



American Osteopathic College of Occupational & Preventive Medicine

Fall 2018 Newsletter

OMED 2018 Recap

The conference opened October 5th with the Occupational Medicine Basic Course. It's a crash course in Occupational Medicine that serves as a prerequisite for earning a CAQ in Occupational Medicine. For others, it's a great way to get a solid feel for the nuts and bolts of Occupational Med practice.

Saturday the 6th was Aerospace Medicine Day. The day began with Guillermo "Bill" Salazar, MD, an FAA lead investigator for aviation accidents; Michael Gerber, MD, who talked about what's been learned from investigation of fatal transportation-industry accidents; and John Raniolo, DO, who gave an update on aviation cardiology issues. AOCOPM Aerospace Medicine Division Chair Warren Silberman, DO, former head of FAA's Civil Aerospace Medical Institute spoke about medical certification for pilots, with an emphasis on what a pilot exam should look like if performed by a physician who's not an FAA-designated Aviation Medical Examiner.



Left: Aviation entrepreneurs John and Martha King pose with AOCOPM President Peter Sherrill during Aerospace Day at OMED 2018.

Sunday the 7th was Occupational Medicine Day. Murray Berkowitz, DO, led sessions devoted to manual therapies for foot and ankle disorders. Carl Werntz, DO spoke on the resurgence of black lung disease in Appalachia. Liz Clark, DO, presented case studies on low-dose carbon monoxide toxicity in police officers; and Pierce Sherrill provided a detailed review of respiratory-protection factors as they related to an OSHA

enforcement action for a cluster of work-related lead toxicities.

On Monday the 8th, Public Health Day was held jointly with the AOA Bureau of Public Health. The collaboration focused on the public health disparities in vulnerable groups such as racial/ethnic minorities, HIV/AIDS patients, LGBTQ groups and the medically-underserved. Dr. Murray Berkowitz facilitated presentations from nationally-recognized authorities including Alex Green, MD; Mary O'Connor, MD; Bhuma Krishnamachari, PhD; Mark Alain Dery, DO; and Melissa Walker, DO. The afternoon wrapped up with a panel discussion moderated by William Blazey, DO with panel members Gregg Walker, MBA and Rolf Taylor. The "Deep Dive" into exploring and addressing health disparities looked at where disparities can be found.

The successful conference would not have been possible without the presentations of our expert cohort of speakers. If you are interested in speaking at future AOCOPM conferences, please contact gschwaid@hotmail.com.

Changing of the Guard

The AOCOPM has completed its annual Board of Trustees reorganization. The new leadership team is as follows:

President- Pierce Sherrill, DO
President Elect- Patricia Hunt, DO
Treasurer- Keith Proctor, DO
Secretary- Gregory Schwaid, DO
Immediate Past President- Patrick Birchfield, DO
Chair of Aerospace Medicine- Warren Silberman, DO
Chair of Occupational Medicine- Dean Shoucair, DO
Chair of Public Health/Preventive Medicine- Luzan Phillpotts, DO
Trustees- Dave Canton, DO, Mary Hanley, DO, Stewart Russell, DO, Al

Baltrusaitis, DO, Robbin Papendick, DO

Membership Chair- Michael Miller, DO

We would like to thank Dr. Patrick Birchfield for his contributions to the AOCOPM during his tenure as president.

School Spotlight

PCOM-Georgia first opened its osteopathic medical school in 2005. There are currently 135 osteopathic students in addition to the students studying pharmacy, physical therapy, PA studies and biomedical sciences. Osteopathic students are able to earn an M.P.H. by taking advantage of a five year dual degree program arrangement with both Thomas Jefferson University and Temple University. Additionally, students benefit from an informal arrangement with Emory University and may earn an M.P.H. through the Rollins School of Public Health.

All first-year students are required to take a 3-course sequence in "Preventive and Community Medicine". The course objectives fulfill 22 out of 23 required elements of NBOME competencies number 4-7. This curriculum serves as the model for the course outlines submitted to COCA and other bodies during the accreditation process for the GA-PCOM campus. It has been cited and is the national example of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) for curricular design and implementation. The course was developed by AOCOPM Fellow Dr. Murray Berkowitz and is now being taught by AOCOPM Fellow Dr. Lauren Ball.

Eager students may complete a four week elective in preventive medicine with the Johns Hopkins University Preventive Medicine Residency Program. PCOM-Georgia is always looking for physicians

to sponsor students in the core disciplines of occupational, preventive, and aerospace medicine. If you can help with these arrangements, please contact gschwid@hotmail.com.

Member Spotlight

Meet Keith Proctor, DO, the new AOCOPM Treasurer. A former U.S. Navy steam propulsion mechanic turned engineering student, Dr. Proctor



found his way into medicine with the advice of his biology professor. He enrolled in the inaugural class at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) in 2003. Upon graduation, he completed his AOA traditional internship in Lewisburg, WV and moved onto the Occupational Medicine Residency at the University of South Florida. After several years of practice, he decided to change gears and attended the AOA Correctional Medicine fellowship through NOVA Southeastern University. This is where he realized that, with notable exceptions, correctional medicine is essentially managing chronic illnesses that are common in the primary care setting. Dr. Proctor now serves as a site physician at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Currently employing over 5,000 workers, it is one of the sites where the Manhattan Project was completed during World War 2. He also works as a collaborating physician with two county jails in Tennessee.

In his free time Dr. Proctor enjoys spending time with his wife, Donna, his children, and grandchildren. Additionally, he enjoys working in the garden, making sure the weeds don't take the upper hand. When he finds the time, Dr. Proctor and his wife hope to continue mission work. Having been forever affected by medical outreach trips in India and Haiti, they're on the lookout for their next adventure.

AOBPM News



By: Michael Sheldon,
DO, MPH, FAOCOPM
AOBPM Secretary

The AOA and the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists are embarking on an unprecedented effort to change the certification process of Specialists in our profession. The AOBPM is, in conjunction with the AOA, looking to alter the experience of Board certification and Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC). There are new initiatives being promulgated to improve the experience of certification and OCC. Electronic remote testing, removing oral and essay portions of the examination and altering the Osteopathic components of our exams are just some of the changes that you will see moving forward. As the process evolves, the AOBPM will keep all Diplomates informed. We look forward to sharing this with you at the Midyear meeting.

The next AOBPM exam administration will be on Saturday, March 23, 2019 in Mesa, Arizona. The exams will be held at the Hilton Phoenix Mesa in conjunction with the AOCOPM's Midyear Conference. For more information on registering for an initial certification or an OCC examination please visit www.aobpm.org. The deadline to register for 2019 examinations is Monday, December 3 (final deadline is Wednesday, January 2 with an additional late fee).

*Please note, if your AOBPM certification expires in 2019, this will be your last opportunity to take the examination before your certification expires.

In Memoriam of Stephen P. Mihalich, DO



Dr. Mihalich, passed away November 1, 2018. As a founder of our profession and an integral part in the creation of the AOCOPM and AOBPM, Dr. Mihalich leaves behind an amazing legacy as a leader, mentor, and champion for his patients and the profession alike.

Executive Director's Corner

By: Jeffrey LeBoeuf, CAE
AOCOPM Executive Director

It is with great appreciation for our volunteer leaders that I present several upgrades to our website. Firstly, the fellowship application is now automated, and we encourage each of you to begin amassing points toward your fellowship status. Remember, fellowship is earned by service to the college. Please see here for more information: www.aocopm.org/fellowfaculty

Secondly, the needs assessment process is now on-line. We were concerned that our division meetings do not allow for a robust needs assessment process, due to time constraints. Also, this format only afforded input from those present at our meetings. Therefore, we have placed our needs assessment packet online and have included a form for proposal submissions. Please see [here: https://www.aocopm.org/call-for-presentations](https://www.aocopm.org/call-for-presentations).

Finally, we have begun marketing our 2019 Mid-Year Educational Conference to Exhibitors and Supporters. We request that you forward this page to all potential sponsors that you know (recruiters, employers, equipment vendors, book

suppliers, etc.): www.aocopm.org/exhibitors

Please note that after our mid-year conference, we will upgrade our website, which will enable you to pay dues and other invoices without first having to login to your account.

I wish to welcome Dr. Robbin Papendick and Dr. Al Baltrusaitis to our Board of Trustees, as well as Dr. Michael Miller as our Membership Chair.



Left: Robbin Papendick,
DO, MPH
Brookfield, WI

Right: Al Baltrusaitis,
DO, MPH
Brookfield, WI



Left: Michael Miller, DO,
OD, MPH
Atlanta, GA

Please keep the Mihalich family in your prayers. Dr. Stephen Mihalich was a founding member of our college and served as Chair of the Finance Committee for many years. Also, Dr. Stewart Russell's father passed away recently, and we offer his family our deepest condolences.

On a personal note, I wish to offer sincere appreciation to Mrs. Ronda LeBoeuf for her hours of work as a volunteer office manager to AOCOPM. She has a knack for finding opportunities to better serve our members!

Future Conferences

The next Occupational Preventive & Aerospace Medicine (OPAM) conference will be the Midyear 2019 conference at the Phoenix Hilton in Mesa, Arizona from March 20-24.

In addition to the OPAM lectures and learning labs, the AOCOPM is pleased to offer the following:

- Basic Course in Occupational and Environmental Medicine
- DOT FMCSA Certified Medical Examiner Course
- Medical Review Officer (MRO) Certification Course.

More details and Midyear 2019 registration forms can be found at www.aocopm.org

OMED 2019 will be held in Baltimore, Md, from October 25-29.

Midyear 2020 will be held in Kansas City, in March of 2020.

The Phoenix Conference will be attended by Corporate Health Resources (CHR), an examiner network that provides occupational health exams nationally and in several international locations. CHR's staff becomes an administrative extension of a company's own medical department. They coordinate exams outside the catchment area of the company's medical department. For clients without an internal medical department, they can provide the same service.

The AOCOPM is now ready to process membership renewals for 2019. The dues form may be found at www.aocopm.org, or accessed by clicking [here](#).

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