



American Osteopathic College
of Occupational & Preventive Medicine

AOCOPM News, May 2024



AOCOPM at DO Day

AOCOPM President, Dr. Kris Belland, met with Congresswoman Beth Van Duyne, who serves on the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means, to discuss ASM/OH/PM/CM/USM Board Certification protections and increased funding for GME.



FTC Finalizes Rule Banning Non-Compete Clauses in Employee Contracts

The Federal Trade Commission voted 3-2 to finalize a rule banning non-compete clauses in employment contracts. The proposed rule issued in January 2023 received over 26,000 comments from stakeholders with an overwhelming majority supporting the change. The AOA submitted comments to the FTC along with 45 osteopathic affiliates, including AOCOPM. The letter expressed support for limiting the use of non-compete clauses in employment contracts and concern for the impact these restrictions have on physician autonomy, career mobility, and their relationship with patients. The rule will ban both traditional non-compete clauses, as well as “de facto non-compete clauses” that function in the same manner. The rule also contains limited exceptions, which include the following:

- Senior executives with existing non-competes, although once the rule becomes effective, businesses may not include non-competes in new contracts issued to senior executives; and
- Noncompete clauses that are entered into by a person pursuant to a bona fide sale of a business entity or of a person’s ownership interest in a business entity.

[FTC Announces Rule Banning Noncompetes | Federal Trade Commission](#)



EEOC Finalizes Rule to Implement Pregnant Worker Protection Law

by Kelly Gooch
via Becker's Hospital Review

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issued a final rule April 15 to implement the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.

The PWFA was signed into law by President Joe Biden on Dec. 29, 2022, and took effect last June. It requires most employers with at least 15 employees to provide "reasonable accommodations," or changes at work, for a worker's known limitations related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, unless the changes will cause the employer an undue

hardship, according to the EEOC, which is tasked with enforcement and issued proposed regulations Aug. 7 for the PWFA.

https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/eoc-finalizes-rule-to-implement-pregnant-worker-protection-law.html?origin=QualityE&utm_source=QualityE&utm_medium=email&utm_content=newsletter&oly_e_nc_id=4689J1163145A4Y



US Heart Failure Deaths in 2021 Reached Levels Not Seen Since 1999

by Scott Buzby
Cardiology Today via Healio

- Age-adjusted heart failure mortality in the U.S. in 2021 was at rates not seen since 1999.
- The largest increases were observed in those younger than 45 years, aged 45 to 64 years and Black individuals.

[US heart failure deaths in 2021 reached levels not seen since 1999 \(healio.com\)](#)



HHS: Vaccines Targeting Bird Flu Strain that Infected Texas Resident Underway

by Erica Carbajal
via Becker's Clinical Leadership

Vaccines are in development that target the bird flu strain that infected a Texas resident, an HHS official told Politico in an April 12 report. Earlier in April, state and federal officials confirmed a person in Texas who had worked on a dairy farm tested positive for H5N1. "We're really lucky that we have two vaccines that we are working on to be well matched to the circulating strain," Dawn O'Connell, HHS assistant secretary for preparedness and response, told the news outlet. "Those vaccines are going through clinical trial right now," she said, adding the government currently has about 10 million doses that could be deployed in three to four months if necessary.

https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/public-health/hhs-vaccines-targeting-bird-flu-strain-that-infected-texas-resident-underway.html?origin=QualityE&utm_source=QualityE&utm_medium=email&utm_content=newsletter&oly_e_nc_id=4689J1163145A4Y



Leading with Compassion Has Research-Backed Benefits

by Stephen Trzeciak, Anthony Mazzaelli, and Emma Seppälä
Harvard Business Review

For better talent retention and organizational performance, especially in challenging times, managers should recognize that compassion is not merely a "nice to have." Rather, it's an evidence-based skill that is integral to leading effectively and holding teams together. Compassion not only belongs in the art of leadership; robust research shows that compassion also belongs in the science of leadership.



<https://hbr.org/2023/02/leading-with-compassion-has-research-backed-benefits>

Working From Home: Doctors' Options Are Not Limited to Classic Telemedicine

by Sylvie Stacy, MD, MPH
via Medscape

The appeal of working from home is undeniable. It comes with no daily commute, casual dress, and the ability to manage work-life balance more effectively.

Telemedicine is often the first thing that comes to mind when physicians think about remote medical practice. In its traditional sense, telemedicine entails live video consults, replicating the in-person experience as closely as possible, minus the hands-on component. However, this format is just one of many types of virtual care presenting opportunities to practice medicine from home.

The scope and volume of such opportunities are expanding due to technology, regulatory shifts at the state and federal levels favoring remote healthcare, and a wider move toward remote work. Virtual practice options for physicians range from full-time employment to flexible part-time positions that can be used to earn supplementary income.

https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/working-home-doctors-options-are-not-limited-classic-2024a100073j?ecd=wnl_sci_tech_240417_MSCPEDIT_etid6445822&uac=349327MR&impID=6445822



Increase in Invasive Serogroup Y Meningococcal Disease in the United States

via the CDC Health Alert Network

Healthcare providers should 1) have a heightened suspicion for meningococcal disease, particularly among populations disproportionately affected by the current increase, 2) be aware that patients may present without symptoms typical of meningitis, and 3) ensure that all people recommended for meningococcal vaccination, including people with HIV, are up to date for meningococcal vaccines.

<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2024/han00505.asp#:~:text=Meningococcal%20disease%20most%20often%20presents,hands%20and%20feet%2C%20severe%20aches>



Dr. LeBoeuf Inducted into the AOGME Collegium of Fellows

The Assembly of Osteopathic Graduate Medical Educators (AOGME) held its awards ceremony at the 2024 Annual American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Conference in April. Jeffrey LeBoeuf, AOCOPM Executive Director, was included in this year's class of inductees. He was sponsored by Dr. Thomas Mohr, the dean of the Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (SHSU-COM).

<https://www.aacom.org/gme/assembly-of-osteopathic-graduate-medical-educators/programs-awards/collegium>



Basic Course in Occupational Medicine at AOA Online Learning

AOCOPM sponsors a [Basic Course in Occupational & Environmental Medicine](#) designed to provide a basic understanding and expertise in the areas of occupational & environmental medicine while preparing participants to take a written examination qualifying for an AOA-approved, [Certificate of Added Qualification \(CAQ\)](#). For those participants who do not hold a primary AOA board certification, a certificate of course completion is offered. Thus, our primary audience is AOA-certified physicians working to obtain the CAQ; but the course also offers value to other MDs, DOs, PAs, and Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners.

The Course is presented in three (3) parts, which do not need to be taken in sequence. For the convenience of the faculty and participants, one part is normally provided at one or both of the two conferences presented by the AOCOPM each year (almost always at the Midyear in March or April, and sometimes offered at the Annual conference held in conjunction with [OMED](#) in September or October). The parts are also offered at [AOA Online Learning](#).* Each part is a full day didactic program and requires a separate registration with the AOCOPM.

Save the Date: OMED24, Sept 20-22, San Antonio, TX



Join us at AOCOPM's Annual Educational Conference held in conjunction with OMED24, September 20-22 at the Henry B. González Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. Registration and housing will open in summer 2024.

The [OPAM Workshop: Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners' Course](#) will be offered as a pre-conference workshop on Thursday, September 19, 2024.

More details to come!

Contact Info:

AOCOPM
800-558-8686

Jeffrey LeBoeuf, Executive Director - jeffrey@aocopm.org
Ronda LeBoeuf, Office Manager - ronda@aocopm.org

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