



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

**5550 Friendship Boulevard  
Suite 310  
Chevy Chase, MD  
www.aacom.org**

## **About AACOM**

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), founded in 1898, exists to lend support and assistance to all the nation's osteopathic medical schools. Having grown from a handful of college administrators a century ago, the organization today represents the administration, faculty and students of the 25 colleges of osteopathic medicine, and three branch campuses that offer the doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) degree in the United States. The association, guided by its Board of Deans, Assembly of Presidents, and various other councils and committees, is actively involved in all areas of osteopathic medical education.

## **National-Level Services Provided by AACOM:**

- **A Unified Voice**  
Serves as the unified voice and proactive advocacy at the federal government level for the colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States, which it has done for more than a century.
- **Innovation and Collaboration**  
Works with its member colleges to foster collaboration and innovation across numerous areas of osteopathic medical education including research.
- **Centralized Services**  
Provides centralized services including data collection and analysis and operation of the online application service for students applying to osteopathic medical schools.
- **Enhanced Awareness**  
Develops national initiatives to promote and raise awareness of osteopathic medical education and osteopathic medicine.

## **Organizational Updates:**

### **Legislative initiatives:**

AACOM informs Congress and other federal policymakers of developments in osteopathic medical education and profession and seeks to sensitize policymakers to the needs of osteopathic medical students and educators. AACOM works in concert with various national coalitions to influence both legislative and regulatory activities associated with medical education and related issues, represent the needs of its members before Congress, federal agencies, and other policy-making bodies, and promote understanding of policy-related medical education issues in the nation's capital and beyond. Most notably, AACOM is advocating the reauthorization of and increased funding for the health professions education programs under Titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act and the federal financial aid programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. Additionally, AACOM is working to increase funding for Graduate Medical Education.

### **Key leadership changes:**

#### **Tyler Cymet, DO, Associate Vice President for Medical Education.**

He will focus on graduate medical education issues and policy. Dr. Cymet joined AACOM in June 2008.

Dr. Cymet brings a superior background to this work, having spent the last 15 years overseeing residents in his role as Director of Osteopathic Medical Education at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore/Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. More recently, Sinai named him Section Head of Family Medicine. During these years, Dr. Cymet also maintained a general medical practice of some 2,000 patients.

Dr. Cymet received his DO degree from Nova-Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. He fulfilled his internship with the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, and completed his Primary Care Internal Medicine residency at Yale University School of Medicine. He was honored as one of Baltimore Magazine's "Top Docs" in 1997, 2000 and 2007, and in 1999 was recognized as Best Teacher at an Osteopathic Medical School by the Student Osteopathic Medical Association.

#### **Susan Eads Role, JD, Director of Government Relations.**

Ms. Role will focus on developing the association's congressional and federal policy positions, working with AACOM's members and other associations to present unified health professions positions to policy makers, and monitoring and communicating congressional developments. She joined AACOM in March 2008.

Ms. Role joined the association with 25 years of experience in government relations. She most recently worked as Assistant Director, Public Health and Scientific Affairs, at the College of American Pathologists. Prior to that, she was Public Policy and Partnerships Director at Children's National Medical Center National Resource Center for Health Programs and Strategies. Ms. Role earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Hanover College, her law degree at Indiana University and her Master of Science in Library Science at the Catholic University of America. She is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and the Pennsylvania Bar.

### **Diversity efforts:**

AACOM awards the Sherry R. Arnstein Minority Student Scholarship program each year to recognize one newly accepted and one continuing underrepresented minority student at AACOM's member colleges of osteopathic medicine. AACOM also continues to advocate for sufficient funding for Health Professions Education Programs under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act, which includes Health Careers Opportunity Programs (HCOP) and Centers of Excellence (COE) that target underrepresented minority students, as well as loan repayment programs for minority faculty. As AACOM increases its activities in the diversity area, we will be working with the colleges of osteopathic medicine to explore initiatives that will expand the post baccalaureate programs offered to underrepresented minority students to prepare them for medical school. We also will be exploring initiatives to assist the colleges of osteopathic medicine in expanding their cadre of minority faculty and increasing programming on diversity issues.

## **Recruiting initiatives:**

AACOM continues to build upon last year's successful multi-medical school recruitment events hosted around the nation by Pre-Health Advisors. In 2007-2008, events were held in California at UC San Diego, University of San Diego, San Diego State University, Occidental College, Pepperdine, Claremont Colleges, Cal State Long Beach, UCLA, USC and American River College; in Nevada at University of Nevada-Las Vegas; in Wisconsin at Marquette, University of Wisconsin-Madison and UW-Milwaukee; in Louisiana at LSU, Southern University, Tulane and Xavier; and in Missouri at St. Louis University and UM-St Louis. Local area visits included American University, Georgetown, University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins, George Mason University, Old Dominion and Hampton University. Additionally, AACOM continues to maintain its presence at events that support and promote a diverse student applicant pool in pursuit of medical education including AED, AMSA, APHA, NAMME, NIS-BKX, NHMA, SACNES, SNMA and NIH events. If your college is interested in hosting a multi-medical school recruitment event, contact Gina Moses (gmoses@aacom.org).

## **Key admissions updates:**

### **Applications Reach All-Time High**

2008 applications to osteopathic medical schools that are part of the AACOMAS application service reached an all-time high, with an increase of 3.4% over the end of the cycle in 2007. Individual applications to colleges totaled 83,392, an increase of 10.18% over the 2007 cycle. As of May 2, 2008 11,849 applicants had submitted applications to the AACOMAS system, surpassing the previous record 11,459 applicants in the 2007 application cycle. Since 1996, the number of available seats for first-year students in the 25 colleges and three branch campuses that are part of the AACOMAS application service has grown from approximately 2,200 to approximately 4,389.

Note: The University of North Texas Health Science Center College of Osteopathic Medicine is not part of the AACOMAS application service and is not included in these class size counts. UNTHSC-COM enrolls 175 new students each year.

## **Admissions Update**

### **Entering Class 2007: Academic profile**

Mean Overall GPA: 3.46 Mean Science 3.36 Mean Non-Science 3.54  
MCAT: BS 8.84 PS 8.20 VR 8.54 Overall MCAT 8.52

Total Applications: 83,392 First Year Matriculants: 4,286 Total Enrollment: 15,533  
Total enrollment in D.O. programs reached 14,409 in the 2006-07 academic year, an increase of 1,003, or 7.5%, from the prior year and an increase of 3,592, or 33%, since the beginning of the 21st century (2000-01 academic year). First-year enrollment grew to 3,908 in 2005-06, an increase of 262, or 7%, in one year and an increase of 34% over 2000-01. The colleges graduated 2,708 D.O.s in 2006 compared to 2,510 in 2001, an increase of 7.9%.

## **Future planning:**

The **2009 Annual AACOM Meeting** will take place at the Marriott Bethesda North Hotel and Conference Center in Maryland, April 15-18. Advisors are welcome to register to attend.

**AACOMAS 2009** application was successfully launched on May, 1, 2008. This is one month earlier than the 2007 cycle. The 2009 cycle is off to a strong start.

The **2009 College Information Book (CIB)** has been significantly enhanced in content to better serve Advisors and their applicants. Advisors will be receiving their copy of the 2009 CIB in June 2008. Additional copies may be purchased for a nominal fee.

The **Advisor Information Center (AIC) portal**, which launched in September 2007, has met with enthusiastic response from Advisors. Matriculation data from 2002-2007 is available in the AIC on behalf of all member colleges. Current 2008 admission cycle data is uploaded each month. Advisors wishing to register for an account may do so at: <http://aic.aacom.org/>

**AACOM's new website, [www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org)**, was launched in November 2007. It is significantly enhanced for quality content and ease of navigation.

A **Recruitment Events Calendar** is available for Advisors and their students to view Open Houses and related admissions events:

<http://www.aacom.org/events/calendar/recruiting/Pages/default.aspx>

Planning is underway by existing colleges and others for over 400 additional first-year places in Osteopathic Medical Schools by 2011.

**Contact information for further information and questions regarding AACOM or AACOMAS:**

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