

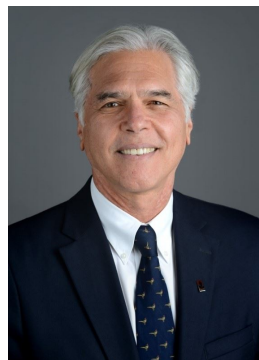


GEORGIA OSTEOPATHIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
— 1902 —

## GOMA News & Updates

### Volume 40, June 2023

### **Free 8-hour Buprenorphine Training that Satisfies DEA Requirement**



The X-waiver needed to prescribe Buprenorphine was officially eliminated as part of the passage of the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act of 2021. Any provider with DEA became eligible to prescribe Buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder and limits on number of patients they could treat was eliminated. Buprenorphine has a better safety profile than almost any other prescription opioid.

Along with the MAT Act, the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act was passed in the same spending bill, requiring all prescribers who obtain a DEA license to do 8 hours of training on the treatment of substance use disorders.

The American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine (AOAAM) has teamed with AOA to offer 8 hours of training on Buprenorphine that will satisfy the MATE (Medication Access and Training Expansion) CME Requirement when one renews their DEA license. This program is free. The first 4.25 hours webcast is taught by Yale trained Stephen Wyatt, DO live via Zoom on May 22nd; June 10th; June 26th; July 8th and July 24th. The classes in the first half of the month will be held in the morning starting at 8 AM while the classes later in the month are held in the evening starting at 8 PM. There will be polling questions throughout the class to confirm attendance and therefore it will be impossible to do the class via cell phone.

Dr. Wyatt will review addiction including prevalence, opioid effects on mu receptors, Buprenorphine (Suboxone) pharmacology, non-pharmacologic treatments of opioid dependence and patient evaluations.

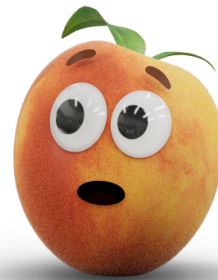
The attendees will earn AOA 1-A credits and/or AAFP credits (AMA equivalent).

Part 2 of this course is the self-study portion in which one must pass the 20-question exam and complete the survey to complete and satisfy one's MATE CME requirement.

Stephen A. Wyatt, D.O, is a Board-Certified Psychiatrist with added subspecialty certification in Addiction Psychiatry. He completed his residency at University Hospitals of Cleveland and then entered a NIDA clinical research fellowship in addiction psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine. He is an adjunct clinical faculty member of the University of North Carolina. He is a past president of the AOAAM. He is the current Chairman of the NC Psychiatric Association Addiction Psychiatry Committee and the Vice Chair of the Coalition on Physician Education in Substance Use Disorders, a national organization focused on addiction medicine medical school education. He was the Co-Chair for the 2020 focused update of the ASAM Clinical Guidelines for Office Based Opioid Treatment. He is a clinical expert for the SAMHSA funded Provider Clinical Support System, PCSS; Medication Assisted Treatment and Implementation Projects. Dr. Wyatt works and lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

To register for this class click [here](#).

## Georgia Changes Manner in Which Many Get Health Insurance



Three major changes are occurring in Georgia that can affect the way patients are getting their health insurance.

The first regards Georgians who shop for health plans under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) using the federal website [healthcare.gov](https://healthcare.gov). On Tuesday May 2nd, Governor Brian Kemp signed into law the state's new state-run shopping website, but approval is still needed from the Biden administration. If approved almost 900,000 Georgians will be using a website designed and operated by Georgia to shop among the plans.

Eighteen other states run a state-based exchange as Georgia is proposing to do. If approved by the Biden administration, the Kemp administration wants to make the shift this year, enrolling people in plans this fall that would start at the beginning go of 2024. The timeline has raised concerns by consumer advocates.

The work on the new marketplace comes as the state is simultaneously working on two other health priorities – an expansion of Medicaid by implementing a work requirement, and a post-pandemic reevaluation of all 2.7 million Medicaid and PeachCare enrollees over the next 14 months, 500,000 of whom are expected to be dropped from Medicaid or PeachCare, and will need to enroll in ACA plans.

On May 2nd, Kemp aides confirmed that barring federal roadblocks, they intend to go live July 1 with the Medicaid expansion entitled “Pathways to Coverage” which they estimate would enroll perhaps 90,000 new Medicaid members. The program requires implementing new work and engagement eligibility requirements and training state workers to screen for them.

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.

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## **Sexual Misconduct Class Required for Renewal of Georgia License**

HB458 became law this year addressing sexual misconduct: strategies to minimize risk. Therefore, this course is required for renewal of a Georgia licenses.

All Georgia physicians are required to receive at least two hours of education and training regarding professional boundaries and physician sexual misconduct. Such education and training shall include subject matter relating to how to proceed with basic as well as sensitive or intimate examinations and the communication with patients that is required as a component of such examinations.

Completion of this requirement may count as two hours toward the CME requirement for license renewal and only needs to be completed once during a physician’s career. Four options for this class are [available here](#).

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## Possible DEA Telemedicine Rule Changes



The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has proposed a rule that would reinstate most previously longstanding requirements that doctors see patients in person before prescribing narcotic drugs such as OxyContin, amphetamines such as Adderall and a host of other potentially dangerous drugs.

The aim is to reduce improper prescribing of these drugs by telehealth companies that boomed during the pandemic. Given the ongoing opioid epidemic, allowing continued broad use of telemedicine prescribing “would pose too great a risk to the public health and safety,” the proposed rule said. It also cracks down on how doctors can prescribe other controlled medications, like benzodiazepines and buprenorphine, a narcotic used to treat opioid addiction.

The rule would allow some of these drugs to be prescribed with telemedicine for an initial 30-day dose, though patients would need to be seen in person to get a refill. And patients who have been referred to a new doctor by one they had previously met in person could continue to receive prescriptions for the drugs via telemedicine.

DEA Administrator Anne Milgram called the plan “telemedicine with guardrails.” The agency, with input from the Department of Health and Human Services, finalized the rule on May 10, one day before the COVID-19 public health emergency officially ended. If approved by then, the new requirements would take effect in November.

The proposal has sparked a massive backlash, including more than 35,000 comments to a federal portal and calls from advocates, members of Congress and medical groups to reconsider certain patients or provisions. Among the biggest

complaints: The rule would delay or block access for patient who seek hospice care, critics said.

Updates can be found [here](#) and a summary is below.

- All telemedicine flexibilities regarding prescription of controlled medications as were in place during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) will remain in place through November 11, 2023
- For any practitioner-patient telemedicine relationships that have been or will be established on or before November 11, 2023, all telemedicine flexibilities regarding prescription of controlled medications as were in place during the COVID-19 PHE will continue to be permitted through November 11, 2024

Telemedicine flexibilities regarding prescription of controlled medications as were in place during the COVID-19 public health emergency include:

- A practitioner can prescribe a controlled substance to a patient using telemedicine, even if the patient isn't at a hospital or clinic registered with the DEA
- Qualifying practitioners can prescribe buprenorphine to new and existing patients with opioid use disorder based on a telephone evaluation.

## **Support the OIS Endowed Student Emergency Fund with a Gift**

As reported in the January 2023 issue of the GOMA Monthly Newsletter, the Osteopathic Institute of the South closed itself, and the remainder of the funds have been moved into the OIS Endowed Student Emergency Fund that supports students at PCOM Georgia and PCOM South Georgia who need financial assistance if they can't afford rent one month or need money to attend a conference or

need travel funds to attend a funeral. The endowed fund is anticipated to be in high demand as it begins to distribute assistance in July.

Fortunately, doctors who read this newsletter can make a tax deductible donation to the fund and feel good that they are helping the youngest members of the osteopathic profession at a time of great need. The Financial Aid office at the schools are handling the requests if you hear about a DO student struggling. To donate, designate “OIS Endowed Student Emergency Fund” when you make a [donation](#).

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## Match Day Profiles

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Match Days were humming with excitement, as hundreds of students—at PCOM campuses in Philadelphia and Suwanee and Moultrie, Georgia—learned on March 17, 2023, where they matched to residency programs to continue their careers. [In the moments after matching, students reflected on their journeys, and their futures.](#)

The link has twenty profiles of young osteopathic physicians that have great promising futures. There are profiles of Jordan Clear, DO (GA-PCOM) who is heading to Orlando for an internal medicine residency; Tapan Patel, DO (GA-PCOM) who is heading to California for an anesthesia residency; Moshe Erdfrocht, DO (PCOM South Georgia) who is heading to Johns Hopkins in Baltimore for a physical medicine & rehabilitation residency and Alyson Meyer, DO (PCOM South Georgia) who is heading to Mt. Sinai in New York City for internal medicine residency.

Here are some of the Georgia graduates that are staying in Georgia for their post-graduate education:



**Hayley Silverstein, D.O.**



**Chris Staley, D.O.**



**Xavia Taylor, D.O.**

Hayley Silverstein, DO (GA-PCOM) won't be moving far from home when she reports to her residency training program in July. Raised in Atlanta and a graduate of Pace Academy and Emory University, Silverstein matched into psychiatry at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville.

"When I did my rotation in psychiatry at Northeast Georgia during my third year, I knew it was what I wanted to do," Silverstein said. "That's when I fell in love with psychiatry and I just loved it there. I went back for a rotation during my fourth year and now I'm going to be there as a resident. It's like I've come full circle. They solidified my decision to go into psychiatry and now I get to do my residency there. I'm so excited!"

Crossing his arms across his chest, Chris Staley, DO (GA-PCOM) waited with anticipation to find out where he had matched, surrounded by his fiancée, mom, dad, and sister. A graduate of Marist High School and Emory University in Atlanta, Staley visibly relaxed when he found out he had matched to general surgery at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville.

Xavia Taylor, DO (PCOM South Georgia) grew up in both Colquitt and Thomas counties. After earning her medical degree, she will continue her medical education as an internal medicine resident at Archbold Medical Center in Thomasville.



“Archbold Medical Center was my first choice,” Taylor said later. “I chose Archbold based on the experience I had during my audition rotation with them. All of the staff that I had the chance to work with were without a doubt very welcoming and very interested in my matriculation thus far. I felt as if the faculty there truly cared about me. They gave me amazing feedback and, as a result, it made me feel comfortable throughout the entire four weeks.”

Taylor explained that she chose internal medicine because of the guidance she received from the doctors with whom she rotated during medical school. “For me, internal medicine will allow me to give back to my community as a generalist or by choosing to specialize,” she said. “I love the diversity offered within that. I am looking forward to starting this new journey as an Internal Medicine Resident Physician in late June.”



**Ashley Turek, D.O. and  
Bryan Ginn**



**Shiori Ucheya, D.O.**

Ashley Turek, DO (GA-PCOM) was in a Verizon store five years ago talking to the cashier about applying to medical school. She'd planned on applying only to allopathic schools. Suddenly, she felt a tap on her shoulder. A man handed her his business card and said, "You should apply here." His card read: Bryan Ginn, Chief Campus Officer, GA-PCOM (now PCOM Georgia).

Later, Turek researched the school and applied. In fact, she ended up applying exclusively to osteopathic medical schools. Four years ago, she was accepted to PCOM Georgia. She matched into internal

medicine at Northside Hospital Gwinnett. Ginn was late to PCOM Georgia's Match Day event. He had rushed over to the event after a prior commitment, but most of the festivities had ended. Still, he chatted with the remaining students until one approached and asked him his name. It was Turek. She remembered Bryan Ginn — he was the reason she was here, she said — and she still had the business card that he had given her all those years ago. Ginn was tickled that she took the opportunity to ask for his signature on the business card. It was a special day for both of them.

Shiori Ucheya, DO (GA-PCOM), holding baby Aspen in her arms who was born just five months ago. “It’s been a great journey! When I found out that I matched on Monday, I was very happy and emotional, but I had to wait for today to find out where I matched. I’m nervous, but very happy,” she said, “and very excited about my next steps.”

Ucheya joined her husband, her brother-in-law and her best friend when it was time to open her envelope. With tears in her eyes, she happily announced that she would be training at Emory School of Medicine in family medicine. Aspen is Ucheya’s third child. She started medical school with two other children, Vivienne (now 12) and Julienne (now 5). “I want to give credit to my amazing kids and my husband for supporting me through medical school,” she said.

Congratulations at all the newest members of the osteopathic profession!!!

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**Thanks for the Cadaver**



At both Georgia osteopathic medical schools, students and faculty take special pride each year in recognizing the families of donors who committed their bodies to science through a memorial service.

The service takes place annually on the Saturday before Mother's Day – and this year was held on Saturday May 13th. During this service, students shared their appreciation and families received the remains of their relative.

Body donations are critical to the training medical students receive, and ultimately the quality of care they are able to provide. This hands-on training is important in that it aids many students as they go on to practice medicine in various communities throughout Georgia.

"There are so many things you can't learn from a textbook. You learn how to actually orient yourself, the true locations of important organs, and how each human being can be uniquely different," Elizabeth Martin (DO '25), a second-year student, shared as she reflected on the school's body donation program.

Martin's medical training is based on a holistic approach to medical care: treating the entire person—mind, body, and spirit—rather than merely addressing symptoms.

This philosophy carries over into care after death and informs PCOM Georgia's operation of the body donor program. Families receive no-cost transportation for their family member's remains, which are cremated at the program's expense upon completion of

all anatomical studies, research and medical training. [Read more about the program here.](#)

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## **PCOM South Georgia & C.A. Gray Jr. High Celebrate Conclusion of Mentorship Program**



On April 26, PCOM South Georgia mentors spent their last day in a celebration with their mentees at C.A. Gray Junior High School. They awarded each mentee with a gift bag and a certificate. Light refreshments were served and photos and memoirs were captured. [Read all about the event here.](#)

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## **PCOM Georgia Hosted ShaDO Day in April**



Pre-medical students considering careers as physicians recently experienced life as medical students when first and second-year Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) students opened the doors of PCOM Georgia to host ShaDO Day. Thirty-nine people registered for the event, which featured a full day of hands-on experiences, including anatomical specimen demonstrations in which students saw and touched specimens from multiple organ systems including the cardiopulmonary, nervous, reproductive, digestive and genitourinary systems.

Andrea Mann, DO, FAAP, dean and chief academic officer of the PCOM Georgia Osteopathic Medicine Program, and Richard White, PhD, FAHA, chair of the PCOM Georgia Bio-Medical Sciences Department, offered overviews of the programs they lead.

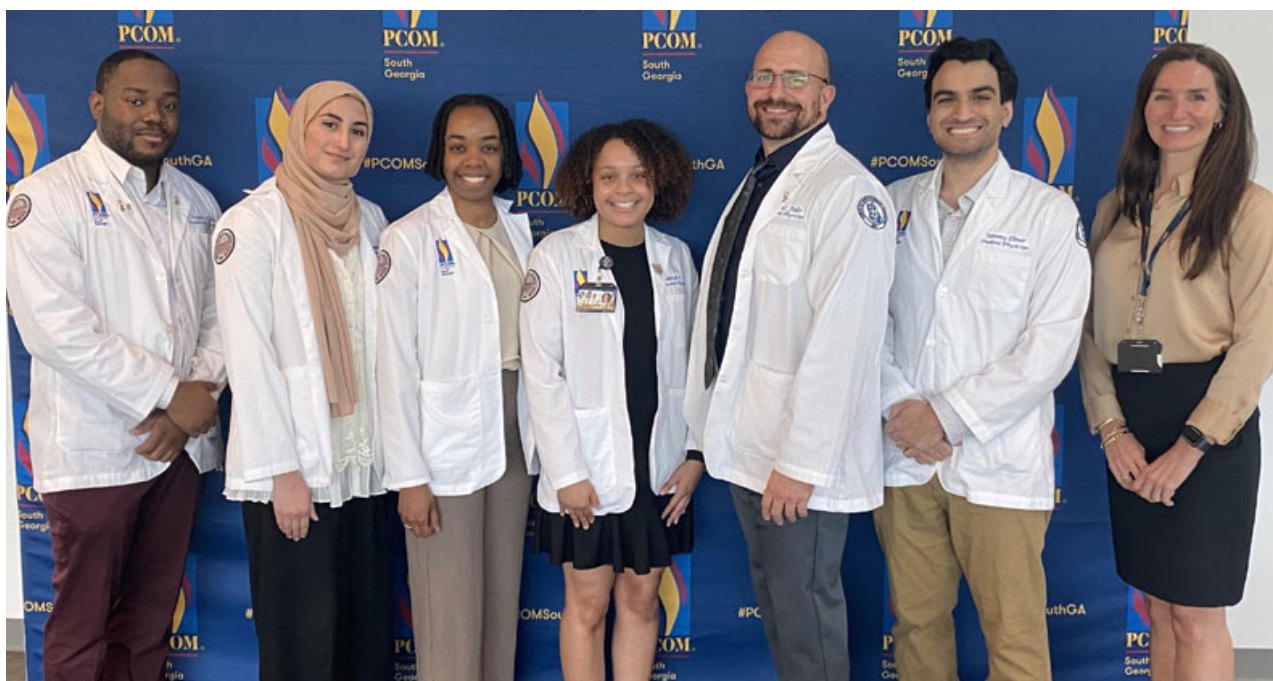
The day's events were rounded out by a presentation on osteopathic manipulative medicine by Assistant Professor Ravi Yarid, DO, which gave attendees a glimpse of some of the hands-on techniques that all DO students learn during medical school.

[National ShaDO Week is sponsored annually by the National Student Osteopathic Medical Association \(SOMA\) and National Pre-SOMA, the undergraduate division of SOMA.](#) SOMA leaders work with colleges of medicine across the nation to provide opportunities for pre-medical students to become acquainted with osteopathic medicine and to help them strengthen their applications.

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**Research Day in Moultrie, Georgia Featured DO Students**





Congratulations to PCOM South Georgia students who received awards at the mid May Research Day! The students commented how much they had learn to appreciate research over the past year. PCOM South Georgia students weren't the only ones who benefited from Research Day. Residents and practicing physicians who participated also gained insight into new research that might affect them as well. "One of the challenges of medical education in a rural area is research and scholarly activity," said Woody Weeks, DO, chief academic officer for Georgia South Graduate Medical Education and GOMA Executive Board member. "Partnering with PCOM South Georgia's Research Day exposes our residents to local, relevant and high-quality scholarly activity right here in our community." [Find out more about how research contributes to the students' educational journey.](#)

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## **David Greenwald, DO Loses His Battle on May 2nd**



[David H. Greenwald, DO died on May 2nd after a battle with pancreatic cancer that lasted more than three years.](#) Dr. Greenwald was a former member of GOMA who spent most of his career working in urgent care and emergency rooms in Cobb County. He used to say that his counselors at Muhlenberg College (Allentown, PA) told him that he would not get into medical school due to the dystonia of his arm. By sitting on his hand during his interview, Dr. Greenwald was accepted to Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine and graduated in 1981. He completed an emergency medicine residency at Wilmington Medical Center. After working at the emergency room of Windy Hill Hospital in Marietta for eight years, Dr. Greenwald changed directions in 1995 and did a fellowship in occupational medicine at Emory University. The remainder of his career was working in occupational medicine. His wife Lori, his two daughters and his son admired Dr. Greenwald's positive attitude during his long battle cancer. He will be missed.

### **In Other Words**

*"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."— William Butler Yeats*