Consistent with the requirements for amending the core documents of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the following proposed amendments to the AOA Constitution, Bylaws, and Code of Ethics have been submitted to the AOA chief executive officer, who has arranged for their publication in *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* before the annual meeting of the AOA House of Delegates (HOD), which will occur Friday, July 21, 2017, through Sunday, July 23, 2017, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown in Illinois.

The following proposed amendments to the AOA Constitution, Bylaws, and Code of Ethics regarding allowing MDs as regular members and regarding delegates were presented at the July 2016 HOD meeting and will be considered for final approval at the July 2017 HOD meeting. The proposed amendments regarding the Bureau of Emerging Leaders will be presented at the July 2017 HOD meeting and acted on at the July 2018 HOD meeting. All amendments require a two-thirds vote by the HOD for approval. Old material is crossed out and new material is capitalized. (doi:10.7556/jaoa.2017.072)

**Allowing MDs as Regular Members**

The following proposed amendments to the AOA Constitution and Bylaws would, if approved, allow allopathic physicians (ie, MDs) to join the AOA as regular members. Likewise, the proposed changes to the AOA Code of Ethics would recognize MDs as regular members.

**AOA Constitution**

*Article V—Membership*

The membership of this Association shall consist of osteopathic physicians and of such others who have met the requirements prescribed by the Bylaws of the American Osteopathic Association.

**AOA Bylaws**

*Article II—Membership*

Section 1—Classification

The members of this Association shall be classified as follows:

- Regular Members
- Honorary Life Members
- Life Members
- Associate Members
- Student Members
- Honorary Members
- International Physician Members
- Allied Members

Section 2—Membership Requirements

a. Applicants for Regular Membership. An applicant for regular membership in this Association shall be a graduate of a college of osteopathic medicine approved by the American Osteopathic Association’s COMMISSION ON OSTEOPATHIC COLLEGE ACCREDITATION OR A GRADUATE OF AN ALLOPATHIC MEDICAL SCHOOL ACCREDITED BY THE LIAISON COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL EDUCATION OR A GRADUATE OF A SCHOOL OF MEDICINE LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES ON AN OFFICIAL LIST OF SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED BY THE AOA, and shall be eligible for licensure as an osteopathic physician and/or surgeon or shall be in a training program, which is a prerequisite for her/his licensure. Application shall be made on the prescribed form and shall be accompanied by payment of the appropriate dues amount. Unless specifically noted, an applicant whose completed application and payment of appropriate dues has been received and processed shall be enrolled as a regular member. An applicant whose membership in this Association has previously been withdrawn for reasons other than failure to meet CME requirements or non-payment of dues, or who has previously been convicted of a felony offense or whose license to practice has at any time been revoked, shall be further required to obtain the endorsement of the
secretary of the divisional society in the state, province, or foreign country in which the applicant resides (or the endorsement of the secretary of the uniformed services divisional society in the case of applicants currently serving in the uniformed services of the United States), or, lacking this endorsement, an applicant who is in good standing in his community shall provide letters of recommendation from three members of the Association and provide a personal written statement as to why membership in the Association should be extended or restored. Such information and application shall be carefully reviewed by the Committee on Membership, which shall make an appropriate recommendation for reinstatement to the Board of Trustees. An applicant whose license to practice is revoked or suspended, or who is currently serving a sentence for conviction of a felony offense, shall not be considered eligible for membership in this Association.

Article VI—Elections
Section 1—Qualifications
Except where positions are designated as public members, membership in both the AOA and a divisional society shall be a requisite for qualification for any officer or for any member of any department, division, bureau, or committee of the Association, however selected, if the incumbent shall be an osteopathic physician.

Code of Ethics
The American Osteopathic Association has formulated this Code to guide its member physicians in their professional lives. The standards presented are designed to address the osteopathic physician’s ethical and professional responsibilities to patients, to society, to the AOA, to others involved in health care, and to self.

Section 8
A physician shall not hold forth or indicate possession of any degree recognized as the basis for licensure to practice the healing arts unless SHE/
information available to the public. People seeking health care are entitled to know the names of osteopathic physicians, the types of practices in which they engage, their office hours, place of their offices, and other pertinent factual information. On the other hand, the public should be protected from subjective advertising material designed to solicit patients, which is essentially misleading. Such material would include attempts to obtain patients by influence or persuasion, employing statements that are self-laudatory and deceptive; the result of which is likely to lead a patient to a misinformed choice and unjustified expectations. (July 1985)

Guide to Section 8
This guide applies to AOA members’ professional (as opposed to organizational) stationery, office signs, telephone directories, and other listings referred to by the general public. (July 1985)

Part I—Indications of Specialty Practice
1. Osteopathic Physicians who are not certified by the AOA or who do not devote their time exclusively to a specialty should not indicate any area of practice specialization. They may designate the nature of their practice in one of the following ways:
   - General Practice
   - General Practice of Osteopathic Medicine
   - Surgery

Osteopathic Physicians who are certified by the AOA or who devote themselves exclusively to a specialty may designate such specialty in one of the following ways:
   - Practice Limited to Internal Medicine (or other practice area)
   - Internal Medicine

The listing of terms in each of the two categories is illustrative and should act as a guideline.

Part IV—Degrees (other than DO OR MD)
It is strongly recommended that only the degree DO OR MD appear on professional stationery. However, the following additional guides are offered: No undergraduate degree (BA, BS, etc) should be used.

Graduate degrees (MA, MS, PhD, etc) should not be used unless the degree recognizes work in a scientific field directly related to the healing arts. Therefore, advanced degrees in scientific fields such as public health, physiology, anatomy, and chemistry may be used but their use is not recommended.

Honorary degrees relating to scientific achievement in the healing arts or other achievements within the osteopathic profession (such as administrative excellence or educational achievement) may be used if the honorary nature of the degree is indicated by use after the degree of the abbreviation ‘Hon.’

Law degrees may be used if the physician carries on medical-legal activities.

Part V—Telephone Directory Listings FOR OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS
1. It is desirable for divisional societies to have an established program to implement these guidelines and, where necessary, to meet with representatives of the telephone companies in furtherance of that objective.
2. In classified directories, it is recommended that DOs be listed under the heading ‘Physicians and Surgeons-(DO)’ and that there be a cross-reference to that heading from the heading ‘Physicians and Surgeons-Osteopathic.’ This letter heading is also acceptable as the main listing if it has long been the heading customarily used in the community.
3. In telephone directory listings of doctors, it is recommended that the doctor’s name be followed by the abbreviation DO.
4. The abbreviation ‘Dr’ is not recommended because it is misleading. ‘Dr’ can refer to dentists, doctors of medicine, etc. ‘Phys’ is also misleading because it can refer to MDs.
5. In telephone directories, no indication of certification or membership in any osteopathic
professional organization should appear by initials or abbreviations, because such would generally be confusing.

6. In classified telephone directories it is not improper to indicate ‘Practice limited to’ or simply to name the field of specialty.

Only specialties or practice interests recognized as such by the American Osteopathic Association should be indicated.

Only physicians who are certified in or who limit their practice exclusively to a specialty should list themselves in a particular field.

Interpretation of Section 17
Section 17 relates to the interaction of physicians with pharmaceutical companies.

2. It is ethical and in the best interest of their patients for osteopathic physicians to meet with pharmaceutical companies and their representatives for the purpose of product education, such as side effects, clinical effectiveness, and ongoing pharmaceutical research.

Delegates
The following amendments to the AOA Constitution and AOA Bylaws are proposed to allow for national health care associations that represent physicians to send delegates to the AOA’s House of Delegates.

AOA Constitution
Article VI—House of Delegates
The House of Delegates shall be the legislative body of the Association, shall exercise the delegated powers of the divisional societies in the affairs of this Association, and shall perform such other functions as are set forth in the Bylaws.

Section 1—Composition
The House of Delegates shall consist of delegates elected by the divisional societies and other authorized units, of the elected officers and trustees of the Association, and of such other members as may be provided for in the Bylaws.

D. NATIONAL HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATIONS. EACH AOA-RECOGNIZED NATIONAL HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION SHALL BE REPRESENTED BY ONE DELEGATE TO BE SELECTED AS PROVIDED IN THE BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION.

AOA Bylaws
Article I—Divisional, District and Affiliated Societies
SECTION 4—NATIONAL HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATIONS FOR PHYSICIANS

UPON APPLICATION FROM A NATIONAL HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS THE INTERESTS OF PHYSICIANS FOR REPRESENTATION IN THE AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SHALL INVESTIGATE SUCH ORGANIZATION AND, UPON SATISFACTORY PROOF OF A GENERAL AGREEMENT IN POLICY WITH THOSE OF THIS ASSOCIATION, SHALL AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF CREDENTIALS FOR THAT NATIONAL HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION TO BE REPRESENTED IN THE AOA’S HOUSE OF DELEGATES BY ONE DELEGATE AND ONE ALTERNATE DELEGATE.

Section 4-5—Amendments to Governing Documents

Article V—House of Delegates
Section 1—Certification of Delegates and Alternates

C. NATIONAL HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATIONS FOR PHYSICIANS. EACH AOA-RECOGNIZED NATIONAL HEALTH
CARE ASSOCIATION SHALL SELECT ONE
DELEGATE AND AT LEAST ONE
ALTERNATE TO THE AOA HOUSE OF
DELEGATES IN A MANNER PRESCRIBED
BY ITS ORGANIZATION’S GOVERNING
BOARD, PROVIDED THAT SUCH
DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE SHALL ALSO
BE MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING OF THE
AOA. NO NATIONAL HEALTH CARE
ASSOCIATION DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE
SHALL ALSO BE A MEMBER OF A
DIVISIONAL SOCIETY’S OR SPECIALTY
COLLEGE’S DELEGATION TO THE AOA’S
HOUSE OF DELEGATES. THE SECRETARY
OF EACH NATIONAL HEALTH CARE
ASSOCIATION SHALL CERTIFY THE NAME
OF ITS DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE TO
THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE
AOA AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE
FIRST DAY OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES.
DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES MUST BE
MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING OF THE
ASSOCIATION THEY REPRESENT.

Section 2—Voting
Each delegate shall have one vote in the House,
except when one-fourth of the members present
shall call for the yeas and nays on any question;
the Chief Executive Officer shall, before any other
motion can be made, call the roll by divisional
societies and enter the yeas and nays in the
record. In recording such vote each divisional
society shall be given one vote for each 20 regular
members of the American Osteopathic Association
located in the area represented by that divisional
society (or in the case of the uniformed services
divisional society, one vote for each 20 regular
members of the American Osteopathic
Association currently serving in the uniformed ser-
ices of the United States), as certified to 75 days
before the annual meeting of the House of
Delegates under the requirements of Section 1 of
this Article, and such votes may be cast by any
one of the delegation then seated or divided
among the various members of the delegation as
the delegation in caucus shall decide.

Section 3—Committee on Credentials
The Committee on Credentials shall consist of
three or more members appointed by the President
and it shall be the duty of the Committee to receive
and validate the credentials of the delegates to the
House and to report all delegates entitled to be
seated in the House. The Chief Executive Officer
shall furnish the Credentials Committee a list
showing the number of delegates to which each div-
isional society is entitled AND A LIST OF EACH
SPECIALTY COLLEGE AND NATIONAL
HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION AUTHORIZED
TO SEND DELEGATES TO THE AOA HOUSE.
In case any organization has selected more than its
legal representation, the Chief Executive Officer
shall drop surplus names from the list, beginning at
the bottom, and shall notify the divisional society
of this action.

Section 11—Representation of Osteopathic
Physicians in Postdoctoral Training
Osteopathic Physicians in postdoctoral training
may be represented in the House of Delegates by
two individuals who, at the time of the annual
meeting, shall be enrolled in postdoctoral training
programs. The two individuals and their alternates
shall be selected by vote of the AOA’s Council of
Interns and Residents BUREAU OF EMERGING
LEADERS. The delegates (and alternate delegates)
selected by the Council of Interns and Residents
BUREAU OF EMERGING LEADERS shall
serve as the representatives of osteopathic
physicians in postdoctoral training and shall not also be
members of a divisional society or specialty
college delegation to the AOA’s House of
Delegates. The chair of the Council of Interns and
Residents BUREAU OF EMERGING LEADERS
shall certify the name of its delegates and alternate
delegates to the Chief Executive Officer of the AOA in writing or by electronic communication at least 30 days prior to the first day of the annual meeting of the AOA House of Delegates. Each delegate and alternate must be a member in good standing of this Association.

Bureau of Emerging Leaders
The following amendments to the AOA Constitution and Bylaws are proposed to adjust for the current title and role of the Bureau of Emerging Leaders and new physicians in practice.

AOA Constitution
Article VIII—Board of Trustees and Executive Committee
D. One intern/resident member elected by the House of Delegates to serve for one year. Candidates for the intern/resident position shall be enrolled in an AOA-approved internship or residency or, if enrolled in an ACGME-approved residency, shall have applied for AOA approval of the ACGME-approved residency. Candidates for the intern/resident position shall be nominated by the Council of Interns and Residents. BUREAU OF EMERGING LEADERS.

AOA Bylaws
Article V—House of Delegates
Section 11—Representation of Osteopathic Physicians in Postdoctoral Training AND/OR NEW PHYSICIANS IN PRACTICE Osteopathic physicians in postdoctoral training AND/OR NEW PHYSICIANS IN PRACTICE may be represented in the House of Delegates by two individuals who, at the time of the annual meeting, shall be enrolled in postdoctoral training programs OR CURRENTLY A NEW PHYSICIAN IN PRACTICE AS DEFINED BY THE ASSOCIATION. The two individuals and their alternates shall be elected by vote of the AOA’s Council of Interns and Residents. BUREAU OF EMERGING LEADERS (BEL). The delegates and alternate delegates) selected by the Council of Interns and Residents BEL shall serve as the representatives of osteopathic physicians in postdoctoral training AND NEW PHYSICIANS IN PRACTICE. and THESE DELEGATES shall not also be memberS of a divisional society or specialty college delegation to the AOA’s House of Delegates. The chair of the Council of Interns and Residents. CO-CHAIRS OF THE BEL shall certify the nameS of its delegates and alternate delegates to the Chief Executive Officer of the AOA in writing or by electronic communication at least 30 days prior to the first day of the annual meeting of the AOA House of Delegates. Each delegate and alternate must be a member in good standing of this Association.