

# HEALTH POLICY FELLOWSHIP GRADUATES

## The Class of 2005



Murray Berkowitz, D.O. MPH, MBA, MHA; Jan Zieren, D.O., MPH; Dee Grimes, MBA; Brenda Connolly, D.O.; Frank Prerost, Ph.D.; John Bodell, D.O.; Pablo Calzada, D.O., MPH; Carl Bynum, D.O.; and David Bitonte, D.O., MBA at HPF Graduation September 2005 in Washington, DC. (not pictured: David Elkowitz, D.O. and Greg Hill, D.O.).

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**Murray R. Berkowitz, DO, MA, MS, MPH**  
**Crofton, Maryland**

Dr. Murray R. Berkowitz received his D.O. degree from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery at what is now the Des Moines University Osteopathic Medical Center. He recently completed the requirements for the Master of Public Health degree at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, Maryland. His graduate medical education was completed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC, and at the Navy Clinic, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. He is currently board eligible in Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine/Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and is completing the requirements for board eligibility in General Preventive Medicine/Public Health. Dr. Berkowitz earned Master of Arts and Master of Science degrees from Columbia University, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in engineering at the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. He also did advanced studies and research at the Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics at Oxford University (United Kingdom).

Dr. Berkowitz is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, American Academy of Osteopathy, Maryland Association of Osteopathic Physicians, Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, American Osteopathic Academy of Medical Informatics, and American Medical Informatics Association. He served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Maryland Association of Osteopathic Physicians in 2002-2003 and served on AOA House of Delegates in 2002. He currently serves on the Osteopathic Diagnosis and Treatment Education Committee of the AAO and has just been appointed Chair of the Medical Informatics and Information Systems Committee of the AAO. He previously served as Vice President (1992-1993) and President (1993-1994) of the Des Moines Chapter of AMOPS.

Dr. Berkowitz currently works at the State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Community Health Administration in Baltimore, Maryland and is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Computer and Information Sciences at Towson University, Maryland. He was previously a Visiting Professor in the Department of Computer and Information Sciences at Towson University, and had a part-time private osteopathic medicine practice in Arlington, Virginia. Prior to that, Dr. Berkowitz served on active military duty as a Medical Corps Officer in the United States Army. He previously served in numerous assignments in the US Army and USAF. Dr. Berkowitz is a disabled veteran, medically separated from the military due to service-connected disabilities. He was a military aviator and parachutist and holds the Master Space Badge and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification badge. He has twenty-six military awards and decorations.

Dr. Berkowitz is a published author and speaker with over sixty manuscripts, papers, and presentations. He has actively consulted in the area of Bioinformatics and Medical Informatics, as well as the design of Computer Systems Architectures and Database Systems. He has been a speaker at Osteopathic Conferences and Convocations.

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**David A. Bitonte, DO, MBA**  
**Louisville, Ohio**

Dr. Bitonte received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1980. In 1976, he graduated cum laude from the University of Dayton with a Bachelor of Science degree. Dr. Bitonte completed a one year rotating internship at Doctors Hospital, Columbus, Ohio in 1981. He also completed an anesthesiology residency at the University of Pittsburgh and Warren General Hospital, Warren, Ohio, in 1984. In 1987, Dr. Bitonte completed a Pain Therapy Fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. In 2003 he received a Masters in Business Administration from Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.

Currently, Dr. Bitonte is President-Elect of the Ohio Osteopathic Association. He is past president of the American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists. He is currently delegate to the American Osteopathic Association and the Ohio State Medical Association and past president of the Stark County Medical Society and Eighth District Academy of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Bitonte is board certified in anesthesiology. In 1994, he became a Fellow in the American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists. He is a member of the American Society of Anesthesiology, the American Academy of Pain Management, the Ohio Pain Initiative, the American Health Quality Association, and the American College of Physician Executives.

Dr. Bitonte is Medical Director with Ohio KePRO, the Medicare quality improvement organization for Ohio serving 1.8 million beneficiaries under contract with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Previously, Dr. Bitonte served as Chief of Anesthesiology at Alliance Community Hospital, Alliance, Ohio. He also served on the Alliance Community Hospital Board of Trustees as well as having served as President of the Alliance Community Foundation Board. While at Warren General Hospital, he was a staff anesthesiologist and participated in the education of residents and interns.

Sponsorship of Dr. Bitonte for the Health Policy Fellowship is shared by Ohio KePRO and the Ohio Osteopathic Association.

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**John E. Bodell, DO  
Trenton, Michigan**

John E. Bodell, D.O., graduated from the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1971, and is currently the president of the KCOM Michigan Alumni Association. Dr. Bodell completed his residency at Riverside and Detroit Osteopathic Hospitals. Dr. Bodell is board certified in general surgery. He completed a Fellowship in cosmetic surgery in 1992, and is a Fellow in the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

Dr. Bodell practices as a general surgeon and cosmetic surgeon at Henry Ford Hospital - Wyandotte and Southshore, and is president of the Southshore Ambulatory Center for Surgery in Trenton. Dr. Bodell serves as regional and assistant dean for KCOM. From 1995 until last year, he held the position of vice president of medical affairs at Henry Ford/Riverside Osteopathic Hospital in Trenton, Michigan. He served as Hospice Medical Director for Arbor Hospice for ten years. Dr. Bodell supervises a student/resident free clinic and takes medical students/residents to Haiti on a medical mission each year.

Dr. Bodell is a member of the Great Lakes Academy of Osteopathy, the Wayne County Osteopathic Society (president and chairs), the Michigan Osteopathic Association (Board of Trustees and Secretary), and the American Osteopathic Association (delegate and ad hoc committee). He has served as chair of the department of surgery and as a member the credentials and ethics committee at Riverside and Seaway hospitals. He is on the education committee at Henry Ford/Wyandotte General hospital.

The Michigan Osteopathic Association sponsors Dr. Bodell's participation in the Health Policy Fellowship.

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**Carl G. Bynum, DO, MPH  
Columbia, Missouri**

Dr. Bynum received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1975. He graduated from Central State University in 1971 with a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry. He completed a one-year rotating internship at Oklahoma Osteopathic Hospital (now Tulsa Regional Medical Center) in 1976. Dr. Bynum received a Master of Public Health degree from St. Louis University School of Public Health in 1992. He is board certified in Family Medicine and Occupational/Preventive Medicine by the American Osteopathic Association.

He was in family practice for twenty years with the last seventeen years in Jefferson City, Missouri, before starting the occupational medicine clinic at St. Mary's (Jefferson City) hospital in 1994, serving as the medical director. In 1997 he was hired as the Principal Clinical Coordinator for MissouriPRO, the Missouri Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, in Jefferson City (now in Columbia, Missouri). He became one of two medical directors for this organization in 2001 and still serves in that capacity.

Dr. Bynum is a member of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, the Missouri Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, and the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOPS). He is the immediate past president of MAOPS, and current chair of the Wetzel Foundation and co-chair of the Health Information Technology Committee. Dr. Bynum is a member of the American Osteopathic Academy of Medical Informatics and serves as the member representative to the AOA's Council on Osteopathic Specialty Societies. He is also a board of trustee member of the A.T. Still University of Health Sciences and the Missouri Association of Long-Term Care Physicians. He serves on multiple Missouri public health committees including the Advisory Committee for Communicable Disease Prevention and Bioterrorism Response, the Show Me Health Women, and the Missouri Department of Health Managed Care Advisory Committee. In addition, he has been a member of the Missouri Hospital Association Task Force on Health Care Quality since 1999.

MissouriPRO sponsors Dr. Bynum's participation in the Health Policy Fellowship.

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**Pablo J. Calzada, DO, MPH**  
**North Miami Beach, Florida**

Dr. Calzada earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree at NOVA Southeastern University in 1993. He completed his internship in the US Navy at the Naval Hospital, Jacksonville, Florida, where he was voted Intern of the Year. Dr. Calzada completed his residency as a civilian at the St Vincent's Medical Center in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1999. He remains a ready reservist in the Navy, and serves as temporary faculty during active duty. Dr. Calzada earned a Master of Public Health degree at the University of South Florida.

Dr. Calzada worked in private practice while completing his public health degree. In 2001, he became Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Florida College of Medicine. Recently he has moved to a position in the Department of Family Medicine at NOVA Southeastern University.

Dr. Calzada is a Diplomate in the American Board of Family Practice. He is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Medical Association, the Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, and the American Public Health Association. Dr. Calzada has published numerous articles relating to ophthalmology.

Dr. Calzada's participation in the Health Policy Fellowship is sponsored by NOVA Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

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**Brenda J. Connolly, DO**  
**Long Beach, New York**

Dr. Connolly earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1998. She completed both her internship and residency at Long Beach Medical Center, Long Beach, New York. Dr. Connolly is board certified by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. Prior to pursuing a medical education, Dr. Connolly earned a Bachelors of Science Degree in Nursing in 1989, and worked as a critical care nurse and nurse manager at Queen Emma Hospital, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dr. Connolly serves on the Board of Trustees, Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators; she serves as Master Trainer, American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians; and she is on the Committee on Procedural Excellence and Committee on Special Interests, American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

She earned the Intern of the Year award and the Resident of the Year award from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Long Beach Medical Center, respectively.

Dr. Connolly is currently Director of Medical Education, Chief Academic Officer, Internship Program Director, and Chair of Family Practice at Long Beach Medical Center. The Medical Center sponsors Dr. Connolly's participation in the Health Policy Fellowship.

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**David E. Elkowitz, DO**  
**Old Westbury, New York**

Dr. Elkowitz received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1997. He graduated from Norwich University/ Military College of Vermont in 1989 with a B.A. in political science and a minor in public health studies. He completed a four-year combined residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at North Shore University Hospital, in Manhasset, New York, in 2000. He also served as chief resident during the last two years of his residency. Dr. Elkowitz then went on to complete a surgical pathology fellowship at North Shore University Hospital in 2001.

Dr. Elkowitz was an attending pathologist and director of autopsy service at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, New York, where he also served on the graduate medical education committee. Dr. Elkowitz is currently an assistant professor in the department of Biomedical Science at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury, New York. He has served on the Dean's council, admissions committee, and curriculum committee. He is a member of the academic senate, serving as president in 2003-2004. Dr. Elkowitz was awarded Mentor of the Year at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2004 and was a finalist for American Osteopathic Association Educator of the Year in 2004.

Dr. Elkowitz's sponsor for the Health Policy Fellowship is the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine.

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**Dee H. Grimes, MBA**  
**Colorado Springs, Colorado**

Dee Grimes received her Master of Business Administration degree with a concentration in Technology Management from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs in 1998.

She currently serves as Executive Director of the Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation. The foundation's mission is to provide medical education and medical care to meet community needs. The foundation promotes quality osteopathic medical education for the medical student, intern, resident, fellow, faculty, and practicing physician. The foundation also provides care to underserved geriatric patients by providing functional independence maintenance and life style management counseling. Prior to being appointed executive director, Ms. Grimes served as operations manager for the same foundation.

Appointments include president of the National Association of Osteopathic Foundations, a membership organization of foundations supporting osteopathic medicine; past president of the Community Health Partnership, a collaborative organization of the many healthcare players in the local area focusing on medical issues; and member of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Ms. Grimes serves on numerous committees and task forces supporting innovative approaches to improving medical care on local, state and national levels.

The Colorado Springs Osteopathic Foundation sponsors Ms. Grimes' participation in the Health Policy Fellowship.

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**Gregory Hill, DO**  
**Akron, Ohio**

Gregory Hill, D.O., earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1986. He completed his internship at Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, in 1986, followed by a residency in orthopedic surgery at the same hospital from 1987-1991. Dr. Hill completed a fellowship in hand and upper extremity surgery and microsurgical reconstruction at the University of Buffalo, Buffalo, New York, in 1992.

Dr. Hill became board certified in orthopedic surgery by the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery (AOBOS) in 1994, and earned a Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) in hand surgery from AOBOS in 1998. Dr. Hill is currently program director for the orthopedic surgery residency at Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital, where he also serves on the graduate medical education committee. He is immediate past president of medical staff, Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital. Dr. Hill has served on the Board of Trustees at Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital and has also served as president of the hand section of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics.

Dr. Hill's awards include Outstanding Orthopedic Surgeon 2003, Department of Orthopedics, Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital, and Outstanding Specialty Physician, Centers for Osteopathic Research and Education (CORE), Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Hill is a member of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics (AOAO), American Osteopathic Association (AOA), Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA), American Society of Surgery of the Hand (ASSH), American Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS), Ohio Army National Guard (ONGA), American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgeons (AOBOS), and the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.

Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital sponsors Dr. Hill's participation in the Health Policy Fellowship.

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**Frank J. Prerost, Ph.D.**  
**Downers Grove, Illinois**

Frank J. Prerost received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in clinical psychology from DePaul University in 1975. He earned his Master of Arts in clinical psychology from DePaul University in 1973. Previously he received his Bachelor of Science degree in behavioral sciences from the University of Illinois in 1970. He completed his internship in clinical child psychology at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Prerost is a licensed clinical psychologist in Illinois. He is certified by the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology and is a certified bereavement counselor through the American Academy of Bereavement.

Dr. Prerost was elected to two terms as Chair of the Academic Section of the Illinois Psychological Association and served for three years on the Executive Council of that organization. He was the editor of *Academically Speaking* and consulting editor for the following professional journals: *Psychological Reports*, *Personality and Social Behavior*, and *Psychology of Women*. He is an item writer and item reviewer for the NBOME. In 2003, he received the Littlejohn Award from Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in recognition of his service activities.

Currently, Dr. Prerost is professor and program director of the department of Behavioral Medicine at Midwestern University and adjunct clinical professor in the department of Family Medicine at Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is also professor of physician assistant studies at Midwestern University. In addition, Dr. Prerost is the director of the Midwestern Geriatric Education Center, which is one of thirty-one federally funded geriatric centers in the United States and which has a mandate to provide continuing education to health care professionals in Illinois. Dr. Prerost also serves as program director for the Doctor of Clinical Psychology Program at Midwestern University. Before coming to Midwestern University, he was a professor of psychology and gerontology at Western Illinois University and served as director of Interdisciplinary Studies.

His participation in the Health Policy Fellowship is sponsored by Midwestern University/CCOM.

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**Jan D. Zieren, DO, MPH**  
**Phoenix, Arizona**

Dr. Zieren received her Doctor of Osteopathy degree from the Oklahoma State College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1980. After completing a rotating internship program at Phoenix General Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona, she worked one year as an Emergency Medicine physician at the hospital before pursuing her career in family medicine. She was certified by the Osteopathic Board of Family Practice in 1988 and received her Fellow award in 1993. She had acquired her Bachelor of Science Degree from Indiana State University in 1972 and her Masters of Public Health in Health Administration from the University of Oklahoma -Health Science Center in 1973.

Involvement in hospital committees at Phoenix General Hospital led to serving as the Chief of Staff in 1987. She also became a member of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA) and the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP). Committee work for these organizations and the Arizona ACOFP over several years has earned her a position as board member for all three groups. Dr. Zieren has attended the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) House of Delegates for many years representing Arizona. She has chaired the Department of Family Medicine at Phoenix General Hospital and is presently chairman of the department at John C. Lincoln – North Mountain Hospital in Phoenix. She was appointed a term as a member of the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine & Surgery (1992 – 1996). She has continually served as either a physician board member or medical director for nursing homes, home care agencies, and foster group homes, and currently is the physician member of the Home Health Advisory Board for Nightingale Nurses, Inc. in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dr. Zieren has practiced family medicine in Phoenix her entire career, the last half with another osteopathic family physician in north central Phoenix. Medical students rotate with her almost every month, usually from Midwestern University - Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The AOMA co-sponsors Dr. Zieren for her participation as a member of the eleventh class of the Health Policy Fellowship.

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John Bodell, D.O., KCOM medical student volunteers, and a Haitian woman in St Louis De Nord, Haiti, January 2005.