and Program Conclusion</p>	<p>Fellows will present their policy proposals and leadership from AOA and AOF will conclude the program with the fellows.</p>