



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.

### GOMA Celebrates Excellence

#### Khadijah Jihad, DO Earns the GOMA Trimble Award of Excellence



German born, Middle Eastern raised African American with a passion for healing others” is how Khadijah Emani Jihad, D.O. describes herself on her Facebook page, but when the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association awarded her the 2020 Trimble Award of Excellence, it was because of the impact that she made during her basic science years as well as during her clinical rotations.

Dr. Jihad started her life being born to American parents stationed in Germany but migrated to the United States at the age of 2 years old. Her father retired from the military, and moved with family to Kuwait so that she was aged 5 years old starting her academics by attending an American school. At age 10 years old, her family moved to Saudi Arabia where she attended an international school while her father worked in the supply chain management sector as her mother served as a teacher.

After graduating from that high school, Dr. Jihad moved back to the southeastern United States for college. She matriculated into Georgia Military College in Augusta for one year and then transferred to University of South Carolina Aiken where she flourished with the smaller class sizes and the opportunity to participate in lots of extracurricular activities. In 2015, Dr. Jihad graduated with a B.S. degree in Biology.

After spending one gap year as an emergency room scribe, Dr. Jihad started at PCOM Georgia in Suwanee, Georgia. She states that she was motivated to make an impact in the community, and became involved in the Health Career Academy twice a month by working with underrepresented minority 10th graders at a local high school. She later became a co-director of the program at which time she fine-tuned the curriculum. Dr. Jihad noted a change in the motivation of many of the students which she found gratifying. Additionally, she was a Student Ambassador in which she became involved with showing the GA-PCOM campus to prospective students as well as interviewing applicants. She served as the community service chairperson for the GA-PCOM's SNMA chapter. By going out into the community, Dr. Jihad felt energized by hearing patients' stories. It was on her second clinical rotation working with a LaGrange pulmonologist/intensivist that she realized that the work as a scribe helped her with the medical lingo and having intuition in assessments of the patients. Dr. Jihad finds that she learns best by doing, and enjoyed the last two years of medical school even when sometimes she would work eighteen days straight until COVID-19 forced all the medical students to do virtual learning. And yet, she enjoyed the virtual Medical Wellness module in which she reawakened her artistic self and has found painting to be very therapeutic.

Dr. Jihad graduated online from GA-PCOM on Thursday May 21st due to the COVID-19 crisis. It was at that time she got the news that she had been awarded the GOMA Trimble Award of Excellence. It has

been a busy graduation season for the family since her younger sister graduated from law school, her brother got his bachelor's degree from college and her youngest brother graduated from high school all within two weeks of each other. Dr. Jihad will not be far from her family as she starts her Emergency Medicine at Wellstar Kennesaw on July 1st after a twelve day orientation period. GOMA is certain that Dr. Khadijah Jihad will continue to make a positive impact on her community as well as a great ambassador for the osteopathic profession.

## From the Field

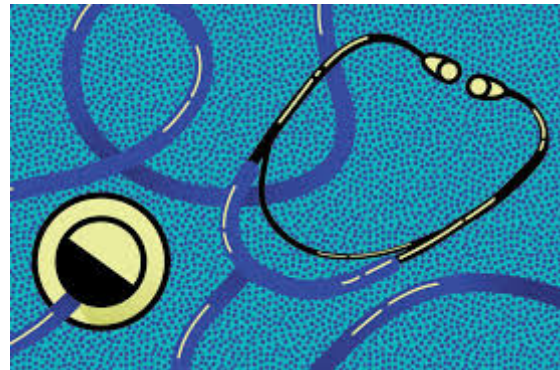


### Financial Strain on Physicians

Whether self-employed or employed by a group / hospital, all physicians are feeling financial strain. It is not a situation that physicians are familiar. The COVID-19 pandemic has decreased volumes of patients which seems counter intuitive, but these are unprecedented times. The American College of Surgeons produced a 12-page guide on strategies to survive economically that includes 3 different case studies on physicians in different stages of finance. Its lessons are not just for surgeons but doctors from any specialty. It helps prioritize decisions when one's thought process may not be able to have the perspective to self-serve. The publication can be found [here](#).

### Financial Assistance to Practices Accepting Medicaid

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced that providers of Medicaid care as well as of CHIP care qualify for financial assistance as long as they have not have received payments from the \$50 billion Provider Relief Fund General Distribution. HHS expects to distribute approximately \$15 billion to eligible providers as well as an additional \$10 billion to "safety net hospitals". "Healthcare providers who focus on treating the most vulnerable Americans, including low-income and minority patients, are absolutely essential to our fight against COVID-19," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "HHS is using funds from Congress, secured by President Trump, to provide new targeted help for America's safety-net providers and clinicians who treat millions of Medicaid beneficiaries." More information about eligibility and the application process is available [here](#).



### GA Osteopathic Community Joins "White Coats for Black Lives" Demonstration



On Friday June 5, Barbara Joy Jones, DO clad in her scrubs and white coat, walked to a grassy quadrangle near Emory University Hospital and took a knee.

For eight minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time George Floyd lay under a Minneapolis policeman's knee as he died, Jones and several hundred doctors, nurses, physician assistants and other health care workers kneeled "in remembrance of George Floyd and countless others," in the words of a flier that flashed around social media that week. The demonstration planned by an Emory medical student on Twitter struck a nerve and grew to include workers at seven hospitals across metro Atlanta. The organizers called it "White Coats for Black Lives" and said they did so for a reason. Racism isn't just a human rights problem, they said; it's destructive to health and they see that on the front lines.

The event was covered by the media. Carol Sbarge of WSB-TV noted that a few weeks prior medical professionals were being honored for their hard work battling COVID-19. "This time they were the ones rallying," Sbarge said. During Sbarge's interview of her, Dr. Jones put the demonstration in context, "What's going on in America today and all over the world is racial disparity. It doesn't just stop with police brutality. It actually permeates the medical community." Dr. Jones was joined that day by PCOM Georgia osteopathic medical students Ja'Davia Schafer and Lavar Williams.

## Legally Speaking...

### Law Adds Protection for Seniors



On the last day of June, Governor Brian Kemp signed into law the senior care reform bill (HB 987) sponsored by Rep. Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta) that we had featured in past newsletters and on GOMA's Facebook page.

Under the new law, administrators of assisted living and large personal care homes for the first time will be required to pass a test and be licensed. Memory care units will now have to be certified. Nurses will be required in assisted living and memory care and overall staffing and training requirements will increase. Homes will also have to prove they have the financial means to operate before they get a license and will have to disclose any financial problems that come up after they open. In addition, those caught breaking the rules will now face bigger fines.

Most of the new law relates to assisted living communities and personal care homes of 25 beds or more, but a section on COVID-19 also applies to the state's nursing homes, and it will require testing, planning, and preparedness for a pandemic.

Many of the law provisions do not take effect until July 2021, but the provisions related to COVID-19 take effect immediately.

While multiple other pieces of legislation revolve around healthcare, they have yet to be signed by Governor Kemp. August 5 is the deadline for Gov. Kemp to either sign or veto bills. We will write about those that become law in future editions.

## DO'ing It!

### Brant Barron, DO - A New Graduate with Gray Hairs

When a calling to attend medical school could no longer be ignored, Brant Barron, DO '20, applied and was accepted at PCOM Georgia, the closest

medical school to his home in Gainesville, Georgia.

“For years I had a calling,” said Barron. “But I doubted my abilities and was too stubborn to say I had gone in the wrong direction.” A family medical experience “removed my ego from my body for a time and allowed me to see clearly.”

“It is in my nature to want to understand at the highest level possible,” shared Barron. “I have always been the one who takes the idea, turns it into a mission and leads a team to get it accomplished.” In reviewing potential healthcare careers, he realized he was best suited for the role of the physician.

Barron plans to accomplish much in his life and career, but his main goal is simply to care for others. “I hope to always offer kindness, love, grace and compassion to others, including myself, and to strive to live a life that can be inspiring and an example of these values. I want to become continually more thoughtful of the needs and feelings of others, to exert even greater effort in all my professional and personal endeavors,” he said.



“I want to learn from people wiser than me and teach those who can learn from me. I want to continue to love being alive and I want to be the best person I possibly can be. I hope to offer healing to people in both the worst and the best times in their lives,” he added.

He is inspired by his fiancée and partner, Cory Barrows, DO (see next article), whom he calls a light in his life and his

biggest supporter, his daughters, his parents, and by “people who stand up to tyranny, speak truth to power or are persecuted for their beliefs” and “those who have seen darkness, but choose the light.”

The couple will be moving to Augusta, Georgia, for their residency programs. They both matched to the Medical College of Georgia – Brant to family medicine and Cory to pediatrics. Barron offered advice to prospective, non-traditional students considering applying to medical school: “You will watch the next years pass in front of you either way. If you are called, then watch them pass becoming who you are meant to be. You will lose some of yourself, but also gain some of the self you will become.”

“It’s not easy,” he added, “but with constant determination and extreme perseverance, you can achieve it. You’ve got this!”

## New DO Residents in Georgia (as of July 1, 2020\*)

<u>Augusta University (MCG)</u>		
Amanda Anderson, DO	GA-PCOM	Psychiatry
Harold "Brant" Barron, DO	GA-PCOM	Family Practice
Cory Barrows, DO	GA-PCOM	Pediatrics
Rhyan Bingham, DO	Lincoln U.	Pediatrics
Joseph Holjencin, DO		Pediatrics
Chaitanya Sambangi, DO	Campbell U.	Pediatrics
Kristen Schmidbauer, DO		Pediatrics
Michael Oberle, DO	VCOM-Auburn	Urology
<u>Emory University</u>		
So Mang "Sarah" Chang, DO	GA-PCOM	Family Practice
Natalie Pokiektov, DO	Rocky Vista	Obstetrics/Gyn
<u>Morehouse</u>		
Miranda Nortey, DO	PCOM-Philly	Pediatrics
<u>Northside/Gwinnett Medical Center</u>		
Connor Hedstrom, DO	LECOM-Erie,PA	Family Practice
Mansi Vadodaria, DO	GA-PCOM	
<u>Colquitt Regional</u>		
Hyder Naqvi, DO	GA-PCOM	Family Practice
William Seemer, DO	GA-PCOM	Family Practice
<u>The Medical Center in Columbus, GA</u>		
Nathan Anisko, DO	GA-PCOM	Family Practice
Alethea Diane Duc, DO	GA-PCOM	Family Practice
Anna Ulmer, DO	VCOM-Auburn	Family Practice
<u>Hughston Clinic</u>		
Michael Ulmer, DO	VCOM-Auburn	Orthopedics
<u>Mercer University</u>		
Reanne Harris, DO	GA-PCOM	Internal Medicine
<u>Northeast Georgia Medical Center</u>		
Mena Louis, DO	NYIT-COM	General Surgery
Brittany Pena Barthelemy, DO	GA-PCOM	Family Practice
Macy Phillips Tabb, DO	VCOM-Auburn	Family Practice
Celeste M. Vickery, DO	LECOM-FL	Family Practice
Comfort Adewunmi, DO	VCOM- Virginia	Internal Medicine
Celine Fadel, DO	VCOM-Virginia	Internal Medicine
Christine Sykalo, DO	Western U-COMP	Internal Medicine
Nikhilesh Thapa, DO	Des Moines-COM	Internal Medicine
Paige Gwynn, DO	VCOM-Virginia	Internal Medicine
Tyler Sadka, DO	VCOM-Virginia	Internal Medicine
Sahil Parag, DO	WVSOM	Internal Medicine
<u>Floyd Medical Center</u>		
Nate Henry, DO	VCOM-SC	Family Practice
Kristopher Nelson, DO	VCOM-Auburn	Family Practice
Greg Rusiecki, DO	LECOM-FL	Family Practice
Yasmeen Shariff, DO	PCOM-GA	Family Practice
<u>Redmond Medical Center</u>		
Yusra Azhar, DO	GA-PCOM	Internal Medicine
<u>Wellstar Kennesaw</u>		
Rachel Anderson, DO	GA-PCOM	Internal Medicine
Gayatri Menon, DO	GA-PCOM	Internal Medicine
Coston Rowe, DO	GA-PCOM	Internal Medicine
Nidhi Patel, DO	GA-PCOM	Family Practice
Donna Yoon, DO	GA-PCOM	Family Practice
Khadijah Jihad, DO	GA-PCOM	Emergency Medicine

\* = this list is incomplete, and will be updated as more information is available

## One-by-One: A Prayer as the COVID Death Toll Mounts

by Alden Solovy

God of consolation,  
Surely you count in heaven,

Just as we count here on earth,  
In shock and in sorrow,  
The souls sent back to You,  
One-by-one,  
The dead from the COVID pandemic,  
As the ones become tens,  
The tens become hundreds,  
The hundreds become thousands,  
The thousands become ten-thousands  
And then hundred-thousands,  
Each soul, a heartbreak,  
Each soul, a life denied.

God of wisdom,  
Surely in the halls of divine justice  
You are assembling the courts,  
Calling witnesses to testify,  
To proclaim  
The compassion of some  
And the callousness of others  
As we've struggled to cope.  
The souls taken too soon,  
Whose funerals were lonely,  
Who didn't need to die,  
Who died alone,  
Will tell their stories  
When You judge  
Our triumphs  
And our failures  
In these hours of need.

God of healing,  
Put an end to this pandemic,  
And all illness and disease.  
Bless those who stand in service to humanity.  
Bless those who grieve.  
Bless the dead,  
So that their souls are bound up in the bond of life eternal.  
And grant those still afflicted  
With disease or trauma  
A completed and lasting healing,  
One-by-one,  
Until suffering ceases,  
And we can stop counting the dead,  
In heaven  
And on earth.



## 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: Don't MISS OUT - Just 2 weeks left! "Oncology for Primary Care" July 20 & 27

Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association

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Up to 4 hours  
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1 credit per  
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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, Livingston, NJ)

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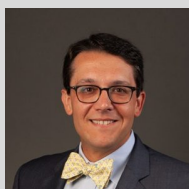
### A 4-Part Series for 4 Category 1-A CME Credits from 6-7 pm on Mondays.

This Summer GOMA has hosted two 4-part live webinar series featuring highly qualified faculty speaking on topics related to multicultural medicine and oncology.

The registration fee for the last 2 is \$60, but there is a 50% reduction in cost for members of GOMA. The information gathered through these lectures is invaluable and will go a long way to best serving our patients. Go to [www.goma.org](http://www.goma.org) and register under the CME tab.




July 20:  
"Bladder Cancer Update"  
Coronado "Roddy" Tojino, DO  
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"Immuno-therapy as a Treatment for Cancer"  
Gregory Harris, DO  
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support line by volunteer psychiatrists was 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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