

# **AOCOPM 2026 Midyear Educational Conference**

## **Presentation Titles and Learning Objectives**

### **Air Traffic Controller Physical Exams and Color Vision**

**Presenter:** Dr. Daniel K. Berry, DO, PHD, MS, FAOCOPM

**Learning Objectives:**

After participating in this presentation, the physician will be able to:

- Understand the difference between Contract Controllers and FAA employee Air Traffic Controller Specialists, and know which exam should be administered to each.
- Differentiate between which controllers may be given exams by an Aviation Medical Examiner (AME) and an Aviation Medical Examiner-Employee Examiner (AME-EE).
- Know the differences between the standards for an Air Traffic Controller Specialist's exam and an airman exam.
- Understand why the NTSB requested that the FAA change exam techniques to no longer use isochromatic plates for color vision.
- Understand the genetic and physiologic changes that cause color vision deficiencies.

### **TBI - Evaluation, Therapy and Return to Work Considerations from an Occupational Practice Perspective**

**Presenter:** Dr. Theodore John Cole, MA, DO, CTN, FAAIM, BCIM

**Learning Objective:**

- Understand the extent of TBI, long term consequences, treatment, and evaluation for back to work/activity.

### **The Future of Occupational & Environmental Medicine**

**Presenter:** Dr. Laura G. Gillis, MD, MPH, FACOEM

**Learning Objectives:**

- Identify and analyze the major forces reshaping Occupational & Environmental Medicine (OEM), including technological innovation, workforce demographics, regulatory changes, and environmental pressures.
- Evaluate emerging clinical, regulatory, and operational trends in OEM, such as PFAS and advanced material exposures, climate-related hazards, and the growing importance of cognitive readiness and mental health in safety-sensitive operations.

- Apply forward-looking strategies to strengthen OEM programs, including the integration of technology (AI, predictive analytics, wearables, telemedicine), interdisciplinary collaboration, and adaptation to evolving policy frameworks (ADA, FMLA, EU Directives, ISO Standards).

## **Hyperbaric Medicine: It's Not Just For Divers Anymore**

**Presenter:** Dr. Mary E. Hanley, DO, MBA, UHM, CWSP, FAPWCA

**Learning Objectives:**

- Gain an understanding of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy and the specialty of Hyperbaric Medicine.
- Become familiar with indications for Hyperbaric Oxygen therapy.

## **IME and Red Flags**

**Presenter:** Dr. Brian F. McCrary, DO, MPH, FAOCOPM

**Learning Objectives:**

- Recognize the signs of malingering or symptom magnification which may be present in the evaluation and treatment of neuromuscular conditions.
- Understand how to manage and when to refer for psychosomatic/nonorganic pain syndromes.
- Understand when an IME should be ordered.

## **Hidden Drivers of Obesity**

**Presenter:** Nicholas J. Pennings, DO, FOMA, FACOFP, FAAFP

**Learning Objectives:**

- Describe changes in occupation-related energy expenditure.
- Discuss impact of night shift work on sleep quality, metabolism, unhealthy behaviors, and weight.
- Explain the relationship between social determinants of health on lifestyle and its contribution to the obesity crisis.

## **AOA Update**

**Presenter:** Dr. Robert G.G. Piccinini, DO, D.FACN

**Learning Objectives:**

- Growth of the Profession.
- Equity in Residencies and Rotations.
- State, Federal, and Grassroots Advocacy and International Affairs.

## **Sustaining Psychological Endurance in Unmanned Aircraft Operations**

**Presenter:** Dr. Darnell Rae Schuettler, PhD

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Understand remote piloted aircraft (RPA) community dynamics.
- Identify stressors unique to remote piloted community.
- Identify behavioral management methods to mitigate mission stressors.

## **The Toxicology of Chronic Oral and Inhalation Reference Doses and Occupational Exposure Limits**

**Presenter:** Dr. James Stanley Smith Jr., PhD, Environmental Science, Toxicology

### **Learning Objectives:**

The physician will become familiar with the process toxicologists use to:

- Derive chronic oral and inhalation reference doses (RfD and RfC, respectively) used to protect current and future persons from chemicals released at hazardous waste sites.
- Derive occupational exposure limits (OELs) used to keep workers safe from exposures to chemicals in vapors, mists, or dusts.
- Understand how toxicology should inform the derivation of RfDs, RfCs, and OELs.

## **Leveraging AI and Lifestyle Medicine for Preventive Health Services**

**Presenter:** Dr. Regan A. Stiegmann, DO, MPH, FACLM, DipABLM

### **Learning Objectives:** *Pending*

## **Syndromic Surveillance - Bridging Systems Using Actionable Intelligence**

**Presenter:** Dr. Alexis Marino Stoner, PhD, MPH

### **Learning Objectives:**

- Compare medical surveillance methods and their applicability across operational environments.
- Assess the strengths and limitations of different surveillance systems for early disease detection and risk mitigation.
- Understand the use of Via Learning Management System (VLMS) in syndromic surveillance.
- Explain how VLMS delivers real-time data to inform action across multiple systems, including troop readiness, medical education, public health disease control, and clinical research.

- Evaluate the value of integrating multiple surveillance data sources to improve identification of disease patterns, distribution, and determinants relevant to occupational and population health.