Our Purpose

The Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) was established in 1972 as an official council of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) to serve as the official national representative voting voice of osteopathic medical students.

- To assemble student leaders from each college of osteopathic medicine (COM).
- To collaborate on issues affecting all osteopathic medical students.
- To foster the exchange of ideas, information and problem solving affecting individual COMs.
- To effectively communicate and represent the osteopathic medical student perspective to professional and educational organizations including, AACOM, AOA, and other relevant organizations.
- To encourage professional development and leadership among osteopathic medical students.
- To support and promote the principles and pride of osteopathic medicine among osteopathic medical students and the public.

COSGP Blew Through the Windy City

COSGP had its first meeting of the academic school year in Chicago from July 16th to the 18th just prior to the American Osteopathic Association’s House of Delegates. The new Student Government Association (SGA) Presidents and other representatives gathered for three days of meetings composed of school reports, special reports, school discussions, and meetings with our leaders of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA).

The council was also split into committees geared toward providing services for students ranging from Leadership Development, Medical Education, Research, Student Services, Budget and Finances, Global Health, Legislative Affairs and Public Relations. These committees will be meeting throughout the year to help advocate and better osteopathic medical student life.

Did you know?

Last year we created 1,100 new positions within 75 new residency programs.
One Voice: The National Osteopathic Student Caucus

Held for the first time almost twenty years ago, the NOSC is the official forum in which osteopathic medical students can work together to set the official national osteopathic medical student opinion on a given issue. The NOSC continues to serve as a unifying event for osteopathic medical students and influences the AOA House of Delegates, which sets the direction of our profession each year.

This year’s selected resolutions covered a variety of issues, all of which pertained to osteopathic medical students, medical education or was written by an osteopathic medical student. The resolutions included:

- Promoting Use of OMT by Osteopathic Medical Students During Medical School Rotations (Resolution approved at NOSC and HOD)
- Discrimination Against Osteopathic Physicians (Resolution approved at NOSC and approved as amended at HOD)
- Government Funding for Non-AOA or Non-LCME Medical Schools (Resolution approved at NOSC and approved as amended at HOD)
- Implementation of Social Media Guidelines (Resolution approved at NOSC and HOD)

At the end of the AOA House of Delegates, our COSGP national representatives worked very hard, spoke knowledgably and professionally and represented us at every phase of the state delegations and House of Delegates. If the dedication our student government presidents demonstrated is any indication of the future of our profession then we are in good hands!

For more on the NOSC, please go to our youtube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IRiI949pA as it was recorded.

Getting Involved: Make A Difference

As members of your student body, you have the ability to make some incredible changes in your class, school, profession and nation. Through your SGA Presidents you can submit resolutions to the COSGP Legislative Affairs Committee. After council discussion, resolutions can be passed to the AOA House of Delegates through different avenues where it is voted into a national initiative for our profession.

We have a profession, which allows us to do some amazing things quickly! Take advantage of it and find ways to make a difference. Ask your SGA President about some other recent resolutions we fought for on behalf of students.

Going to OMED?

This link will bring you to all the events students may be interested in at OMED:
Discussions on Unified Accreditation System

For a background on the ACGME Unified Accreditation System discussions, please visit http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/Pages/student-faq-august-2013.aspx

AOA Submits Response Opposing Common Program Requirements

On Sept. 9, the AOA submitted a formal response reiterating our opposition to the Common Program Requirements. When the issue emerged in late 2011, our goal was to preserve access to ACGME training programs for DOs, but not at the expense of core principles that protect our distinctiveness and identity.

It remains our goal today, and that’s why we’ve called for the ACGME once again to rescind the proposed Common Program Requirements in its entirety. The ACGME has yet to produce validated evidence to demonstrate the efficacy of the Next Accreditation System over the current ACGME, AOA and Canadian Systems, or the need to exclude DOs who have trained in AOA programs.

If the program requirements are not rescinded for DO graduates, we believe less restrictive alternatives can also be adopted including:

- Sharing more information with ACGME about AOA training and milestones to allow DO graduates as an exception into ACGME residency and fellowship programs after they have trained in an AOA program.
- Allowing program directors and directors of medical education the discretionary authority to make the decision on the best candidates for their programs.
- Accepting COMLEX-USA as a criterion for application to ACGME training programs by DO graduates as it is recognized by state licensing boards in all 50 states and the District of Columbia as the most appropriate instrument for measuring competencies of osteopathic physicians.
- Communicating to residents, programs and the graduate medical education community exactly when the Common Program Requirements will go into effect. Until that time, programs should not deny DO graduates from entering ACGME programs based on the anticipated requirements.

With the physician shortage, an increasing patient base and limited resources to support GME, we hope that ACGME will consider these important points in their continued discussions on the Common Program Requirements.
**NBOME Updates**

- The goal of the NBOME is to ensure all osteopathic physicians are standardized to protect the public.
- COMSAEs are practice COMLEX tests available to students and schools for purchase. There are currently 3 available to students and others available to schools.
- DO NOT SHARE or write test questions within 18 months of taking your boards.
- When making reservations for level 2 PE, on the NBOME website, there is negotiated rates with local hotels and possibly car rentals for your trip to the testing site. Also, there are discounted auto rental rates through your AOA membership.
- Like NBOME on facebook so you can get updates and valid information on the tests.
- NBOME is developing a new system for signing up for the level two exams. This system will be on a rolling basis each month (updates will be given on facebook).
- Coming soon
  - I-phone app for conversion of score into a percentile for level one. This can give a good estimate before the yearly cohort is completed.
  - NRMP website will give you valid information on which specialties use what test for acceptance into their programs.
  - 77% of ACGME Residency directors use COMLEX.
  - 100% of Osteopathic programs use COMLEX.
- Pass rates for COMLEX (updated on website yearly):
  - COMLEX Level 1: 90% of people pass on first time. Passing is 400.
  - COMLEX Level 2 CE: 90% of people pass on first time.
  - COMLEX Level 2 PE: 7 hr clinical skills exams to show competence in 2 domains in Philadelphia. This will be typed after July 2014 (tutorial will be available online). Best way to prepare for this exam is to go to the NBOME website and watch the instructional video.
  - COMLEX Level 3: about 95% of people pass on first time. You must take this before you can begin 3rd year of residency, but is likely taken year 1 or 2.
- COMLEX Level 2 PE will have an electronic SOAP note component.

**Legislative Updates**

- The Institute of Medicine (IOM) has a committee assigned to look at Graduate Medical Education (GME) as a whole. AACOM put forward Dr. Ross Lee (NYIT) to serve on this committee as DO representation and submitted comments to this committee.
- The IOM study will help guide congress in policy creation. This study will likely come out fall 2014.
- Sustainable growth rate (SGR) repeal: This may happen this year due to unusually low cost analysis. AACOM would like congress to consider GME when this reform occurs.
- AACOM Action Alerts are sent out on a regular basis to students that provide a quick way to support the profession’s efforts to help osteopathic medical students and physicians. These take less then a minute to fill out and are very important so keep a look out!
- Student leaders are working with Ray Quintero on creating a website to explain how the ACA will affect students.
Career Compass

Exclusively for osteopathic medical students, postdoctoral trainees, and new physicians, Career Compass is designed to help you achieve your goals at each stage of your career, compare specialties, chart your progress from osteopathic medical school to practice with a viewable timeline with reminders, and allow you to share ideas and advice with your colleagues.

Career Compass will be available online soon and you will be able to customize this tool for where you are in your career path. You can also look at mentorship programs, OGME programs, I-learn mentoring program, advocacy programs, and everything we think students should know. Stay tuned for updates on when this tool is available!

TOUCH Service Hours

TOUCH is the national osteopathic medical student avenue of logging volunteer hours that makes you eligible to win awards each year. Please speak with you SGA President about logging your TOUCH hours!

#liveDO

How do you live the osteopathic philosophy? COSGP is gathering 15-30 second video clips of osteopathic medical students and physicians sharing how they live out the principals of osteopathic medicine. Send in your school’s top video clips to your SGA by September 25th 2013!

AACOM Multi-COM Events

Each year, forums are held across the country for prospective students, health professions advisors, and the general public who are interested in learning more about osteopathic medicine and osteopathic medical education. COSGP and AACOM ask for osteopathic medical students to come and represent their schools at these events. All AACOM recruitment events are posted on the AACOM site: http://www.aacom.org/events/calendar/Pages/recruitingevents.aspx

The AACOM Multi-COM events will cover the following areas:
Providence, RI - Brown University
Las Vegas, NV – UNLV & OMED- Pre-SOMA Event
North CA – SFSU, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, Cal St Sacramento, UC Davis/AMSA Event
Southern California - 9 campuses in 5 days!
Central Pennsylvania – Dickinson, Gettysburg, Franklin & Marshall

Any interested students need to first speak with your COM’s Admission/Student Affairs Director go get permission, and anyone else, that needs to approve this from your COM. Any costs associated with travel will need to be discussed in advance with your COM. Once you have received approval, please let Gina Moses know at gmoses@aacom.org

We Are Here To Help You!

COSGP wants to know how we can serve you! We are always in continual conversations with SGA Presidents, Deans, AACOM, AOA and other affiliates. Within our reports and resources that we send to your SGA Presidents, we hope to educate you on important issues that impact student life and our future!

A Council of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)

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