



GEORGIA OSTEOPATHIC
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GOMA News & Updates

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PCOM South Georgia Dean H. William Craver, DO Retiring at the End of April 2023



After 30 years of service to PCOM, H. William Craver, III, DO, FACOS, Dean and Chief Academic Officer of PCOM South Georgia will retire effective April 30th. Dr. Bill Craver said, "It has been my honor to help contribute to the growth of the Osteopathic profession in Georgia."

Dean Craver has devoted his illustrious career to PCOM. After graduating as a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the

College in 1987, he completed his residency at the Osteopathic Medical Center of Philadelphia. Over the next three decades, Dean Craver tirelessly advanced osteopathic medicine and education across our campuses and nationally.

At PCOM, Dean Craver started his career as the academic coordinator of the residency program in surgery. He also served in a variety of leadership positions at PCOM Georgia, including Dean and Chief Academic Officer, a role he held for nine years before becoming Vice Provost of the Georgia and South Georgia campuses. He has served as Dean and Chief Academic Officer of PCOM South Georgia for the last three years. We know that establishing that campus is one of his greatest points of pride.

The American Osteopathic Association has honored Dean Craver as a Guardian of the Profession, and we couldn't think of a more appropriate way to describe his leadership and commitment. He has spent much of his career advocating for osteopathic medicine by serving in leadership positions including on the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce's Medical Education Advisory Committee, the AOA's Council on Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training and as the chair of the Board of Deans for the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

His honors and awards are many, including Physician of the Year from the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association, a lifetime membership to the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons and induction into the AOA's Mentor Hall of Fame.

"We wish Dean Craver all our best and thank him immensely for his long-standing commitment and invaluable contributions to PCOM, the medical profession and osteopathic medical education," wrote Kenneth J. Veit, DO, MBA, Provost, SVP for Academic Affairs of PCOM and Jay S. Feldstein, DO, President and Chief Executive Officer of PCOM. And so does GOMA! Best of luck during your retirement Dr. Craver!

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Professor of OB/Gyn & Interim GA-PCOM Dean Joseph Kaczmarczyk, DO Wins Lifetime Award



Congratulations to Joseph M. Kaczmarczyk, DO, MPH, MBA for becoming the first D.O. to receive the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO)'s Lifetime Achievement Award in the organization's 60-year history. Dr. Kaczmarczyk is a 1982 graduate of the PCOM school in Philadelphia and after a 33-year career teaching in the Philadelphia area, he began teaching women's health at PCOM Georgia as well as served as Interim Dean of Osteopathic Medicine in 2020. Read more at:

<http://ow.ly/Ja6g50Nk8bl>



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The Answer to Your CME Question = VOC

What do you get when you add 8 hours of Emergency Medicine CME; 16 hours of Internal Medicine CME and 24 hours of Family Medicine CME? You get 48 hours of high quality, super convenient continuing medical education that satisfies your needs. The Virtual Osteopathic Conference (VOC) is available on-demand until June 30th, but you must register before June 1st.

The great aspect is that you can purchase as small as 8 hours of CME as well as the hours are good for AOA Category 1-A credits and/or AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. The VOC originally occurred in February 2023 but luckily this well reviewed program is available online when you can watch the lectures. The reviews of 9,450 doctors averaged 4.7 stars out of maximum of 5 stars. Go to the below link to see if VOC is for you.

<https://maops.ce21.com/item/the-voc-2023-485730>

2023 Georgia Healthcare Legislative Summary



The 2023 legislative session ended Wednesday March 29, with many items still on the table; however, organized medicine saw success on many of legislative priorities. The bills that passed must be signed within forty days by Governor Brian Kemp in order to become law. Therefore, letters of support or opposition to Gov. Kemp must be sent soon.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, no major scope expansions passed this year, including two CRNA independent practice bills. SB 197 by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome) also passed and will prohibit deceptive or misleading terms, or false representations by health care practitioners. SB 164 is another bill by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome) that passed, and it creates a license for APRNs. Language was added to this bill that licenses anesthesiologist assistants under the Composite Medical Board. Other bills that passed in regards to scope of practice were: HB 416 by Rep. Deborah Silcox (R-Sandy Springs) authorizes qualified pharmacy technicians to administer certain vaccines, under the vaccine protocol agreement between their delegating pharmacist and a physician; SR 371 by Sen. Bo Hatchett (R-Cornelia) creates the Senate Study Committee on Rural Medical Personnel Recruitment, which will look at issues in recruiting rural medical personnel and will include discussions about CRNA scope expansion. All of these will require signature of the governor.

HB 295 by Rep. Lee Hawkins (R-Gainesville) will see improvements to the state's surprise billing law by clarifying what constitutes an unfair claims settlement practice by an insurer, expanding the timeline for filing requests for IDR, and for the IDR entity to come to a decision

from 30 days to 60 days, and granting additional flexibilities to the Department of Insurance to administer the program, including fines for noncompliance.

SB 20 by Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick, M.D. (R-Marietta) will allow the Department of Insurance to oversee and enforce network adequacy standards. HB 85 by Rep. Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta) requires health benefit policy coverage for biomarker testing if supported by medical and scientific evidence. HB 315 by Rep. Darlene Taylor (R-Thomasville) requires the Department of Insurance to promulgate rules and regulations regarding cost-sharing requirements for diagnostic and supplemental breast screening examinations. All the above health insurance bills await signature by Governor Kemp. HB 520 by Rep. Todd Jones (R-South Forsyth) would have implemented recommendations from the 2022 Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission. It did not pass, but portions related to streamlining agency communications were added to SB 23, which did pass.

In regards to tort reform, HB 470 by Rep. Sharon Cooper (R-Marietta) to enact CANDOR and HB 455 by Rep. John LaHood (R-Valdosta) that would have provided confidentiality for a program to address burnout and fatigue in physicians and other health care professionals did not pass unfortunately. However, with this being the first year of the two-year session, these bills are still viable for next year. Only one item of tort reform showed progress, HB 530 by Rep. James Burchett (R-Waycross) would have allowed for protective orders for certain high ranking officers in companies during depositions and discovery in a civil suit. It did not pass but was amended onto SB 74, which passed.

There were two bills of significance in regards to Medicaid that passed: SB 65 by Sen. Ben Watson, M.D. (R-Savannah) authorizes the state to establish its own state insurance exchange. SB 106 by Sen. Larry Walker (R-Perry) creates a three-year pilot program to provide coverage for remote maternal health clinical services under the Medicaid program.

In regards to public health, there were several bills that passed and will be forwarded to the desk of the Governor: SB 1 by Sen. Greg Dolezal (R-Cumming) removes the sunset on legislation passed last year prohibiting state and local governments from requiring proof of COVID vaccination for government services; SB 46 by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome) requires physicians and healthcare providers to test all pregnant women for HIV and syphilis at the first prenatal visit, at 28–32 weeks' gestation, and at delivery; SB 47 by Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome) prohibits vaping in smoke-free areas

SB 140 by Sen. Carden Summers (R-Cordele) prohibits surgical procedures “performed for the purpose of altering primary or secondary sexual characteristics” and the use of hormone therapy “on a minor for the treatment of gender dysphoria.” The bill was amended to remove language barring criminal and civil liability for physicians based on the legislation. It does not prohibit hormone blockers. SB 140 has already been signed by the governor.

SB 223 by Sen. Ben Watson, M.D. (R-Savannah) authorizes reimbursement of patient incurred expenses related to participation in a cancer clinical trial passed.

HB 163 by Rep. Lauren McDonald (R-Cumming) provides for student loan repayment for medical examiners employed by the Division of Forensic Sciences of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation passed.

HB 308 by Rep. Mark Newton, M.D. (R-Augusta) would have extended the tax credit for certain medical preceptor rotations. It was added to SB 56, which did pass.

HB 383 by Rep. Matt Reeves (R-Duluth) provides for enhanced penalties for aggravated assault and aggravated battery committed upon emergency health workers and healthcare workers located on a hospital campus. It would also allow hospitals to have their own POST certified police force. It awaits signature by Gov. Kemp

The final FY 2024 budget also passed on the last day of session. The budget does include significant increases for GME, additional money

for the Georgia Composite Medical Board, and funds to increase select primary care and OB/GYN codes to 2021 Medicare levels.

Medicaid Roster Purge Starts in Georgia

Starting on April 1, the first of an expected 15 million people will be kicked off Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) nationwide. The Covid-19 pandemic is no longer forcing states to retain every Medicaid enrollee on the books.

Early during the public health emergency, as a condition of receiving additional federal funding, states were temporarily barred from kicking anyone off of Medicaid. Thanks to this federal policy change, Medicaid and CHIP rolls swelled, and the country's uninsured rate fell to a record low last year.

According to government estimates, nearly half the people expected to get purged will still be eligible for Medicaid. Among children, the share is even higher: 72 percent of children expected to lose their Medicaid or CHIP coverage will technically still be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP.

Of the approximately half million people who will gradually get purged in Georgia, there is a strong possibility that they can preserve their coverage. The state has created a website, <https://staycovered.ga.gov/>, to provide information and updates on how to get re-certified. Anyone with a Gateway account should make sure their information is up to date, including phone numbers, addresses, jobs, and income, and the number of people who live in your home. The recertification process will be gradual.

ACA to Stop Covering Preventative Care?

On the last days of March, U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor struck down a major provision of the Affordable Care Act requiring

insurers to provide cost-free coverage for cancer screenings, HIV prevention, maternal care and host of other conditions. O'Connor's decision in the Braidwood Management v. Becerra revolves around the U. S. Preventative Services Task Force's recommendations. His decision applied to more than 50 preventative measures nationwide. The Biden Administration is anticipated to appeal the case and eventually, it will be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

CIGNA Creates More Hassle for Doctors

The recently announced revised Cigna M25 policy. The major change is Cigna requiring office notes for CPT codes 99212-99215 and modifier 25 when a minor procedure is billed.

The records can be submitted via:

- dedicated fax number (833) 462-1360
- email Modifier25Medica1Records@Cigna.com
- U.S. mail
- electronically through the Cigna EDI approved vendor

"We are not pleased with this policy change and will continue to proactively advocate with Cigna on behalf of the osteopathic community and individual practices," wrote Kim Popernik, MHA from the Physician Services Department of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA).

Brian Delashmitt, DO Recognized as Administrator



C. Brian Delashmitt, DO is the Executive Vice President, Chief Medical Officer at Hamilton Health Care System in Dalton, Georgia since August 2020. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University with his D.O. degree in 2007, and earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Western Governors University in Utah in 2018. He is responsible for clinical quality and performance improvement, medical staff services, accreditation, hospitalists and intensivists. Prior to this role, Dr. Delashmitt served as a utilization review physician at Southwestern Health Resources in Texas and worked for TeamHealth at Rhea Medical Center in Dayton, Tennessee as a medical director of hospitalists and Chief of Staff; in 2019, he became the medical director of Hamilton's hospitalist program.

Becker's Hospital Review Hospital and Health System CMOs to Know for 2023 named Dr. Delashmitt In early March 2023. The below YouTube link allows Dr. Delashmitt to explain how his osteopathic training allows him to excel in the chief medical officer position.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR3nTu1CtwMhUdI54FM64Ofwb3PppOQ3c6WoAMzko2b4dTFT7mCNbDcfU5A&v=AiPL6l_Gc6c&feature=youtu.be

Megan Jimenez, DO is a World Champion is Jiu Jitsu & Sports Medicine Focused Orthopedist



Megan Jimenez, DO is an Emory orthopedic surgeon in Lagrange,

Georgia who became a Jiu jitsu master world champion at purple belt level in January 2023.

Dr. Jiminez graduated from Rowan University - School of Osteopathic Medicine, Stratford, NJ in 2014. She completed her residency at Rowan University/Inspira Medical Center Orthopaedic Surgery in Vineland, NJ. She completed her fellowship training at Washington University Orthopaedic Sports Medicine. She joined the Emory Healthcare Southern Orthopedics team in 2020. Dr. Jiminez is a Faculty member of Emory University, active staff member of the West Georgia Health System and the Emory at LaGrange Surgery Center. She is affiliated with medical facilities such as Emory University Hospital and Emory University Hospital Midtown. For a major inspiration, watch this interview of Dr. Jiminez.

<https://youtu.be/a02D0bn7YVU>

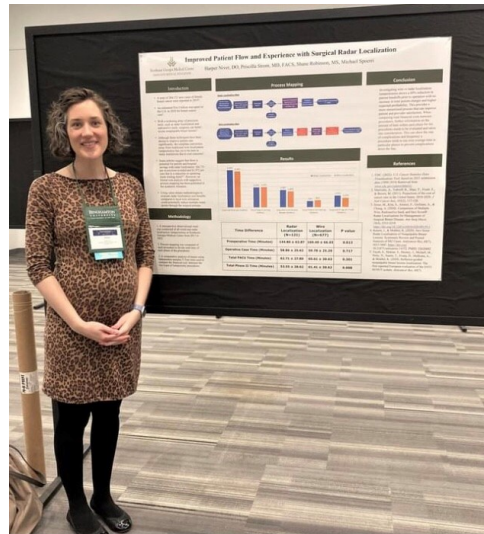
Birthing a Lifestyle Medicine Practice: Erin Mayfield, DO



Erin Mayfield, DO, DipABLM, DipAOBOG retired from her gynecology practice after serving the community of Covington, GA for 33 years, and started a new career as a health coach at the beginning of this year. The above picture is from a February 2023 cooking class to the UWF Leisure Learning group at Ever'man Cooperative Grocery and Café. She is teaching plant based cooking. The students had a great time learning about the benefits of plant based diets, the healing plant based foods can do, how to cook plant based, and ate a delicious lunch with the rest of their group.

To book a class in plant based cooking, email erin@drerinmayfield.com or learn more at <http://lifestylemedicinewellnessandrecovery.com/>

Surgery Resident Harper Niver, DO Presents Information on Hospital Efficiency



Congratulations to Harper Niver, DO, a PGY-4 General Surgery resident at Northeast Georgia Medical Center, for presenting at the Healthcare Systems Process Improvement conference in Louisville, Kentucky in mid-February 2023. The title of her presentation was “Improved Patient Flow and Experience with Surgical Radar Localization”.

PCOM Georgia & PCOM South Georgia 2023 NRMP Matches Announced



Breaking records from all previous matches, the 2023 National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) matched 7,132 osteopathic medical students in mid-March.

“We are thrilled to see continued growth in the number of osteopathic medical students and graduates who successfully place into residency positions through the NRMP Match each year,” said AOA President Ernest R. Gelb, DO. “The percentage of matches for our residency candidates continues to keep pace with the growth of our profession, demonstrating that residency programs and patients are actively seeking the distinctive approach Dos provide across the full spectrum of medicine.”

Additionally, a record number of 320 graduating osteopathic fourth-year students and 68 graduates secured residency positions via the military match, which places applicants into programs run or sponsored by the military.

See PCOM link for all three campuses where the young PCOM osteopathic physicians will train after graduation. This year is kind of exciting in Moultrie since the inaugural D.O. class of PCOM South Georgia. <https://bit.ly/3n9f6Yc>

While it is impossible to be certain about the final specialty for these graduates, but a review shows that 63% of the GA-PCOM graduates will be matching in primary care specialties, and even more

impressive is that 73% of the PCOM South Georgia graduates will enter primary care.

PCOM South Georgia Program Helps Pre-teen Students in Moultrie, Georgia



C. A. Gray Junior High School in Moultrie, Georgia announced the PCOM Mentoring Program. This partnership is under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Mitchell, Assisted Director of Diversity and Community Relations at PCOM. Dr. Mitchell will spearhead a group of 16 medical students at the CA Gray campus to mentor students with the help of Gray's three counselors: Mrs. Cathy Nobles, Mrs. Courtney Harden and Mrs. Felicia Howard.

Southwest Georgia Businesses Learn More about PCOM South Georgia



PCOM South Georgia was a stop on the recent Project Purpose Educator Immersion Tour. This collaboration of the Select Moultrie – MCC Development Authority and the Moultrie Chamber of Commerce partners with local schools and employers to develop the local workforce. The cohort of Colquitt County School District educators spent the day learning about local businesses and industry so they can help connect their students with potential employers. Participants toured campus and heard directly from our student ambassadors and admissions team.

Research this: PCOM South GA Student Doctor Shahrzad Zamani Wins Accolades



PCOM South Georgia has selected Shahrzad Zamani (DO '25), president of the research and journal club, as this year's Student Researcher of the Year. Of her passion and experience in research, Zamani said, "I believe that evidence-based research is essential for providing excellent primary care and preventive medicine. I aim to serve the marginalized and underserved communities and incorporate my osteopathic medical education in the holistic care of communities." [Read the full story.](#)

In Other Words



March 21, 2023 was World Poetry Day

Retired family physician Ed Umlauf, DO who recently moved from Savannah, Georgia, to Ohio for his retirement, "I don't know if I've mentioned it to anyone but I write a lot of poetry under the nom de plume Opf Harvey Barfarkle, DO. Below is one that I wrote about being a medical student."

seek ye the caduceus

oh loathe the starting timer turns the pages in your eyes
and dares you bring your nogginball and race to your demise

and grabs you with his learningness to twist and turn and rent
your nogginball and steal away compassion you have lent

aye run and hide your gray ones from the red-eyed beastyteach
who takes and laughs and prods you all the more as you beseech

then gather beastyteaches to confound and devastate
and drink the life from nogginballs and feed on noggin hate

the brave and daring seekers of the snake and staff alone
will cower as their nogginballs lie gnarled to the bone

and when the beastyteach can taste sweet victory on his tongue
arising from the sweat and blood the seekers bell is rung

and gathered up their nogginballs and find their hidden gray
oh rise ye seekers find your snake and pave your golden way

then comes the beastteach for help when beastyteach is ill
and gray in hand the seeker helps ... as seekers always will

- Harvey Barfarkle, D.O.