



American Osteopathic College
of Occupational & Preventive Medicine

AOCOPM News, September 2026



Performing Arts Occupational Medicine Grand Rounds at OMED26

We are pleased to offer an Occupational Medicine Grand Rounds at the Las Vegas Circus Center. Attendance is limited to **20 participants**, so **sign up right now to reserve your spot!**

- Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the Circus Center. **Ride sharing is recommended.** The attendance roster will be shared with registrants to help facilitate optional group ride-share coordination.
- There is **no cost** to attend this event other than personal transportation.
- The Circus Center requires a signed security waiver (sent via email when it becomes available)
- Please register for OMED26 before registering for the Grand Rounds (You must be attending OMED26 to participate).
- Register for Grand Rounds here: [OMED26 Occ Med Grand Rounds](#)

[Register Now for OMED26.](#)

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.

For Member Exclusive Pricing, you may login to the AOCOPM member center to retrieve a [\\$100 Member discount code](#) for OMED registration.

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](#)



FAA Guide for Aviation Medical Examiners Updated August 26 — Mental Health Section Expanded

The FAA updated its Guide for Aviation Medical Examiners on August 26, 2026. The mental health counseling section under Item 47 (Psychiatric Conditions) now includes expanded resources: an information page for pilots and ATCs, an FAQ sheet, and guidance for psychotherapists treating aviation professionals. The update reinforces the May 27, 2026, policy shift explicitly encouraging counseling without fear of certification consequences, and

extends AME decision-making authority for uncomplicated depression, anxiety, OCD, and PTSD. Aviation medical examiners should ensure they are referencing the August 26 version.

- FAA. *Guide for Aviation Medical Examiners – Version 08/26/2026*. https://www.faa.gov/ame_guide/media/ame_guide.pdf
- AvWeb. *FAA Adds Mental Health Counseling Guidance to AME Guide*. May 28, 2026. <https://avweb.com/aviation-news/faq-new-mental-health-counseling-guidance/>



UTMB Launches Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship

The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) Aerospace Medicine program announced August 14, 2026 that it will launch a new Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship in 2027, with the inaugural fellow beginning in July 2027. The program bridges the physiology of high-pressure undersea environments with the low-pressure demands of altitude and spaceflight. Director Dr. Ronak Shah, DO, MBA, MPH — who holds dual board certification in Internal Medicine and Aerospace Medicine — noted that faculty recruitment is underway.

- UTMB Aerospace Medicine. *UTMB to Launch Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship*. August 14, 2026. <https://www.utmb.edu/news/article/utmb-news/2026/08/14/utmb-launches-fellowship-to-prepare-physicians-for-medicine-from-the-ocean-floor-to-outer-space>



OSHA Deregulatory Hearings Concluded August 26 — Post-Hearing Comment Period Next

OSHA's virtual deregulatory public hearings ran from August 19 through August 26, 2026, covering the full package of proposed deregulatory rules including the proposed removal of physician medical evaluation requirements for employees wearing filtering facepiece respirators (N95s) and loose-fitting PAPRs. The hearing record is now closed to live testimony. A post-hearing comment period will follow — members who did not testify but wish to submit written comments should watch the OSHA deregulatory rulemaking page for the comment window announcement.

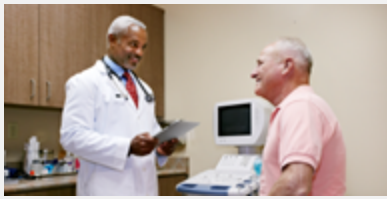
- OSHA. *Deregulatory Rulemaking*. <https://www.osha.gov/deregulatory-rulemaking>
- Quantum Compliance. *OSHA Closed Its Deregulation Hearings This Week. A State Plan Can Keep Its Own Standard by Sending a Letter*. August 28, 2026. <https://www.usequantum.com/osha-closed-its-deregulation-hearings-this-week-a-state-plan-can-keep-its-own-standard-by-sending-a-letter/>



OSHA CARES Initiative and Safety Champions Program

OSHA Assistant Secretary, David Keeling, highlighted the new OSHA CARES Initiative, a customer service effort aimed at enhancing stakeholders' understanding of workplace safety and health requirements, as well as the Safety Champions Program, which supports participating employers in developing new and improved safety and health programs. Keeling simultaneously emphasized continued enforcement focus on repeat violators and hiring of new compliance officers. Members advising employer clients should be aware of both the compliance assistance and enforcement dimensions of OSHA's current posture.

- OSHA. *QuickTakes – August 20, 2026*. <https://www.osha.gov/quicktakes/082026>



JOEM Publishes New IME Guideline

The *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* published a new practice guideline on independent medical examinations and consultations on September 2, 2026. The guideline covers complex medical cases requiring an independent, non-partisan opinion or re-assessment of a diagnosis, addresses varying legal requirements by jurisdiction, and specifies the elements of a comprehensive IME report generated through a deliberate, evidence-based process.

- *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. September 2, 2026.
<https://www.ovid.com/jnls/joem/fulltext/10.1097/jom.0000000000003874~acoem-guidelines-independent-medical-examinations-and>



USPSTF Draft Recommendation — Unhealthy Alcohol Use Screening

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force has released a draft recommendation statement on screening and behavioral interventions for unhealthy alcohol use in adolescents and adults and is accepting public comment. This is directly relevant to occupational medicine practitioners conducting fitness-for-duty evaluations, DOT examinations, and employee assistance referrals.

Source:

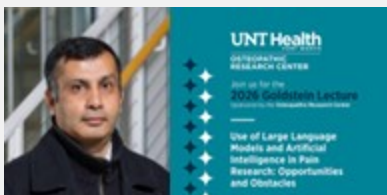
- USPSTF. *Draft Recommendation Statement: Screening and Interventions to Reduce Unhealthy Alcohol Use*.
<https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/announcements/public-comment-draft-recommendation-statement-and-draft-evidence-review-screening-and-interventions-reduce-unhealthy-alcohol-use-0>



Did You Know?

Did you know that members who login to the AOCOPM website can:

- Access the member directory
- Obtain discount codes for OMED and AOCOPM courses at elearning.osteopathic.org
- Review or post job openings in the member [forum](#)
- Search our [speaker](#) bureau
- Review and edit their profiles
- See their paid or open invoices
- Print a membership card
- Access their committees



Register Now for the 2026 Goldstein Lecture

The Osteopathic Research Center invites you to attend the 2026 Goldstein Lecture at 12 p.m. CDT on Wednesday, October 7, 2026. Subhash Aryal, PhD, will present "Use of Large Language Models and Artificial Intelligence in Pain Research: Opportunities and Obstacles."

The [Goldstein Lecture](#) is sponsored by the Osteopathic Research Center to honor the many contributions of [Murray Goldstein, DO, MPH](#), in advancing the osteopathic profession and its research.

Although there is no cost to attend the lecture, we ask that you register in advance by using the link below www.unthealth.edu/Goldstein2026 to ensure we have sufficient capacity in the Zoom webinar.

Please feel free to share the registration link with colleagues: www.unthealth.edu/Goldstein2026.

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

Standing Committees - Education/CME, Membership

Faculty for the Occupational Medicine Basic Course and the DOT FMCSA NRCME Course

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.

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

Remotely Proctored

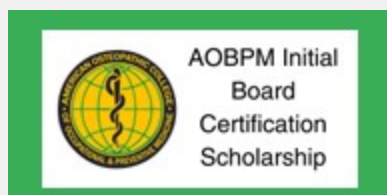
Learn more: <https://certification.osteopathic.org/preventive-medicine/important-dates/>

Note: The Public Health/Community Medicine Exam will be offered Spring 2027.

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>



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

Send your information to ronda@aocopm.org
(You can also post on AOCOPM's social media)

Connect with Us:

