



GEORGIA OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
— 1902 —

Your monthly GOMA news & update

Welcome to GOMA's monthly newsletter where you can stay up-to-date on the latest osteopathic news and happenings in the GOMA community.

Congrats PCOM Class of 2020!

GA-PCOM Held a Virtual Graduation due to COVID-19



PCOM Georgia premiered its Commencement ceremony for the DO Class of 2020 on Facebook! The May 21st online ceremony was held at 10:30 a.m. EST and was filled with speeches congratulating the 127 graduates. Rather than walking across a stage, pictures of each new D.O. were shown. 27 (21%) are doing residencies in Georgia, and 77 (61%) will be doing residencies somewhere in the Southeast. [Watch the ceremony here!](#)

PCOM = Exceptional

PCOM Granted 10 Year Continuing Accreditation

PCOM was recently granted a full, 10-year continuing accreditation by its accrediting institution for its osteopathic medical programs at all campuses and locations. Read the [story here](#).



At its April meeting, the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) voted to grant PCOM the status of Accreditation with Exceptional Outcome, the highest level of accreditation granted by COCA for the maximum length possible.

In a letter from the AOA, Joshua L. Prober, the interim secretary of COCA and the general counsel for the AOA, congratulated PCOM on achieving this “impressive accreditation status.” This designation comes after a comprehensive self-study report and visits by a COCA accreditation team to all three campuses in Philadelphia, and in Suwanee and Moultrie, Georgia.

As a newly established location, PCOM South Georgia was reviewed in separate action by the COCA which determined that all standards of accreditation were met. Robert Cuzzolino, EdD, the recently retired vice president for graduate programs and planning who led the accreditation endeavor, noted that the process was “a complex and exhaustive effort that could only have been the success it was thanks to the contributions of a large number of PCOM people - including faculty, staff, students, trustees and clinical partners.”

To achieve accreditation, Dr. Cuzzolino explained that PCOM documented full compliance with eleven different standards of accreditation including mission, leadership, finance, facilities, curriculum, faculty, research, learning environment, student services, GME and learning assessment. “It was a true team effort that yielded this very positive result,” he said.

PCOM President and CEO Jay S. Feldstein, DO '81, said, “We are extremely honored to receive the exceptional outcome designation. This speaks volumes about our institution and the high-quality of education we provide to our students.” “We thank the numerous members of the College community who contributed to this tremendous effort,” said Provost Kenneth Veit, DO '76, MBA, FACOFP.

The COCA will not conduct another site visit at PCOM until the spring of 2029. However, monitoring of PCOM's accreditation status will occur regularly.

H. William “Bill” Craver, DO, Dean and Chief Academic Officer of South Georgia was interviewed by WALB-TV for the story on May 20th about this achievement, and the video shows off the campus of PCOM South Georgia. It can be seen at this [link](#).

GOING VIRTUAL



Virtual Osteopathic Education per PCOM Administration

The implementation of virtual learning has been successful due to the adaptability of the College's first-year medical students.

The inaugural class of PCOM South Georgia will finish their first year of medical school virtually. Kenneth J. Veit, DO '76, Provost, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean announced that all PCOM locations will deliver classes and labs virtually until further notice.

“The College has confirmed that this will officially affect the duration of the current academic spring term,” Dr. Veit said in an email to the campus community. “The implementation of this online environment has been very successful in large part due to the resiliency and adaptability of you, our students. It is a bit different, but positive academic achievements, goals and objectives are being obtained across the

board.”

The email continued, “The College will continue to use as many resources as required to maintain high quality instruction and to keep your academic programs on track, leading to the timely realization of your degree and professional goals.”

Students Adjust to Online Learning



Matthew Powell (DO '23), a student at PCOM South Georgia and class chair, feels that remaining online through the term is necessary.

“From a person going through this pandemic just like everyone else, I think it is wise to continue with online education for a few reasons,” he said. “It keeps me and my wife safe from any potential encounter with COVID-19, and we don’t have to make another transition within this term. The transition from in-person to online lectures wasn’t easy or fun. Though I miss my classmates, the faculty and our beautiful campus, I would hate to have to change my approach mid-stream again,” he said.

Students and faculty alike have expressed their longing to return to campus and interact with their community, but most have adjusted well to the change.

Sadie Daugereaux (DO '23), first-year medical student at PCOM South Georgia, says that with time, she has become used to online classes.

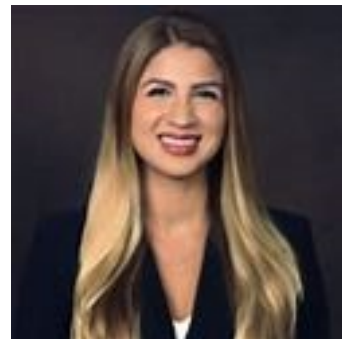
“Medical school is pretty much all about routine and getting a schedule down, so I believe it takes everyone time to figure out what works best for them,” she said. “PCOM was already doing a great job of keeping up with virtual learning advances which has certainly made this transition easier. The faculty could not be better about keeping in close communication with us. Most are checking their emails about every 30 minutes during the week and then multiple times over the weekend, so it is very easy to have your questions answered.”



Aliza Perez (DO '23) admits that she learns best in a classroom setting, so adjusting to virtual learning has been tough. Student Doctor Perez, like all PCOM South Georgia students, is doing her best, taking the change in stride and keeping a positive attitude.

“I am a person who learns best in a classroom in a live setting, so it has become more difficult to stay focused and attentive while looking at my computer screen from home in a room alone. This change will test my discipline and resilience, which will ultimately be good for me as I will deal with public health emergencies and constant change once I start working in the hospital. I believe the change is necessary for the safety of our school and the community, so I support the actions that the institution has taken to keep its students and faculty safe and healthy.

Being that we actually learned about the Coronavirus and many other viruses this year, I am better able to understand the severity of the situation and how the virus is transmitted—something that was beyond my comprehension during undergrad.”



Faculty Embrace Virtual Instruction



Jennifer Shaw, PhD, associate professor of physiology, makes her availability to students a top priority. Dr. Shaw, along with the other faculty members, keeps an open line of communication with students. Teaching through live lectures, chatting with students via educational software, and having virtual office hours all allow her to connect with the soon-to-be second-year medical students.

“We’re all deprived of social interaction,” she said. “We’re doing what

we can to recreate the classroom environment. You don't realize how important those pockets of time are between classes when students can easily talk with professors and each other about content or just life. We chat a lot in between classes, and all of the faculty miss that. So, right before starting our live online lecture I ask them to tell me something fun that is not directly related to class to foster a small sense of human interaction."

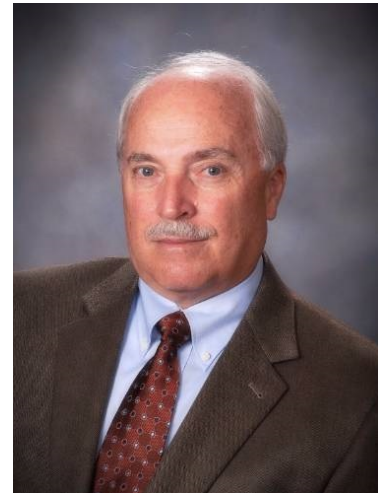
Although online teaching and learning have been a major change for faculty and students, Dr. Shaw says students are performing well. She says that students are doing their best to maintain study groups and interact with one another.

"The students are still getting the lecture-based content that they need," Dr. Shaw said. "We provide review exercises and practice questions. I want them to study as if they're on campus and promote conceptual thinking."

The DOcter is In...

How do you teach OMT during a pandemic?

William "Bill" Delp, DO (pictured right) is an Associate Professor of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine at PCOM Georgia in Suwanee, Georgia. He also serves as the Director of Family Practice/OMM Rotations for the school. Dr. Delp completed his medical education at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1975, and his postgraduate education at the old Doctors Hospital on Idlewood Road in Tucker, Georgia. He established a practice in Loganville, Georgia, providing care to that community for 36 years. Dr. Delp joined the faculty of GA-PCOM in 2005. He is board certified in Family Medicine and OMM by the ABOFP and board eligible in Lipidology. He is a member of the AOA and GOMA, and served as President of GOMA in 1983.



We asked Dr. Delp to summarize his May 2020 one hour presentation that he gave as part of PCOM's webinar series entitled "Strategies to Bring Clinical Education to Online Environments". The lecture is available through PCOM CME catalog under the "On Demand Series". He wrote the following:

For the past three months we have been living the Chinese curse "may you live interesting times". This is most obvious in the realm of medical education. During the first week of the third term of the year here at PCOM GA the students and faculty were notified that the pandemic was sending us all off campus until further notice. That left the entire third term to be completed online. We are still off campus with no idea when we are going back.

I was responsible for teaching first and second year students in our OMM course. I am also Clerkship Director for FM/OMM rotations for OMSIII. Usually this means I have two or three students who rotate with me on the campus and see patients in our OMM clinic. The rest on that rotation are in family medicine offices with DOs who may use OMM in their practice. There are written assignments required of all of the students and online blended learning assignments that must be completed during the four-week rotations.

The final term of the first and second year OMM course was difficult. Lectures were either recorded for students to view online or delivered online at the scheduled times. We all did this from our homes and had to learn a lot about how to navigate the virtual world in the process. Hands on OMM labs could not be provided. The best we could do for this was to hold labs virtually. The techniques were discussed in detail emphasizing the anatomy and principles of the techniques covered. Each of the faculty was responsible for a small group of students for each lab. I was fortunate to have thought ahead and brought home a spine model. I was able to at least demonstrate the location of boney landmarks for each technique. We also referred the students to videos of the techniques that are part of the Nicholas Atlas. This is one of our required texts and could be viewed thru the PCOM library online. There is no substitute for the hands on experience, but this was the best we could do under the circumstances.

I suddenly had 15 third year students assigned to a virtual course that did not exist! The first two weeks of creating the course required 8-10 hour days, seven days a week to accomplish. The remainder came more easily once the theme for each week was clear. I called on other members of the department to provide content and am happy to say we pulled it off very well. We challenged the students to provide

written case management plans for simulated patients, an extensive OMM board review, and other subjects that incorporated OMM into common conditions seen in family medicine. The students also participated in the OMM labs with both first and second years. I could not have done it without the contribution of my colleagues.

I am pleased to say that the students did okay, but have reported that they really missed the live OMM labs. The third years actually did better on end of rotation exams than before we went virtual. Some of the content of that course will be incorporated into the rotation when students are back in the realm of live patient care.

As a family doc who transitioned to the academic realm, I can say that the challenges are different and sometimes difficult, but there is great satisfaction in seeing the students become practicing physicians and knowing that I had a small part in preparing them for careers in medicine. I am looking forward to getting back to direct interaction with students.

Giselle Piniero, DO Advocated for Mental Health in May 2020

The last week of May 2020 was an emotional week. Notably, marking the statistic of 100,000 American deaths from COVID-19, millions of Americans unemployed and the death of George Floyd at the knee of Minneapolis policeman with subsequent protests around the country made many suffer sorrow and anger. May was the Mental Health Awareness month. While our state was still struggling with a pandemic, it seemed to be perfect timing for Giselle Piniero, DO to have focused on emotional battles that many were having when she wrote a column for the Moultrie Observer at the end of the month. Dr. Piniero is completing her Family Practice residency at Colquitt Regional, and her powerful voice will be making an impact for many years to come. Thank you Dr. Piniero for your work in [highlighting mental health!](#)



Arthritis Foundation Honors Mathew Levine, DO



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Congratulations to Mathew E. Levine, DO for being named the Medical Honoree of the Arthritis Foundation's 2020 Walk to Cure Arthritis in Atlanta. Dr. Levine is an orthopedic surgeon practicing in Roswell and Cumming, Georgia. He specializes in hip and knee arthritis with fellowship training in adult joint replacements. He moved to Georgia in 2018, and joined Resurgens Orthopaedics to be closer to his sister Julie Levine, DO who specializes in Physical Medicine and Rehab as well as Acupuncture in Woodstock, Georgia. If you donate to the Arthritis Foundation using the link below, it will be matched by the Resurgens Foundation. Dr. Levine is making a difference by helping his orthopedic patients as well as improving the AF's research & support services. To help click here.

Legally Speaking...

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp has issued an executive order that protects additional physicians and allied health care professionals in the state from legal liability for the duration of the COVID-19 Public Health State of Emergency "except in cases of gross negligence, willful misconduct, or bad faith."

The executive order that Gov. Kemp signed on May 14th designates "individuals who are licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under Title 43, Chapter 26 and Chapter 34 to provide health care services in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession or in an approved education or training program, whose practices are affected by the Public Health Emergency caused by the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19" as auxiliary emergency management workers.

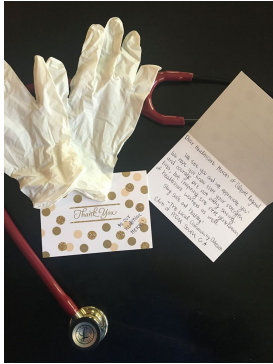
This is in addition to workers at health care facilities (except those wherein abortion procedures are performed) who are also defined as auxiliary emergency management workers.

The new executive order ensures that non-facility-based physicians receive those same protections for

the important work they are doing during the public health emergency.

Thank you to the work that GOMA President-elect Karen Turner, DO (standing next to Gov. Kemp in this picture from Legislative Day 3/5/2020) who had been working to assure that non-facility-based physicians were included in this executive order so that all doctors would be included.

Thank You Notes to Health Care Workers from Osteopathic Students



In an effort to encourage and thank healthcare workers during COVID-19, the PCOM South Georgia Local Community Outreach Club wrote thank you notes and sent snacks to Colquitt Regional Medical Center.

Sadie Daugereaux (DO '23), pictured in article above, club president, said "the entire purpose of the Local Community Outreach Club is to give back to the community that not only fought to get us here, but has supported us every step of the way."

The club's plans for spring term were cancelled due to COVID-19, so Daugereaux and other members brainstormed ways to provide acts of service. Many PCOM South Georgia students had returned home to finish their year online, so they chose an outreach that didn't require them to be in Moultrie.

"We specifically chose to reach out to healthcare workers because not only are they serving at a time when risks are high, but they are also inspiring our generation to follow in their footsteps," Daugereaux said.

We're #PCOMproud of our students for taking this initiative to applaud our healthcare heroes!



Support GOMA!

*Helping your professional society,
and the osteopathic community weather these
uncertain times.*

[CLICK HERE to: Renew or Join GOMA!](#)

NEW! A Great CME Opportunity!

**LIVE Webinar Series:
"Oncology for Primary Care"
July 2020**

A 4-Part Series for 4 Category 1-A CME Credits from 6-7 pm on Mondays.

**Oncology for Primary Care Webinar
Series in July 2020**

GOMA is following its Multicultural Medicine
Mondays in June with another 4 Monday

GOMA's Oncology for Primary Care A 4-part Live Webinar Series



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This dynamic series features expert faculty speaking on oncologic topics in oncology multicultural medicine addresses several topics that will help prepare physicians for an array of issues encountered with diverse patient populations. This education will be an invaluable resource to you no matter what your practice setting.

6:00 - 7:00 PM EDT, MONDAYS

July 6: "Oncologic Emergencies"

Mark L. Higdon, DO, FAACP (Family Practice Residency Director at Novant Health, Cornelius, NC)

July 13: "Orbital Cancer"

Michael Willman, DO (Assistant Professor, University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Lillington, NC)

July 20: "Bladder Cancer Update"

Coronado "Roddy" Tojino, DO (Urologist, Augusta, GA)

July 27: "Immunotherapy as a Treatment for Cancer"

Gregory Harris, DO (Oncologist, Harbin Clinic, Rome, GA)

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JOIN OR RENEW TO BENEFIT FROM MEMBERSHIP RATES

series in July focused on Oncology for Primary Care. These one hour programs on Monday evenings from 6 PM to 7 PM will be webinars that you can attend from work or home. Attendees can earn up to four AOA Category 1-A credits.

For four consecutive Mondays starting June 1, GOMA will host a webinar featuring highly qualified faculty speaking on topics related to multicultural medicine. Multicultural medicine training will make physicians more prepared for a diverse patient population.

The cost for this series is \$120, but there is a 50% reduction in cost for members of GOMA. The information gathered through these four lectures is priceless. Go to www.goma.org and register under the CME tab. Speakers and topics are highlighted below.



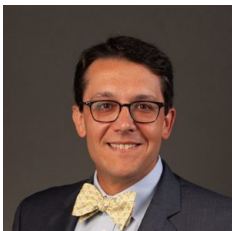
JULY 6: Mark Higdon, DO, FAAFP will be speaking on "Oncologic Emergencies" which should prepare primary care physicians as well as emergency physicians for the cancer patient who has a dramatic change in condition. Dr. Higdon is the Family Practice Residency director at Novant Health in Charlotte, North Carolina. Prior to that position, he had served as the director of the Family Practice Residency at Fort Benning in Georgia.



JULY 13: Michael Willman, DO has done several lectures for GOMA conferences in the past, and has always been well received by the doctors attending. His subject will be "Orbital Cancers" which he feels will be an eye opening lecture for doctors since most don't realize that cancer of the eye is possible. Dr. Willman is an ophthalmologist in Snellville, Georgia, but also teaches as an Assistant Professor at the Campbell University College of Osteopathic Medicine in North Carolina.




JULY 20: Conrado "Roddy" Tojino, DO is an expert at genitourinary cancers in Augusta, Georgia. Dr. Tojino practice in the Hudson Valley of New York state for close to twenty years prior to moving closer to family six years ago. Dr. Tojino will be presenting Bladder Cancer Update".



JULY 27: Gregory Harris, DO will be lecturing about "Immunotherapy as a Treatment for Cancer". Dr. Harris is an oncologist at the Harbin Clinic in Rome, Georgia. He is currently serving in the leadership of the osteopathic profession by being the Chair of the Bureau of Emerging Leaders and the New Physician in Practice Member of the AOA Board of Trustees.

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during the COVID19 Pandemic



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started. It is supported 8 AM to Midnight seven days a week. **(See left)**

Mona Masood, DO is a general adult psychiatrist in the greater Philadelphia area is the founder and chief organizer of the Physician Support Line.

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