



GEORGIA OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
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GOMA News & Updates

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Lana Ghosn Aleuy, DO Recognized with GOMA Trimble Award



Lana Ghosn Aleuy, DO is known for helping school-mates, and her service to others and the profession at PCOM Georgia was recognized on May 24th by the Georgia Osteopathic

Medical Association by awarding her the GOMA Trimble Award of Excellence. Also, she received two additional awards: one for the highest scholastic GPA and another for excellence in primary care. She started her internal medicine residency at her number one ranked program, Emory University, on July 1.

Dr. Ghosn Aleuy was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon to an Argentinian father, Nazih, who works in the car business

and a Lebanese mother, Dr. Lubna, who works as Professor of Education with a concentration in math and science. She has two older brothers, Randy and Robin, who own their own businesses. The family lived in the United States when she was young but moved back to Lebanon allowing her to complete high school and sophomore year at American University of Beirut. She came back to the United States for completion of her BS in Biology from Kennesaw State University (KSU) in only two additional years with a 4.0 GPA. Her cousin who attended Morehouse medical school made her aware of Osteopathic Medicine and Dr. Ghosn Aleuy appreciated the holistic philosophy of the profession. It “felt right” since it was similar in many ways to medicine in Lebanon.

Even though Dr. Ghosn Aleuy was the youngest in her class, she enjoys teaching others. She served as a Teaching Assistant (TA) as an undergraduate at KSU as well as a Peer TA in Neurology at PCOM Georgia. Additionally, she served as a Peer Mentor helping students with the balance of studying for Boards as well as their regular academics at PCOM Georgia. Her extracurricular activities included being Vice-President of Sigma Sigma Phi (SSP) which is a service organization that increases awareness of osteopathic medicine including a Q&A that was organized at a high school in Duluth. SSP also raised funds for Make-A-Wish Foundation by hosting a Super Smash Brothers fundraiser and many other activities.

While Dr. Ghosn Aleuy had originally considered pediatrics as a specialty, she was drawn to internal medicine, especially gastroenterology, after doing a GI rotation at Grady Memorial Hospital. Being only twenty-four years old, starting the three year Categorical Track of Internal Medicine at Emory University allowed her to subspecialize after that. It is entirely possible that she will be practicing GI here in Georgia at a young age.

The picture above shows Lana Ghosn Aleuy, DO with her mother to her right holding one of the three awards and Dianna Glessner, DO, President-Elect of GOMA, on her left. Dr. Ghosn Aleuy has continued to live in Cumming,

Georgia, with her parents while attending PCOM Georgia and is hoping that she will be able to maintain that during her residency since she enjoys spending time with her family. She finds her home “calm and peaceful” and she plans to practice medicine close to her family. She was grateful to be able to spend a month rotation in Lebanon with her maternal extended family before she embarks on her residency journey.

GOMA is certain that Dr. Aleuy’s future is bright and that she will “go far.”

Supreme Court Sides with Doctors Accused of Running Pill Mills

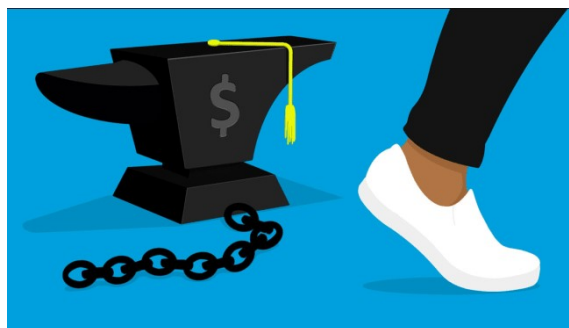
In a unanimous ruling, the justices ordered federal appeals courts to reconsider the cases of two doctors convicted of violating the Controlled Substances Act. The ruling was unanimous, though the justices disagreed on the precise rationale. They were united, however, in saying that prosecutors needed to prove more than that the doctors had violated objective standards.

Justice Stephen G. Breyer, writing for six members of the court, said that, so long as doctors were authorized to dispense controlled substances, prosecutors “must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant knew that he or she was acting in an unauthorized manner, or intended to do so.”

The doctors, Dr. Xiulu Ruan of Alabama and Dr. Shakeel Kahn of Arizona/Wyoming, were convicted of unlawful drug distribution under the Controlled Substance Act. The question for the justices was how to read a phrase in a regulation under the act. The phrase set out an exception to the law’s prohibition for prescriptions that were “issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an individual practitioner acting in the usual course of his professional practice.”

Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr., writing for three members of the court, agreed with Justice Breyer's bottom line but not his reasoning. "A doctor who makes negligent or even reckless mistakes in prescribing drugs is still 'acting as a doctor' — he or she is simply acting as a bad doctor," Justice Alito wrote. "The same cannot be said, however, when a doctor knowingly or purposefully issues a prescription to facilitate 'addiction and recreational abuse,'" he wrote, quoting an earlier decision.

Kate Nicholson, executive director of the National Pain Advocacy Center, which filed a brief supporting the doctors, said the decision "protects providers from being afraid of unwarranted prosecution and people in pain from being given access to care."



Relief for Student Debt

From Consumer Reports Magazine July 2022

Two programs designed to make higher education more affordable have largely failed their intended beneficiaries. The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, which promises to erase any remaining student debt for borrowers who work in qualifying public-service and not-for-profit jobs after 10 years of payments, turned down 99 percent of those who applied. And as of September 2019, only 32 of some 4.4 million student borrowers who'd been repaying loans for 20-plus years had received forgiveness that had been promised by Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plans.

Both programs – which long predated the current debate over blanket student loan cancellation – have been plagued by overly complicated rules and mismanagement on the part of the Department of Education and loan servicers.

Consumer Reports (CR) has been pushing to make sure these borrowers get the relief they'd been promised and had earned – for years. In addition to working with regulators directly, CR generated over 25,000 public comments in September 2021 urging the Department of Education to fix the PSLF program. That same month, CR's advocates held a well-attended webinar drawing attention to the problem.

In October 2021 the department expanded eligibility for the PSLF, and in April 2022 it made similar fixes to the IDR loan cancellation program. Tens of thousands of student loans will be forgiven, and millions more are closer to it, as a result.

Learn more about the new policies, and how to take advantage of the programs at www.CR.org/studentloans

Major Change by AOA Regarding Mailed CME Submissions

The AOA has announced that submitting CME credits through the mail will no longer be accepted as of August 1, 2022. Instead, physicians needing to submit CME credits to the AOA for processing and tracking should use the Physician Portal self-reporting tool or email documentation to cme@osteopathic.org.

Non-members wishing to use the Physician Portal can purchase an annual subscription.

If you have questions, please [email Jeff Fraler](#), AVP, Physician Education, and CME.

AOA Issues Statement on Supreme Court Repeal of *Roe v. Wade*



In a June 26 statement attributable to AOA President Joseph A. Giarmo, DO and CEO Kevin M. Klauer, DO, EJD, the AOA reaffirmed its support of the sanctity and privacy of the patient-physician relationship. They denounced any federal or state legislative or administrative action that interferes with that relationship. Read the full statement here: <https://bit.ly/AOASStatement>

Milli Santorufu, DO, Wins GOMA Drawing for Tickets to Disney's Frozen at Fox

Mildred ("Milli") Santorufu, DO of Kennesaw, GA won the drawing for tickets to the June 4 Fox Theatre's presentation of Disney's Frozen. Dr. Santorufu was happy that her membership to GOMA came with this bonus benefit. She is photographed surrounded (right to left) by her husband Robert Norris, DO, her brother Patrick Santorufu and his wife Brittany with the Fox Theatre's marquee and the Saturday evening sky in the background. Afterwards, she gave her review: "The show was wonderful. Thank you GOMA," Dr. Santorufu wrote.



Dilini Dawatta, DO Wins Teaching & Fitness Awards at Grady Hospital

Dilini Daswatta, DO was given two



awards on June 21 after only having joined the Emory University faculty in August 2021. The first was for her teaching, the 2022 Grady Hospital Attending of the Year, and the second one was the nephrology fellows for her fitness regimen, a certificate for 'Fitness Freak' with the byline saying, "Grady doesn't even have enough stairs". Dr.

Daswatta is a 2011 graduate of NOVA Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine and specializes in the care of kidney transplant patients. She expressed her honor for being recognized and said, "And yes ... I only take stairs ... and if you have seen Grady ..."

Jon Minter, DO Participates in Opening of Post-Traumatic Stress Treatment Center

In mid-June, orthopedic surgeon Jon Minter, DO was excited to participate in the ribbon cutting for the opening of the National Center of Excellence for the Treatment of Post Traumatic Stress. June is PTSD Awareness Month which made the event even more



special. Sponsors included: Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and alumni of Save A Warrior (SAW). Dr. Minter has served as an ambassador for SAW since 2017. He was greatly influenced by his U.S. Army emergency room work in Germany from 1984 to 1988. Dr. Minter currently serves as an orthopedic surgeon at Advanced Center for Joint Surgery in Cumming, Georgia.

John Bieltz, DO Spends May 11th Doing Sports Physicals in McDuffie County



Thomson orthopedist John Bieltz, DO (with tie)

John Bieltz, DO and his assistants did one hundred sports physicals on students of Thomson High School in McDuffie County, GA in mid-May as the high schoolers were just about to start their summer vacations.

Resurgens Orthopedists Charles Claps, DO & Mathew Levine, DO Honored by Arthritis Foundation



On June 10, the Arthritis Foundation Walk in Atlanta was led by medical honorees Charles E. Claps, DO and Mathew E. Levine, DO (left to right). Dr. Claps spoke of the Arthritis Foundation's work on research, fund raising and advocacy of all forms of

arthritis. He is working at the Resurgens Orthopaedics offices in Fayetteville and Newnan. Dr. Levine works at the practice's offices in Cumming and Roswell.

Tim Schlairet, DO Gets Away from Anesthesia in Georgia to do Anesthesia in Guatemala

Anesthesiologist Timothy Schlairet, DO volunteered in Guatemala with Faith in Practice in early May 2022. For one whole week, surgeons were repairing cleft lips, doing gynecological surgery and other various surgical procedures and Dr. Schlairet was administering anesthesia. He was accompanied by his daughter Brooke. Dr. Schlairet is currently doing outpatient anesthesia work in Atlanta.



Brandon Naylor, DO First to Use Velys Knee Replacement Robot in Georgia



On May 18 Brandon Naylor, DO completed a knee replacement using a Velys Knee Replacement Robot. It was the second in the United States but the first in Georgia. Afterwards, he reflected by saying, "I am fortunate to be practicing in the renaissance for knee reconstruction!" Dr. Naylor is a reconstructive orthopedic surgeon at Georgia Joint Specialists at their Alpharetta and Cumming offices.

Julia V. Fink, DO Wins 2022 AOSSM STOP Sports Injuries Award for Research

Julia V. Fink, DO's research entitled "Pitching Regimens and Prevalence of Injuries in Youth Fastpitch Softball Windmill Pitchers" won the 2022 STOP Sports Injuries Award by the American Orthopedic Society of Sports Medicine and will be presented her award at the AASSM Annual meeting held in Colorado Springs in mid-July.



Dr. Fink has just completed her orthopedic residency at the Jack Hughston Memorial Hospital in Columbus, GA. She is a 2017 graduate of GA-PCOM in Suwanee. She was inspired by her history of pitching for the 2012 Division II Championship softball team of Valdosta State University. Dr. Fink will be continuing her specialty training at Emory/Children's Hospital of Atlanta in Pediatric Orthopedic Fellowship this fall.

Kisha Burgess, DO Presented Poster at AHA QCOR



On May 14, Krisha Burgess, DO presented a poster on her research at the American Heart Association Quality of Care and Outcomes Research conference in Reston, Virginia. Dr. Burgess made the attendees aware of the challenges of heart failure patients with her presentation entitled "Assessing Medication Non-Adherence in Heart Failure Patients: A Resident Driven

Quality Improvement Initiative". Dr. Burgess is a second year internal medicine resident at Morehouse School of Medicine and a 2020 graduate of the William Carey

University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Devin Collins, DO gets First Place AOA Research for Hand



Devin Collins, DO was awarded first place in the Hand Category by the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics for his scientific paper entitled "Single Antegrade Intramedullary Kirschner Wire Fixation for Transverse Metacarpal Shaft Fractures: A Retrospective Review". Dr. Collins has just completed his orthopedic residency at the Jack Hughston Memorial Hospital in Columbus, GA. He will be starting his fellowship in hand and upper extremity at the Florida Orthopaedic Institute in Tampa, Florida.

Riaz Mahmood, DO Becomes first Chief Resident for Research at Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Georgia native Riaz Mahmood, DO will be starting in his role as chief resident for research at Northeast Georgia Medical Center (NGMC) on July 1st. He has just completed in his internal medicine residency at NGMC. Dr. Mahmood stated, "Research is integral to providing care that leads to better clinical outcomes. Since undergrad, I have been focusing on research. The COVID pandemic has highlighted the importance of evidence-based practice, and through research, we learned which treatments improved mortality and morbidity."



Dr. Riaz Mahmood received his osteopathic medical degree in 2019 from Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Buies Creek, North Carolina. Prior to attending medical school, he completed a Masters in Biotechnology with a concentration in Regulatory Affairs from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland and a BS in psychology and BS in nursing from Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia. Before his medical career, he worked as a nurse for nine years at Duke University Medical Center and was involved in the development and management of various phase I-IV clinical trials.

Dr. Mahmood's research interests involve enhancing the quality of life, improving clinical outcomes and creating cost-effective healthcare delivery methods that improve the health of underserved populations. He is the principal investigator for Evaluation and Implementation of CCO CPR to Increase Bystander-Initiated CPR in Hall County, Georgia. Dr. Mahmood has multiple publications in peer-reviewed medical journals and presented at various medical conferences. He also received three best research poster awards during medical school.

Dr. Mahmood was the lead clinical trials coordinator for endpoint event adjudication for AUGUTUS and TECOS clinical trials. He served on the Duke University Health System IRB for Clinical Investigations for two years and was involved in various committees at Duke including the Quality Improvement, Work Culture, and Diversity Committee. Dr. Mahmood is currently a member of the American College of Physicians, Society of Hospital Medicine, American Heart Association and the American Osteopathic Association. Read more about his new position at: <https://bit.ly/3rUNm9u>

Shelby Comeaux, DO Named “Emerging Leader” by AHA

Shelby Comeaux, DO is an internal medicine resident at Northside Gwinnett



Medical Center in Lawrenceville who is just about to start her second year. She was awarded by the American Heart Association in May 2022 as a “New Emerging Leader. Dr. Comeaux received her osteopathic medical degree from PCOM Georgia in Suwanee one year earlier. Congratulations Dr. Comeaux!

GA-PCOM Student Sheena Mohammed Inspired by Pandemic to Create Heera Cosmetics

Heera Cosmetics was started during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic when Sheena Mohammed, OMS ('25) noticed a need for self-care products. She said, “The market was in need of hair care and skin care products that made sense scientifically, were accessible to all people and were easy to use on all hair and skin types. With our South Asian background and careers in healthcare, we decided to formulate hair care products that we felt the market was lacking but were so familiar to our South Asian haircare and skincare rituals. Currently, many products that claim to promote hair growth don’t include ingredients that stimulate hair follicles and the ingredients that are used are known to clog pores on the scalp, for example.” [Read more about her blending of science and cosmetics as well as starting a business while enrolled in osteopathic medical school and just about to start her second year at PCOM Georgia here.](#)



PCOM South Georgia Student Breaking Down Barriers Presentation in Colorado

PCOM South Georgia
student Jasmine Rogers



(DO '23) and Stacie Fairley, PhD, Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology and Director of Interprofessional Education, traveled to Denver, Colorado in early June to attend the International Association of Medical Science Educators Annual Meeting. Ms. Rogers

spoke to attendees of “Breaking Down Barriers: A Physician Workforce That Reflects the General Population”, and she received the 2022 IAMSE Travel Award, an award that supports students and covers expenses related to attendance at the IAMSE annual meeting, such as conference registration, lodging and airfare. Dr. Fairley served on the IAMSE 2022 Planning Program Committee and co-facilitated a presentation and discussion on “Mitigating Implicit Bias in Medical Curricula” as well as doing a poster presentation.

In other words...

“Just as food causes chronic disease, it can be the most powerful cure.” –

– Hippocrates



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October 21-22

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