



GEORGIA OSTEOPATHIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
— 1902 —

## GOMA News & Updates Volume 38, January 2023

### Annual Membership Meeting Highlights

A quorum was present virtually for the GOMA Annual Membership Meeting on December 4th. Executive Director Betsy Hilt of Oak Ridge Association Management Company (ORAMC) along with her assistant Betty Brock were present. Dianna Glessner, DO was installed as President of GOMA and Sonbol Shahid-Salles, DO is President-elect. The new GOMA Executive Board was sworn in.

Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association's membership numbers continue to suffer since the pandemic with 91 paid members. That impacted finances greatly, but luckily two well attended education programs surpassed the budgetary expectations. Treasurer Gregory Harris, DO explained that the February 2022 VOC earned GOMA \$31,659 and the GOMA 2022 Virtual Fall Conference for 16 hours of CME resulted in \$23,707. In summary, the finances for GOMA are stable with the GOMA accounts holding \$90,583 after revenue for the year of \$87,402 (membership dues brought in around \$30,000 and CME programs netted GOMA \$57,000) and expenses of \$49,089 (professional fees around \$28,600 and other business expenses just over \$19,000). Breaking down the income from the CME showed that the 2022 VOC program brought in \$31,659; the 2022 Fall conference earned \$23,707 and CME Virtual Library profit sharing added \$1,966. Net operating revenue for the 2022 year was \$38,313.

Betsy Hilt gave an update on the new website and how it will help with membership billing. She also explained to the attendees that the change to the new website in August 2022 will save money because there will not be a further need to subscribe to Constant Contact for future blast emails.

There was a lot of discussion about past and future education programs.

There was a motion from Michael Baron, DO to eliminate fees for membership to osteopathic medical students to encourage more to become involved with GOMA. It was tabled to research if the bylaws would have to change to make that change.

The current GOMA Board is as follows:

President: Dianna H. Glessner, DO

President-Elect: Sonbol Shahid-Salles, DO

Vice President: Gregory E. Harris, DO, FACOI

Secretary-Treasurer: Karen Turner, DO

Immediate Past President: Randy E. Durbin, DO, MSPH

District I

President: Naveen Raj, DO

Secretary/Treasurer: William Lagaly, DO

District II

President: Michael Mangonon, DO

Secretary/Treasurer: Joseph Huong, DO, MS

District III

President: Woodwin "Woody" M. Weeks, DO

Secretary/Treasurer: Alexander Ibezi-Enendu, DO

District IV

President: Bridgett Bailey, DO

Secretary/Treasurer: Lee LaRavia, DO

2022-2023 PROPOSED GA DELEGATION TO THE AOA House of Delegates

Christian Geltz, DO

Karen Turner, DO

William Craver, DO

Randy Durbin, DO

Dianna Glessner, DO

Gregory Harris, DO (alternate)

**[Not a Member of GOMA? Join Now!](#)**

**Dianna H. Glessner, DO - President 2022-2023**



Dianna Hannigan Glessner, DO '87, a board certified family practice physician in Alpharetta, is the new President of the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association. She was President of GOMA once previously serving 2014 – 2015.

Dr. Glessner is originally from Delaware and graduated from Swarthmore College. In 1987, she obtained her D.O. degree from PCOM in Philadelphia. Dr. Glessner started her postgraduate training in Internal Medicine at Springfield Hospital in Pennsylvania, but moved to Georgia due to her husband Gary's job change. She completed her training at Northlake Regional Medical Center's Family Practice residency in 1993. Dr. Glessner most recently was employed by Northside Gwinnett Medical Center doing primary care. She has two daughters, Stephanie and Caroline, and is excited to becoming a grandmother to her future grandson Davis in 2023.

After being sworn into office, Dr. Glessner thanked Dr. Durbin for his dedicated leadership and service to GOMA over the previous year and went on to say, "On a personal level, I so appreciate his willingness to serve a year earlier than he expected to have to because of my husband's cancer illness which is still ongoing. And, I thank you Randy for stepping up and doing that. I know it wasn't easy. Thank you to our Board members. GOMA doesn't happen without you. We so appreciate your time and continued support. Thank you to Dr. Turner for her representation on the PCPC committee on behalf of GOMA. That's always been something that we fought for. It's been very important to us. Thank you to our AOA delegates who so proudly represent Georgia at the annual AOA (House of Delegates) meeting. And thank you to Betsy, our Executive Director, for her availability and loyal support of GOMA. It's not easy running an organization as a virtual program as we have had to. So, I want you to know that we appreciate you so much. So, thank you to everybody."

Dr. Glessner went on to outline her three priorities for the coming year: membership, continuing medical education programs and improving GOMA's relationship with PCOM Georgia and PCOM South Georgia.

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## Legislative Day Thurs March 2nd & Virtual Evening Event on Tues Jan 17

Have you ever thought that politicians should hear what the practice of medicine is really like and understand the issues that can become hurdles as one cares for a patient?

Once again the Patient Centered Physicians' Coalition of Georgia (PCPC) is having an in-person event on Thursday March 2, 2023 from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM at the Floyd Veterans Building and then migrating to the Georgia State Capital. By attending this event, you will meet your state legislators and top government officials, and learn how the state government impacts your practice and other primary care doctors in Georgia. All osteopathic physicians are encouraged to attend. We will be joined by MDs & DOs from Georgia OBGyn Society, Georgia Chapter - American College of Physicians, Georgia Academy of Family Physicians and Georgia Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics. Five Georgia health associations comprise PCPC and meet eight times a year to discuss legislative issues on the State and National level. Make plans to attend on Thursday March 2, 2023! GOMA will have a link to register on its website.

If you have interest in how our state laws affect you professionally, you may find it more convenient to attend PCPC's Virtual Legislative Program this year on Tuesday, Jan. 17, from 6-7:30 pm. The link for this event is:

GOMA leadership is proud to represent the osteopathic profession in Georgia, but you contacting your state legislators has more impact than an organization doing so.

## Osteopathic Reunion at Pizza Parlor



We don't always get to select the people we work with or work for. It's a fact, you can spend

more time with some people at work than you do your own family members. Actually, the staff at community hospitals become like a family after working together for many years. And hence, last year's reunion of the physicians from old Doctor's Hospital located on Idlewood Road in Tucker, Georgia was so popular that there was another reunion two months ago.

There was a great turnout for the second Doctor's Hospital Reunion at the Vintage Pizzeria in Dunwoody on October 9th.

The picture is of the doctors (without spouses) and left to right are: Michael Baron, DO; Judy Kislak, DO; Eric Deal, DO; Steve Knight, MD; Chris Geltz, DO; Bill McCutchen, DO; Bill Delp, DO; Fred Katz, DO; Leslie Pope, DO; John Kelley, DO; Sheldon Sobel, DPM; Marcia Lee Kelley, DO; Terry Schwartz, DO; Jim Hogue, DO; David Conaway, DO; Herb Kollinger, DO and Harvey Apple, DO.

## Medicare Changes in 2023

Effective January 1, 2023, people with Medicare Part D will not pay out of pocket for vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), including Shingrix and Tdap. Congress averted bigger reductions in Medicare's future payments for clinicians in its massive, year-end spending bill, but physicians will still see a 2% cut in a key payment variable in 2023. Clinicians had been facing as much as 8.5% in cuts. The 2% trim for 2023 will decline to 1.25% for 2024. Other changes to Medicare include lowering deductibles, lowering premiums, increased availability of telemedicine, more access to mental health services and more services to those in chronic pain.



### **The VOC = 2023 Virtual Osteopathic Conference with up to 48 hours of CME**

The third annual Virtual Osteopathic Conference (VOC) will be live broadcast Friday, Saturday & Sunday February 17 - 19 so that travel or missing office hours will not be necessary. The lectures will all be available for replay on-demand until June 30th.

GOMA is once again partnering with state societies from around the country to offer up to 48 hours of AOA Category 1-A and AMA PRA Category 1 credits for continuing education. Last year



many doctors from Georgia took advantage of the live-broadcast and/or on-demand offerings. 98% of last year's attendees said they would recommend the VOC to colleagues. "Excellent and pertinent topics, extremely easy to access, overall 10/10," said one attendee.

The VOC will be full of great family medicine, internal medicine, and emergency medicine subjects. See the schedule and register by using these links.

[Register](#)

[View Schedule](#)

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## GOMA Honors Doublestein & Houston with Distinguished Service Awards



On December 15th, GOMA past-President Michael Baron, DO announced to the attendees of a Zoom videoconference that GOMA was honoring two Georgians that have been advocates for osteopathic medicine for more than thirty years.

Barry Doublestein, DSL & Donnie Houston, CPA were recognized for distinguished service to the advancement of the osteopathic medical profession and the public welfare. Only three others in the past 120 year have gotten such an award from the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association: Alfred Haight, DO in 1987; the Honorable Bill English in 1989 and W. Donovan Secrest, DO in 2001.

Dr. Barry Doublestein, President of Osteopathic Institute of the South (OIS) came to Georgia in 1989 from Kirksville, Missouri where he had been the Dean of Students at the Kirksville College

of Osteopathic Medicine to lead the Georgia Osteopathic Institute (GOI). His vision and leadership of that foundation resulted in thousands of D.O. students from around the country doing training in Georgia. The clinical network created by GOI and later becoming Osteopathic Institute of the South (OIS) as it spread to surrounding states was a major factor for PCOM to set up its first satellite campus in Suwanee, Georgia. Additionally, Dr. Doublestein served as a lobbyist for GOMA for eleven years until GOMA budget cuts occurred. Dr. Doublestein commented after being awarded the plaque, "I just want to say thank you. It has been a great honor to have spent these last thirty three years of my life with you in the osteopathic profession here in Georgia ... We moved here to Georgia thirty three years ago and it was one of the best decisions ever. But I want to say as I look around this group, it has just been an honor to be friends ... We did a quick and dirty study some years ago just to figure out how successful we were with our clinical education network and we had served about 3500 students during the ten year period and we were responsible for 25% of the new physicians coming into Georgia after that period of time... We were operating as stealth medical school. Nothing was more successful for us than when PCOM came down here and invested their huge dollars to make it possible for us to have a college." Dr. Doublestein went on to thank Neil Nickelson, DO for his time that he chaired the Board of GOI/OIS and vision for the future of the organization.

Donnie Houston, Chairman of the OIS Board, has been an advocate for the profession by finding ways to accomplish the goals of the foundation. Dr. Baron commented that Mr. Houston's creative use of leverage allowed OIS to get so much accomplished by utilizing its real estate holdings despite not having much liquid cash for many years. After receiving the plaque, Mr. Houston said, "It's really an honor to receive this plaque. I've been on the Board for close to thirty years. I came on right after Barry came. Don Secrest called me one night and said, 'You need to come over to Idlewood (Road in Tucker, GA). There is a meeting tonight and you're the new CPA.', and I said, 'Yes, sir' because he was a very good client. That's how I got involved. This has been one of the most rewarding community services that I've done ... Working with the Institute, and all that we were able to accomplish over these years, it has been just a great experience, and I am honored to have done it, and I thank you for the award."

The ten minute presentation honored two great friends of the osteopathic profession and brought back memories of an earlier period for the D.O.s in the state of Georgia.

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## It is Time to Renew Your GOMA Membership

We are stronger together.

The Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association is the only organization in the state specifically providing services and advocacy for osteopathic physicians licensed in Georgia. Your involvement is important and appreciated.

Your 2022 membership has allowed GOMA to do the following:

- Continue advocacy at the Georgia Legislature
- Proactively focus on scope of practice threats at the state legislature.
- In collaboration with the American Osteopathic Association, monitor activities at the Federal level and respond to threats that could have adversely affected your ability to practice.

- Provide quality 1-A Osteopathic Continuing Medical Education at GOMA's Fall Conference

Help GOMA continue and expand our activities supporting Georgia's Osteopathic Physicians by renewing your membership now to remain active through December 31, 2023.

We hope you will renew your membership and remain part of the GOMA community. Your financial contributions are vital to our existence, but so is your membership – just knowing that you support what we are doing keeps us going.

We look forward to continuing our work for you in 2023.

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## Georgia Med School Deans: New Initiatives & Opportunities for Physicians

This is a truncated version of a two part article series by Nancy Wood in the MAG Journal from the third quarter and fourth quarters of 2022. The series featured updates from the leaders of Georgia's medical schools. For this newsletter, we are just using Dr. Craver's responses. Dr. Andrea Mann was not interviewed for the series.

MAG spoke to H. William Craver, DO, FACOS, Dean and Chief Academic Officer, PCOM South Georgia.

His answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

### **Q: Can you describe the impact of COVID-19 on your students?**

**Dean Craver:** COVID affected our students [at PCOM South Georgia] as much as it affected the population as a whole. We had to recognize very quickly that we had to have a lot more support mechanisms because they were in an interesting environment. We didn't know where the world, the country or the county was going, plus the anxiety of being in professional school, which is very intense. We basically had to change a curriculum that was primarily based on in-person to completely virtual to keep them on schedule. To flip a curriculum quickly and aggressively was an added pressure on them. Our faculty and staff went above and beyond what was needed to make sure that we were cognizant of the impact on them and to make sure we were validating that they were learning.

We followed very closely what the CDC and the State of Georgia was requiring so that we were in compliance. As soon as we could, we brought back the very hands-on activities, like mock patient interactions to learn specific outcomes. In the osteopathic profession, we also have manipulative medicine, which requires close contact, so we had to take high levels of



precautions – distancing where appropriate, all the appropriate PPE, scheduling far apart, frequent testing of students and having them get the vaccination.

**Q: Were there any lasting changes to your program as a result of COVID-19?**

**Dean Craver:** It really gave us an opportunity to relook at some of what we were doing and forced us to look at our curriculum – even more so than we usually do – and ask what is the best that we can be doing for the students? Out of that, we started an initiative bringing all the curriculum together from our original campus in Philadelphia, the one in Suwanee and the one here in Moultrie. Ironically, it stimulated faculty and staff to also reassess what could be given in a different format by expanding virtual small group learning and studying, and expanding other online tools as a preparatory rather than sitting in a classroom receiving a lecture. As horrible as COVID was and still can be, it really helped us in taking our curriculum to higher levels.

It also made us realize to a greater extent how much our students need our help. Whether it be through social counseling or academic counseling or other ways to interact with each other. I think one of the positive outcomes – as one searches for that silver lining – is that we really believed we were doing well, and we were, but it upped our game to a better place.

**Q: Are there any new initiatives at your medical school?**

**Dean Craver:** On this campus [Moultrie], we initiated a pre-matriculation program that was designed not just to address the academics, but to put the students in a better place of getting comfortable ahead of time. Realistically, what they're going to see is everything from sample tests to meeting with upperclassmen to having faculty let them know how we're there to help – even touring some of the local hospitals in our region who take our students when they're out on clerkships to speak to the CEOs, CMOs or leaders of the clinical education.

Both campuses have what we call Pathway Programs to interact with high school students and some college students to say, "You may not have thought about medicine, but here is an opportunity." And we participate with a national organization called the Health Career Collaborative. Our students and faculty go to a local high school and help [their students] learn a little bit about what medicine is. It's really trying to say you, too, can do this, and we're going to show you how. Also, the Suwanee campus recently opened a degree program in medical laboratory science, an advanced degree sorely needed throughout the country and particularly here.

**Q: What are some ways in which physicians in Georgia can work with medical schools and students?**

**Dean Craver:** We welcome physicians who want to be part of the education. There are opportunities to lecture and avenues that we may need formally as part of the didactic years. We have many interest groups including pediatrics, primary care, internal medicine, health and wellness, surgery, etc., and the students really value having somebody who's out in the field come in and share their experience or something about their expertise.

[Regarding] clinical opportunities, many of the clinicians out there may be associated with a hospital system and might say to their leaders, "What are we doing about educating the next generation of physicians? Can we do more? I'd like to be part of this." Essentially, advocating for us.

There has been plenty of big news at the end of 2022 in regards to residencies. First, Wellstar closed Atlanta Medical Center on November 1st, and the residents were relocated to Wellstar's Kennestone facility in Marietta. Less than two months later, Wellstar has been reported to be in the process of creating an affiliation with Medical College of Georgia. There are few details of how the partnership between Marietta-based Wellstar Health and Augusta University Health System. AU Health System includes Augusta University Medical Center and Chgildren's Hospital of Georgia. The system also runs the Georgia Cancer Center and Warm Springs Hospitals as well as dozens of primary care and specialty doctors' offices. If Wellstar takes financial responsibility for AU Health System, the arrangement could prove more profitable for Wellstar than Atlanta Medical Center was.

Annually, we have listed the new osteopathic residents in Georgia. The number is so high that it usually takes 2 -3 newsletters to be complete. We start this month with residents in the metro Atlanta area.

Becky Choung, DO	FP	WellStar Kennestone	PCOM-GA
Jenna George, DO	FP	WellStar Kennestone	VCOM-Auburn
Samuel Khair, DO	FP	WellStar Kennestone	PCOM-GA
Sidney Lipskind, DO	FP	WellStar Kennestone	PCOM-GA
Alaa Alghalayini, DO	EM	WellStar Kennestone	Pikesville
Kentucky COM			
Rebecca Beaudry, DO	EM	WellStar Kennestone	VCOM-Carolina
Aaron Bowershox, DO	EM	WellStar Kennestone	LECOM – Erie, PA
Reymualde Danger, DO	EM	WellStar Kennestone	VCOM-Carolina
Yashaswani Moparthi, DO	EM	WellStar Kennestone	NOVA SECOM
Rachel Check, DO	IM	WellStar Kennestone	PCOM-GA
Deepthi Gangaram, DO	IM	WellStar Kennestone	NOVA SECOM
Rochenarda Joseph, DO	FP	Morehouse	Touro COM – NY
Hassan Abbas, DO	IM	Morehouse	Arizona COM
Toni Jackson, DO	IM	Morehouse	Liberty Univ -
DeBusk COM			
Meghna Katakya, DO	Peds	Morehouse	Lincoln Univ -
DeBusk COM			
Kelechukwu Anyanwu, DO	PH	Morehouse	PCOM-GA
Yeon-Wahn "Joseph" Choe, DO	Path	Emory	Touro Univ – California
Sarah Grewal, DO	Path	Emory	A.T. Still Univ – Arizona
Cassidy Cunningham, DO	EM	Emory	Univ New England COM
Hanain Fazal, DO	FP	Emory	NY Institute of Tech
COM			
Alanna Meadows, DO	FP	Emory	Heritage COM
Lana Aleuy, DO	IM	Emory	PCOM-GA
Siri Chirumamilla, DO	PrvMed	Emory	PCOM-GA
Douglas Spaeth-Cook, Jr, DO	Transi	Emory	Ohio University COM (to
Radiol)			
Ananya Moorthy, DO	Peds	Emory	Burrell COM – New
Mexico			
Caroline Pupke, DO	PMR	Emory	VCU –Auburn COM
Nivedha Balaji, DO	IM	NE GA Med	PCOM-GA
Steven B. Barker, DO	IM	NE GA Med	Campbell Univ SOM
Abijha "Abby" Biju Boban, DO	IM	NE GA Med	PCOM-GA
Aleksandra P. Ignatowicz, DO	IM	NE GA Med	PCOM-GA

Megan S. Joseph, DO	IM	NE GA Med	LECOM – Bradenton
Vikas Kilaru, DO COM	IM	NE GA Med	Lincoln Univ - DeBusk
Silvia Cherian Mappotil, DO	IM	NE GA Med	PCOM-GA
Amaka Ofuani, DO Mexico	IM	NE GA Med	Burrell COM – New
Rahul Patel, DO	IM	NE GA Med	NY Inst Tech COM
Sharvil J. Patel, DO	IM	NE GA Med	VCOM – Carolina
Andrew Strike, DO	IM	NE GA Med	Pikesville Kentucky COM
Moyan Sun, DO	IM	NE GA Med	PCOM-GA
Amanda Hendricks, DO	Psych	NE GA Med	NY Inst Tech COM
Brett Gallihugh, DO COM	Psych	NE GA Med	Lincoln Univ - DeBusk
Malachi H. Groover, DO	FP	NE GA Med	PCOM-GA
Nathan E. Boys, DO	FP	NE GA Med	A.T. Still Kirksville COM
Sam Berding, DO	Gen Surg	NE GA Med	PCOM-GA
Lucas Caanan, DO COM	Gen Surg	NE GA Med	Lincoln Univ - DeBusk
Virginia Jarvis, DO	Gen Surg	NE GA Med	WVSOM
Christopher Ng, DO	Gen Surg	NE GA Med	Mich State Univ COM
Seth Bernacki, DO	Derm	Goodman/GA-PCOM	U of Incarnate Word SOM

## QUOTE:

**“I sit here all day trying to persuade people to do the things they ought to have the sense to do without my persuading them. That’s all the powers of the President amount to.”**

**- Harry S. Truman, U.S. President, 1945**