



American Osteopathic College of Occupational & Preventive Medicine

Spring 2018 Newsletter

Midyear Recap

The AOCOPM held its midyear conference in conjunction with the University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine from March 7-11 in San Antonio, Texas. The conference consisted of a basic occupational medicine overview course, a Medical Review Officer (MRO) course, and more than twenty presentations in the fields of occupational, preventive and aerospace medicine (OPAM).

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.



Right:
Attendance at
the University
of Incarnate
Word
auditorium
during the
midyear
conference of
2018.

Member Spotlight

Pierce Sherrill, DO, FAOCOPM is the AOCOPM President-Elect and will step into the role as president in October at the 2018 OMED meeting. He currently practices occupational medicine with the Aurora Medical Group in Green Bay, Wisconsin. In this role, he conducts DOT driver exams, post-offer physicals, FAA exams and provides work-injury care. His clinic is a stand-alone occupational medicine facility that offers full-service options to employers. These services include drug and alcohol surveillance,

physical therapy, chiropractic services and clinical care provided by physicians and physician extenders.

Originally a family practice physician, Dr. Sherrill took on a role in an occupational medicine practice. He found his way into the AOCOPM while attending the Basic Course in Occupational Medicine. While he came to the college to earn credentials in occupational medicine, he stuck around after being drawn in by the collegiality and welcoming environment.

When asked why he decided to stay so involved with the AOCOPM, Dr. Sherrill replied: "First and most important, it is directly relevant to my practice. I have a wide range of colleagues who can offer advice on some of the more esoteric areas of our specialty. Almost as important, though, is the congenial atmosphere of our meetings and exchanges. Both of these things create a welcoming and nurturing environment that I want to see grow and endure."

During his presidency, Dr. Sherrill plans to continue outgoing president Dr. Patrick Birch's focus to increase membership. He would also like to increase the visibility of the AOCOPM outside of the college and offer services to a wider array of healthcare professionals. When asked further about his plans for the future of the college, he added, "There is a wealth of knowledge and experience in our College, as well as a warm and welcoming atmosphere that makes our work together joyful. I want to nurture that and make it available to all comers."

In his free time, Dr. Sherrill likes to cultivate his artistic side. He enjoys making bread, stained glass, photographs, music and poetry. He has served six years as the president of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets.



AOCOPM Incoming President Dr. Pierce Sherrill

Medical School Spotlight

LECOM Campus in Bradenton

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) is the nation's largest medical college with an enrollment of 2,251 osteopathic medical students on their three branch campuses. U.S. News and World Report ranks LECOM in the top five medical colleges for graduating primary care physicians.

At the Bradenton Campus, emphasis doesn't stop at primary care. This campus exposes their medical students to the foundations of preventive medicine by requiring that all first year medical students take a crash course in public health and preventive medicine. Throughout the rest of their enrollment, they are also offered community-based participatory research opportunities to fine tune their preventive medicine skills. Course director, Donald Simpson holds a Ph.D. and master's degrees in public health, with extensive experience from the local level, all the way to the international stage. When asked about specific opportunities his students have, Dr. Simpson replied, "LECOM provides supervisory physicians for medical and pharmacology students at Turning Points, a one-stop shop that provides, coordinates, and facilitates services for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless in Manatee County."

Dr. Simpson is quick to point out that over one in three deaths in the United States annually are attributed to inequalities in social determinants of health. His goal is to create opportunities to expose his students to these determinants so that they may achieve better health outcomes. He elaborates that “It is important to connect and integrate health care with social supports and services that address the broad range of social and environmental factors that impact individual and community health and well-being.” Simpson addresses this problem by incorporating structural determinants and conditions into his pre-clinical curriculum through problem-based-learning cases and developing additional community-based immersion opportunities.

Alongside colleagues from the LECOM schools of Pharmacy and Dentistry, Simpson is developing a uniquely osteopathic Master of Public Health curriculum that will implement the osteopathic holistic approach of mind, body, and spirit. With the help of his interprofessional team, he hopes to foster a degree program that will equip graduates with relevant classroom exposure and practical experiences to help address the unique challenges of the American healthcare delivery system.

Residency Program Spotlight

[Public Health/ Preventive Medicine Residency at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene \(DOHMH\)](#)

The New York tristate region has historically been one of the innovators at the front line of public health activism for the rest of the nation. In fact, the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) is the oldest health department in the country. Nestled away in this massive organization is the Public Health/Preventive Medicine Residency Program (PH/PMRP) at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The program was established in

1959 and provides residents with the opportunity to hone their skills while carrying out the mission of protecting and promoting the health of all New Yorkers.

The program has the capacity to accept up to three residents per year for their two year program. These residents complete their Master of Public Health studies at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Public Health. Other academic affiliations include the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate School of Public Health and the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health.

Residents participate in team-based, interprofessional work on large-scale projects impacting a large, urban population, and network with public health leaders. Unique clinical experiences offer exposure to a wide variety of core public health issues that only a city as diverse as New York can offer. Residents have gone on to many leadership roles in government, public health and beyond.

AOBPM News



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

In order to improve the Board Certification and OCC processes, the AOA has created a physician position for the Vice President of Certifying Board Services. The AOA has further committed to having board certification being physician led by creating positions as Physician Executive Directors for each Board. Nominations are due for that position from your Board by 5/4/18. The position has a stipend and will hopefully insure rapid implementation of an ambitious program to alter the Board Certification and OCC process.

You will see drastic changes in the delivery of the examinations during the next cycles of testing. Computerized delivery of examinations will allow remote testing capabilities. Format alterations in the cognitive section of the exam will allow us to deliver a meaningful and more current product in the future. There has been an expansion of the item bank with new software that will allow Boards to overlap and share

examination items. Opportunities for completion of Component 4 of OCC have been expanded to include your practice QI activities. Best practices learned from all of the Boards should improve the overall administration of Board activities.

The AOBPM anticipates doing another survey of the profession soon called the Job Task Analysis. This will allow us to focus our examination on topics you feel are important to your practices. The Board shares cumulative examination results with the AOCOPM that allows the College to focus educational activities on what you need in your practices and what topics you may need to successfully pass our examinations.

The AOBPM is committed to providing our Diplomates a clear and meaningful path through certification and OCC. Be assured that we take action with you in mind. We are also members of the AOCOPM and success of that body is paramount in our actions. Your certification represents an on-going commitment of studies that pronounce your excellence in our specialties.

OMED 2018

The next Occupational Preventive & Aerospace Medicine (OPAM) conference will be held during OMED 2018 in San Diego from October 5 - 9.

Once again, the AOCOPM plans to coordinate a mini-consortium with the AOA Bureau on Scientific Affairs and Public Health.

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

- Basic Course in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Part 2
- DOT FMCSA Certified Medical Examiner Course
- Medical Review Officer (MRO) Certification Course.

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

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