



American Osteopathic College of Occupational & Preventive Medicine

On the Other Hand

Hello!

Please allow me to introduce myself and this Newsletter. My name is Mary E. Hanley, and I am the Medical Director for the Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine and Wound Care and Amputation Prevention Program for Roper St Francis Healthcare in beautiful Charleston, South Carolina. (If you have never been to Charleston, you must come; we are ranked as a top tourist destination every year by Condé Nast!). I have been a member of the American Osteopathic College of Occupational & Preventive Medicine since 2011. I have served on the Board of Trustees, and recently took on the role of Secretary of the College. Why is a Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine Specialist the Secretary of the AOCOPM? Well, one of the programs under the purview of the College is Aerospace Medicine which includes Hyperbaric Medicine. I attended my first meeting of the College back in 2011 in Fort Worth. I loved how friendly and welcoming everyone was and the strong bond of collegiality and fellowship amongst the members. I never experienced that at any other conferences either Allopathic or Osteopathic. I realized that I could make a contribution and would be listened to and respected and be known by listening to and meeting many of the top experts in these respective fields.



*Be the change you wish
to see happen. -
Mary Hanley, DO*

By now you may be wondering, “well OK, but what does she mean by The Other Hand?” Well, that’s my own quasi-occupational Medicine story. My first Residency was in Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. For 7 years, I was a very happy practicing Anesthesiologist in Maryland and Connecticut. In May of 2008, while at work, I noticed my right hand was becoming red and swollen and painful. I was on call, very busy and figured I would take some antibiotics later. Later turned into an Emergency trip to the OR to try to save my dominant hand and arm from what turned out to be necrotizing fasciitis. Approximately 20 surgeries, countless PICC lines with IV antibiotics for months on end, hand therapy etc, I was left with partial use of 2 fingers, and a severely deformed dominant hand. I could not intubate and manage an airway safely, or insert an epidural. My career, that I loved so much was over. I was in my early 40’s, had 3 young children and a mountain of Med School debt. I threw one heck of a pity party, until a class mate of mine from Med School said “your hand doesn’t work, but your brain still does. Come train in Family Medicine and get Boarded and on with your life”. So I did. I completed 2 years of Family Medicine training, got Boarded and thought that was the end of my training. Then I was approached by the Emergency Medicine Medical Director at the program where I trained and he said “we’re starting a Fellowship in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine and would like you to be our first Fellow.” I confess I knew next to nothing about Wound Care and Hyperbaric medicine, but I spent some time shadowing in the Wound Center, and I was hooked. I’ve been doing this for 11 years now and cannot imagine doing anything else. The rewards are great, the patients are so grateful when we help them. We have one of the highest rates of lower limb amputation in the country due to Diabetes here in the South, and I am fighting to prevent amputations everyday. It is my own special form of Preventive Medicine and I hope by teaching and lecturing and spreading the word to patients and

professionals alike that amputation of toes and limbs is NOT an expected part of having diabetes in 2020!

So, that's more than enough about me! I hope you enjoy the newsletter. If you have any information or articles or stories you would like to share, please contact me or email them to Jeffrey@aocopm.org. Please stay safe and well in these uncertain times. Be the change you wish to see happen.

MEH



[DOT FMCSA NRCME](#) via Zoom Sat, Sept 19, 2020, 8 am - 5 pm EDT

[Register Now](#)

Donation in memory of Jim Boudwin



AOCOPM made a donation to Doctors Without Borders in memory of Jim Boudwin, the beloved spouse of our own Mimms Mabee. Jim and Mimms were only recently married and while both of these wonderful doctors contracted COVID-19, Jim did not recover. Mimms asked that any memorials be made to aid in the fight against COVID-19 or to [Doctors Without Borders](#).

David Canton, DO, MPH, JD nominated to CDC task force



David Canton has been nominated to the CDC Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) which was established in 1996 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to identify population health interventions that are scientifically proven to save lives, increase lifespans, and improve quality of life. CPSTF findings help inform decision makers in federal, state, and local health departments, other government agencies, communities, healthcare providers, employers, schools and research organizations.



Your College needs your time and talent, so please heed the Call for Nominations for AOCOPM's committees, members and officers: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/20-21-Nominations>. For more information, please visit:

[AOCOPM Committees.](#)

It's time to elect OPAM's Founding Board of Directors: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OPAM-Nominations>. In case you missed it, the information regarding OPAM can be found in the Spring 2019 Newsletter, <https://aocopm.memberclicks.net/assets/NewsLetters/Spring%20Newsletter%202019.pdf>.

CME via
Zoom!

Mark your calendar for upcoming CME opportunities:

- [AOCOPM Annual Educational Conference](#), October 15-18, 2020
- [AOCOPM MRO Certification Course](#), November 21-22, 2020
- [AOCOPM Basic Course in Occupational Medicine](#), December 5, 2020 (tentative)



President's Message Patricia Hunt, DO, MHA, FAOCOPM

Dear Colleagues, Friends:

I hope you're well. This has certainly been an unprecedented year for our nation, and our beloved American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine. With an abundance of caution, we made the painful, pragmatic decision to cancel our 2020 Mid-Year Educational Conference. Fortuitously, we had in place an event cancellation policy with a communicable disease rider, thus our claim should replace the College's anticipated income from the cancelled meeting, keeping the College financially strong.

We plan to host our next Midyear Conference March 17-21, 2021 at the Kansas City Marriott Country Club Plaza. It is our hope that COVID-19 vaccines will be widely available and effective in time, or perhaps the viral pandemic will burn itself out. We can look ahead to time together, in person, safely.

We vigorously advocated for physician interests during this pandemic. We encouraged the American Osteopathic Association to extend the certification period of current AOA diplomates by at least one year. We influenced the AOA's decision to be very flexible with this cycle's CME requirements. We authored a letter in

late March to the President of the United States commending the Coronavirus Task Force on extending the social distancing guidelines through the end of April. AOCOPM also co-signed several other letters to regulatory agencies and legislative leadership on our nation's response to the pandemic crisis.

We aggressively negotiated with the AOA to ensure that AOCOPM's share of the registration fees at the Annual AOA OMED conference will realistically contribute to our operational costs of preparation and participation.

Ronda LeBoeuf has worked tirelessly to revamp and expand the College's social media presence and update the website.

AOCOPM welcomed two new board members, both of whom I have had the honor to get to know. Their enthusiasm and energy are palpable. Colonel Dr. Ronald "Shane" Day joined us as an at-large trustee to finish a vacated term and is the 22nd Director of the National Center for Medical Intelligence, Defense Intelligence Agency, Fort Detrick, Maryland. As part of our strategy to attract early career physicians, Dr. Joseph Zell, who is completing a Preventive Medicine Fellowship at Yale, joined us as the resident/fellow representative to our Board of Trustees, He has previously completed a Family Medicine Residency.

Tom Gallo, PA, JD met with Jeffrey LeBoeuf and me several times, gratis, to help us lay groundwork, and edit bylaws for the OPAM, our sister organization. This will allow us to offer membership and educational opportunities to other health professionals who share our specialty. Our College may thus continue to flourish as a strong, viable, welcoming, collegial place.

We are planning to virtually host and/or participate in several Fall and Winter CME events. AOCOPM is also partnering with the AOA to ensure that our content is accredited by ACCME as well as the AOA.

I proudly serve as your 2019-2020 AOCOPM President. I had surely hoped that we could spend some time together with each other, face to face, but do still welcome hearing your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions.

Connect with Us:

Please send newsletter items to
ronda@aocopm.org.

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