AACOM
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Osteopathic Health Policy Fellowship

Class of 2021-22



Craig B. Clark, DO

Dr. Clark practiced cardiology for 15 years in academic and private practice settings prior to his current position as clinical research medical director at Novartis Pharmaceutical Company, where he provides leadership in global drug development trials in the cardiovascular and renal therapeutic areas.

Dr. Clark received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Des Moines University in 1995. He completed an Internal Medicine residency at the University of Iowa-Des Moines receiving the Outstanding Senior Resident award, followed by clinical and research fellowships in cardiovascular disease at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics in Iowa City where he was appointed Chief Fellow. At the New York Presbyterian Hospital-Cornell & Columbia Universities, he completed a fellowship in advanced heart failure/mechanical circulatory support/cardiac transplantation.

Dr. Clark has been active in medical student, resident, and fellow education, clinical research and service within specialty societies, including service as President of the Iowa Chapter of the American College of Cardiology and appointment to the Board of Governors of the American College of Cardiology. He has held academic appointments as associate professor of medicine at Des Moines University and adjunct clinical professor at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.



Matthew A. Davis, DO, MBA

Dr. Davis is the medical director and emergency department chair of Beckley Appalachian Regional Healthcare Hospital. Dr. Davis received a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed his residency training at Greenbrier Valley Medical Center in 2015, specializing in Family Medicine & OMT, at which time he also served as Chief Resident.

Dr. Davis has earned the distinction of Certified Physician Executive through the American Academy of Physician Leaders, is a current Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and has completed a Physician Executive Master of Business Administration from The University of Tennessee.

After his residency training, Dr. Davis joined Greenbrier Physicians, where he became a partner and served on the corporation's Board of Directors. He has experience working in nursing homes, having served previously as a Facility Medical Director.

Since 2018, he has been working full-time in Emergency Medicine. Dr. Davis also serves in several association leadership positions. He is the Secretary of the West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association, Vice President for the WV Chapter of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, Secretary West Virginia Academy of Family Physicians, and Delegate to the American Osteopathic Association and American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians for West Virginia.



Christine Hartford, MD

Dr. Hartford is currently engaged in clinical practice at New York Institute of Technology's College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University, where she also teaches and mentors medical students. Dr. Hartford completed her undergraduate education at the University of Chicago and earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She completed her residency in Pediatrics at Brown University's Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island.

Dr. Hartford pursued her interest in oncology, completing a fellowship in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. At that time, Dr. Hartford planned for a research-based career and therefore completed a fellowship in Clinical Pharmacology and Pharmacogenomics at the University of Chicago. Her work has fostered an understanding of both laboratory-based and clinical research techniques and the rigors of medical research in general. Dr. Hartford serves as the Medical Director for the Delta Care-A-Van mobile medical unit and was instrumental in launching mobile COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

Dr. Hartford was recently funded by the American Academy of Pediatrics to conduct maternal and child health outreach programs that can help effect change and improve the health of Delta communities.



Nicklaus J. Hess, DO

Dr. Hess is board certified in Family Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment, an Associate Program Faculty for the Grandview Family Medicine Residency Program and Western Unit Clinical Assistant Dean at Ohio University's Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Hess received a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Ohio University's College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency at Grandview Medical Center in Dayton, OH. He serves as Vice President for the Ohio Osteopathic Association, Secretary/Treasurer for the Grandview Medical Center Medical Executive Committee and is Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor Family Medicine at OU-HCOM. Dr. Hess has also served as President of the Dayton District Academy of Osteopathic Medicine and Department Chair of Family Medicine at Grandview Medical Center.

He is a former Training in Policy Studies (TIPS) Fellow and a Costin Scholar. His professional interests include health policy and osteopathic medical education and leadership. Dr. Hess currently practices at the Victor Cassano Health Center in Dayton, OH.



Traci Groening, DO

Dr. Groening is an assistant professor in the Department of Clinical Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Dr. Groening received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Vallejo, California.

Upon graduation, Dr. Groening returned to her hometown of El Paso, Texas, to complete an Obstetrics and Gynecology residency at the Texas Tech University Health Science Center El Paso/Paul L. Foster School of Medicine. Her academic medicine interests encompass OB-GYN simulation, mentoring and preparing students and residents for a career in OB-GYN, and modeling professionalism within the entire medical team. She also serves as the OB-GYN Division Chief and Clerkship Director at Burrell, where she also holds a Clinical Assistant Professor appointment, practicing General OB-GYN with residents, midwives, medical students, nursing students, and midwifery students.



Timothy J. Kowalski, DO

Dr. Kowalski is vice provost for Professional and Public Affairs at the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM). Dr. Kowalski earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his transitional internship, psychiatric residency and child psychiatry fellowship at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

After ten years of honorable service in the US Army, Dr. Kowalski was employed by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health for 17 years, rising to the position of Director of Professional Services of the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute in Columbia. During this time, he served as past president of the South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society, the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners, the American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists, and is the first osteopathic physician to have served as president of the South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners. Tim joined VCOM, Carolinas Campus in Spartanburg, South Carolina as the founding Dean.



Elizabeth McMurtry, DO

Dr. McMurtry is assistant dean for Clinical Education and Faculty Development at the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences, which allows her to highlight the community-based model of education and assist community clinicians with incorporating medical education into their daily practices.

Dr. McMurtry received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her training in emergency medicine at Scott and White Memorial Hospital, Texas A&M University Health Sciences Center, followed by the American College of Emergency Physicians Teaching Fellowship. Dr. McMurtry has researched and published about emergency medicine and medical education and has delivered many lectures and presentations locally, regionally, and nationally in her areas of expertise.

Dr. McMurtry is also an emergency physician for Kadlec Regional Medical Center in Richland, Washington. She previously served as an emergency physician and clinical educator for Hualapai Mountain Medical Center and Kingman Regional Medical Center in Kingman, Arizona; Banner Churchill Community Hospital in Fallon, Nevada; and Walla Walla General Hospital in Walla Walla, Washington.



David (Dave) Miller, DO, MS, MA

Dr. Miller works for Family Health Services in Rupert, Idaho, a small town of just under 6,000 residents in the state's south-central region. Rupert is approximately a 2.5-hour drive from Boise.

Dr. Miller received his osteopathic medical degree from the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences and completed his residency in Family Medicine at Allegiance Health in Jackson, MI. He also holds an MS in Biology from the University of Central Oklahoma and an MA in Subtidal Marine Studies from the University of Alaska at Fairbanks. Dave has strong roots in rural Osteopathic Medicine, having grown up in Oklahoma, where a DO took care of three generations of his family. He is passionate about delivering high-quality medical care to rural underserved people in his area.



Paul Scheatzle, DO, MS

Dr. Scheatzle is medical director of the Aultman Woodlawn Acute Physical Rehabilitation Hospital. Dr. Scheatzle received a master's degree from the University of Akron and his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Ohio University's College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Scheatzle completed his residency in Osteopathic Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Metro Health, which is affiliated with Case Western Reserve University. He then served as the Director of Spinal Cord Rehabilitation at the Cleveland Clinic's Edwin Shaw Rehabilitation Hospital. As a former president of the Ohio Osteopathic Association, he advocated for patients and the organization's constituents. He is also a regular contributor to the AskDrs blog and podcast.

In 2010, Dr. Scheatzle published *The Journey: Take the Path to Health and Fitness. Energize Your Life*, which stresses the importance of choices we make along the path of a healthy and energetic life.