Ohio Osteopathic Association

# Fact Sheet

- Osteopathic medicine is a complete system of medical care with the philosophy of **treating the whole person, not just symptoms**. It emphasizes the interrelationship of structure and function, and the appreciation of the body's ability to heal itself.

- Osteopathic physicians, commonly called DOs, and allopathic physicians, commonly called MDs, are the only two types of **complete doctors**. Both are licensed to practice medicine, perform surgery, and prescribe medicine. DOs may **specialize in any field** of medicine, though 65 percent specialize in primary care.

- Nationwide, there are nearly **60,000 DOs** in active practice who collectively treat more than **100 million patients** annually. By 2015 there are projected to be over 90,000 DOs.

- About **3,500 DOs practice in Ohio**, which is about **11 percent** of the state's physicians. Of family physicians in Ohio, **24 percent** are DOs. *(source: Ohio State Medical Board)*

- Osteopathic physicians are more likely to be **primary care** physicians, provide **direct patient care**, and practice in rural areas and physician **shortage areas**. *(source: Ohio Board of Regents)*

- The **Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine** (OU-COM) in Athens was established in 1975 by the Ohio General Assembly which specified the College would train family physicians for **underserved areas** of the state. More than half of OU-COM graduates practice in Primary Care specialties (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics) and 61 percent of graduates who practice medicine do so in Ohio (the highest percentage of any Ohio medical school). In addition, 47 percent serve **small communities** with populations of 50,000 or less.

- Nationally and across the globe, OU-COM's *Family Health* radio program brings **healthcare information to more than 12 million listeners daily**. The program is broadcast by more than 300 US radio stations and airs worldwide via the US Armed Forces Radio Network.

- The Ohio-based Centers for Osteopathic Research & Education (CORE) is one of the largest, **most advanced medical education consortiums** in the nation. The CORE system integrates osteopathic doctoral and post-doctoral programs with outstanding hospitals, dedicated teachers, and innovative technology. More than **800 medical students, interns, and residents** currently receive training via 24 affiliated hospitals.

- During 2007, the **combined statewide economic impact** of OU-COM and CORE hospitals equaled **$5.9 billion**. Further, OU-COM and CORE accounted for more than 48,000 Ohio full-time equivalent positions and **$196.4 million in total state tax revenue**. *(source: Tripp Umbach, July 2008)*

- Eighteen Ohio hospitals are **accredited by the American Osteopathic Association's Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP)**. They include Affinity Medical Center, Massillon; Doctors Hospital, Columbus; Southview Hospital & Family Health Center, Centerville; Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital; Grandview Hospital & Medical Center, Dayton; Selby General Hospital, Marietta; Doctors Hospital, Nelsonville; Fisher-Titus Medical Center, Norwalk; McCullough-Hyde Memorial Hospital, Oxford; Richmond Heights Hospital; Firelands Regional Medical Center, Sandusky; St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, Toledo; Wilson Memorial Hospital, Sidney; Pike Community Hospital, Waverly; St. Joseph Health Center, Warren; South Pointe Hospital, Warrensville Heights; Genesis Healthcare Systems, Zanesville; and St. John West Shore Hospital, Westlake. HFAP has been accrediting healthcare facilities for over 30 years under Medicare and is recognized nationally by the federal government, state governments, insurance carriers, and managed care organizations.

- Several osteopathic foundations have been endowed as the result of the sale of hospitals. Since 1999, the largest of these—the Columbus-based Osteopathic Heritage Foundations—has awarded more than **$100 million for community health projects, medical education, and research**.

- The Ohio Osteopathic Association (OOA) celebrates its **110th anniversary** in 2009. The professional association is active in healthcare legislation, regulatory matters, and other health-related initiatives.

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