Report to the AOA Board of Trustees
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
July 20, 2016

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
- **Vice Chair:** William D. Strampel, DO, Dean, Michigan State College of Osteopathic Medicine
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- **VACANT**, At-Large Member
- **Assembly of Presidents Chair:** Kenneth H. Johnson, DO, Executive Dean, Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine

New Board of Deans members as of May 2016:

- **John Dougherty, DO,** Dean, Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine
• **David Park, DO**, Dean, Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine – Utah

• **Donald Sefcik, DO, MBA**, Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine

• **Kenneth Steier, DO, MBA, MPH**, Founding Dean, Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine - Middletown

• **G. Michael Johnson, DO, (as of June 1, 2016)**, Vice Dean, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine

• **Barbara Ross-Lee, DO**, Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs and Site Dean, New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine – Arkansas

• **Robyn Phillips-Madson, DO**, Founding Dean, University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine

• **Kenneth Heiles, DO**, Founding Dean, Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine College of Osteopathic Medicine

**College Update**

In May, AACOM was pleased to welcome to its membership the University of the Incarnate Word (UIWSOM) in San Antonio, TX, under the leadership of Robyn Phillips-Madson, DO, Founding Dean, and Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (ARCOM) in Fort Smith, AK, under the leadership of Kenneth Heiles, DO, Founding Dean.

UIWSOM and ARCOM are both provisionally accredited by COCA and are currently accepting applications through AACOMAS. Both schools plan to welcome their inaugural classes of osteopathic medical students in fall 2017. With the addition of UWISOM and ARCOM, AACOM membership now comprises 33 colleges accredited to deliver instruction at 48 teaching locations in 31 states.

**AACOMAS Update**

• The 2016 application cycle closed April 15, with a total of 21,574 paid applicants. These applicants submitted an average of 8.8 applications each. With approximately 6,700 COCA approved seats available through the AACOMAS applications service this is about 3.2 applicants per seat.

• The 2017 cycle began May 4 with the opening of the 2017 AACOMAS application.

• The online edition of the 2017 Osteopathic Medical College Information Book (CIB) was published online May 4 to coincide with the opening of the 2017 application cycle. The CIB is a long-standing annual publication produced by AACOM both digitally and in print, and includes up-to-date information on each of the nation’s accredited osteopathic medical colleges, as well as other pertinent information on osteopathic medical school and the AACOMAS application and
process. The CIB serves as a resource for applicants, pre-med advisors, career counselors, and the broader osteopathic medical education community. (View the book: http://bit.ly/1SgMyUo.)

Research Activities

- AACOM has released its “Report on Osteopathic Medicine Student Placements in 2016 Matches” (http://www.aacom.org/docs/default-source/data-and-trends/2016-match-report.pdf?sfvrsn=20). Data used in the report were collected by AACOM from its member colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) to determine the placement of DO graduates in GME through the GME match/placement process in early 2016. Data reported by the COMs show that 99.61 percent of this spring’s graduates seeking GME successfully placed into graduate medical education. All of the COMs with currently-enrolled osteopathic medical student classes participated in the data collection.

- 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.

AACOM Medical Education Research Grant

The 2016 AACOM Medical Education Research Grant Request for Proposal (RFP) cycle resulted in twenty-three proposal submissions for review by AACOM’s National Academy of Osteopathic Medical Educators (NAOME) fellows. Through this program, osteopathic medical education (OME) researchers are encouraged to submit proposals on topics related to workforce issues such as the implications of the expansion of osteopathic medical colleges, branch campuses, additional teaching sites, and class sizes, as well as other areas of interest. The goal of the AACOM Research Grant program is to promote excellence in osteopathic medical research.

AACOM is pleased to announce the following grants in its 2016 cycle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Grant Proposal Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Lise McCoy</td>
<td>ATSU-SOMA</td>
<td>Interprofessional Virtual Case Study: Adolescent Obesity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Machelle Linsenmeyer</td>
<td>WVSOM</td>
<td>Reading Rate and Comprehension as a Predictor of Student Success in Medical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Mark R Speicher</td>
<td>AZCOM/MWU</td>
<td>Improving the predictive value of clinical clerkship grades in estimated competence in Entrustable Professional Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 David N Dickter</td>
<td>Western U/COMP</td>
<td>Using a Tele-Delivered Interprofessional Team Simulation to Evaluate Student Learning and Performance Outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Patricia Stubenberg</td>
<td>LMU-DCOM</td>
<td>Research on the Efficacy of Technological Didactic Education for OMSIII and OMSIV Clinical Adjunct Faculty Preceptors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Leah Sheridan</td>
<td>OU-HCOM</td>
<td>Teaching at a distance: Exploration of faculty evaluation ratings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Scott Ochs</td>
<td>VCOM-CC</td>
<td>Development, Implementation, and Assessment of an Interprofessional Education Program: Identification of Best Practices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Graduate Medical Education Update

- Overall, 5356 of 5377 2016 DO graduates seeking GME were matched or placed into a GME position—99.61 percent. This figure demonstrates an increase of .20 percent in overall match rate success.

- AACOM, in partnership with the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-HCOM) has created a resource that explains the benefits and basics of attaining Osteopathic Recognition for residency programs. The promotional and information flyer was handed out to attendees at both the AACOM and the ACGME 2016 annual conferences, and is also available online. (View this resource: [http://bit.ly/1WKmtir](http://bit.ly/1WKmtir).)


### Student Leaders Focus on Resiliency and Well-Being

The Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP), an official AACOM national leadership council comprised of the student government presidents from each of the 33 colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs), adopts a theme each year as a focus for their programming. The council
collectively serves as the liaison between osteopathic professional organizations and all students, and fosters leadership and advocacy among osteopathic medical students. The 2015-2016 COSGP theme is: Student Resiliency and Well-Being. The COSGP conducted a survey of osteopathic medical students focused on the issue of resiliency and available resources and has held lectures and workshops on student resiliency. (See more information on the survey: http://www.aacom.org/news-and-events/press-releases-and-statements/2016/05/11/051116_MHTF). In addition, a book of essays written by students entitled “Inner Strength: Osteopathic Medical Students Reflect on Resiliency” was published by AACOM and is available for purchase on the AACOM online bookstore (http://bit.ly/1V6QJvz).

Government Relations Update

Graduate Medical Education
AACOM continues to support legislation which increases graduate medical education (GME) as well as protects against any possible cuts to GME. AACOM has supported the reintroduction of numerous bills in the 114th Congress which increase Medicare GME as well as supported bills which work to address the need for increased residency positions in rural and underserved areas across the country, to include advocating for permanent federal funding for the Teaching Health Center GME Program. AACOM supports Congress’ and the Administration’s continued support for the extension of this Program through fiscal year (FY) 2017 included in the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, as well as the President’s FY17 budget proposal inclusion of $527 million in mandatory funding to continue the Program through FY18-20.

AACOM continues to collaborate with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) to facilitate the dissemination of information and resources on the VA’s GME expansion plan to the osteopathic medical education community and its GME partners. In addition, AACOM supports various legislation in the 114th Congress to strengthen and expand VACCA. AACOM continues to host webinars for its membership to provide resources on The Veterans’ Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014 (PL 113-146) which seeks to expand GME positions over a period of five years. Learn more about this opportunity.

AACOM Launches ED to MED Campaign
In April 2016, AACOM announced the official launch of its ED to MED national grassroots advocacy campaign during its Annual Conference. As Congress is currently negotiating the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), the law governing federal student financial aid programs, this campaign serves as a much-needed platform for students, medical educators, and other advocates to voice the critical public policy decisions affecting osteopathic medical education (OME). The campaign focuses on lowering student loan interest rate caps, addressing accountability for foreign medical schools, preserving loan repayment and forgiveness programs, maintaining the current structure for GradPLUS and the Perkins Loan Program, and addressing regulatory burdens for osteopathic medical schools.

On April 13, during the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) 2016 annual DO Day on Capitol Hill, AACOM presented on medical student debt and on its newly-launched ED to MED campaign, which has been endorsed by the AOA. AACOM’s Vice President of Government Relations, Pamela Murphy, MSW, joined Ray Quintero, AOA’s Senior Vice President of Public Policy, to inform advocates on federal policies impacting medical student debt, including the reauthorization of the HEA.
In addition, as part of the ED to MED campaign, AACOM endorsed the Protecting Our Students by Terminating Graduate Rates that Add to Debt Act (POST GRAD Act) (HR 4223). Introduced by Representative Judy Chu (D-CA), this bill would reinstate graduate and professional student eligibility for the in-school interest subsidy for Federal Stafford Loans, which was eliminated in the Budget Control Act of 2011. Please see the AACOM-led sign-on letter in support of the bill.

AACOM 2016 COM Day on Capitol Hill
AACOM held its 2016 COM Day on Capitol Hill on March 2 in Washington, DC and had its largest attendance to date with participation by 27 COMs. The event consisted of a full day of meetings with deans, students, and/or other representatives from each participating College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) and various congressional offices to discuss issues of importance such as investing in GME and highlighting the ED to MED campaign and the reauthorization of the HEA and the many federal financial aid issues impacting OME. The day prior to COM Day, AACOM held a dinner for participants in which Representative Mike Bishop (R-MI), who serves on the House Education and Workforce Committee and is the Representative for Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM), provided remarks.

In addition, AACOM held its first ever Virtual Hill Day in conjunction with COM Day on Capitol Hill, urging medical students and other advocates to stress the urgency of addressing graduate and professional student debt at the national level. Participants sent tweets using #COMDay16 or #donewithdebt. These tweets had a total social reach of almost 700,000. In addition, multiple Members of Congress engaged with AACOM during COM Day on social media, to include but not limited to Rep. Dan Newhouse and Rep. Mike Bishop.

AACOM FY17 Federal Funding Priorities
AACOM continues to strongly advocate for a number of important issues, including FY17 funding for Title VII of the Public Health Service Act’s health professions education and training programs, the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and Indian Health Service (IHS) scholarship and loan repayment programs, and funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), formerly known as the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (or NCCAM). Please view AACOM’s FY17 House and Senate Testimony to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

Single GME Accreditation System
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. AACOM will host an informational webinar for students in partnership with the ACGME and the AOA in June 2016, designed to help entering fourth-year students navigate the transition to the new single GME accreditation system. More information and an archived version of the webinar (posted after the event) will be available here: http://www.aacom.org/news-and-events/single-gme.
AACOM Annual Conference

The 2016 AACOM Annual Conference was held April 6-9 in Washington, DC. This year’s conference theme, *Osteopathic Medical Education: A Focus on Resilience*, brought together 650 members of the osteopathic medical education community and beyond (the largest AACOM conference to date) to engage in a program of presentations and discussions on resilience in medical education and practice, as well as physician and medical student mental health and wellness, and other pertinent, theme-relevant topics. Visit the AACOM Annual Conference web page for presentations, photos, and other materials from the event ([http://bit.ly/1SgMDYq](http://bit.ly/1SgMDYq)).

The AACOM & AODME 2017 Annual Conference will be held April 26-29 in Baltimore, MD.

Training Osteopathic Primary Care Educators (TOPCE) Workshops

At the AACOM 2016 Annual Conference, the Association hosted another Training Osteopathic Primary Care Educators (TOPCE) workshop. More than 20 osteopathic medical educators attended the event, which focused its programming on teaching, assessing, and learning strategies. Visit the TOPCE website to view current and future experiences ([http://bit.ly/1WhhHZc](http://bit.ly/1WhhHZc)).

2016 AACOM Awards and Honors

William D. Miller Award: This award is presented to individuals who make an outstanding contribution to advancing the osteopathic profession.

*John G. Rocovich, Jr.,* Attorney, *Chairman*
*Moss & Rocovich, Attorneys-at-Law, PC*

Robert A. Kistner Award: This award is presented to individuals who have made a significant contribution to osteopathic medical education.

*Mitchell D. Forman, DO,* Founding Dean, Professor
*Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine*

Dale Dodson Award: This annual award recognizes a current or past CEO or COA of an osteopathic medical college who has made significant contributions to the advancement or support of osteopathic medical education.

*Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH,* President, CEO
*American Association of the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine*

Society of Osteopathic Medical Educators (SOME) Innovation in Medical Education Awards: These awards recognize the year’s educational innovations that have resulted in meaningful change at the developer’s institution.

**Innovation in Osteopathic Medical Distinctiveness Award**

“COAR: Clinical Skills, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, Anatomy, Radiology”

* Stacey Pierce-Talsma, DO, MS, Associate Professor, Director OMM Clinical Integration*
*Touro University of Osteopathic Medicine-California*
• **Joel Talsma, MS**, Anatomy Instructor  
  *Touro University of Osteopathic Medicine-California*

**Innovation in Ideas Carried through from AACOM Annual Conference Award**
“Utilizing Patient Morning Rounds to Observe Preclinical Medical Students’ Clinical Reasoning”

• **Neal R. Chamberlain, PhD**, Professor, Department of Microbiology/Immunology  
  *A.T. Still University-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine*

• **Patricia Sexton, DHEd**, Associate Dean for Curriculum  
  *A.T. Still University-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine*

• **Matthew R. Hardee, DO**, Assistant Professor, Department of Internal Medicine  
  *A.T. Still University-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine*

• **Robert. W. Baer, PhD**, Professor, Department of Physiology  
  *A.T. Still University-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine*

National Student DO of the Year  
**Timothy Micah Lemaire**, Osteopathic Medical Student  
*A.T. Still University-School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona*

National Student Researcher of the Year  
**Jonathan N. Perkins**, U.S. Army Second Lieutenant, Osteopathic Medical Student  
*Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine at Midwestern University*

Outstanding Advancement in Osteopathic Medical Education Award  
“Student Mental Health Committee”

• **Celia Guro, PhD**  
  *Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine*

• **Alyse Ley, DO**  
  *Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine*
To the AOA Board of Trustees,

It is my honor to represent the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to report the activities of COSGP. Below are a few of the highlights of what we as a council have been working on this year.

| I. Mental Health Awareness Task Force Report | Page 2 |
| II. Public Relations & Web Committee Report | Page 7 |
| III. Leadership Committee Report | Page 9 |
| IV. Research Committee Report | Page 10 |
| V. Medical & Clinical Education Committee Report | Page 11 |
| VI. Legislative Committee Report | Page 12 |
| VII. Global Health Committee Report | Page 14 |
| VIII. Finance Committee Report | Page 16 |
| IX. Student Services Committee Report | Page 17 |
| X. Student Representative to the AOF Report | Page 18 |
| XI. Student Representative to the AOA BOT Report | Page 19 |

All committee leaders listed in this report consist of executive board members from the 2015-2016 year.

I. Mental Health Awareness Task Force  
Led by National Secretary Maureen McAteer, OMS-III, MU-COM & National Parliamentarian Daniel Krajcik, OMS-III, OU-HCOM  
This year the task force will be led by Caleb Hentges, OMS-III, AZCOM

Mission. COSGP recognizes the need to advocate for student resiliency and well being. In a much needed effort to strengthen our osteopathic community, we want to abolish the stigma surrounding future
healthcare providers and their mental health needs. We believe this mission is best addressed by beginning mental health awareness and prevention in medical school.

**Vision.** To strengthen the Osteopathic community through mental health awareness and physician well being advocacy.

**Participants. (2015-2016 Council)**  
Leader: Maureen McAteer, M.S., OMS III - Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Baseline Survey: Daniel Krajcik, OMS III, MBA Candidate 2016 - Ohio University  
Principal Investigator: Liz Beverly, P.h.D - Ohio University  
Statistician: Sebastian Diaz, P.h.D - Ohio University  
Clinical Collaborator: Alyse Ley, D.O. - Michigan State College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Research collaborators:  
Andrew Cudmore, OMS II - A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona  
David Buford, P.h.D, OMS III - William Carey College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Support:  
COSGP Chair: Breanne Hirshman, OMS III A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona  
AACOM Board of Deans: Dr. Kauffman, D.O. - Campbell University College of Osteopathic Medicine  
CSA Liaison: Lindsay Ridgeway - Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine Carolinas  
AOA BOT Representative: Carisa Champion-Lippmann, OMS VI Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine  
SOMA Representative: Anne Callen Washofsky, OMS III - Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Timeline and Goals.**  
**Goal 1: Survey:** to Create a validated survey & assess the baseline of mental health among current osteopathic medical students.  
- Survey Creators: Dan Krajcik, Maureen McAteer, David Buford, Liz Beverly, Lauren Delena, Shaun Medhi, COSGP Research Committee: Andrew Collins, Kevin Wilcox, Tyler Nickle, Sydney Priest, Michael Bova, Varun Malik, Vanessa Halvorsen, Matt Bonello,  

Subject areas surveyed:  
- Geographic data  
- School  
- Sex  
- Year  
- Traditional vs nontraditional  
- Anxiety (PROMIS survey tool)  
- Depression (PROMIS survey tool)  
- Suicidal ideation  
- Wellness: Wellness is defined as an active process of being aware of and making choices towards a healthy and fulfilling life.  
  - Eating habits  
  - Sleep  
  - Exercise  
  - Drug use  
- Stress  
- Coping skills  
- Stigma
IRB through Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine
Principle investigator: Dr. Liz Beverly (November 2016-Present)
Statistician: Sebastian Diaz (February 2016- Present)
Date released: January 25th 2016
Date ended: February 29th 2016
Number of responses to Baseline survey: 10,187

Data has been processed with the help of statistician Sebastian Diaz. We plan to have a snapshot of data to present at the April 2016 AACOM conference (April 7-10) in the following venues:
1. Board of Deans- The Mental Health Task Force- Where We Stand
2. AACOM general forum (50 minutes): Osteopathic Medical Students and Mental Health: The Missing Data
3. SOME symposium
4. COSGP meeting- Update
5. CSA- Introduction to the Mental Health Task Force

**Goal 2: Implementation:** Identify best practice models, and then help fortify and/or change the current resources available to students.

We are working with CSA to get a survey out to every Student services executive about what resources students have for mental health and wellness. Survey collection to be achieved by July 2016. There is also a survey that COSGP has collected as well with some of this data. We are working to pull this data together and have a list of schools and resources by July 2016.

Resource network for schools- Dr. Alyse Ley from MSUCOM has consulted with the MHATF on how to implement a resource network. The ideal framework would be that each school would have a network of resources for students to use for a variety of ailments. The network would be as follows:

- Substance abuse
- Learning
- Bereavement/grief
- Depression
- Stress
- Anxiety
- Eating disorders
- Social work
- Relationship/marriage counseling

**Mental Health Ambassador Program**
Developed by Alyssa Beda, OMS II- West Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Proposal:**
Ambassadors to the COSGP Mental Health Awareness Task Force
Title of positions: Regional Alumni Coordinator to the MHATF- broken up into Regions (7 regions total)

**Goals:**
- To create a network of COSGP Alumni and future osteopathic physicians, who share a passion for mental health and reducing physician burnout
To create a position for those interested, who will be dedicated to oversee this project over the following 5 years, and beyond, and for those ambassadors to be spread throughout the country.
To extend the work and research of the Mental Health Awareness Task Force into osteopathic residencies
For COSGP Alumni to maintain contact with current COSGP members regarding Initiatives surrounding mental health and how it pertains to future physicians

**Role of the Regional Ambassadors**

- Stay up to date on the MHATF surveys/research/3 goal plan
- To continue to be an advocate for Physician & Medical Student Wellbeing
- To be involved in their own initiatives, and to push for conversation and events surrounding mental health and wellbeing at their respective rotation sites or residencies
- To serve as both a resource & contact for the current / incoming COSGP
- To make MHATF a lasting effort\(\text{\(\text{sustainable}\)}}

**Goal 3: Advocacy:** Advocate for the mental health needs of students. There is a stigma that surrounds mental health in our medical profession, which leads to unhealthy students, residents, and eventually, doctors.

**Advocacy Social Media Campaign**
Created by Steve Bialick, Kenyanita Ellis, and the COSGP PRWeb Committee: Alex Bauer, Jenna Choi, Caleb Hentges, Daniel Henery, Anya Pacleb, David Winston, Daniel Kim

#SAVE400 pins- in April we shared pins with COSGP council members that say “SAVE400” as a conversation starter about the 400 physicians lost annually to suicide as well as the nearly 400,000 physicians who have suffered from burnout in their lifetime. We intend for these pins to start the conversation to a better future for physicians.

**Infographics:** Created to put on facebook, to draw awareness to our Mental Health Task force and campaign.

**OMS Day of Wellness:**
- February 10- 2016 was declared the first ever OMS Day of Wellness on this day, students from around the nation participated in events that supported their students’ wellness.

**Resolution:** Creation of Mental Health Task Force Within the AOA
Resolution was co-written by the COSGP Legislative Committee and SOMA Leadership and was submitted to the AOA for consideration in July 2016

**PROPOSED CREATION OF A MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE WITHIN THE AOA**
Authors: The Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) and the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA)

WHEREAS depression is a growing problem in the medical community with over 400 physicians committing suicide each year; and
WHEREAS a recent study of 50,000 practicing physicians and medical students demonstrated an increased incidence of severe psychological distress and a two-fold increased incidence of suicidal ideation in physicians compared with the general population; and

WHEREAS physicians are often more hesitant to seek mental health treatment, although at increased risk; and
WHEREAS a main barrier for physicians seeking mental health treatment is fear of stigma, professional repercussions from state medical boards, or fear of retribution; and

WHEREAS the Osteopathic Philosophy includes a holistic approach to mind, body, and spirit; and

WHEREAS there is no explicit entity within the AOA to address physician mental health; and

WHEREAS physicians who are more aware of their own health show improved communication with patients, higher patient satisfaction, and less medical errors and lawsuits; and therefore be it

RESOLVED that the AOA creates a Mental Health Task Force consisting of physicians, legislative advocates, mental health experts, residents and/or students with the following goals:

1. Identify and collaborate with already-existing national mental health initiatives
2. Create a D.O. Day of Mental Wellness in May, to coincide with the annual Mental Awareness Health Month, and work with the AOA staff to create resources regarding mental health (existing services, ways to stimulate mental health conversations with coworkers, etc.)
3. Issue white papers to the Bureau of State Governmental Affairs to assist State Societies with mental health information, common ways that medical boards handle mental health issues, and ways to advocate for better practices among state medical boards
4. Collaborate with State Divisional Societies, Specialty Society Affiliates, and Non-Practice affiliates on other relevant mental health initiatives
5. Submit reports each July for the next three years to the AOA Board of Trustees

II. Public Relations & Web Committee
Led by National Second Vice Chair, Kenyanita Ellis, OMS-III, ACOM
& National PR&Web Representative Steven Bialick, OMS-IV, Rowan-SOM

Program Director Letter. Current COSGP National Chair, Angelo Mascia, and current SOMA National President in conjunction with the Student Representative to the AOA Board of Trustees, Carisa Champion, DO, JD, MPH drafted a letter to program directors urging them to transition into the single
accreditation system. Our letter also provided resources, including the AOA SAS Application Assistance Program, to help program directors navigate their transition.

**Guest Speaker, Mr. Simpson.** COSGP invited Mr. Charlie Simpson to speak at the April Quarterly COSGP meeting regarding updates of the AOA brand awareness campaign.

**Single Accreditation Webinar.** COSGP National Chair, Angelo Mascia, COSGP First Vice Chair, Daniel Krajeck, COSGP PR/Web representative, Ronak Mistry, and immediate past Clinical Education Representative, Louisa Sethi worked in conjunction with AACOM to provide student opinion on important topics for the Single Accreditation Webinar to be conducted June 2016.

**The Pulse.** The newly designed COSGP digital newsletter was a big success this year. Opening the list of authors from purely COSGP members to ALL osteopathic medical students allowed for a greater realm of article ideas and topics. Utilizing a brand new template and appeal, The Pulse was popular among students across the nation and was used to highlight major COSGP projects throughout the year. Some of the important events covered in The Pulse were OMS Day of Wellness, the MHATF launch, COSGP’s annual poster contest, and many editorials from various osteopathic medical students and their personal insight into medical school, medical education, and the entire healthcare frontier.

**Mental Health Awareness Task Force.** As the rollout of COSGP’s Mental Health Task Force took flight, the PR/Web committee played an active role in launching/marketing the task force to the greater osteopathic community and the public at large. Using social media as the main avenue of publication, the PR/Web committee designed the main logo that brands the awareness campaign [pictured to the left] as well as a new lapel pin that aims to initiate conversation about mental health. The pins were designed as discussion triggers and simply say “SAVE400” – a testament to our research that nearly 400 physicians commit suicide annually and over 400,000 physicians report burnout. These pins will be distributed at our spring meeting to all COSGP council members, and extras will be distributed to AACOM conference attendees to cross pollinate and promote our message. Additionally, PR/Web has designed, and continues to design, some infographics that highlight some of the statistics revealed by the MHATF survey that were distributed to all osteopathic medical students across the country. Our first infographic thanks all 10,187 participants and provides brief recognition to the 3 schools who had the largest percentage of their student body participate in the survey.

**Website.** COSGP launched a new website this year, housed under the umbrella of the main AACOM URL: aacom.org/cosgp. Using this website in addition to our social media outlets allowed for dissemination of information to the masses. We utilized this website for news updates, marketing campaigns, and council projects. While the new layout of the website first posed a challenge, the postings
became easier as the year progressed. In fact, we even created a new subpage specific to the COSGP Mental Health Task Force at aacom.org/cosgp/mentalhealth. We use this website as a data bank for COSGP information, meeting attendees, award recipients, and much more.

### III. Leadership Committee

*Led by National First Vice Chair, Jessica Palmieri, OMS-III, MSU-COM*

**2016 Leadership Lecture Series.** This year’s leadership series was intended to highlight the transition from student leadership to physician leadership. Lecture topics included: mental health and physician leadership, knowing your team, team interpersonal relationships, and ethics of leadership. The goal of these presentations was to showcase how the skills developed as student leaders will help students transition into the role of intern, resident, and eventually physician leaders.

**Guest speaker Dr. Karen Nichols.** Dr. Nichols served as President of the American Osteopathic Association, President of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association and President of the American College of Osteopathic Internists and was the first woman to hold all of those positions. She is Secretary to the Institute of Medicine of Chicago governing board. Dr. Nichols is one of the two first DOs nominated by the AOA and elected to the ACGME board. Her presentation at the 2016 National Osteopathic Student Symposium (NOSS) focused on leadership development, leadership skills, and creative opportunities for improvement as student leaders.
**Guest speaker Dr. Jason Stoner.** Dr. Stoner a faculty member at the Ohio University College of Business. His primary research foci are stress, identity, and leadership skills; he frequently lectures on these topics and has been repeatedly published. He has a particular interest in physician leadership and has co-authored two books entitled *Inspired Physician Leadership: Creating Influence and Impact* and *Building Leaders: Paving Paths for Emerging Leaders*. Dr. Stoner’s research interests and dedication to promotion of emerging leaders made him an ideal speaker during our quarterly January meeting given our theme of Resiliency this year. Dr. Stoner’s lectures were designed to:

1. improve the leadership skills of the COSGP General Council and Executive Board
2. help emerging leaders develop new methods for coping with stress and identity issues
3. enhance students’ abilities to be effective and emotionally supportive leaders in the future

**IV. Research Committee**

*Led by National Research Representative, David Buford, OMS-III, WCU-COM*

**Student Researcher of the Year Award (SROY).** COSGP sponsored the second annual Student Researcher of the Year (SROY) award this year. This award recognizes osteopathic medical students making substantial contributions to clinical, translational, or basic science research. The purpose of this recognition is to emphasize contributions aligned with the mission of both the osteopathic profession and COSGP—to advance the philosophy, practice, and science of osteopathic medicine. The SROY winner will receive their national award and recognition at the 2016 AACOM annual conference in Washington D.C.

**Poster Presentation & Competition.** At COSGP’s Quarterly meeting held at TouroCOM-Nevada in January of 2016, the research committee hosted the second annual research poster presentation and competition. This annual event is held to encourage research participation and presentations among osteopathic medical students. This year’s winners were:

1. Sydney Priest, MS, OMS-II, ATSU-KCOM
2. Mina Kazemian, MS, OMS-II, TUNCOM
3. Matea Orlovic, OMS-II, TouroCOM-CA

**Mental Health Awareness Task Force Survey.** The research committee was instrumental in creating the IRB-approved survey that for the Mental Health Awareness Task Force. This survey identifies several key mental health and wellness markers. This was the first year the survey was distributed to osteopathic medical students, and received over 10,000 responses.
V. Medical & Clinical Education Committee
Led by National Medical Education Representative, Shaun Mehdi, OMS-III, CCOM & National Clinical Education Representative, Louisa Sethi, OMS-IV, NYIT-COM

Proposal to the COCA. National Chair Breanne Hirshman and National Clinical Education Representative Louisa Sethi co-authored a proposal to the COCA to respectfully request the addition of a student representative during executive sessions with voting privileges. COSGP is eagerly anticipating a response from the COCA. Representatives from COSGP attended the fall and winter meetings of the COCA, plus the Standards Forum.

Student nomination to the COCA ad-hoc committee: National Chair Angelo Mascia nominated Louisa Sethi, OMS IV, NYIT-COM to serve on the COCA ad-hoc committee to review current standards.

Medical Education Award. Medical schools that have experienced a new curriculum change within the last three years were encouraged to apply for this distinguished award. This year’s award winner was MSU-COM.

Ongoing Research. The committee submitted three IRBs to continue yearly surveys regarding COM/SOM curriculums, OMM resources and student satisfaction, and COMLEX Level 1 and 2 resources and impressions.

ERAS. The committee has been working on material to help improve students’ understanding of ERAS and how the application process works.

Presentations. Presentations this year have included information on COMLEX preparation and rotation ready tips.

Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs). COSGP has partnered with SOME to work on creating an osteopathic version of the AAMC’s EPAs. This has led to the creation of an EPA subcommittee within COSGP.

SOME Annual Meeting. This year, in conjunction with the AACOM Annual Conference, COSGP has partnered with SOME to create an opening presentation on mental health.
VI. Legislative Committee  
*Led by National Parliamentarian, Dan Krajcik, OMS-III, OU-HCOM*  
&  *National Legislative Representative, Lauren Delana, OMS-III, PNWU-COM*

**National Osteopathic Student Caucus (NOSC).** The NOSC is an annual COSGP sponsored event where all DO students form an official opinion on certain resolutions that will go before the floor of the AOA’s annual House of Delegates. Students from COSGP and SOMA are usually present in Chicago and all students in the country are invited to attend online. Students debate and vote on resolutions, which are then finalized by the Leadership Panel consisting of all student organization presidents. The NOSC was a huge success this year; students who attended in person and through video conferencing were all very engaged and excited about health policy.

**Presentations.** Legislative-theme presentations created for the COSGP General Council this year included:
- Resolution Writing 101 (Fall Quarterly Meeting)
- Effective Political Advocacy As An Osteopathic Medical Student (Winter Quarterly Meeting)

**Resolution.** The Legislative committee drafted a mental health and wellness themed resolution for the 2016 A.O.A. House of Delegates titled: *Proposed Creation of a Mental Health Task Force Within the A.O.A.* A copy of this resolution is available under the Mental Health Awareness Task Force Heading in Section I.

**Partnership with AACOM Government Relations.** This has been an excellent year in the development of the relationship between COSGP leaders and AACOM’s Government Relations staff, Pamela Murphy and Mary-Lynn Bender. During the annual COSGP Leadership Summit in Washington D.C., COSGP Executive Board leaders Dan Krajcik, Lauren Delana, and Breanne Hirshman met with Pamela Murphy and Mary-Lynn Bender to discuss student involvement in political advocacy and upcoming campaigns for AACOM. As result of this timely collaboration and strategy session, COSGP was able to help release and promote the ED to MED campaign which launched this year. AACOM Government Relations staff were encouraged to provided regular updates on healthcare legislation to the COSGP General Council. This collaboration has enabled a larger social media presence for both AACOM Government Relations and COSGP.

**Mental Health Awareness Task Force.** The Legislative Committee helped finalize the creation of the Mental Health Awareness Task Force Survey. Additionally, COSGP student leaders worked to collect data on class sizes at each COM and SOM and assisted in ensuring appropriate IRB approval.
Partner Organization Collaboration. Legislative Committee members attended the OPAC reception in Chicago, IL during the AOA’s Annual Business Meeting and House of Delegates. Additionally, committee leadership promoted involvement in Omega Beta Iota, the national political action honor society for osteopathic medical students.

COSGP Executive Board Elections. Annual elections for the next COSGP Executive Board were held at the 2016 AACOM Annual Conference on the evening of Saturday, April 9, 2016. A follow-up email was sent to AACOM leadership with the results of the elections and subsequent appointed positions. This 2016-2017 Executive Board consists of:

- AOA Board of Trustees Student Delegate: Carisa Champion, D.O., J.D., M.P.H.,
- National Chair: Angelo Mascia, OMS IV, NYIT-COM
- National 1st Vice Chair: Daniel Krajcik, M.B.A., OMS III, OU-HCOM
- National 2nd Vice Chair: Caleb Hentges, OMS III, AZCOM
- National Secretary: Anya Pacleb, OMS III, LUCOM
- National Programs Representative: Taylor Brown, OMS III, PNWU-COM
- National Medical Education Representative: Kortnee Koziara, OMS III, VCOM
- National Public Relations/Web Representative: Ronak Mistry, OMS IV, RowanSOM
- American Osteopathic Foundation Board of Trustees Student Delegate: Andrew Cudmore, OMS III, ATSU-SOMA
- National Treasurer: Tom Hanna, OMS III, PNWU-COM
- National Parliamentarian: Whitney Wolfe, OMS III, WesternU-COMP
- National Research Representative: Varun Malik, OMS III, PCOM
- National Clinical Education Representative: Matthew Macoul, OMS III, UNECOM
- National Global Health Representative: Luke King, OMS III, PCOM
- National Legislative Affairs Representative: Shawn Hamm, OMS III, ACOM

VII. Global Health Committee


Global Health Outreach Mobile App (DOServe). The National Global Health Representative created an application for students going on global health outreach trips. This free application can be downloaded
onto phones, tablets and computers and will allow students to access useful resources and submit information about their experiences. DOServe also allows students to submit pictures, videos, and essays. The application has a lot of potential and will connect students interested in global health.

**OMS Day of Wellness.** The National Global Health Representative’s contribution to the COSGP Mental Health Awareness Task Force Initiative was the creation of OMS Day of Wellness. The representative was responsible for creating, marketing and helping execute this day across all COsS/SOMs. OMS Day of Wellness was a day for students to reflect on their own mental health and well-being. It was also a day to raise awareness of the stigma surrounding mental health and the importance of medical student mental health. The day included activities from the 4 pillars of mind, body, spirit and reflection. The range of activities for these pillars was determined by the COSGP members at the January 2016 meeting.

**Research.** Research was a major focus this year as it has been so in the past for the global health position. Each school was contacted in August to determine who their global health leaders were and these leaders were in charge of providing data to the Global Health Representative. Data was collected regarding students’ motivations for going on global health outreach trips, their pre-trip expectations, daily experiences and post–trip reflections. It is hoped that the data collected will reveal trends in osteopathic medical student global health outreach and allow the global health representative to advocate for additional global health opportunities for students.

**Grassroots Outreach Movement.** Involvement on the grass roots level was a new initiative this year. Historically, global health leaders at COMS have not been the Presidents of the student governments (COSGP members). This year, the DOCare and global health student organization leaders were contacted to provide information directly to the students responsible for global health opportunities on their campuses. The National Global Health Representative and the Global Health Committee members organized regional delegation meetings and were present for meetings with global health leaders at various COMS. This was one of the greatest achievements this year.

**Service Learning.** The National Global Health Representative gave a presentation during the July meeting on components of service experiences and how to have effective service trips. In addition, students were provided with a leadership manual to take with them on their service trips and the manual had information on how to conduct service training and service models.

**Social Media Outreach.** The National Global Health Representative made it a focus this year to publicize events to the COSGP members as well as all osteopathic medical students. These events included the OIA Conference, BIOM meeting, Global health picture, video, and essay contest and research opportunities for students.

**Culture Awareness Project.** During the past two years, the Global Health Committee compiled information on 12 countries for the culture awareness project. This year, the committee doubled the number of countries to include 24 countries in the project. Also, the committee reformatted all the information into a succinct and informative manner to include the following sections:

- Demographics
- Variation between regions:
- Typical illnesses
- Environmental factors
- Existing healthcare system
- Healthcare perception
- Medical training requirements
• Regions: religions and languages
• Family and Gender roles--
• Patients w/ typical illnesses: % men and women afflicted; % men and women seeking care
• Traditional healing beliefs
• Beliefs of end of life care
• Acceptance of OMT & Treatment restrictions
• Relevant Microbiology to relevant diseases of area
• Vaccination Checklist: refer to the CDC

BIOM. COSGP sponsored the BIOM project at OMED this year, which enabled all osteopathic medical students to participate as it was previously only open to SOMA members. BIOM submissions increased two fold due to COSGP’s involvement; COSGP will continue to foster and develop a working relationship with BIOM. COSGP will continue to co-sponsor the event for the 2016 OMED.

VIII. Finance Committee Report
Led by National Treasurer, Matthew Costa, OMS-III, PCOM

Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser. At the AOA’s annual House of Delegates meeting in July, COSGP hosted its annual Silent Auction fundraiser, and raised the largest dollar amount in donations in COSGP history: $21,700.

Fund Allocation. Under the direction of COSGP’s National Chair, Treasurer, and Senior AACOM Leadership, COSGP funds have been allocated to create the Global Health Committee’s new mobile phone app, to support the Mental Health Awareness Task Force, and to provide travel reimbursements for distinguished speakers at COSGP’s quarterly meetings.

Presentations. The Finance Committee has presented business lectures during quarterly meetings to give student leaders insight into difficult topics, like contract negotiations.

Alumni Outreach. The Finance Committee has also established a new COSGP alumni list to facilitate distribution of newsletters.

Budget. COSGP’s 2016-2017 Annual budget has been submitted to AACOM for review and approval.
IX. Student Services Committee  
*Led by National Secretary, Maureen McAtee, OMS-III, MU-COM  
& National Programs Representative, Kelly Mackesy, OMS-III, CCOM*

**TOUCH Website.** The first-ever TOUCH website is up and running! Osteopathic medical students across the country are now utilizing this new, user-friendly platform that allows users to create profiles and review prior volunteer hour submissions. This is a major technological advance over the cumbersome Google document that was used in years past. In December school coordinators and the COSGP Programs representative, who maintains the TOUCH website, will be able to analyze the enormous amount of data collected thanks to an update from the website developers. Two COSGP alumni who continue to make significant contributions to this on-going project are Matt Palilonis (LECOM) and Robert Wills (TUNCOM).

**DO Day of Compassion.** COMs/SOMs around the country increased their participation this year to create awareness of osteopathic medicine in remembrance of those who lost their lives on the flight in 2004. Examples of what schools did include volunteering at arborets, senior centers, local hospitals, having faculty/administration appreciation gifts/cards, participating in "pay it forward" activities. This continues to be a national event that COSGP leaders encourage at all COMs/SOMs.
X. COSGP Student Representative to the American Osteopathic Foundation  
*Sarah Wolff, OMS-IV, PNWU*

**Helping Hands Service Project.** On October 16th, 2015, fifteen COSGP members from both the General Council and the Executive Board took part in the American Osteopathic Foundation’s Helping Hands Service project. Orlando’s Give Kids the World is a 79 acre nonprofit “storybook” resort where children and family members with life threatening illnesses are treated to a magical, week-long stay and theme park experience at no cost. Osteopathic medical student leaders from across the nation served alongside the profession’s leaders to bring hope and smiles to these children and families.

**Transition.** At the conclusion of COSGP’s Quarterly Meeting in conjunction with AACOM’s 2016 Annual Conference, Andrew Cudmore, OMS-II, ATSU-SOMA took on the role of the COSGP Student Representative to the AOF.

**AOF Awards Honor Dinner:** Every COSGP member was in attendance for the AOF Awards Dinner to help support the cause and mission of the American Osteopathic Foundation with a majority of our membership donating $35.

XI. COSGP Student Representative to the AOA Board of Trustees  
*Carisa Champion-Lippmann, JD, OMS-V, NSU-COM*
**AOA’s Bureau of Emerging Leaders (BEL).** With the newly created BEL, the Student Representative advocated for the incorporation of COSGP and SOMA representative into the brand new AOA Bureau. This group of student leaders met during the Advancing Healthy Partnerships Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona to discuss issues that span student, intern, resident, fellow and new physician in practice.

**Collaboration with SOMA.** Worked with SOMA throughout year on various projects and issues.

**Presentations.** Presentation to the COSGP General Council this year included: the AOA’s Brand Awareness Campaign, 3rd and 4th Year Advice, and Introduction to the AOA’s New Strategic Plan.

**Mental Health Awareness Task Force.** As the liaison between COSGP and the AOA, the Student Representative to the AOA BOT promoted COSGP’s new Mental Health Awareness Task Force to the AOA Board of Trustees and affiliates at multiple meetings.

**Collaboration with the AOA.** The Student Representative helped suggest students for BCCs to AOA President

**ACGME Residencies with Osteopathic Recognition.** This year the Student Representative has worked to help increase interest in osteopathically focused programs among Residency Program Directors

This concludes COSGP’s annual summary for the AOA Board of Trustees. Thank you for your time and consideration of these student-led initiatives and projects. Your continued support is vital to COSGP’s continued success.

Respectfully yours,

Angelo Mascia, OMS-IV
COSGP National Chair 2016-2017
cosgpcchair@aacom.org
Report to AOA Board of Trustees  
July 20, 2016  

Lynn Mark, DO, MA, FACOFP  
President

AODME is reflecting the change occurring in the osteopathic graduate medical education community. As an organization, AODME is moving forward strategically and on a parallel track towards 2020 when the landscape of OGME as we currently know it comes to a close.

The organization has reaffirmed the pillars of our strategic plan and will be exploring our future potential during our July strategic planning retreat.

1. Enhance Communication and Technology  
2. Expand Education Offerings and Delivery  
3. Develop Education Leaders and Support Personnel  
4. Increase and Preserve Clinical Osteopathic Medical Education

It is unlikely that AODME will exist in its current form in June 2020. During our retreat we will discuss what our options are for the future, about possible partnerships and/or alignments of our organization with other groups associated with UME and or GME. We already have been working with AACOM by having joint conferences—showing the continuum of UME and GME. Our next joint conference will be held next April in Baltimore, MD.

In addition to deciding the future direction of our organization, we also need to continue to provide support to our members. Many of them are undergoing a massive undertaking of having their program attain ACGME accreditation for their specialty and for Osteopathic Recognition.

AODME, in collaboration with ACGME, offered a series of webinars addressing the transition from AOA to ACGME to support those programs seeking osteopathic recognition. These 3-program series was well attended and is available at no cost on the AODME website.

At our well attended April annual conference in Portland, Oregon, there were presentations pertinent to both AOA and ACGME accreditation. ACGME staff, both addressed our members at formal presentations and also in less formal individual consultations. Key GME presentations were recorded and are posted on the AODME website.

In addition, AODME is currently working to provide additional webinars on Osteopathic Recognition, scholarly activity and also working on other possible ways to assist our members.
Our Board has approved a resolution that through the Bureau of Osteopathic Medical Educators (BOME), will be going to PTRC and COPT in August. It concerns having an alternative accreditation process other than onsite AOA inspections for AOA accredited programs that are currently undergoing ACGME application/inspection processes. Programs are having difficulty navigating between two accreditation systems at one time.

AODME has representatives on committees with organizations seeking input from those involved in the delivery of OGME including:

- ACGME Pursing Excellence in Clinical Learning Environments Initiative
- American College of Physicians (ACP) Education and Publication Committee

AODME has retained the services of Margaret Hardy, JD to support OGME advocacy at the federal level. To ensure that AODME is in the best position to continue to engage osteopathic directors and medical educators, the board is reviewing responses to a request for proposal for association management services. A decision concerning operational activities hopefully will be reached within the next 90 days.

Our current focus is on reinvention with relevance in such ways that AODME becomes an indispensable partner of and for osteopathically focused graduate medical education in 2020 and beyond.
ASSOCIATION OF OSTEOPATHIC STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

American Osteopathic Association
Board of Trustees

July 17, 2016

Dear AOA Board of Trustees:

On behalf of the Association of Osteopathic State Executive Directors (AOSED), I am pleased to provide this report to the AOA regarding 2015-2016 AOSED activities.

THE GOOD

AOSED Strategic Planning
AOSED has formed an Ad Hoc strategic planning committee to take a comprehensive look at AOSED activities and develop a focused plan to best utilize the expertise and strengths of the osteopathic state societies as a collective. Initial planning sessions have revealed numerous collaborative opportunities. The committee will hold the first planning session July 19 and expect to begin implementation of several initiatives immediately, with a finalized plan to be completed by early 2017.

Online CME Platform
The AOSED online CME platform, DOcme.org, has continued to grow over the last year. To date, through the platform, AOA CME sponsors have awarded just under 3,000 AOA CME credits, with about 1,200 awarded in the 1st quarter of 2016 alone. The platform allows any state osteopathic association to host an online CME program at no charge, with a profit sharing system set up to encourage states to both host programs and market all programs through the platform to their state association members.

Educational Programs
AOSED has continued to offer educational programs for AOSED members. Taking advantage of opportunities to hold meetings in conjunction with AOA events, AOSED held educational programs in conjunction with the 2015 Advocacy for Health Partnerships meeting and the 2016 AOA House of Delegates. As part of the strategic planning process, AOSED will be looking to increase these educational offerings as they provide invaluable opportunities for strengthening osteopathic state associations through distillation of best practices and exploring new approaches in addressing association needs.

Financials
AOSED is in a good financial position having cash reserves built up since operating with surplus income for many years. The AOSED strategic planning committee will explore the possibilities of implementing new programs with these funds in order to provide support for state osteopathic associations.

AOSED Website
Implementation of the AOSED website (aoased.site-ym.com) has been slow, but the content and usefulness for state osteopathic associations on the site has continued to grow. AOSED will be focusing on the continuing development of the site.

CME
Reports from physicians revealing errors on their CME reports have been decreasing. We are not sure if this due to an improvement in the recording error rate or simply a matter of fewer credits being reported toward the beginning of a new cycle, but the anecdotal evidence is positive. AOSED members are eagerly awaiting the launch of the new credit reporting system that will hopefully provide increased efficiencies for both AOA sponsors and the AOA.
ASSOCIATION OF OSTEOPATHIC STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

THE BAD

Osteopathic State Societies in Transition
Several osteopathic state societies will see their executive directors retiring in the near future. For a variety of reasons, including a lack of resources and formal succession planning the future operation of these societies is unclear. AOSED will be examining ways state societies can support these transition. Rather than the AOA taking over management of these associations, we would like to explore opportunities to utilize the expertise of state osteopathic association executive directors in collaborative agreements to ensure the critical services provided by state osteopathic associations continue.

Missed Opportunities
We were extremely disappointed to miss out on the several opportunities in 2015-2016 including:

- Launch of the Doctors That DO website – State Associations felt like an afterthought in this national ad campaign as they would have coordinated the launch of this initiative with their individual website. Opportunities for states to brand the program were only provided after a request following the launch of the site. States could have provided critical support in addressing inaccurate physician information before the site was launched.
- OMED 2016 – The OMED program was moved this year from October to September with no advanced warning provided to the state associations. As most state associations secure venues for the programs over a year in advance, they had no opportunity to coordinate their schedule around this new date.

THE UGLY

Lack of a transparent process for policy decisions, confusion regarding policies, and lack of opportunities for engagement between state societies and the AOA

There is major confusion for state society directors regarding the procedures for approval of new AOA policies. Our understanding has been that there is a process for engagement from state societies so that proposed polices may be evaluated in a comprehensive manner and concerns could be addressed before the policy is enacted. Opportunities for engagement include appropriate notice to bureaus and committees regarding proposals and a public comment period before final approval so that stakeholders can address any issues that may have been overlooked by the approving committee. None of these opportunities were afforded regarding the policy allow 1-A credit of online, on-demand CME activities. Whether intentional or not, when actions are taken that exclude AOSED from all opportunities for engagement, it is viewed as the notion that as long as the policy benefits the AOA, it doesn’t matter what the impact will be on state osteopathic associations.

Shortfalls in Communication
At the AOA Mid-Year meeting, I reported on the high level of frustration among state directors and members. It is clearly a time of major change in the profession. The frustration however, is not stemming from the changes, but from poor communication between the AOA and state associations, and a lack of understanding as to why changes are being implemented.

At the Mid-Year meeting, I was thrilled to hear that affiliate alignment was one of the key pillars of the AOA strategic plan, but as of today, there has been no progress toward that alignment. I know AOSED has improved and is committed to making changes to better engage with the AOA, but we need to make progress now as it will take time to restore the trust and develop a truly collaborative relationship.

AOSED has requested a quarterly (or more often if possible) face-to-face meeting between AOSED and AOA leaders to have a dialog not only about issues impacting our associations, but to discuss opportunities for advancement of the profession and our respective associations. It has now been 6 months since that request and we have been unable to confirm this meeting. AOSED strongly believes in the importance of having these opportunities for engagement and is willing to pay for expenses to allow an AOSED leader to attend.
ASSOCIATION OF OSTEOPATHIC STATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

THE FUTURE

Though there were a lot of disappointing items in this yearly report, AOSED is committed to improvement and enthusiastic to partner with the AOA in the new initiative of affiliate alignment. The 2016-2017 AOSED president, Angela Westhoff from Maine has been actively involved throughout this year and has committed to continuing work toward an improved partnership with the AOA.

We know there are many major changes occurring in the profession, but we would like to ensure that while the profession is going through these major transitions, that we don’t forget about the small details and day-to-day activities that are critical for our members and the success of our respective organizations.

Sincerely,

David Walls
President – Association of Osteopathic State Executive Directors
Official SOMA Report
Respectfully submitted by Alexander Smith, OMS IV, SOMA National President

Board of Trustees/National Board of Directors

Board of Trustees 2016-2017:

National President: Alexander Smith, OMS IV, OSU-COM
National Vice President/Speaker of the House: Anne Callen Washofsky, OMS IV, ACOM
National Treasurer: Elizabeth “Liza” Gibbs, OMS IV, CUSOM
National Board of Directors Chair: Elise M. Craig, OMS IV, MSU-KCOM
National Parliamentarian: Cameron Koester, OMS IV, ATSU-KCOM
Region I Trustee: Brianna Barbosa-Angles, OMS III, UNE COM
Region II Trustee: Katharyn Downs Cassella, OMS III, MUCOM
Region III Trustee: Nicholas Tackett, OMS III, MWU-CCOM
Region IV Trustee: Simran Behniwal, OMS III, TUNCOM
SOMA Foundation Chairperson (ex officio): Paul Robbins, OMS IV, LECOM
AOA Student Trustee (ex officio):
  Carisa Champion-Lippmann, JD, OMS VI, NSU-COM (sitting)
  Jordan Hitchens, OMS IV, CUSOM (nominated)

National Board of Directors 2016-2017:

Strategic Partnerships Director: Alexandra Jordan, OMS III, CUSOM
Convention Director: Kathryn “Katie” Eckert, OMS III, Rowan SOM
Health Disparities Director: Reeya Patel, OMS III, DMU-COM
Membership and Alumni Affairs Director: Julian Remouns, OMS III, LMU-DCOM
Osteopathic Principles and Practice Director: Mikey Padilla, OMS III, MWU-CCOM
Senior Pre-SOMA Director: Gregory Sun, OMS IV, Rowan SOM
Junior Pre-SOMA Director: Rachel Abramczyk, OMS III, Rowan SOM
Political Affairs Director: Crystal Cobb, OMS III, CUSOM
Professional Development Director: Adam Cassella, OMS III, MUCOM
Public Relations Director: Katherine Kirby, OMS III, VCOM-VC
Research Director: Charles Lopresto, OMS III, TouroCOM-Harlem
Web Content Director: Lucas Littleton, OMS IV, LMU-DCOM
Membership Details

- 2015-2016 Total Membership: 14,257
- Pre-SOMA members as of May 2016: 1,217
- New members added during Fall 2015 Membership Drive: 3,273
- New members added during Spring 2016 Membership Drive: 88

The Fall 2016 membership drive begins in June and will run through October 14th. SOMA would like to recognize and thank the AOA for their continued support of our recruitment efforts. The AOA’s generous gift of the Gilroy Atlas of Anatomy from Thieme Publishers as a membership incentive is invaluable to SOMA in our pursuit to bring every entering osteopathic student into the student affiliate of the AOA. While the Gilroy Atlas is a significant help to our membership push, our membership drive this year will promote a broader scope of the benefits of being a SOMA member. Our membership campaign will accentuate the pillars of the SOMA Strategic Plan (Voice, Development, Accountability, Mentorship, Visibility), and how we provide value to our members in pursuing these strategic priorities.

- We are continuing with the development of our Alumni Network Task Force this year. We hope that over time our efforts toward alumni recruitment will build a network of former SOMA members and leaders, offering our members the opportunity to gain insight and guidance from those who came before them while offering our alumni a pathway to stay connected with the osteopathic profession.

Collaborative Efforts

- SOMA is collaborating with the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) again this year to hold the National Osteopathic Student Caucus (NOSC), which allows all osteopathic students the opportunity to participate in the discussion of select resolutions from the 2016 AOA Annual Business Meeting that are most relevant to them as current osteopathic medical students.

- SOMA members have introduced 11 total resolutions via the 2015 Fall SOMA House of Delegates and the 2016 Spring SOMA House of Delegates for consideration in the 2016 AOA Annual Business Meeting.

- SOMA is proud to continue our partnership with COSGP on the Mental Health Awareness Task Force and we are working together diligently to take the goals of that task force beyond raising awareness within the osteopathic profession and toward directly addressing the mental health disparities within our profession.

- SOMA is pleased to announce our newest collaborative partnership: the National Outreach for Diversity (NOD) in Medicine coalition. The goal of this coalition is to inspire, recruit, and retain Underrepresented In Medicine (UIM) youth in the future of the medical profession. This fall, the coalition will hold the first annual NOD in Medicine Outreach Month which will include individual campuses hosting outreach events for students ranging from K-12th grade. The aim of these outreach events is to encourage these students to consider a career in medicine and to connect
them with mentors to help guide them along their path through education. The coalition has
developed toolkits specific to various age groups for use during these outreach events and will
also be concurrently conducting IRB-approved research to explore the barriers both present and
perceived that prevent UIM students from pursuing careers in medicine. This coalition includes
the American Medical Student Association, Student National Medical Association, Association of
Native American Medical Students, Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association, and
Latino Medical Student Association.

**Significant Changes Around the Corner**

- SOMA is thrilled to present the results of an ongoing expansion project undertaken by our
  national leadership that will result in the creation of a 5th Region Trustee, who will be elected for
  the first time at the 2016 SOMA Fall Convention. The decision to form an additional region was
  made given the imbalance of chapters within our current region setup, the desire for smaller
  regions in order to facilitate more one-on-one work between Region Trustees and chapter
  leaders, and the expansion of our profession with the continual addition of new colleges of
  osteopathic medicine. We strongly believe that growing our organizational infrastructure is the
  best way to adapt to the rapid growth of chapters and to handle region-specific duties more
  adeptly.

**Regional Reports**

- SOMA’s chapters of Region I have been busy pursuing both individual and region-wide goals
  since the start of the new year. Several chapters in the region have already held events in
  support of the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, including a charity walk at PCOM, LECOM-Seton
  Hill’s “medical Jeopardy” which raised over $200 and Rowan SOM’s Pancakes for MS breakfast
  fundraiser which raised over $175. Other chapters have been very active in outreach efforts to
  the communities surrounding their schools. TouroCOM Harlem hosts a monthly lecture at local
  middle schools that fits within the middle school science curriculum, while also exposing these
  young minds to osteopathic medicine and inspiring them to pursue a lifetime of learning in the
  sciences. In the same vein, VCOM-Virginia hosted an outreach event on the campus of Virginia
  Tech, providing OMT and an introduction to osteopathic medicine to the undergraduate students
  on that campus during their finals week. The following are more notable events in Region I so far
  this year:
    - LECOM-Erie’s simple but effective Healthcare for the Homeless project takes place a few
      times a month and allows students to help wash feet of the local underprivileged
      community and provide basic foot care items such as socks, powder, anti-fungal spray,
      shoe inserts, and bandages.
    - UNE COM hosted the Heart 2 Heart Dance in support of the American Heart Association
      (AHA). This successful partnership between the UNECOM chapter, the city of Biddeford,
      ME, and community partners not only increased awareness of heart related issues, but
      raised $1,200 for the AHA.
    - The TouroCOM Middletown SOMA chapter’s Cultural and Health Disparities Committee
      collaborated with the Public Health and Social Justice Club to give an interactive
      presentation on social determinants of community health. The presentation was entitled
“Geography Matters: An Intro to Racial Health” and was presented by Nasir Malim, MPH, OMS I.

- SOMA’s chapters of Region II have done some amazing things during the first half of 2016 including community outreach events, educational speakers for chapter members, and outreach to the next generation of osteopathic physicians. Many of the chapters in the region put together events to help better the health of their community, including UP-KYCOM’s health fair and screenings at a local high school, LMU-DCOM’s community wellness fair which included the presence of local housing authorities and other resources for community members in need, and NSU-COM’s Cardio for Cupid program which marked the first ever student organization driven health screenings on their campus. The chapters of Region II have also shown themselves to be leaders in service, including WVSOM’s continued partnership with the United Way, VCOM-Auburn’s Spring Gala benefiting STEM education and Children’s Miracle Network, and LMU-DCOM’s self-run mobile food pantry which was able to offer a food pantry once in both the spring and fall terms to help supply food for those in need in their community. Here are some more things Region II has been up to:
  ○ OU-HCOM Dublin made new connections with local undergraduate institutions and established Pre-SOMA chapters at Wright State University and Ohio State University.
  ○ ACOM built a large tactile wall for autistic children at a local elementary school and hosted a second year student and her eight year-old daughter who has autism to enhance the understanding of this disease among SOMA members.
  ○ GA-PCOM collaborated with a local fire department to go through a neighborhood plagued by fires to help residents check for fire hazards, change out old fire alarms, and help children and adults create escape plans in the event of a fire.
  ○ WCUCOM collaborated with their campus Student Government Association (SGA) leaders to promote the Mental Health Awareness Task Force and raise awareness of the mental health issues suffered by physicians in training and the physician workforce. Their week-long outreach to students included a free yoga hour, free massages, therapy dogs, and a field day full of relaxing games to help students take their minds off of the stresses of medical school.
  ○ OU-HCOM Athens joined up with the Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA) to judge and award six Osteopathic Medical Awards to students participating in the Ohio State Science Fair. The awards went to projects containing some component of osteopathic principles and honored students for their hard work while promoting the osteopathic profession to the next generation of science-minded students.

- SOMA’s chapters of Region III have accomplished quite a bit, but the most notable achievement has been the continued success of our St. Baldrick’s Foundation Fundraiser. Each chapter worked hard for months to organize charity races, bar crawls, pie-a-professor events, and much more to support their shave events. Once all was said and done, we shaved over 230 heads in solidarity with children who lose their hair during cancer treatment to raise over $151,000! This brings the grand total raised by our seven chapters over the past five years to $506,500! We are so proud to have made such an impact with the St. Baldrick’s Foundation and to partner with them in searching for more efficacious, less toxic treatments for the types of cancer that affect children. But that isn’t all our chapters have been up to so here is a sampler of some of the awesome activities our chapters have been hosting:
Each chapter hosted numerous NOM week activities, often in conjunction with their SGAs, from lectures to volunteer events, mini-medical schools to “What’s in a Doctor’s Bag” events at local elementary and middle schools.

DMU-COM received a SOMA Foundation grant to support the Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families by purchasing materials for simple first aid kits. They were able to assemble 40 kits and then gave presentations to three different classes at the EKDC about how to perform proper first aid for simple lacerations and sprains.

In the same service vein, ATSU-KCOM is currently working on a clothing donation drive for those in need and already have ten crates of donations while MSUCOM is supporting two of their students who founded the Letters for Love campaign in which volunteers write letters of encouragement and love to refugees in Jordan. The letters are translated to Arabic and read aloud to children between the ages of six and fifteen years old in Al Zaatari refugee camp.

MWU-COM hosted their first annual Student Interventions in Health Inequities conference. In attendance were students from CCOM and the five other Chicago area medical schools who engaged leaders in the field of public health and student presenters on the methods and means by which they can impact health equity as students.

All seven of our chapters are working hard to prepare for their incoming OMS Is and the upcoming year!

- SOMA’s chapters of Region IV have been busy this spring organizing and preparing members for DO Day on the Hill, spreading the osteopathic message, and engaging their communities. With most chapters having concluded their academic year, efforts are now focused on recruitment for the year ahead. Chapter leaders are looking forward to further developing their leadership skills at the SOMA Summer Leadership Meeting and seeing the AOA House of Delegates in action! Following are recent examples of the inspiring events SOMA chapters have been involved in on a local level:
  - Touro University Nevada partnered with the Pediatrics Interest Group to host a local non-profit, the Roos N’ More Zoo, on campus for an educational study break for their students. A kangaroo, sloth, and snake were amongst the animals that made appearances, much to the delight of the younger children of students. SOMA and the Pediatric Interest Group raised $600 and pledged to match the donation. $1200 was split between the Roos N’ More Zoo and the Touro Center for Autism.
  - ATSU-SOMA hosted a successful ShaDO Day in April with over 30 Pre-SOMA students in attendance. They were able to explain the unique qualities of osteopathic medicine and then display them in action as they had students shadow them in their daily activities as osteopathic medical students.
  - COMP NW sent 25 students to a local high school where they spent four hours conducting sports physicals. The first year students had the opportunity to practice full neurological exams immediately after having completed their neuroscience block, which they attest was an incredible way to solidify their knowledge. The school was so delighted with the students that they requested their presence on a more regular basis to conduct sports physicals for their athletes.
  - RVUCOM had 32 students involved in holding two 9News health fairs in April. The events lasted five hours each and allowed students the chance to practice their physical exam skills. A variety of services were provided, from pap smears and breast exams to skin screening exams. The hands-on experience and supervision by physicians provided an invaluable way to learn their in-class material.
AZCOM has found much success in hosting regular Grand Rounds sessions. They most recently had Dr. David Steinway present a case from the New England Journal of Medicine. Grand Rounds sessions allow students to become more familiar with the language of practicing physicians. In addition, they provide an early opportunity to work a clinical case from the ground up. This has been especially thrilling for first year students. In continuing to host these sessions, AZCOM hopes to challenge students to make connections between their classroom learning and clinical scenarios.

**Financial Objectives**

SOMA’s **National Treasurer** is hard at work on the following objectives:

- Reviewing standing financial policies and updating them as needed to fit the goals of the organization.
- Creating a balanced budget for our 2016-2017 fiscal year.
- Seeking cost saving possibilities within our convention budget.
- Creating new financial policies regarding a number of recurring issues.
- Reforming the way we track our annual budget to facilitate continued improvements.

**Public Relations/Promoting the Osteopathic Profession**

SOMA’s **Public Relations Director** is working this year to achieve the following:

- Promoting the work SOMA is doing to our current members, prospective members, and the public.
- Partnering with our Membership and Alumni Affairs Director to promote SOMA to incoming osteopathic medical students.
- Working to further support the Doctors That DO campaign and promote our great profession.
- Holding workshops to help local chapters feel more comfortable promoting SOMA to potential members, faculty and staff at their institution and in their community.

Our **Web Content Director**’s goals for the first half of the year include:

- Creating a “shoutbox” on studentDO.org, allowing our members to have a direct communications interface with national leaders.
- Exploring possible routes of advertising revenue with SOMA’s current website traffic levels and considering how SOMA can increase that website traffic in the coming years.
- Continuing the inclusion of the Doctors that DO campaign on our website and in our social media presence.
- Expanding our social media presence to connect with more people by joining the worlds of Instagram and Snapchat.

**Outreach to Pre-Medical Students**

Our **Junior & Senior Pre-SOMA Directors** are looking forward to continuing to pursue their goals and the advancement of our pre-medical outreach in the coming year:
● Continuing the successes and expanding the reach of past events, including the National Osteopathic Night Out, ShaDO week, and Pre-SOMA programming at SOMA conventions.
● Creating a database of current SOMA members who are interested in developing one on one mentorship relationships with pre-osteopathic students.
● Exploring the possibility of using Pre-SOMA as an avenue to help pre-osteopathic students gain shadowing experiences in the clinical setting.

Scholarships/Grants/Awards

The SOMA Foundation

Transitioning into 2016, the SOMA Foundation set out to define its purpose as an organization and establish a strategic plan which would ensure the organization’s success into the future. The Mission and Vision Statements were revised to reflect the SOMA Foundation’s true goals of supporting the education and celebrating the accomplishments of osteopathic medical students. Strategic Priorities were set, reflecting the priorities of SOMA, and measurable critical success factors were established to focus the energy of the SOMA Foundation Board on concrete and achievable projects. In the coming year the SOMA Foundation plans on increasing the number of medical students applying for scholarships and grants, increasing awareness of the SOMA Foundation as an entity, establishing a nationwide service project and laying the groundwork for the formation of a student run Endowment Fund to benefit osteopathic medical students from across the country.

Professional Development and Member Benefits

In the coming year, our Professional Development Director hopes to achieve the following:
● Refining current professional development resources for use in the new year.
● Developing an annual release schedule for our wide variety of professional development resources to ensure that they are being promoted each year in a manner that is timely with regards to the academic year of the students for which they are intended.
● Developing a workshop to help chapter leaders gain comfort hosting professional development sessions on their own campus.
● Continuing to work with our National Parliamentarian to develop and promote our NOSC Primer, which will help our leaders and members prepare for participation in the NOSC, understand the events on the floor of the AOA House of Delegates, and feel confident in participating in the resolutions process within our own SOMA House of Delegates sessions during the coming academic year.

Our Strategic Partnerships Director is hard at work on the following objectives:
● Offering an improved range of access for our partners resulting in better benefits for SOMA and our membership by utilizing a newly developed tiered system of partnership with SOMA.
● Expanding organizational benefits by pursuing new and innovative strategic partnerships that will not only help our members with their studies but also that may help make their lives easier as they negotiate the busy schedules of medical school.
• Working with our current strategic partners, including: Thieme Publishers, COMBANK, COMQUEST, Firecracker, Cram Fighter, Doctors in Training, Kaplan Medical, and Boards Boot Camp.

Other National Directorship Goals

Our Health Disparities Director is looking forward to the coming year and will be pursuing the following goals:
• Solidifying our relationship with the NOD in Medicine Coalition described above and working to ensure that SOMA chapters are among the most active participants in this outreach project.
• Creating a professional development tool to help chapter leaders educate their members on a specific health disparity.

SOMA’s Osteopathic Principles and Practice Director has big plans for the coming year:
• Collaborating with a newly formed OPP Task Force, comprised of delegates from each of SOMA’s regions.
• Planning a nationwide study of osteopathic medical student perception of the future of osteopathic principles and osteopathic manipulative treatment.
• Executing OMM workshops at all conventions to help develop SOMA members’ skills in a variety of osteopathic manipulation techniques.
• Continuing the OMM Spotlight Series on StudentDO.org, highlighting unique OMM programming on various osteopathic campuses across the country.

SOMA’s Political Affairs Director is looking forward to:
• Developing more frequent communications with our general membership regarding political issues that will affect us both as students and as future osteopathic physicians.
• Planning workshops for SOMA conferences to help our chapter leaders be comfortable enough with certain political issues to give presentations to their chapter members on their own campus.
• Encouraging voter registration and political activity in the upcoming Presidential and Congressional election cycles.

SOMA’s Research Director has already working hard on the following goals:
• Continuing to support the BIOM Research Competition at OMED, giving our members a valuable opportunity to present original research and join the greater osteopathic research community.
• Establishing a monthly SOMA Journal Club to discuss new papers with the general SOMA membership, helping our members gain comfort with reading and understanding research.
• Spotlighting the research done by SOMA members on our own website and helping those students get connected with other outlets through which they can share their research.

Our Convention Director has already jumped right in and is working toward:
• Planning a Summer Leadership Meeting with predominantly student-led programming to maximize interactions between SOMA leaders at all levels and to eliminate passive engagement.
• Creating a fall conference with programming that complements the general OMED programming, and allows our chapter leaders to contribute to their own professional development while also experiencing all that OMED has to offer.
Taking a brand new approach to spring convention by considering hosting the event at a College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM). SOMA believes this will provide financial stability for the future of the organization, provide a route to inspire and connect with general membership as we host across the country, and expose leaders in osteopathic education to the awesome work that SOMA and its members are carrying out year-round.