



American Osteopathic College  
of Occupational & Preventive Medicine

## AOCOPM News, June 2026



### Registration is Open!

The 2026 OMED conference will take place **Oct. 22-25, 2026**, in the entertainment capital of the world: **Las Vegas, Nevada!** Join AOCOPM at its Annual Educational Conference held in conjunction with OMED26 at Caesars Palace for three days full of education and networking.

While you are there, you can obtain DOT Certification training at the [OPAM Workshop: Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners' Course](#), October 22, 2026.

Be sure to check out AOCOPM's Agenda!

[AOCOPM 2026 Annual Educational Conference](#)



### It's Not Too Early to Register!

[AOCOPM's 2027 Midyear Educational Conference](#) will be held at the Omni Hotel, located across the street from Scissortail Park in Oklahoma City, March 4-6.

[OPAM Workshop: Basic Course in Occupational Medicine](#), Part I will be offered LIVE March 6-7.

The CME Committee is also still accepting presentation proposals for the 2027 Midyear Conference: [Call for Presentations](#)

### Annual Call for Leaders



AOCOPM is built and sustained by the members who volunteer their time, expertise, and judgment to guide the College. Each year we open a formal Call for Leaders to invite members to step into that work. This is your invitation.

#### Why It Matters

The direction of AOCOPM—our advocacy, our CME programming, our standards, and the future of the occupational and preventive medicine pipeline—is set by members who choose to serve. Volunteer leaders shape policy, mentor colleagues, represent the College in the broader osteopathic community, and ensure the organization remains responsive to the people it exists to serve. The strength of the College is a direct reflection of the members willing to lead it.

#### Opportunities to Serve

We are currently seeking members for the following:

Board of Trustees - governance, strategic direction, fiduciary oversight

For more information on our Board and Officers, please visit: [AOCOPM Committees](#). If you would like to speak to someone currently on the Board, please refer to the [Leadership](#) page. Note that you will need to login to see this page since email addresses are not listed publicly. Your Board of Trustees meets 9 times per year, by webinar (Zoom Meeting). Currently these meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm Central time. In addition, we may meet twice per year in person, at our Midyear Conference and the AOA OMED Convention. We ask those who serve on the Board commit to actively participating in these meetings.

### **Who Should Apply**

Service is open to AOCOPM members in good standing. We welcome candidates at every career stage—from those seeking their first leadership role to seasoned members ready to take on greater responsibility. No prior board experience is required for many positions; what matters most is commitment and a willingness to contribute.

### **How to Submit**

To be considered, submit your CV with your [application](#).

Leadership at AOCOPM is how the College moves forward. If you have considered getting more involved, this is the time to act.



## **California Votes to Begin Banning Engineered Stone — Major Win for OEM Community**

At its May 21, 2026 meeting, California's Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board voted unanimously to direct Cal/OSHA to prepare a finding of emergency to support expedited rulemaking, and to convene a scientific advisory committee to evaluate worker protections related to silica exposure. The board directed Cal/OSHA to draft an emergency temporary standard prohibiting workers from cutting or installing engineered stone — which would be in place for a year while the agency develops permanent regulations. The emergency rules will take a few months to draft, and a phase-in period for industry is possible. [EHSLeadersTimes of San Diego](#)

As of the vote, California had confirmed 562 silicosis cases and 31 deaths linked to engineered stone. Cal/OSHA had issued more than 900 citations through its silica special emphasis program, with proposed penalties totaling approximately \$1.9 million. [EHSLeaders](#)

WOEMA spokesperson Dr. Robert Blink called the vote "the first step" and "the beginning of the road to rule-making," but warned that California can expect increased silicosis cases over the next seven to ten years as workers already exposed continue to get sick.

This is a landmark action by an OEM physician organization — WOEMA's petition drove this result. National implications are significant as other states watch California.

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## West Virginia Chemical Disaster Renews Debate Over CSB's Future



On April 22, 2026, a chemical release of hydrogen sulfide occurred at Ames Goldsmith Catalyst Refiners in Institute, West Virginia, killing 2 workers and injuring 30 others, including first responders. Workers were decommissioning a tank when a reaction between nitric acid and another chemical created the toxic gas. [Wikipedia](#)

The incident has reinvigorated debate over the future of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. The Trump administration is proposing to cut funding for the CSB – the independent agency that probes chemical disasters and pushes for safety fixes – with worker advocates warning that dismantling it could leave states with long histories of deadly industrial incidents more vulnerable to future disasters. Congress saved the CSB in January 2026 by maintaining its \$14 million budget in the FY2026 funding bill, but the facility involved in the April disaster had not been inspected since a 2018 safety citation, highlighting a broader problem: federal inspectors do not regularly inspect many of the most dangerous workplaces.

[Insurance Journal + 2](#)

## AFL-CIO "Death on the Job" 2026 Report — Annual Baseline Data



The AFL-CIO's 35th annual *Death on the Job: The Toll of Neglect* report finds workplace hazards kill approximately 140,000 workers each year – more than 380 per day. In 2024, 5,070 workers died from traumatic workplace injury, and an estimated 135,000 died from occupational diseases. An estimated 530 workers died from heat alone. [Wnylabortoday](#)

Latino workers faced the greatest risk of dying on the job, at a fatality rate of 4.3 per 100,000 workers, while Black workers died at 3.4 per 100,000 – both disproportionate compared to the overall rate of 3.3. Of Latino workers who died, 68.5% were immigrants. The report specifically flags AI, workplace violence, chemical exposures, and heat illness as emerging and ongoing threats. [AFL-CIO](#)

## Federal Workers' Compensation Pharmacy Program Expanded



The Department of Labor announced it is expanding the Federal Employees' Compensation Act Pharmacy Benefit Program to cover more types of beneficiaries and programs, with the stated goal of improving drug pricing transparency and cost savings. This affects occupational medicine physicians treating federal civilian employees under FECA. [Federal News Network](#)



## Job Postings

As a member benefit, AOCOPM maintains a message board for job postings. All members may view and post job openings in the [forums](#) section of the website. Logging in is required, since this is for members only.

Nonmembers may [submit job postings](#) through the AOCOPM office for a fee of \$195. A job listing will remain on the message board for six months or until the office is notified that it has been filled.



## Make Mentorship Connections

The Emerging DO Platform is a digital hub designed to connect, support, and empower osteopathic medical students, residents, and early-career physicians. this platform offers:

- **Residency Program Insights** – Access key details about programs, read alumni experiences, and participate in discussions with current and former residents.
- **Mentorship Network** – Connect with experienced DOs for guidance and career support through our mentorship program. As part of your participation, join the Digital Health Innovation (DHI) Special Interest Group that we lead.

Sign up today: <https://app.mentorloop.com/signup/7MC6fbrgpX4z9iLLR>

AOCOPM also maintains a list of members who have volunteered to be mentors. You may [sign up](#) to be a mentor or mentee. You may also search the [mentor directory](#).



## AOBPM Exam Dates 2026

Written and oral initial board exams are scheduled for October 15, 2026, for Aerospace Medicine and Occupational/Environmental Medicine.

First Deadline: Sunday, September 20, 2026

Final Deadline: Sunday, September 27, 2026

Full Exam Fee: \$800.00

Late Fee: \$240.00

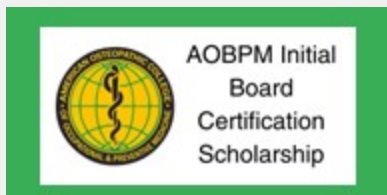
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Learn more: <https://certification.osteopathic.org/preventive-medicine/important-dates/>

## Board Scholarships Available

AOCOPM now offers full scholarships for first-time takers of the initial AOBPM board certification exams.

Learn more: <https://www.aocopm.org/aobpm-scholarship>



### Contact Info:

AOCOPM

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### Did We Miss Something? Do You Have News to Share?

Send your information to [ronda@aocopm.org](mailto:ronda@aocopm.org)

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