



American Osteopathic College
of Occupational & Preventive Medicine

AOCOPM News, July 2026



Registration is Open!

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.

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](#)



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](#)



Federal Push to Modernize Occupational Hearing Loss Prevention

June 2026 developments around hearing loss testing and fit testing represent part of a broader federal effort to modernize occupational hearing loss prevention. OSHA's Safety and Health Information Bulletin on hearing protector fit testing continues to reshape employer expectations by establishing fit testing as a recommended best practice, addressing one of the most persistent gaps in workplace hearing conservation: the difference between the noise reduction rating printed on a hearing protector's packaging and the actual protection a worker receives. [WorkplacecomplianceinsightsWorkplacecomplianceinsights](#)

NIOSH data indicates that 53% of noise-exposed workers report not consistently wearing hearing protection, and research has consistently shown that real-world attenuation from hearing protection devices can be as little as 50% of the manufacturer's NRR. NIOSH estimates approximately 22 million U.S. workers are exposed to hazardous noise levels on the job each



year — more than the number exposed to silica, falls, or confined space hazards.

[WorkplacecomplianceinsightsWorkplacecomplianceinsights](#)

Large Opioid Review Has Implications for Occupational Pain Management

The largest review ever conducted on opioids for acute pain found that these widely prescribed drugs often deliver only small, short-lived benefits. For many common conditions, including some surgeries and kidney stone pain, opioids performed no better than alternatives. The findings add further evidence to existing ACOEM and OSHA guidance steering away from opioids as first-line treatment for occupational injuries, and may inform future workers' compensation formulary decisions. [ScienceDaily](#)

OSHA Proposes \$3.5 Million in Fines Following Houston Sulfuric Acid Spill

OSHA proposed more than \$3.5 million in fines against three companies after federal inspectors found they failed to protect workers during post-emergency response cleanup after a chemical spill at the BWC Terminals industrial facility in Channelview, Texas. OSHA found that despite safety warnings, BWC Terminals mixed fresh and spent sulfuric acid, triggering a tank overpressure that ruptured a supply line releasing 1 million gallons of sulfuric acid, resulting in multiple employee injuries. [Occupational Safety and Health AdministrationOccupational Safety and Health Administration](#)

OSHA investigators cited One Way Environmental Services LLC — the cleanup subcontractor — for 18 willful egregious and five serious violations after finding the employer sent workers to clean up the chemical spill without adequate training, respirator fit tests, or safety measures, proposing \$3,045,452 in penalties. Coastal Environmental Solutions faces \$392,501 in proposed penalties for failures including lack of training, absence of an emergency response plan for hazardous waste operations, and respirator deficiencies. BWC Terminals was cited with six serious violations for exposing workers to chemical burns, failing to provide hazmat training, and deficiencies in respirator use. [U.S. Department of Labor](#)

This case underscores that post-incident cleanup phases carry the same — or greater — occupational health risks as the initial incident, and that OSHA will pursue the facility owner, contractor, and subcontractor alike.

Chemours to Pay \$450M to Settle 'Forever Chemicals' Case

via AP

by Matthew Daly

The Trump administration reached a multi-state settlement with chemical giant Chemours Co. over years-long, illegal discharges of synthetic "forever chemicals" used to make products resistant to water, grease and stains. The settlement is the first by the federal government to resolve enforcement claims against a manufacturer of harmful chemicals known as [PFAS](#).

<https://apnews.com/article/pfas-epa-justice-drinking-water-forever-chemicals-1691f3a26d6db9829f4407d418c55789>



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

Faculty for the Occupational Medicine Basic Course and the DOT FMCSA NRCME Course

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

Remotely Proctored

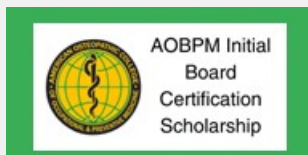
Learn more: <https://certification.osteopathic.org/preventive-medicine/important-dates/>

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

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

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