



Buckeye Osteopathic Physician

Get Vaccinated

OOA issues statement
supporting vaccines

Help us build a strong osteopathic future through your generous donation!

Our foundation, the Ohio Osteopathic Foundation, serves the osteopathic profession in many ways. The OOF serves as an AOA-accredited body for osteopathic continuing medical education and certifies osteopathic CME in Ohio. The OOF also provides scholarships and support for student leaders who are working to create a stronger profession. Further, the OOF supports Ohio physicians seeking a health policy fellowship. In the months and years ahead, the OOF plans on expanding its educational offerings that complement our annual Ohio Osteopathic Symposium. Please know we cannot do this work without your support!



Something that may surprise you is the multitude of options to provide financial support!

You can donate:

- A lump sum
- An ongoing monthly contribution
- Stocks
- Through your will or trust

That's not all. Based on your contribution, it may be the most effective method to invest your support is through a life insurance policy. Please don't allow concern regarding your medical history to impact your decision to donate. The policy may be fixed or variable, depending on the nature of your gift. This charitable life insurance gift is also tax deductible. Professionals at Northwestern Mutual will ensure confidentiality at every step along the way.

If you are considering donating or need help determining which opportunity is the best fit, contact OOA Executive Director/OOF President Matt Harney, MBA, today to talk more about it. You can also contribute online on the "Foundation" page under the "Affiliate" portion of our website—www.OhioDO.org. No gift is too small. Please know donations are tax deductible as the OOF is a 501(c)3 charitable organization.



OHIO
OSTEOPATHIC
FOUNDATION

Contact: Matt Harney
mattharney@OhioDO.org

Buckeye Osteopathic Physician

The Quarterly Publication
of the Ohio Osteopathic Association
Spring/Summer 2021 • Volume 91
Number 1 • USPS 068-760

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BUCKEYE OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIAN MAGAZINE

Buckeye Osteopathic Physician (08983070) is published quarterly for the Ohio Osteopathic Association, 53 W. Third Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201. Phone 614-299-2107; Fax 614-294-0457; www.OhioDO.org. Subscription price for non-members is \$25 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Columbus, Ohio. Send address changes to Buckeye Osteopathic Physician, PO Box 8130, Columbus, Ohio 43201.

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Executive INSIGHT

The Power of Osteopathic Philanthropy

By Matt Harney, MBA

Ohio's osteopathic family is fortunate to be equipped with osteopathic servant leaders focused on a dynamic trifecta that includes professional interests (Ohio Osteopathic Association), political action (Ohio Osteopathic Political Action Committee), and philanthropic priorities (Ohio Osteopathic Foundation). In my last article, I discussed the power of political action. This time around, I'd like to spotlight our philanthropic efforts (and of course encourage your support!).

The Ohio Osteopathic Foundation—also known as the OOF—is the charitable arm of the OOA and was founded in 1963. The OOF supports the osteopathic profession's educational endeavors.

Over the last couple years, **our foundation has expanded its fundraising efforts to support our enhanced philanthropic priorities.**

In May, the OOF held its first-ever virtual wine tasting event. Donors were allowed to select three wines which were shipped to their home. Experts from the Ohio Wine Producers Association and Debonne Vineyards shared how the wines were made and other interesting facts about growing grapes in Ohio. We were so thrilled to have participants from across the state, as well as then-AOA President Thomas Ely, DO, and ACOFP President Nicole Bixler, DO. Not only were we able to raise funds but we had a great time doing it! We certainly were not going to let the restrictions brought about by the pandemic limit us either!

We also just completed our third annual drive for the



White Coat Fund, which allows donors the opportunity to sponsor a white coat for \$45/each. Sponsorship comes with the opportunity to provide a personal message on an OOA card that's tucked in the jacket pocket of the white coat given to all incoming students to OU-HCOM.

We'll also be expanding our efforts for Giving Tuesday coming up later this year. Stay tuned! As has been the case for many

years, the OOF also accepts memorial contributions to honor a deceased physician. For these memorial gifts, a card is sent to the family of the deceased informing them of the donation in honor of their loved one. No amounts are mentioned and your contribution is tax deductible. All donations are acknowledged in *Buckeye Osteopathic Physician*, unless anonymity is requested. You can view an archived listing of those OOA members who have passed away since 2018 on our Foundation webpage.

These fundraising initiatives (among others) are in support of our osteopathic priorities including the aforementioned white coats for the newest members of the osteopathic family, scholarships, educational programming, and more. Just recently, OOA President Wehrum and I participated in a ribbon cutting event for Heritage Hall, OU-HCOM's new medical education →



Real generosity toward
the future lies in giving
all to the present.

- Albert Camus



CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Sandra L. Cook, DO, installs Henry L. Wehrum, DO, as OOA president during a videoconference.

Wehrum Installed as OOA President

Henry L. Wehrum, DO, was installed as Ohio Osteopathic Association president, April 24, 2021, during the Ohio Osteopathic Symposium. The Symposium was held virtually via Zoom teleconference due to the coronavirus pandemic. Last year's installation was also conducted virtually.

Wehrum specializes in nephrology at Dennison Renal Care in Columbus. He is a graduate of Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and served his internship at Brentwood Hospital; his residency at Cuyahoga Falls General; and a fellowship at Cleveland Clinic.

He is an award-winning preceptor and earned OU-HCOM's highest recognition for teachers, the master clinical faculty award. He also teaches residents and interns as an assistant program director for Internal Medicine at Doctors Hospital.

Wehrum comes from a family of DOs, as his father was an osteopathic family physician and two brothers are DOs. He spoke at length during his inaugural address about the influence of his father. ■



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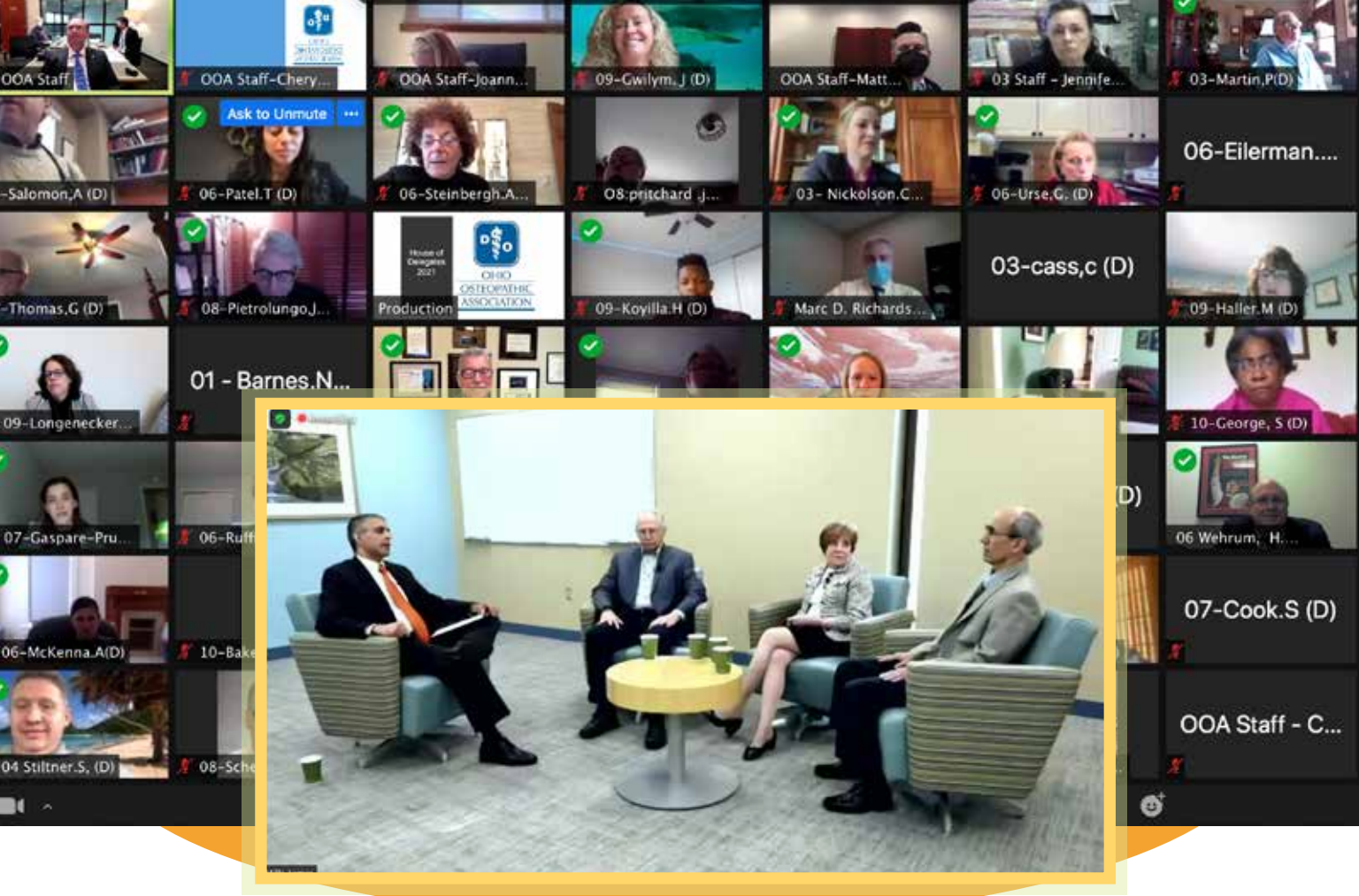
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OOA Hosts Virtual Events

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Ohio Osteopathic Symposium, jointly sponsored by the OOA and Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, was held online April 23-25. The OOA Annual Meeting and House of Delegates, led by Speaker David A. Bitonte, DO, and Vice Speaker Michael E. Dietz, DO, was also held virtually via Zoom videoconference.

The Symposium featured Keynote Speaker Joseph M. Gastaldo, MD, an expert in COVID-19; a panel discussion on palliative care and the value of the osteopathic touch; the installation of Henry L. Wehrum, DO, as OOA president; the JO Watson, DO, Memorial Lecture from Anthony G. Chila, DO; an awards ceremony; and a variety of lectures presented by experts in their field. Topics included migraine therapies, compassion fatigue, infant mortality, undergraduate medical education, ocular

trauma, orthopedics, and much more.

The poster competition usually held at the Symposium was held virtually. The winners were Eden Taddese, Katelyn Lotz, and Corrin Pelini. Each made a 3-minute presentation about their research. All are HCOM students.

The Symposium offered 22 hours of AOA Category 1-A credit.

A total of 70 physicians and three medical students were credentialed to serve in the OOA House of Delegates, the policy-making body for the osteopathic profession in Ohio. They considered 19 resolutions and adopted ten new policy statements regarding:

- Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening
- Availability of Modalities of Prescribing
- Patient Satisfaction Surveys
- Improving State Savings through

Biosimilar Specialty Medicines

- Extension of the Shelf Life Extension Program (SLEP) by the FDA
- Protective Educational Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth
- Elemental Formula Coverage
- Decreasing the Limitations on Prescribing Calcitonin Gene-Related Peptide (CGRP) Inhibitors in Primary Care
- Direct Acting Antiviral Therapy for Hepatitis C Limitations
- Following CDC Guidance Regarding Facial Covering

Delegates also considered Constitution and bylaws amendments, elected leadership, heard reports, and advanced five resolutions to the AOA House of Delegates. Reference committees met, also virtually, the week before the April 22 House. ■

OOA Honors Award Recipients

Osteopathic physicians who are doing incredible work for the profession, for patients, for students and residents, and for communities were recognized during a virtual awards ceremony, April 24. The event was part of the 2021 Ohio Osteopathic Symposium, a virtual 2-1/2 day conference. Award winners were invited to record a short video message which was shared with the audience.

In addition to the award recipients, 20 physicians were awarded life member status in the OOA. ■



Distinguished Service Award

Cleanne Cass, DO
Dayton



OOA/Osteopathic Heritage Foundations George L. Eckert, Jr., DO, Mentor of the Year

Shannon C. Trotter, DO
Columbus



Meritorious Service Award

Amy Acton, MD
Columbus



Trustees Award

Victor D. Angel, DO
Cincinnati



M. Bridget Wagner, DO, Humanitarian Award

Jill Y. Porter, DO
Columbus



OOA/Osteopathic Heritage Foundations JO Watson, DO, Memorial Lecture Award

Anthony G. Chila, DO
Athens

Life Members

Class of 2021

John S. Allarding, DO

Sandra R. Beichler, DO

John A. Brose, DO

William D. Bruner, DO

Richard L. Catterlin, DO

George N. Darah, DO

Thomas E. Darrah, DO

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Frederic A. Humphrey, DO

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Gary D. Kresge, DO

Susan H. Lackey, DO

Barry A. Lampl, DO

Lenard G. Presutti, DO

Bruce H. Rank, DO

Christopher Simpson, DO

Charles L. Valone Jr., DO



OOA Issues Statement Supporting Vaccine Use

IN June, an Ohio House of Representatives committee hearing went viral due to false and unfounded claims from two health professionals: a registered nurse and a Cleveland-area DO who said COVID-19 vaccines magnetize people, causing metal objects like keys and silverware to stick to their bodies. The physician also suggested the vaccines contain particles that can connect with 5G wireless technology. She was invited to testify at the request of Rep. Jennifer Gross, who is a nurse practitioner and sponsor of HB 248, the far-reaching vaccination legislation that would damage the current public health framework that prevents outbreaks of potentially lethal disease.

The media spotlight cast aspersions on the entire osteopathic medical profession. In fact, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the OOA and its members have been using social media to amplify safety protocols—based on science—like hand hygiene, social distancing, and mask use. When the vaccines became

available in December 2020 the OOA started to encourage Ohioans to get vaccinated and provided factual information about their safety and efficacy. Additionally, the OOA has stressed the role of physicians and how they play a vital role to provide patients

with accurate information. Members posted “vaccine selfies” to show Ohio DOs are leading by example.

In response to the Health Committee testimony, OOA President Henry L. Wehrum, DO, issued the following statement:



Vaccine Misinformation is Dangerous

The Ohio Osteopathic Association supports science and evidence based medicine. That’s why we’ve been urging Ohioans to get a COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccines are safe and effective—and vaccinations are one of the tools to help get us back to normal.

In fact, millions of people in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines since they were authorized for emergency use. These vaccines have undergone the most intensive safety monitoring in US history.

The importance of physicians and health care professionals to provide patients with accurate information about the COVID-19 vaccines cannot be overstated. Misinformation is a serious threat to personal and public health and it must be rejected. This includes the false and completely unfounded claims made by Dr. Sherri Tenpenny during the Ohio House of Representatives Health Committee on June 8, 2021. The OOA disavows her testimony. She is not affiliated with the OOA, has never been a member, and does not represent the views of the OOA. ■



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The OOA follows dozens of health-related bills in the Ohio General Assembly. This listing identifies ten priority bills. Of those, three have been enacted—which includes one via General Assembly override of Gov. Mike DeWine's veto; six are pending; and one has been vetoed by DeWine but is also pending since there's speculation the General Assembly will override it. For a copy of the bills and analyses, go to OhioDO.org.

Priority Bills

VETO

SB 113 Fireworks

DeWine vetoed the bill on July 9, 2021. Because of the summer recess there wasn't time for the Legislature to override the veto. But they seem to have the votes in the House and Senate for the override. OOA has been actively involved in the bill as a member of the Ohio Fireworks Safety Coalition, issuing multiple action alerts, submitting testimony, signing-on to joint letters. The bill would allow Ohioans to discharge commercial-grade fireworks on specified holidays with minimal safety restrictions in place.

ENACTED

HB 110 State Budget

To make operating appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2023, to levy taxes, and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs. The \$74.1 billion package includes \$2 billion in tax cuts for over the next two years, an overhaul of school funding, broadband funding to \$250 million, and provisions to allow college athletes to earn money off their name, image, and likeness. The law also includes a "medical conscience clause." The last-minute provision allows physicians, hospitals and health insurance companies to refuse to provide or pay for a medical service if it violates their moral beliefs. DeWine vetoed 14 items in the bill including changes to the Medicaid managed care procurement process.

Signed by the Governor: June 30, 2021, Effective: July 1, 2021

SB 6 Medical Compact

The new state law authorizing Ohio to enter into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact gives the State Medical Board (SMBO) until September 29, 2022, to implement the system. Physicians from any state with Compact membership, including Ohio, who meet the qualifications will be eligible for licensure in any other participating state. Physicians can still license directly through SMBO as the Compact will only be an additional option for multi-state licensees. The Compact only includes the licensing of physicians. Physicians who choose to obtain licensure through the Compact, whether as an Ohio physician who wants to practice outside of Ohio or as an out-of-state physician who wants to practice in Ohio, will have a licensure process different than the path currently followed by physicians seeking licensure in Ohio today. Out-of-state physicians can continue to seek licensure directly through the state of Ohio now and after implementation of the Compact. Ohio is the 35th state to join the Compact and is the second largest state behind Texas.

Signed by the Governor: July 1, 2021, Effective: September 28, 2021

SB 22 Health Orders

The Governor vetoed this bill, but it was overridden. This new law establishes legislative oversight for public health orders and limits the authority of the Governor and Health Director during public health emergencies. The OOA urged opposition to the bill and also expressed support for DeWine's veto. Health/medical organizations have voiced concerns that the new law undermines public health. A joint letter stated:

Our state is making meaningful progress daily as we proceed with the rollout of vaccinations, but the pandemic is not over yet. Vigilance and careful steps are key in the path to Ohio's pandemic recovery, and the medical community is seriously concerned about the implications SB 22 would have upon the health and safety of Ohioans.

In his veto message, DeWine said the bill "handcuffs Ohio's ability to confront crises."

Veto Overridden in House (3/24/2021); Veto Overridden in Senate (3/24/2021)

PENDING

HB 135 Insurance Cost-Sharing

To prohibit certain health insurance cost-sharing practices.

The bill prohibits the practice where insurers don't count third-party payments – usually by a drug manufacturer – toward a patient's cost-sharing requirements. A pharmacy benefit manager industry group offered opponent testimony saying adopting the bill would lead to higher drug prices. The Pharmaceutical Care Management Association testified that drugmakers use such coupons to subvert the negotiating ability of PBMs and payers and push patients toward costlier medications. Lawmakers said the PBM and health plan are both in a better position to negotiate cost increases than the patient.

The OOA offered written testimony in support of the bill to require health insurers to apply amounts paid by or on behalf of covered individuals toward cost-sharing requirements. We've also advocated to bring the bill for a floor vote.

Assigned to House Health Committee

HB 176 Athletic Training

To revise the law governing the practice of athletic training and to amend the version of section 4755.62 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on October 9, 2021, to continue the changes to that section on and after that date.

Athletic trainers are licensed health care providers of physical medicine and rehabilitation who partner with physicians to provide preventive services, emergency

care, clinical diagnosis, therapeutic intervention and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. Under HB 176, they would have the option to enter into a collaboration agreement with a physician or podiatrist, giving them the ability to perform additional services and activities. The practice act for athletic trainers hasn't been updated in 30 years. There are currently over 2,300 licensed athletic trainers in Ohio.

Assigned to Senate Health Committee

HB 193 Electronic Prescriptions

Regarding electronic prescriptions and schedule II controlled substances.

The bill was approved by the House, 91-0. It generally limits pharmacist dispensing of schedule II controlled substances to those prescribed electronically, rather than in writing or electronically as under current law. The bill maintains a current law provision allowing, in emergency situations, for schedule II drugs to be dispensed upon oral prescriptions when the conditions established in federal law are satisfied. It also provides exceptions to allow a pharmacist to dispense upon a written prescription if/when:

- there are technology problems;
- the prescription is issued for a nursing home resident or hospice care patient;
- the prescriber is employed by or under contract with the same entity that operates the pharmacy;
- the prescriber determines that an electronic prescription cannot be issued in a timely manner and the patient's medical condition is at risk; or
- the prescriber issues per year not more than 50 prescriptions for schedule II controlled substances.

Passed by the House.

HB 221 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

To modify the laws governing the practice of advanced practice registered nurses and to designate these provisions as the Better Access, Better Care Act. The OOA continues to lobby against the bill, though it has received little attention in Committee this session. A similar measure was introduced last session (HB 177).

Assigned to House Health Committee.

HB 248 Vaccinations

To authorize an individual to decline a vaccination and to name this act the Vaccine Choice and Anti-Discrimination Act. After weeks of testimony, dozens of witnesses, and 11 versions of the bill, it was stalled in committee. The brakes were seemingly →

pumped after business groups like the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and Ohio Manufacturers Association joined health and medical associations—including OOA—to oppose the bill. In addition, DeWine is not supportive of the bill. He has consistently stated he opposes legislation that discourages vaccination or prevents businesses from keeping their employees safe. In early August, Health Committee Chair Scott Lipps unexpectedly announced the bill is back on the table and scheduled a hearing during the summer recess. The far-reaching vaccination bill put the House Health Committee in the national spotlight when an Ohio DO made false and completely unfounded claims about the COVID-19 vaccines during public testimony. Newspaper articles, social media sites, TV news, and late-night comedians mocked the hearing and OOA issued a statement to disavow the testimony. The bill sponsor, Rep. Jennifer Gross, is a registered nurse and nurse practitioner. **Thank you to the many OOA members who contacted their state representatives to oppose HB 248.**

Assigned to House Health Committee.

SB 150 Physician Contracts

The bill would also allow current or prospective physician employees to sue an employer that violates this prohibition. To better understand how pervasive these agreements are, the OOA issued a short survey and invited owners of physician groups, hospital administrators, and employed physicians to take the 30-second questionnaire.

Assigned to Senate Small Business & Economic Opportunity Committee.

Other Bills of Interest

There are 33 other bills of interest that the OOA is actively monitoring. Six have been signed by the Governor and will become law.

ENACTED

HB 5 Chemical Dependency

To modify the requirements that may be met for licensure as a chemical dependency counselor II and to modify the professionals who may supervise certain individuals providing prevention services and to amend the version of section 4758.20 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect October 9, 2021, to continue the change on and after that date. Signed by the Governor: July 1, 2021, Effective: September 28, 2021

HB 6 Health Professionals

To modify the laws governing certain health professionals and educator preparation programs due to COVID-19 and other circumstances and to modify the electric utility laws regarding energy efficiency programs; to amend the version of section 4729.92 of the Revised Code that is scheduled to take effect on October 9, 2021, to continue the changes to that section on and after that date; and to declare an emergency. Signed by the Governor: May 14, 2021, Effective: May 14, 2021

HB 168 Unemployment Debt

To remit funds from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund to repay unemployment advances, to provide funds to support improvements at pediatric behavioral health care facilities, to require the Development Services Agency to establish the Water and Sewer Quality Program, and to make appropriations. Signed by the Governor: June 29, 2021, Effective: June 29, 2021

HB 244 Military Children; Vaccinations

Regards technology-based educational opportunities for, and the enrollment of, military children; regarding public schools, state institutions of higher education, and prohibitions on mandatory vaccinations and discrimination; and regarding the authority of the Ohio Department of Health over matters of quarantine and isolation.

Signed by the Governor: July 14, 2021, Effective: October 13, 2021

SB 13 Contract Limitations

To shorten the period of limitations for actions upon a contract; to make changes to the borrowing statute pertaining to applicable periods of limitations; and to establish a statute of repose for a legal malpractice action.

Signed by the Governor: March 16, 2021, Effective: in 90 days

SB 21 Stroke Protocols

Regarding emergency medical services and stroke patient protocols.

Signed by the Governor: June 22, 2021, Effective: September 19, 2021

PENDING

HB 37 Prescription Refills

Regarding emergency prescription refills.

HB 41 Public Records

To exempt certain mental health care providers' residential and familial information from disclosure under the Public Records Law.

HB 42 Birth Equity

To enact the "Save Our Mothers Act" for the purpose of establishing continuing education requirements for birthing facility personnel and an initiative to improve birth equity, reduce peripartum racial and ethnic disparities, and address implicit bias in the healthcare system.

HB 56 Face Coverings

To require persons to wear face coverings during general sessions and committee meetings of the House of Representatives and to declare an emergency.

HB 60 Medical Marijuana

To authorize the use of medical marijuana for autism spectrum disorder.

HB 90 Health Orders

To establish legislative oversight of the Governor's executive orders, certain public health orders, and emergency rules, including by establishing the Ohio Health Oversight and Advisory Committee.

HB 120 Compassionate Care Visits

To permit compassionate care visits in long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 state of emergency, to establish criteria for those visits, and to declare an emergency.

HB 122 Telehealth

To establish and modify requirements regarding the provision of telehealth services.

HB 125 Health Insurance

Regarding health insurance premiums and benefits.

HB 136 Chiropractic Services

Regarding Medicaid coverage of chiropractic services.

HB 138 Emergency Medical Services

Regarding the scope of emergency medical services provided by emergency medical service personnel.

HB 159 Tanning Services

To prohibit the provision of sun lamp tanning services

to individuals under age 18.

HB 160 Health Estimates

Regarding the provision of health care cost estimates.

HB 162 Disability Terms

To express the General Assembly's intent to remove from the Revised Code derogatory terminology regarding individuals with disabilities.

HB 163 Nurse Overtime

To prohibit a hospital from requiring a nurse to work overtime as a condition of continued employment.

HB 172 Fireworks

To revise the Fireworks Law. Related bill, HB 113, vetoed by Governor.

HB 189 Insurance Coverage

To require health plan issuers and the Medicaid program to cover treatments and services related to Pediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal Infections and Pediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome

HB 196 Surgical Assistants

Regulate the practice of surgical assistants.

HB 294 Election Laws

To enact the Ohio Election Security and Modernization Act to create an automated voter registration and verification system, to modify the law governing absent voting, and to make other changes to the Election Law.

HB 350 COVID-19 Vaccinations

To prohibit mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations, requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination, and certain other actions relating to an individual's COVID-19 vaccination or health status and to declare an emergency.

SB 17 Benefit Eligibility

Regarding eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid, work and education requirements for certain Medicaid recipients, requirements for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program electronic benefit transfer cards, and eligibility for and overpayments of unemployment compensation.

SB 58 Nursing Home Monitoring

To permit a resident of a long-term care facility to conduct electronic monitoring of the resident's room, to designate this act as Esther's Law, and to make an appropriation.

SB 60 Medicaid Applicants

To require Medicaid applicants to certify that they have been notified about the Medicaid estate recovery program.

SB 111 Local Fiscal Recovery

To make an appropriation related to coronavirus local fiscal recovery and to make changes in laws regarding vaccinations.

SB 169 Vaccination Prohibition

To prohibit mandatory vaccinations against the coronavirus, to prohibit requiring proof of vaccinations generally, and to declare an emergency.

HCR 6 Racism

To declare racism a public health crisis and to ask the Governor to establish a working group to promote racial equity in Ohio.

SCR 4 Racism

To declare racism a public health crisis and to ask the Governor to establish a working group to promote racial equity in Ohio. ■



Student Update: DUBLIN

The OOA works with many Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-HCOM) students, particularly Student Government Association (SGA) and Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) leadership. SGA presidents from each campus—Athens, Dublin, and Cleveland—are invited to OOA Board meetings and are allotted time on the agenda to report on campus activities. SOMA is an AOA affiliate and the nation's largest network of osteopathic medical students.

These student leaders volunteer their time, energy and effort. As medical students, they already have a lot on their plate. Yet, they still find time to commit to their community, peers, and profession.

Buckeye Osteopathic Physician invited student leaders from the Dublin campus to submit a summary of their activities for the 2020-2021 academic year. Previous issues featured Athens and Cleveland campuses. →

Students at the Dublin campus assist with the Medical Academy, a summer program for local high schoolers interested in health careers. PHOTOS BY BILL BURKE, DO

Student Leaders 2020 - 2021

Student Government Association, Dublin

Kristina Kazimir, President
Daniel Sabo, Vice President

Manel Guessas, SNMA Diversity and Inclusion Delegate
Marci Orozco, Student Director of Wellness
Arin Leuchttag, Student Director of Community Outreach
Thomas Esber, Treasure/Secretary

Student Osteopathic Medical Association, Dublin

Marissa Wierzbicki, President
Tyler Slone, Vice President/National Liaison Officer
Matt Collpo, Treasurer
Brady Corless, Secretary



KRISTINA KAZIMIR

2020-2021 SGA President
Dublin Campus

Every beginning comes with an ending; while this always holds true it is hard to believe how quickly the beginning and ending of each academic year goes by. When our students began the 2020-2021 academic year there was a large amount of uncertainty. Uncertainty with how school would proceed during a pandemic, how we would find ways to stay involved in extracurricular activities, how we would be able to help reduce the impact of COVID-19. Most importantly, there was uncertainty in how we could give and find support in the midst of all the unrest in our country.

All of our students, faculty, staff and administration have had to rise to the many challenges of the 2020-2021 academic year. Through all of that uneasiness, we saw the growth of our students, school and community. Highlights to mention include: the creation of the pen pal project with our partners at Gladden House by Arin Leuchtag OMS III; online mentoring from our Medical Mentors executive team; and the beginning of many new clubs in Dublin such as the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) and the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA). Despite the limitations extracurricular groups faced concerning social interaction, students found ways to stay connected to each other and to our community. Additionally, many students felt compelled to help in any way possible during the pandemic. Volunteers contributed to the Mid-Ohio Foodbank and the Medical Reserve Corps, where they helped organize food distribution to those in need as well as aided in vaccine clinics.

Not only did we see impressive levels of adaptability from our students, but from our faculty and staff as well. Our instructors successfully completed a year of a curriculum virtually and continually adjusted as they received student feedback. We are excited to report that our staff was able to successively complete an in-person commencement ceremony for our class of 2021. We wish our new grads luck as they enter the workforce during a unique time in history and are excited for the endeavors that lie ahead of our college.



MARISSA WIERZBICKI

2020-2021 SOMA President
Dublin Campus

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dublin SOMA leadership aimed to virtually deliver important, relevant information to the members of the OU-HCOM community. We have also remained dedicated to promoting advocacy for and awareness of the osteopathic principles in the central Ohio area. With these goals and values in mind, we hosted two virtual events and offered COVID safe community service options.

Our first event was a virtual resolutions workshop with the Athens and Cleveland SOMA chapters. This provided an opportunity for students to learn about how to advocate for change in their communities.

Our second presentation was by Dr. Chen, PharmD from OhioHealth Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus. She educated the students on food insecurity in Central Ohio and its impact on the health and wellness of our future patients. This event was coupled with an opportunity to volunteer at the "Food is Health" program through Riverside. The program allows patients to access fresh produce and health meal options to help combat lifestyle related illness.

We ended the year with a virtual naloxone training with Equitas Health in Columbus. During this event students were introduced to some of the history of the opioid epidemic as well as facts about substance use disorder and its impact. They also learned about naloxone, its benefits, and when/how to administer it. The event ended with an opportunity for students to order their own naloxone so that they are prepared to assist someone who has experienced an overdose.

Finally, the leadership represented OU-HCOM Dublin at national SOMA meetings where groundbreaking health policy and medical education initiatives were voted on.

While the pandemic posed many challenges to our goals for SOMA this year, we are thankful for the activities that we were able to host and hope that the students were able to grow outside of their education in the classroom. I would like to thank the Ohio Osteopathic Association and the American Osteopathic Association for their support throughout this year. It has been a privilege to represent OU-HCOM and the Dublin SOMA chapter. ■



Accelerated Medical Education Program Trains Future Primary Care Physicians

The first group of medical students to complete an innovative curriculum at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine graduated this year—just three years after they started medical school rather than the traditional four.

The Heritage College and Cleveland Clinic are working together to train primary care physicians through a unique medical education program with the ultimate goal of improving patient care. The first cohort to complete the Transformative Care Continuum (TCC) included eight students from OU-HCOM's Cleveland campus.

Developed and launched in 2018, the TCC is an accelerated curriculum where select students are admitted directly into family medicine residency programs at Cleveland Clinic Akron General or Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center. During the three years of medical school, students work alongside interprofessional health care teams and take on increasing patient care responsibilities before beginning a three-year family medicine residency at the same site.

“From the first days of medical school, these students are on the front lines of the clinical settings where they’ll be working for the entire six years of medical school and residency,” said Isaac Kirstein, DO, dean of the Heritage College, Cleveland. “The most effective family physicians are those who build strong relationships with patients in the context of their families and their communities, so they can truly understand those socioeconomic factors that impact health outcomes. Thanks to our partnership with Cleveland Clinic, our TCC students are doing that right from the start.”

Heritage College faculty and Cleveland Clinic residency directors jointly developed the curriculum, forming an innovative collaboration between medical education and health care to align physician training with what medicine needs. The curriculum focuses on team-based problem-solving and embeds students in

the local communities. As members of a designated health care team, students care for the same patient panel throughout the duration of their education and residency.

The Heritage College is one of 37 medical schools nationwide in the American Medical Association's Accelerating Change in Medical Education Consortium. While many consortium members are investigating single curriculum changes meant to fill specific gaps in health care, the Heritage College is the only medical school making such a wholesale change for a cohort of eight students per year.

“This innovative program transforms medical education by providing hands-on experience with patients and health care delivery teams to train future physicians in a dramatically different way and uniquely prepare them for 21st century medicine,” said James Young, MD, executive director of academic affairs at Cleveland Clinic. “Health care systems need more patient-centered solutions that engage social determinants of health and collaborate across traditional silos to improve health outcomes. These students will help us lead the way to healthier communities.”

During their third year of medical school, Transformative Care Continuum students complete self-directed projects through which they partner with community organizations to create programs that address regional health challenges, particularly for populations in greatest need. Community projects for the first cohort of students included 2021 TCC graduate Blake Kinsel's project partnering with the LGBT Center of Cleveland and the Doctors of the Streets program to expand point-of-care HIV testing and prevention services. Kinsel received the prestigious Excellence in Public Health Award from the US Public Health Service Physician Professional Advisory Committee for his work on this project.

In addition to Kinsel, the first cohort of students includes Michael Arnold, Palmer Coleman, Olga Shirley Grech, Peris Kibera, Sharon Ware, Matthew Wilcox, and Jacob Wolfe. ■

Deaths in the Family

Life Member **Bernard L. “Bud” Berks, DO**, died June 4, 2021. He was 88 years old.

He was a devoted family man, friend, doctor, and pilot.

Inspired toward a career in medicine by his childhood physician, Berks graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1958, and proudly completed his residency at Grandview Hospital. Following residency, he started his own family practice in Germantown and devoted over 50 years providing old-fashioned care, taking house calls or accepting patients at home as well as his office.

He actively served his community as a member of the Village Council of Germantown and medical advisor to the Germantown Rescue Squad. He was also a member of the Rotary, Masonic Lodge, Antioch Temple, and Beth Abraham Synagogue. His lifelong interest in aviation led to his work as an FAA senior aviation medical examiner – it would not be unusual to see a helicopter landing behind his office. He spent weekends collecting medical antiques and flying with his grandson.

His physical absence will be felt deeply, but his traits – compassion, wit, kindness – remain in the memories developed throughout his practice and personal life. Survivors include his wife, Claire; children; grandchildren; and a large circle of extended family and friends.

Life Member **Marvin Miller, DO**, of Cleveland, died June 20, 2021, with his family at his side.

The family physician was a 1965 graduate of Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and served his internship at the former Brentwood Hospital, now South Pointe Hospital.

Miller was the beloved husband of Renate; devoted and adored father of Rebecca (Irad) Carmi, Cynthia (Dr. Michael) Weiner; Dr. Valerie (Dr. Adam) Brodsky, Victor (Shoshanna Buchholz-Miller) Miller and Dr. Lydia Miller-Anderson; adored grandfather of Amnon, Aryeh and Yarden Carmi, Julia and Noah Weiner, Lauren, Eden, Shai and Sol Brodsky, Annabel, Atticus and Tess Miller, Zach and Eli Anderson; and dear brother-in-law of Karen Komar.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Autism Speaks (autismspeaks.org) or Jewish Family Services (jfsa-cleveland.org).

Life Member **Charles S. Resseger, DO**,

died April 3, 2021. He was 76 years old.

He graduated from Kent State University before receiving his Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine from Des Moines University in 1971.

From 1971-1973, Resseger served as a captain in the United States Air Force. He then returned to Norwalk to practice family medicine. He served his community and Fisher Titus Hospital in many capacities. He loved his patients and served them for 48 years before retiring in 2020.

Resseger will be greatly missed by his wife Charlene; two children; three grandchildren; siblings; and nieces and nephews.

Life Member **Manuel P. Saridakis, DO**, age 73, died June 29, 2021.

Saridakis practiced family medicine for 46 years in the Cleveland area and was named Ohio ACOFP Family Physician of the Year in 2014. The award recognized his excellence in clinical practice, involvement in medical education, and dedication to advancing the philosophy and practice of osteopathic medicine. Throughout his career he trained hundreds of medical students as associate clinical professor for Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

A graduate of Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, he completed a rotating internship at Brentwood Hospital, where he worked as an emergency room physician for a year before entering private practice in 1975. At Brentwood (now South Pointe Hospital) he served terms as treasurer and president of the medical staff.

Saridakis was the first in his family to enter the medical field. He was followed by his brother George P. Saridakis, DO; and his two children Paul Saridakis, DO, and Ellen Phillippi, DO.

In addition to his children and siblings, he is survived by his wife of 40 years, Ruth; two grandchildren; and a large circle of extended family and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul Church or The Ohio University Foundation, PO Box 869, Athens, OH 45701-0869.

Life Member **Angelo E. Settembrini, DO**, age 74, died March 24, 2021, after a courageous battle with brain cancer.

Settembrini was a graduate of Xenia High School, received a bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton in 1968, and graduated from the College of Osteopathic Medicine

and Surgery in Des Moines in 1972. He served his internship at Doctors Hospital in Columbus.

He returned to Xenia in 1982 where he practiced family medicine for many years. He was known for his direct approach and personable bedside manner. It is common to hear people say, “he was the best doctor I ever had.”

During his medical career he also established family practices in Lancaster and Athens and was an associate professor at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

While he spent most of his later years between Sarasota, Florida, and Xenia, Settembrini always felt most at home on his family farm in Xenia.

He is survived by his wife Anne; four children; six grandchildren; and many close cousins and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Brigid School, 312 Fairground Road, Xenia 45385 or Toward Independence, 81 East Main Street, Xenia 45385.

Life Member **Robert G. Simmons, Jr., DO**, of Lebanon, died February 14, 2021, at Hospice of Butler & Warren Counties. He was 83 years old.

Simmons graduated from Manchester College and then Kansas City Medical College where he earned his Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine in 1966. He retired after working nearly 30 years in medicine, first in private practice and later as an emergency room physician. Of his many accomplishments as a physician, he was particularly happy to have been able to serve those in need during the many medical mission trips he took to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.

Simmons was active in his community. He was elected and served as Warren County coroner. For several years, he volunteered his time and his medical services during Lebanon High School football games.

Generous, quirky, comedic, unique, outgoing, and eclectic, Simmons typically greeted others by telling a joke. He was intelligent, loved to read, learn new things, and enjoyed attending medical seminars and conferences. He could speak some Spanish and Thai, and always wanted to learn several other languages. His other hobbies included beekeeping, raising and showing rabbits, nature photography, flower and vegetable gardening, and coin and stamp collecting.

He greatly enjoyed traveling and experiencing new cultures. Wherever he traveled he tried to blend in and become a local, immersing himself in the local culture, art, nature, and food of the region. He made friends wherever he visited and would often volunteer to immerse himself further into the daily lives and culture of the area. For example, he volunteered in Fairbanks, Alaska, for their ice sculpting festival.

Life Member **Robert A. Sybert, DO**, 91, died peacefully, July 5, 2021, surrounded by his children. He was a caring husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend, and physician.

After graduating from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1958, he and his wife Dorothy (Dottie) settled in Northeast Ohio, calling Ravenna their home for more than 45 years. Early in his medical career, he was on staff at Green Cross Hospital in Cuyahoga Falls, where he delivered over 3,000 babies—including his youngest son. He was also on staff at Robinson Memorial Hospital and had a thriving medical practice in Ravenna, seeing upwards of 30 patients a day. While his days were busy, he always made time to listen to his patients and give them his utmost care.

Sybert was respected by the Ravenna community who supported him as he was elected and served as Portage County coroner for 28 years.

Prior to medical school, he served his country and was stationed in Germany, where he worked in the motor pool because of his ability to read and speak the language. He got his first taste of medicine serving as a lab technician and working in a 1,000 bed hospital during his tenure in the Army. One of his favorite Army stories was when he worked late hours in the morgue and couldn't get to the dining hall before they closed. The day he wheeled a gurney into the dining hall the cook decided he would allow Sybert extra time and from then on had a plate waiting for him.

He is survived by his five children, including Daryl R. Sybert, DO; grandchildren; great grandchildren; brother; and nieces and nephews.

Life Member **E. Vance Walters, DO**, 94, died March 16, 2021, in Atlanta, Georgia. He was preceded in death by his wife, Kae, and a son. He is survived by two daughters; three granddaughters including Katherine Deagan, DO; and five grandsons.

In 1953, he earned his Doctor of

Osteopathic Medicine from Still College of Osteopathy and Surgery. He interned at Grand Rapids Osteopathic Hospital and served his residency at Doctors Hospital in Columbus. After completing his residency, he moved to Cincinnati to help build the Otto C. Epp Memorial Hospital, which was both the first suburban and air-conditioned hospital in Cincinnati, where he was head of the Department of Orthopedic and Trauma Surgery. He was an orthopedic surgeon and practiced in the Cincinnati area for 40 years. He retired in 1999, which involved relocating to Fort Lauderdale and then Atlanta.

Walters was actively involved in organized medicine. He served for many years on the OOA Board of Trustees and was a leader in the Cincinnati District Academy of Osteopathic Medicine. A crowning achievement in his career was being elected a Fellow of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics in 1988.

He served as the physician for the Moeller High School football team and was inducted into their Gerry Faust Hall of Fame. During his own high school years in Iowa, he won the state championship in cross country and was later inducted into the school's Hall of Fame. After high school, Walters joined the US Navy and received several awards including a Victory Medal and the American Area Campaign Medal.

Physician News

Thomas E. Baker, DO, of Powell, received the Columbus Osteopathic Association's highest honor, the James F. Sosnowski, DO, Distinguished Service Award, during the organization's virtual annual meeting, April 7, 2021. He was recognized for his long and dedicated service to the Central Ohio profession, particularly his work to train the next generation of osteopathic orthopedic surgeons.

Brett A. Call, DO, was named chief of emergency medicine at Hocking Valley Community Hospital. Call, who resides in Amanda, Ohio, has been a physician for 28 years and has served in the US military for more than 30 years, most recently as state surgeon, chair of the Medical Advisory Council, and chair of credentialing for the National Guard.

Dawn C. Dillinger, DO, of Hilliard, is the 2021 recipient of the William I. Linder, DO, Advocate Award, bestowed annually by the Columbus Osteopathic Association. The

award recognizes her work as a champion for the osteopathic profession and osteopathic medical education—and notably her commitment to teaching OMT to residents and students.

Tejal R. Patel, DO, of Columbus, received the inaugural ACOFP Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award for her commitment to enhancing DEI within osteopathic family medicine education and practice through her initiative and leadership. One such example includes her implementation of a program for family medicine residents called "Elephant Rounds," a forum that provides a safe space for residents and faculty to discuss topics like implicit bias and microaggressions. The award was presented virtually during the ACOFP Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar, March 11, 2021. ■

EXECUTIVE INSIGHT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

building in Athens. The OOF dedicated a financial gift for the naming rights of the Student Government Association office in the new building. This support speaks to our storied commitment to our osteopathic medical students. In fact, the OOF generated funding that supported the creation of OU-HCOM through a mandatory assessment of OOA members. This assessment ran from 1975 through 1983 and raised more than \$1 million. **This sacrifice and long-term vision speaks to the heart of osteopathic philanthropy.**

All of this would not be possible without the dedicated service of our OOF Board of Trustees, led by our Chair Henry L. Wehrum, DO. Other members of the Board include: Jennifer L. Gwilym, DO; Sandra L. Cook, DO; Nicklaus J. Hess, DO; Douglas W. Harley, DO; Sharon L. George, DO; Paul T. Scheatzle, DO; Mark S. Jeffries, DO; John F. Ramey, DO; and M. Terrance Simon, DO. I would like to express my deep appreciation to this Board for their dedication to osteopathic philanthropy. Our work is enhanced with the guidance of our financial advisors Shawn Phelps, MBA, and Brandee Wyzlic of Northwestern Mutual. We have a great team!

Without a doubt, these efforts are only possible with your support! As you might guess, we have many donation options available. Please consider making a donation today at OhioDO.org/OOF. ■

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