

Specialty College Liaison Activities with Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

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Why I'm a Pediatrician



The Concept

- At a 2005 American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians (ACOP) Board meeting, the lack of a national organization devoted to osteopathic medical education was noted.
- A model was found in the allopathic profession: COMSEP
 - Founded in 1992
 - Funded by the allopathic medical schools

The Plan

- ACOP Department Chairs consulted
- Challenge: identification of pediatric department chairs
- ACOP supplied administrative assistance
- Presented a proposal to the ACOP Board to form an osteopathic pediatric educators organization

The Plan (Cont.)

- Board proposal - Form a Pediatric Educational Organization to:
 - Develop pediatric educators
 - Allow sharing of ideas
 - Evaluate student needs and opinions
 - Respond to pediatric educational issues
 - Formulate policies and regulations
 - Serve as a liaison between the ACOP and COM

The Plan (Cont.)

- Board Proposal was approved
- Invitation to join the Committee and a proposed committee function survey was sent to identified Pediatric Department Chairs
- Ten osteopathic pediatricians responded, and in late 2005, the **ACOP COM Pediatric Department Chairs Committee** was founded.

Mission

The Committee strives to foster and improve the pediatric educational experience for osteopathic medical students at the COM. In doing so the Committee will:

- Evaluate student needs and their perception of their pediatric education
- Serve as a liaison between the ACOP Board and the COM
- Nominate an ACOP Board Trustee to represent the COM

Mission (Cont.)

- Support student pediatric clubs at the COM, and their affiliation with the ACOP
- Promote the development of pediatric educators and education at the COM
- Share educational methods and means
- Serve as a forum for networking activities

First Meeting

- Shared ideas concerning Core Curriculum and Learning Objectives
- Discussed Pediatric OSCE examinations
- Discussed preceptor tools and development
- Designed and implemented a student survey
- Approved Committee Bylaws and Mission Statement

Student Survey

- Two groups surveyed: #1- 1st and 2nd year OMS; #2- 4th year OMS and Pediatric Residents

- **Highlights of Results:**

Neonatal teaching received the lowest scores

Pediatric education needed more small groups/laboratory sessions

Osteopathic Specialty Societies received strong support, but students wanted more information

Response to Survey

- Shared teaching methods and approaches to the teaching of neonatology during the first 2 academic years
- Sorted surveys by COM attended, and provided anonymous student survey results to appropriate COM educators
- Supported a Portfolio approach to the annual Pediatric Club competition
- Published the complete survey in the ACOP eJournal

Subsequent Activities

- The Committee continues to meet twice a year at ACOP CME or COMSEP meetings.
- Provided input to the Council on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA).
- Developed the Portfolio Design for ACOP Pediatric Clubs at the COM.
- Provided input to the American Osteopathic Board of Pediatrics.
- Obtained ACOP Board approval to earmark a Board Trustee seat for a Pediatric Department Chair

Subsequent Activities (Cont.)

- Network with Osteopathic Residency Trainers
- Presented the Committee concept to the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialty Societies (BOSS)
- Received consultative inquiries from two other osteopathic specialty societies
- Began a Survey concerning pediatric curriculum at the COM, including department strength and clinical rotation didactics
- Continue to share ideas and provide networking opportunities
- Petition COMSEP for full membership for pediatric educators at the COM

The Future

- The Committee has grown to 22 COM Pediatric educators representing 18 COM and their branch campuses.
- Further financial and administrative support will be needed, perhaps, as per the allopathic model.
- Nurturing these types of collaborative organizations will improve osteopathic education, strengthen ties between our osteopathic specialty colleges and educational institutions, and foster stronger ties between our future colleagues and the osteopathic institutions and physicians of today.

- Foy, J.E. “Osteopathic Medical Student and Pediatric Resident Survey: Attitudes Towards COM Pediatric Medical Education and Osteopathic Specialty Societies”
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