

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.