

American Academy of Osteopathy®

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New Strategy for Timeless Tenets

Approved March 11, 2015, the American Academy of Osteopathy's new strategic plan outlines three years of activities focused on promoting osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) to the public, government officials, health insurers, and other audiences; enhancing undergraduate, graduate and continuing medical education in OMM; increasing research in OMM; and using technology to promote the AAO and its mission.

All of the goals of the 2015-18 strategic plan reinforce the tenets of osteopathic medicine and enhance the value of belonging to the Academy.

Future of OMM

To ensure the future of the profession, the Academy is monitoring closely and responding aggressively to the standards being developed for a single accreditation system for graduate medical education administered by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. In doing so, the AAO is working to ensure that both DO and MD residents in osteopathic-focused training programs are thoroughly grounded in the cognitive and manual skills necessary to truly think and treat osteopathically.

Other ways in which the Academy contributes to the future of OMM are:

- The Academy supports the Student American Academy of Osteopathy, as well as its chapters on the campuses of all osteopathic medical colleges in the United States.
- The AAO supports the National Undergraduate Fellows Association and the Postgraduate American Academy of Osteopathy.
- The Academy's mentorship program brings osteopathic medical students together with practicing DOs.
- The AAO Postdoctoral Standards and Evaluation Committee sets the standards for all AOA-approved residency programs in neuromusculoskeletal medicine and OMM.
- The AAO's earned fellow designation of FFAO recognizes DOs for promoting OMM through teaching, writing and professional service. The

FAAO process is open to DOs who are AOA board certified in any specialty.

Practice Rights and Promotion

In cooperation with the American Osteopathic Association, the Academy advocates for OMM within the osteopathic and allopathic medical professions, as well as with health care policymakers. As part of these advocacy efforts, the AAO champions appropriate reimbursement for OMM services. Other ways in which the AAO helps its members protect and build their practices include:

- The AAO promotes osteopathic philosophy both nationally and internationally. Among the entities in which the Academy has representation are the American Osteopathic Association, the Osteopathic International Alliance, and the International Federation for Manual/Musculoskeletal Medicine.
- The AAO promotes research on OMM to enhance the evidence base on which health care professionals, government entities, health insurers and patients increasingly rely for selecting and paying for treatment.
- Academy members can link to or download the AAO-supported “American Health Front!” segment on OMM. Among the Academy’s newest membership benefits, this segment originally aired on WCBS-TV in New York City on May 18, 2014.
- The AAO’s online “Find a Physician” directory helps patients search for Academy members who practice OMM.
- The AAO’s “New Physician Resource Guide” provides information and assistance to physicians early in their careers for establishing, building and managing successful practices.

Continuing Medical Education

Through its annual Convocation and its subject-specific courses, the Academy provides AOA Category 1-A continuing medical education (CME) to keep Academy members up to date on OMM, trends in medicine, and practice management. Other membership benefits related to these courses include:

- CME earned at all AAO courses is accepted without challenge by the American Osteopathic Board of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine.

Publications

AAO members receive the following complimentary publications:

- *The AAO Journal* contains original articles on OMM, editorials, and archival articles. Members can access past issues in the members-only section of the AAO's website.
- *AAO Member News* keeps members updated on important issues within the osteopathic medical profession, as well as on news about fellow AAO members.
- *OsteoBlast* summarizes original research and other scholarly works related to manual medicine that are published in peer-reviewed journals around the world. This newsletter is emailed weekly to Academy members.

Online Store

Nearly half of the more than 50 titles sold through the AAO's online store were written or edited by Academy members or created by the Academy itself. This catalog is growing annually.

Academy members receive a 10% discount off the regular price of all books. AAO members can also use the online store to register for Academy courses and to donate to the AAO's special funds.

Mission Statement

The mission of the American Academy of Osteopathy is to teach, advocate and research the science, art and philosophy of osteopathic medicine, emphasizing the integration of osteopathic principles, practice and manipulative treatment in patient care.

Vision Statement

All patients are aware of and have access to osteopathic medical care and osteopathic manipulative medicine for optimal health.

Contact Information

AAO members can obtain answers to their questions by calling the Academy at (317) 879-1881 or by emailing the following staff:

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