



GEORGIA OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
1902

GOMA News & Updates

Volume 36, January 2022

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

Annual Membership Meeting Highlights

A quorum was present virtually for the GOMA Annual Membership Meeting on December 4th. Both the outgoing Executive Director Valerie Okrend and the incoming Betsy Hilt of Oak Ridge Association Management Company (ORAMC) were present. Randy Durbin, DO, MPH was installed as President of GOMA and Dianna Glessner, DO is President-elect. The new GOMA Executive Board was sworn in.

Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association's 2021 membership numbers were down 26% from the prior year. That impacted finances greatly, but luckily two well attended education programs made up the deficit. The February 2021 VOC attracted 62 Georgia physician and earned GOMA \$21,000 (after expenses) and the GOMA 2021 Fall Conference attracted 94 registrants resulting in \$18,000 (after expenses). In summary, the finances for GOMA are stable from a year ago. The leadership of the organization has been energized to increase the membership back up to previous years and feels that the end of the pandemic will be a key factor in that happening.

GOMA was awarded a three year reaccreditation to host CME by the AOA.

The Executive Board decided to give up the room that GOMA was renting at PCOM Georgia and has stored much of the records and memorabilia.

The phone for GOMA will be forward to Betsy Hilt's office in Tennessee, but if there is any problem, doctors can call her directly at (615) 345-9550.

President 2021-2022 Randy E. Durbin, DO



Randy Durbin, DO, MPH is the new President of Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association. He is a 1992 graduate from Emory University with dual degrees in Economics and Psychology which will come in handy as he takes the helm of GOMA. Dr. Durbin went on to get a M.S.P.H. focused on Epidemiology from Emory. In 2007, he obtained his D.O. degree from the University of Pikeville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kentucky. Dr.

Durbin currently serves as the medical director of Revida Recovery Centers focused on opioid use disorders in Eastern Tennessee and works part-time as a consultant/trainer and doctor on demand providing telemedicine consulting. He has extensive experience with occupational medicine and urgent care. After being sworn into office, he said:

“It certainly is an honor to serve the Board and the Membership of GOMA. During this next year, our agility is going to be part of the challenge. We are going to continue to experience unprecedented public health and social challenges with our patients and our community. We are going to continue to sacrifice for our patients as they depend on us to provide medical advice and compassionate care, whether it's in our facilities or remotely. We are going to continue to advocate for our colleagues. We are going to continue to protect our training and practice standards. We are going to exploit thoughtful expansion of technology to provide the best direct care for our most vulnerable patients. We are going to provide scientific clarity during

our changing dynamic. All the while, maintaining appropriate reimbursement as we work ever closer with other physicians, physician extenders and other health care professionals. Finally, GOMA will continue to provide support for osteopathic physicians-in-training and students to keep and develop what's best in our profession – the protection of the integrity of our patients' bodies, minds and spirits. I sincerely appreciate your confidence and support as we go into 2022."

AOA's New *My AOA* Mobile App

The AOA announced the launch of the AOA's new *My AOA* mobile app, a one-stop-shop for exclusive news, education and resources for osteopathic physicians and medical students. With *My AOA*, you'll enjoy convenient access to customizable content, tools and communities tailored to your interests, specialty and career.

- Receive daily news updates
- Track, manage and self-report your CME
- Connect with colleagues in *My AOA* communities
- Engage in interest- and specialty-focused discussions
- Access AOA programs, services and member benefits



Now available for free download:

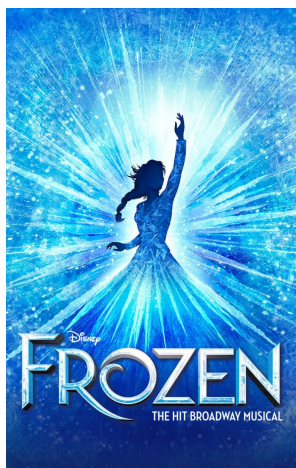
From your mobile device, search for "My AOA" in the Apple App Store or the Google Play App Store and log in using your AOA username and password (the same credentials you use for Osteopathic.org).

Drawing for Renewing Members: Broadway Shows at the Fox Theater in Atlanta

GOMA has a special drawing for new or renewing members who have paid their 2022 dues – Atlanta's Fox Theatre Broadway Series



tickets. Four evening show tickets in the orchestra section to Jesus Christ Superstar on Saturday Apr 23, 2022 which will be picked amongst doctors who have paid their dues by March 31st; and another drawing for four similar tickets to Disney's Frozen on Saturday Jun 11, 2022 which will be picked amongst doctors who have paid their dues by April 30th.



In other words, doctors who sign up for membership early get two chances to win tickets to crowd pleasing family friendly musicals. The Fox Theatre requires masks to be worn by all attendees for safety. Make your family happy by renewing your GOMA membership early and wining four tickets to a fun evenings.

PCPC: Legislative Day Tuesday, March 1

Once again the Patient Centered Physicians' Coalition of Georgia (PCPC) is having a virtual event on Tuesday, March 1, 2022, from 6 to 7:30 PM. [Registration is open here](#). 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 Tuesday, March 1, 2022!



The second annual Virtual Osteopathic Conference (VOC) is a great way to avoid the last minute rush for CME credits as we start a new AOA three year cycle. It will be live broadcast Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 18-20, so travel or missing office hours will not be necessary. The lectures will all be available for replay on-demand until June 30.

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 Credit™ for continuing education. Last year 62 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, psychiatry and dermatology subjects. [See the schedule and register by using this link.](#)

Medicare Cuts Averted

As we are all too aware, Medicare payment rates have not kept up with inflation and have been under the threat of cuts for a number of years. Heading into 2022, we had been staring at the prospect of a series of cuts that cumulatively represented a 9.75% across-the-board cut to Medicare rates.

Due to all of our efforts, these cuts are no longer happening. We learned the good news in mid-December from the AOA, which has worked so hard on our behalf.

DOs In The News



Chasity R. Reese, DO, Featured in *The Courier* Newspaper

In a Herstory feature article entitled Chasity Renee Reese, D.O. Family Physician, author Wane A. Halles wrote about Dr. Reese’s life story on page 7 of the December 16, 2021 issue of *The Courier* Newspaper and can easily be seen by going to the [Columbus, Georgia, paper’s Facebook page](#).



Publication Accolades for J.C. Sue, DO

Congratulations to Gregory J.C. Sue, DO, of Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Fort Gordon, Georgia, for being one of the authors of the review article in the December 2021 issue of American Family Physician, along with lead author John Scott Earwood, MD. The article entitled "Septic Arthritis: Diagnosis and Treatment" meets the AAFP criteria for CME.



Resident Featured in the Moultrie Observer: Leo Larios DO

In the Moultrie Observer's Resident Spotlight, PCOM Georgia graduate Leo Larios, DO, discusses how his residency at Georgia Family Medicine Program (see his last listing below) is helping him achieve his goal of practicing in a rural community. [Read more here](#).

PCOM Georgia Students Give Back to the Community

In December, it's the season of giving, and at PCOM Georgia, it often feels as though generosity is written



in the DNA of the school's exceptional students, faculty and staff members. From educating others, to serving those who experience homelessness, to raising funds and more. [Learn how the PCOM family has been giving back to the local community through a variety of events and programs.](#)

PCOM South Georgia Students Serve their Community

PCOM South Georgia student-led clubs were out and about in their community in early December. The Local Community Outreach Club spent time serving meals to those in need, and the Emergency Medicine Club provided health education during a local community event. Students who take the time to give back, educate and love their community members are inspirational.



Welcome New Interns to Georgia (continued from previous issues)

Rachel Candela, DO Family Practice
Kristin Ray, DO Family Practice
Hannah Williams, DO Family Practice
Chris Wood, DO Family Practice

Floyd Medical Center GA-PCOM
Floyd Medical Center VCOM-Auburn
Floyd Medical Center Wm Carey Univ COM
Floyd Medical Center VCOM-Auburn

Thomas B. Anderson, DO Orthopedics
Bryce A. Hendrix, DO Orthopedics
Darren Patel, DO Orthopedics

Hughston VCOM-Auburn
Hughston Arkansas COM
Hughston VCOM-Virginia

Loc P. Lam, DO	Transitional (before PM&R) Mercer		GA-PCOM
Brewer Carter, DO	EM	Coliseum – Macon	Wm Carey Univ COM
Casey Coutisho, DO	EM	Coliseum – Macon	LECOM
Ian Griffith, DO	EM	Coliseum – Macon	Alabama COM
Collin Patterson, DO	EM	Coliseum – Macon	VCOM Auburn
Hakan Sahinogha, DO	EM	Coliseum – Macon	VCOM Auburn
Kaitlyn Halsema, DO	PY	Gateway – Savannah	Kansas City COM
Mackenzie Sloas, DO	PY	Gateway – Savannah	WVSOM
Michael Sonntag, DO	FP	Phoebe	VIA COM
Robert Busic, DO	FP	Phoebe	LECOM
Chidi Ekeledo, DO	Family Practice	Navicent – Macon	GA-PCOM
Paul Kim, DO	Gen Surg	Navicent – Macon	VCOM
Oluwaseun Olusanya, DO	Gen Surg	Navicent – Macon	Lincoln COM
Bryar Thompson, DO	OBGYN	Navicent – Macon	VCOM Carolinas
Steven Veselsky, DO	OBGYN	Navicent – Macon	WVSOM
Alvaro Saldana, DO	Peds	Navicent – Macon	Nova SECOM
Erik Shaw, DO	FP	Savannah Mem	AZ COM
Shreya Patel, DO	Peds	Savannah Mem	GA-PCOM
Karthikeyan Baskaran, DO	IM	Savannah Mem	Wm Carey Univ COM
Leo Laris, DO	Family Practice	South Georgia (Moultrie)	GA-PCOM

In other words...

"The best kind of healer is a wounded healer"

-- Desmond Tutu (1931-2021)

Support GOMA!



Help your professional society as it helps advocate for your and all of Georgia's licensed DOs.

CLICK HERE to Renew or Join GOMA!

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