

HEALTH POLICY FELLOWSHIP GRADUATES

HPF Class of 2011



Front row: Alissa Craft, D.O., MBA; Michele Dodman, D.O., MBA; Michelle Mendez, D.O.; Joseph Coffman, D.O.; Moses Mukai, D.O.; Robert Schneider, D.O.; Bill Blazey, D.O. Back Row: Raul Garcia Rodriguez, D.O. (deferred to HPF Class of 2013); Jonathon Kirsch, D.O.; Greg Silberg, D.O. (deferred); David Coffey, D.O.; Kathy Jackson, D.O.; and Brian Kessler, D.O.



Alissa Craft, DO, MBA
Corvallis, Oregon

Graduation PowerPoint: [Comparative Clinical Effectiveness Research – Is it Rational or Rationing?](#)

Dr. Craft received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in the Centennial Class of 1992. She completed a pediatric residency at Phoenix Children's Hospital in Phoenix, AZ where she served as chief resident in 1995-96. Dr. Craft later went on to complete a fellowship in neonatal perinatal medicine at the University of California in San Diego, CA. She received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix in 1999. She is board certified in General Pediatrics and Neonatal Perinatal Medicine.

Dr. Craft worked in a full time clinical practice at Phoenix Children's Hospital and Banner Desert Medical Center (now Cardon Children's Medical Center) for eight years before moving into medical education. In 2007 she became Chair of Pediatrics at Midwestern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. In 2009, Dr. Craft relocated to Oregon to serve as the first Director of Medical Education for the new Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education programs at Samaritan Health Services.

Dr. Craft is a member of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American Academy of Pediatrics, and AODME. She also serves as Chair of the Institutional Review Board for Samaritan Health Services and is Past International President of Phi Delta Epsilon Medical Fraternity. Dr. Craft completed the Costin Institute for Osteopathic Medical Educators in 2008.



William R. Blazey, D.O.
Old Westbury, New York

Graduation PowerPoint: [Patient Centered Medical Home as an Efficient Model of Care Delivery](#)

Dr. Blazey received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2005. He graduated from the State University of New York at Binghamton with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2001. He completed an Osteopathic Internship and Family Practice residency at Long Beach Medical Center (Long Beach, New York) in 2008. He is board certified in Family Practice and Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians.

Dr. Blazey is a member of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP), the New York State Osteopathic Medical Society (NYSOMS), and the New York State Chapter of the ACOFP. Currently he serves as the secretary of New York State Chapter of the ACOFP. He also is an active member of the Public Health and Wellness Committee for the ACOFP. He serves as the vice-president of the NYCOM Alumni Association. He is a member of the NYSOMS Program Committee.

He is an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine for the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, New York Institute of Technology. Since 2008, he has developed in roles spanning clinical practice, medical education, and research. He serves on the Community Outreach and Curriculum committees. He provides seminars on wellness and navigation of the healthcare system for underserved communities in Nassau and Suffolk counties. His services are utilized by the Family Practice Residency at Long Beach Medical Center as preceptor for their evening clinic.

New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, New York Institute of Technology sponsors Dr. Blazey's participation in the Health Policy Fellowship.



Brian A. Kessler, D.O.
Bouie's Creek, North Carolina

Graduation PowerPoint: [The Impact of Accountable Care Organizations on Healthcare Delivery, the Primary Care Physician and the Medicare Patient](#)

Dr. Kessler is a 1998 graduate of Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Saint Vincent College in 1994 with a B.S. in Biology. He completed a one-year traditional rotating internship at Delaware County Memorial Hospital in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania in 1999 and an Osteopathic Family Medicine Residency in 2001 at South Pointe Hospital in Warrensville Heights, Ohio. Dr. Kessler is board certified in Family Medicine by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Practice (AOBFP).

Since 2001, Dr. Kessler has been practicing full spectrum osteopathic family medicine in Twinsburg, Ohio. During this time, he has been the team physician for Twinsburg High School and serves as the team physician for St. Peter Chanel High School in Bedford, Ohio. In addition to his practice, Dr Kessler is the Director of Osteopathic Medicine and Chief Academic Officer at South Pointe Hospital. He serves on the Medical Staff Executive Committee and is an active member in the Department of Family Medicine. He has served as the past chair of the Family Practice Department and is adjunct faculty in the Family Medicine resident clinic. He continues as a preceptor for Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OUCOM) and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) and is a clinical associate professor in Family Medicine at OUCOM.

Dr. Kessler is a member of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP), the Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA), the Cleveland Academy of Osteopathic Medicine (CAOM), Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (AODME), the American Association of Medical Review Officers (AAMRO) and the State Chapter of the ACOFP. He is the past president of the ACOFP state chapter and CAOM. He also remains active in the OOA, serving on the executive board as treasurer and as the past District VII (Cleveland) trustee. He is an Ohio delegate to both the AOA and ACOFP House of Delegates. Currently, he is the vice chair of Centers for Osteopathic Research and Education (CORE) Academic Steering Committee (CASC) for OUCOM and president of the Ohio Osteopathic Directors of Medical Education as member of the CORE.

Dr Kessler's participation in the Health Policy Fellowship is sponsored by South Pointe Hospital and the Ohio Osteopathic Association.

David Coffey, DO, FAAO Montgomery, Alabama

Graduation PowerPoint: [Maintaining Access to Care for Mentally Ill Populations](#)

Dr. Coffey is a 1984 graduate of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM). Until 1992, he was in teaching service at Metropolitan Hospital and the PCOM hospital while maintaining a private practice. At PCOM, Dr. Coffey served as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine and as a member of the Admissions Committee. He also served as President of the Pennsylvania Academy of Osteopathy from 1988 to 1992. Dr. Coffey is in private practice in Montgomery, Alabama and is affiliated with Jackson Hospital and Noland Hospital of Montgomery. Dr. Coffey currently serves on the Medical Executive Committee and is Credentials Committee Chair at Noland Hospital. He also serves as Clinical Assistant Professor in OMM for the Alabama students attending AT Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona.

Dr. Coffey is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the American Academy of Osteopathy, Alabama Osteopathic Medical Association, Medical Association of the State of Alabama, Montgomery Medical Society, American College of Osteopathic Family Practitioners, Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, and The Cranial Academy.

Dr. Coffey is board certified in Family Practice, Neuromuscular Medicine, and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, and has earned a certificate of Competency from The Cranial Academy. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Osteopathy and has served on the Fellowship and External Fund Raising Committees. He is a Director on the Cranial Academy Foundation Board and received the Honorary Degree of Fellow of the Cranial Academy in 2008. Dr. Coffey's paper, "C1 Somatic Dysfunction and Unilateral Retro-orbital Cephalgia," was published in the June 2005 edition of the AAO Journal. He serves as an OMM evaluator for the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners and was elected as Trustee of the AAO in 2009. Dr. Coffey represented the Alabama Osteopathic Medical Association as their State Delegate at the AOA delegates meeting in 2009 and 2010.

Dr. Coffey has worked to provide medical relief to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Siberia. In February 2000, he directed a medical relief effort in Kauda, Sudan, following the bombing of a church school, in which nineteen first and second grade children and their teacher were killed. In March 2003, Dr. Coffey was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Bishop Gassis Sudan Relief Fund, and was inducted by the Vatican as a Papal Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Dr. Coffey has served as team physician, coach, and President of the Philadelphia Wrestling Association. Dr. Coffey received the United States Wrestling Federation Urban Achievement Award for distinguished service to urban youth.

Dr. Coffey assumed the office of **President of the American Academy of Osteopathy** (AAO) at the President's Banquet during the annual AAO Convocation in Orlando, Fla., March 23, 2013. He will serve a one-year term.



Joseph M. Coffman, D.O.
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Graduation PowerPoint: [Childhood Obesity and the Role Schools Can Play](#)

Dr. Coffman received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1995. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a B.A. in Journalism in 1991. He completed a general rotating internship followed by a family practice residency ending in 1995 at Grandview Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Coffman is board certified in Family Medicine by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. His wife, Dr. Darci Coffman, also completed her training at Grandview Hospital and is a board certified family physician.

Dr. Coffman has been in private practice in Oklahoma for twelve years. He currently is employed by the Saint Francis Health System working as a family physician at Warren Clinic in south Tulsa. He has served in leadership and administrative roles during his employment at Saint Francis such as a Medical Quality Committee member and is currently the chairperson for the Ideas and Innovations Committee. He has been active in the osteopathic community in Tulsa serving as President of the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine Alumni Association after four years of board membership. For three years he sat on the Osteopathic Founders Foundation Board, a local organization aiming to support osteopathic medical education and enhance the public's understanding of osteopathic medicine. Dr. Coffman's professional memberships include the American Osteopathic Association, the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, and the Tulsa Osteopathic Medical Society. Currently he is a member of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians and previously he served as the president of the Oklahoma State Society American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Saint Francis Health System is a sponsor for Dr. Coffman's participation in the Health Policy Fellowship.



Michele K. Dodman, D.O., MBA, FACOI
Detroit, Michigan

Graduation PowerPoint: [Mandating Communication within Accountable Care Organizations in the Medicare Shared Savings Program](#)

Michele Dodman started her career in combat boots when she joined the army as a conscientious objector, and ended up in a combat support unit being trained as a medic. Upon discharge (honorable), she started over and entered Community College, since military credits didn't transfer to civilian colleges. She earned her doctorate in osteopathic medicine from University of New England in 1988 and earned an MBA in health care administration from Oakland University in 2001.

Upon completion of a rotating internship and an internal medicine residency in Lansing, Michigan, she worked a year as chief medical resident while waiting to begin her fellowship in gastroenterology. She studied hepatobiliary disease at the Royal Free hospital in London, England under the tutelage of Professor Dame Shelia Sherlock.

She served as director of the primary care ambulatory clerkship through Michigan State University working with third and fourth year medical students. During this time she earned two clinical fellowships in Clinical Teaching and Master Teacher through Michigan State University. She served as program director for internal medicine, and was the medical director of The Health Center, a multi-specialty resident clinic.

Currently she's a member of the senior leadership team at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital and serves as chair of the Medical Staff Quality Leadership Council, as well as chair of the internal medicine service line and director of the endoscopy department.



**Kathy M. Jackson, D.O., MA
Washington, DC**

Graduation PowerPoint: [Increasing Access to Comprehensive Care for People with Severe Mental Illness](#)

Dr. Jackson received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM). She graduated from California State University-Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) with a Masters of Arts in Biology with an emphasis in Immunology. She earned a B.A. in biology from CSUDH and B.A. in Spanish from the University of Southern California. Dr. Jackson completed Disaster Response Training in the Ready Responder Program in the United States Public Health Service, and completed her Fellowship in Medical Education and Faculty Development from MSUCOM State Wide Campus System (SCS). She completed a Residency in Family Medicine MSUCOM/Ingham Medical Center, and Internship Henry Ford Bi-County Community Hospital. She is board certified in Family Medicine by the American Osteopathic Association.

Dr. Jackson practiced full time primary care for the nation's most vulnerable populations in the underserved areas of Detroit, the District of Columbia, southeastern Missouri, and eastern Tennessee, before serving as a Medical Advisor for the National Health Service Corps, Rockville, Maryland. She instructed Clinical Skills at MSUCOM and continues as Clinical Assistant Professor. Dr. Jackson serves as a LCDR in the United States Public Health Service and continues a limited clinical practice. She serves as a clinical physician in medical missions in Thailand.

Dr. Jackson is a member of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), Commissioned Officers Association (COA), and Association Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS), Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

She has served on the National Incident Response Team # 7 (IRCT #7) in the Command Center of the United States Public Health Service Emergency Service Function#8 (ESF#8) for Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma and Rita. She has served as Deputy to the Chief Medical officer of Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPAR) Hurricane IKE. She has earned the Outstanding Unit Service Award and Crisis Response Service Awards in 2006 and 2008.



**Jonathon R. Kirsch, D.O., AOBNMM
Gilbert, Arizona**

Graduation PowerPoint: [Graduating Today for a Healthier Tomorrow: The Healthcare Impact of Raising the Arizona Compulsory School Attendance Age to 18](#)

Dr. Kirsch received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1996. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1990 with a B.S. in Zoology. He completed a one-year rotating internship at Midwestern University's Arizona - GME Consortium at Community Hospital Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona. He completed a five-year practice track for board certification in 2003 and is board certified in Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine by the American Osteopathic Association. Dr. Kirsch was also board certified in Homeopathic Medicine by the Arizona Board of Homeopathic Medical Examiners in 1998.

Dr. Kirsch is a member of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA), the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO), the Arizona Academy of Osteopathy, and the Cranial Academy. Dr. Kirsch has served on the AACOM Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles since 2006. He is an Alternate Delegate to the AOA House of Delegates from the state of Arizona, and served on the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic History and Identity. He has been involved with the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA) as a District President, and is a Member of the House of Delegates, Public Awareness Committee, Professional Education Committee, Political Action Committee, and is a Member-at-Large of the AOMA Board of Trustees. He is also a member of the board of the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Osteopathy (AZ-AAO).

Dr. Kirsch has held his current appointment as Assistant Professor and Director of Osteopathic Principles and Practice at A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona since 2006. He began private practice in Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine in 1999 and practiced full time until 2006, maintaining a part time NMM/OMM practice to the present. He was a Staff Physician in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine from at the Arizona Centers for Health and Medicine in Phoenix, Arizona, from 1997 to 1999.

The Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association sponsors Dr. Kirsch's participation in the Health Policy Fellowship.



Michelle R. Mendez, DO
Jacksonville, FL

Graduation PowerPoint: [Prescription Drug Overdose Death: What Impact Will Florida HB 7095 have on this Epidemic?](#)

Dr. Mendez was awarded her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree in 1996 from Nova-Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She completed a three-year residency in Family Medicine at the U.S. Naval Hospital, Jacksonville, FL. Her training was augmented by a two-year tour aboard the USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67), where she served as the General Medical Officer as well as the Women's Health Officer for a crew of over 5,000 men and women. She is Board Certified by the American Board of Family Medicine, having recently completed her first re-certification examination cycle.

She is currently in solo practice as the owner of Mendez Family Care, and employs two part time Nurse Practitioners to assist in providing full spectrum osteopathic family medicine in suburban Jacksonville. Before going solo in 2006, she was an employee physician of Family Medical Centers after a stint with Baptist Primary Care in Ponte Vedra Beach. She completed her military service in the U. S. Navy in 2003 after serving at Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan, in support of more than 3,000 active duty marines, family members and local citizens as an attending physician and a supervisory physician for eight flight surgeons and two General Medical Officers as well as a cadre of physician assistants and Independent Duty Corpsmen. She currently is also a Clinical Assistant Professor for the University of Alabama – Birmingham, and the University of North Florida's Nurse practitioner training programs, as well as a clinical preceptor for 3rd and 4th year Osteopathic Medical Students from NSU-COM and LECOM-Bradenton.

Dr. Mendez is the Past Chair of the AOA Council of New Physicians in Practice (the former Council of Young Physicians). She currently serves as the Chair of the Council of Women's Health Issues, Vice Chair of Council on Membership, member at large of the council on Governmental Affairs, and is a Key Contact Physician for the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association. She has served as a delegate to the AOA House of Delegates for the last four years and actively participates in DO Day on Capitol Hill as well as Osteopathic Medicine Day in Tallahassee, having served as a Clinic Physician for the Florida State Senate for the last two years.

The Florida Osteopathic Medical Association sponsors Dr. Mendez for the Health Policy Fellowship.



Moses T. Mukai, Jr., D.O., FACOG, FAOCOG
Apple Valley, California

Graduation PowerPoint: [Can Non-Physician Providers Give Quality Care, Increase Access and Lower the Cost of Primary Care?](#)

Dr. Mukai graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1980 with his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. He received his B.A. in biology from California State University, Fullerton in 1976. In 1981 he completed a one-year internship at Lettermen Army Medical Center. Residency was completed in 1986 at Madigan Army Medical Center. He also completed a fellowship in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery at Morristown Memorial Hospital in 2007. He is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology by the American Osteopathic Association and the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

He has practiced Obstetrics and Gynecology for over 24 years. During this time period he has served on the board of directors of a Domestic Violence shelter from 1992-1995. Dr. Mukai served as medical director of Healthy Beginnings, a midwifery group to care for complicated and uninsured pregnant women from 1995-1997. Due to this achievement he was awarded St. Mary Medical Center's Values in Action Award. He held the office of Secretary-Treasurer in 1998 and Vice-President in 1999 for Lincoln County Society in Tennessee. He also was voted outstanding instructor by the residents in Family Practice at Silas B. Hayes Army Community Hospital in 1988. During his residency he was awarded Outstanding Resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology Laparoscopy in 1986 and awarded Resident Paper in 1984 by American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopist.

Dr. Mukai has finished his voluntary service to his country as a military doctor on active duty since 9/11. He is now the President of St. Mary Specialty Clinic in Apple Valley, CA. During his time in the US Army he was the Assistant Chief in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Division Chief of Urogynecologist at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. During a sixth month voluntary assignment, he served as Deputy Commander of Clinical Services at Ft. Mc Coy, Wisconsin. Prior to the Army sending Dr. Mukai to his Urogynecology fellowship, he served in Mosul, Iraq, in charge of an Aide Station where a suicide bomber attacked the dining facility in his camp. He treated over fifty casualties that day. Prior to his assignment to Mosul, Iraq with the 1/25th Stryker Brigade he was part of the teaching staff at Madigan Army Medical Center. Before 9/11 Dr. Mukai practiced obstetrics and gynecology in Waupun, Wisconsin; Fayetteville, Tennessee; and Apple Valley, California. He has been a member of the Osteopathic Association for over thirty years and a member of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology for over twenty-five years. He is a member of American Osteopathic College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, a member of the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists, and American Urogynecologic Society.



**Robert P. Schneider, D.O., FAAFP
Kirksville, Missouri**

Graduation PowerPoint: [Increasing Access to Dental Care](#)

Dr. Schneider received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1991. He graduated from the Lindenwood Colleges in 1976 with a B.S. in Psychology and in 1978 with a B.S. in Health Administration. He graduated from St. Louis University in 1980 with a Certificate from the Physician Assistant Program. He completed a one-year rotating internship at Still Regional Medical Center (now Capitol Regional Medical Center) in 1992. He then completed six months as a surgical resident at Des Moines General Hospital (now a skilled nursing facility nursing home) in 1992. He finished a Family Medicine Residency at Blessing Hospital in 1995 before opening a practice in Memphis, Missouri. He is board certified in Family Medicine by the American Board of Family Medicine. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Practice.

Dr. Schneider is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, and the Missouri Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. He is also a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians, and is a Director at large for the (MAFP) and a member of the Education Commission. He is a member of the American Association of Primary Care Endoscopy and the American College of Physician Executives. He is also a board member of the Kirksville Osteopathic Alumni Association and is on the executive board of the Heartland Physicians Corporation (a local IPA). He serves as a Campus Group Advisor at KCOM for Sigma Sigma Phi and the Christian Medical and Dental Association.

Dr. Schneider was a Physician Assistant in St. Louis, Missouri at the Venereal Disease Prevention and Control Clinic, and in Vermillion, South Dakota, at the Student Health Service for a total of seven years before beginning medical school. After completing his Family Medicine residency, he began a practice in Memphis, Missouri. He was involved in the full scope of Family Practice for thirteen years. He spent the next year practicing in New Zealand for Global Medical Services. He has returned to his alma mater (KCOM) as an Assistant Professor in OMM, faculty in the Family Medicine residency, and Medical Director of the Gutensohn Clinic Associates.

ATSU-KCOM Class of 2013 has voted Robert Schneider, D.O., FAAFP, the winner of this year's **Leonard Tow Humanism in Teaching Award** presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation.



The HPF Class of 2011 enjoying a group assignment in Mesa, Arizona.



Class of 2011 visits Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, host of the HPF Vulnerable Populations seminar.

