



American Osteopathic College
of Occupational & Preventive Medicine

AOCOPM News, August 2026



2026 House of Delegates, Resolutions Relevant to AOCOPM

Each July, delegates from across the osteopathic profession gather in Chicago for the AOA House of Delegates to debate and vote on policy resolutions that shape the Association's positions for years to come. This year's meeting took up roughly 150 resolutions spanning everything from vaccine policy to aerospace medicine. Below is a rundown of the outcomes most relevant to preventive medicine, public health, occupational medicine, and aerospace medicine....[more](#)



Members Receive \$100 Discount on OMED26 Registration

The 2026 OMED conference will take place **Oct. 22-25, 2026**, in the entertainment capital of the world: **Las Vegas, Nevada!** Join AOCOPM at its Annual Educational Conference held in conjunction with OMED26 at Caesars Palace for three days full of education and networking.

For Member Exclusive Pricing, you may login to the AOCOPM member center to retrieve a [\\$100 Member discount code](#) for OMED registration.

While you are there, you can obtain DOT Certification training at the [OPAM Workshop: Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners' Course](#), October 22, 2026.

Be sure to check out AOCOPM's Agenda!

[AOCOPM 2026 Annual Educational Conference](#)



OSHA Deregulatory Hearings Begin August 19 — This Week

The OSHA deregulatory public hearings flagged in the July newsletter begin this week — Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. ET, held virtually. The hearings address more than 20 proposed rules and will continue on subsequent weekdays. The number of hearing days will depend on witness registrations.

The proposals most directly affecting occupational medicine practice are:

Respiratory Protection Standard — Medical Evaluation Removal: OSHA proposes to eliminate physician-supervised medical evaluation requirements for employees wearing filtering facepiece respirators (e.g., N95s) or loose-fitting powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs). This is a direct reduction in occupational medicine involvement in employer respiratory protection programs.

Chemical Substance Standards: Sixteen substance-specific standards — including benzene, lead, asbestos, formaldehyde, ethylene oxide, cadmium, and inorganic arsenic — would be revised to allow greater respirator flexibility and better alignment with the general Respiratory Protection Standard.

The NOITA filing deadline was July 6, but the hearings are open for public viewing. Instructions for watching the virtual hearings are available at [osha.gov/deregulatory-rulemaking](https://www.osha.gov/deregulatory-rulemaking). A post-hearing comment period will follow. Members with opinions on the proposed removal of medical evaluations should plan to submit post-hearing comments when that window opens.

<https://www.osha.gov/deregulatory-rulemaking>

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**Did We Miss Something?
Do You Have News to Share?**

Send your information to ronda@aacopm.org
(You can also post on AOCOPM's social media)

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AOCOPM News, August 2026, part 2



California Releases Revised Workplace Violence Prevention Draft — Vote Expected This Fall

On July 22, 2026, the California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board released a revised draft workplace violence prevention regulation for general industry. Key changes in the revised draft include:

- Transportation narrowed: The regulation now covers only "employer-provided transportation under the employer's control," clarifying a previously broad provision.
- Stalking removed: Stalking has been removed as a listed workplace violence hazard in the standard and will instead appear in a future Cal/OSHA guidance document.
- Electronic threats provision deleted: The previous exception for texts, electronic messages, or personal social media not brought to employer attention has been removed from the draft.
- Trauma counseling retained — EAP satisfies requirement: Despite employer opposition, the requirement to offer individual trauma counseling remains. The new draft clarifies that an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) satisfies this obligation.

The California Standards Board will accept public comments through August 17, 2026, with a final vote expected in fall or winter 2026 and an implementation date of January 1, 2027. Oregon OSHA is separately advancing a workplace violence prevention rule for healthcare settings, with public hearings held August 11 and 13 and a comment period closing August 31.

California and Oregon are setting the pace on workplace violence prevention standards that federal OSHA has sidelined to long-term action status. Multi-state health systems and members advising hospital employer clients should be tracking both rules closely. The EAP-as-counseling clarification is a practical win for employers.

Ogletree Deakins. Tynan KF, Rodriguez RC. California OSHA Standards Board Releases Updated Draft Workplace Violence Prevention Regulation. August 3, 2026.

<https://ogletree.com/insights-resources/blog-posts/california-osh-standards-board-releases-updated-draft-workplace-violence-prevention-regulation/>

Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division. Rule Proposed to Improve Protections Against Workplace Violence in Health Care. July 2026.

<https://osha.oregon.gov/pubs/newsletters/resource/2026/Pages/2607-wv-proposal.aspx>



EPA PFAS Drinking Water Rollback — Comment Period Closed July 20

Rescission rule: EPA proposed to eliminate drinking water standards for four PFAS — PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals), and PFBS — citing failure by the prior administration to

follow Safe Drinking Water Act statutory requirements.

Compliance extension rule: EPA proposed allowing public water systems to request two additional years — until 2031 — to comply with enforceable limits for PFOA and PFOS.

Over 73 million people are served by water systems that have detected PFAS levels above the limits now being rescinded or delayed. PFAS exposure is linked to kidney and testicular cancers, liver and kidney damage, immune suppression, hormone disruption, and harm to fetal development.

Workers in industries with known PFAS exposure — firefighting, semiconductor manufacturing, metal plating, chemical production, and aviation — face occupational exposure on top of any ambient drinking water exposure. Occupational and preventive medicine physicians should maintain PFAS exposure histories for patients in high-risk industries and remain alert to evolving biomonitoring guidance as the regulatory floor shifts.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Proposed PFAS Rescission Rule. May 18, 2026.

<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/proposed-pfas-rescission-rule>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Updated May 18, 2026. <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

Harvard Environmental and Energy Law Program. PFAS in Drinking Water — Tracker. Updated July 20, 2026. <https://eelp.law.harvard.edu/tracker/pfas-in-drinking-water/>



Heat Enforcement: OSHA Active Under NEP with No Standard in Sight

With the federal heat standard now slated for finalization no earlier than October 2027, the OSHA Heat National Emphasis Program (renewed April 10, 2026 for five years) is the operative enforcement mechanism for the foreseeable future. OSHA inspectors are actively conducting proactive heat inspections this summer under the General Duty Clause.

To sustain a General Duty Clause heat citation, OSHA must establish: (1) a hazard existed; (2) the hazard was recognized by the employer or industry; (3) the hazard caused or was likely to cause death or serious physical harm; and (4) a feasible means of abatement existed. For outdoor and high-heat industrial work, the first three elements are rarely contestable. Acclimatization failures — particularly in workers' first week on a job or first week back after time away — account for a disproportionate share of heat fatalities.

State plan states — including California, Colorado, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington — have adopted their own heat standards with mandatory requirements. Virginia's governor recently signed legislation directing the state's Safety and Health Code Boards to adopt heat illness prevention standards by May 1, 2028.

The heat standard may be years away, but enforcement is happening now. Employer clients without written heat illness prevention plans, acclimatization protocols, and documented training are exposed to General Duty Clause citations this summer. Occupational medicine physicians advising employers should confirm these elements are in place and documented.

Environment+Energy Leader. Heat Illness Enforcement Is a Growing OSHA Liability in 2026. May 28, 2026. <https://environmentenergyleader.com/stories/heat-illness-enforcement-is-a-growing-osh-liability-in-2026.127570>

Trí Core Safety. OSHA Heat Rules in 2026: The Standard Stalled but the Inspections Didn't. June 17, 2026. <https://www.tricoresafety.com/post/osh-heat-rules-in-2026-the-standard->

[stalled-but-the-inspections-didn-t](#)

Beveridge & Diamond PC. OSHA Refines Heat Enforcement Strategy While Federal Heat Rule Remains Pending. April 23, 2026. <https://www.bdlaw.com/publications/osha-refines-heat-enforcement-strategy-while-federal-heat-rule-remains-pending/>

AlertMedia. OSHA Heat Regulations: What Employers Need to Know [2026]. June 1, 2026. <https://www.alertmedia.com/blog/osha-heat-regulations/>



Register Now for the 2026 Goldstein Lecture

The Osteopathic Research Center invites you to attend the 2026 Goldstein Lecture at 12 p.m. CDT on Wednesday, October 7, 2026. Subhash Aryal, PhD, will present "Use of Large Language Models and Artificial Intelligence in Pain Research: Opportunities and Obstacles."

The [Goldstein Lecture](#) is sponsored by the Osteopathic Research Center to honor the many contributions of [Murray Goldstein, DO, MPH](#), in advancing the osteopathic profession and its research.

Although there is no cost to attend the lecture, we ask that you register in advance by using the link below www.unthealth.edu/Goldstein2026 to ensure we have sufficient capacity in the Zoom webinar.

Please feel free to share the registration link with colleagues: www.unthealth.edu/Goldstein2026.



It's Not Too Early to Register!

[AOCOPM's 2027 Midyear Educational Conference](#) will be held at the Omni Hotel, located across the street from Scissortail Park in Oklahoma City, March 4-6.

[OPAM Workshop: Basic Course in Occupational Medicine](#), Part I will be offered LIVE March 6-7.

The CME Committee is also still accepting presentation proposals for the 2027 Midyear Conference: [Call for Presentations](#)

Annual Call for Leaders

AOCOPM is built and sustained by the members who volunteer their time, expertise, and judgment to guide the College. Each year we open a formal Call for Leaders to invite members to step into that work. This is your invitation.

Why It Matters

The direction of AOCOPM—our advocacy, our CME programming, our standards, and the future of the occupational and preventive medicine pipeline—is set by members who choose to serve. Volunteer leaders shape policy, mentor colleagues, represent the College in the broader osteopathic community, and ensure the organization remains responsive to the people it exists to serve. The strength of the College is a direct reflection of the members willing to lead it.

Opportunities to Serve

We are currently seeking members for the following:

Board of Trustees - governance, strategic direction, fiduciary oversight

Standing Committees - Education/CME, Membership



For more information on our Board and Officers, please visit: [AOCOPM Committees](#). If you would like to speak to someone currently on the Board, please refer to the [Leadership](#) page. Note that you will need to login to see this page since email addresses are not listed publicly. Your Board of Trustees meets 9 times per year, by webinar (Zoom Meeting). Currently these meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm Central time. In addition, we may meet twice per year in person, at our Midyear Conference and the AOA OMED Convention. We ask those who serve on the Board commit to actively participating in these meetings.

Who Should Apply

Service is open to AOCOPM members in good standing. We welcome candidates at every career stage—from those seeking their first leadership role to seasoned members ready to take on greater responsibility. No prior board experience is required for many positions; what matters most is commitment and a willingness to contribute.

How to Submit

To be considered, submit your CV with your [application](#).

Leadership at AOCOPM is how the College moves forward. If you have considered getting more involved, this is the time to act.

Job Postings

As a member benefit, AOCOPM maintains a message board for job postings. All members may view and post job openings in the [forums](#) section of the website. Logging in is required, since this is for members only.

Nonmembers may [submit job postings](#) through the AOCOPM office for a fee of \$195. A job listing will remain on the message board for six months or until the office is notified that it has been filled.

Make Mentorship Connections

The Emerging DO Platform is a digital hub designed to connect, support, and empower osteopathic medical students, residents, and early-career physicians. this platform offers:

- **Residency Program Insights** – Access key details about programs, read alumni experiences, and participate in discussions with current and former residents.
- **Mentorship Network** – Connect with experienced DOs for guidance and career support through our mentorship program. As part of your participation, join the Digital Health Innovation (DHI) Special Interest Group that we lead.

Sign up today: <https://app.mentorloop.com/signup/7MC6fbrgpX4z9iLLR>

AOCOPM also maintains a list of members who have volunteered to be mentors. You may [sign up](#) to be a mentor or mentee. You may also search the [mentor directory](#).





AOBPM Exam Dates 2026

Written and oral initial board exams are scheduled for October 15, 2026, for Aerospace Medicine and Occupational/Environmental Medicine.

First Deadline: Sunday, September 20, 2026

Final Deadline: Sunday, September 27, 2026

Full Exam Fee: \$800.00

Late Fee: \$240.00

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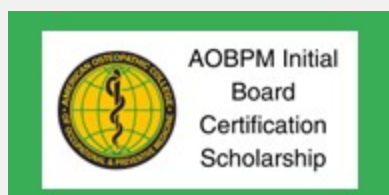
Learn more: <https://certification.osteopathic.org/preventive-medicine/important-dates/>

Note: The Public Health/Community Medicine Exam will be offered Spring 2027.

Board Scholarships Available

AOCOPM now offers full scholarships for first-time takers of the initial AOBPM board certification exams.

Learn more: <https://www.aocopm.org/aobpm-scholarship>



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