



GEORGIA OSTEOPATHIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
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## GOMA News & Updates

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### Anna Katema, DO Shares her Path to Success in New York Commencement Speech



State University of New York (SUNY) Schenectady County Community College's 52nd Commencement Ceremony was held on Friday, May 20, 2022 at 10 a.m. in the SUNY

Schenectady School of Music parking lot. It featured a Georgia osteopathic physician named Anna Katema-Banda, DO who gave the commencement speech in front of more than eight hundred people. Her inspirational telling of her path to becoming an osteopathic physician is a lesson to others who need help realizing the power of motivation and education.

Anna Katema-Banda, DO was born in Lusaka, Zambia. She was orphaned at age 16, losing her mother to a hemorrhagic

stroke, a death that has come to shape her world view and profession. She started her medical career as a Certified Nursing Assistant in Indianapolis, Indiana, and later attended Ivy Tech Community College to pursue two years of nursing school, graduating in 2002. In 2003, knowing that her passion was always to become a physician, she began pursuing her pre-med classes while majoring in Economics at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis, graduating in 2007.

Dr. Katema-Banda attended medical school at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) in Virginia, graduating in 2012 with honors and went on to specialize in Neurology with subspecialty focus in Vascular Neurology at Emory University. She served as Chief Resident while in residency training. Dr. Katema-Banda is currently working for Piedmont Fayette Hospital, one of the largest healthcare systems in Georgia. She serves as Co-Stroke Program Director at Piedmont Fayetteville and serves as Co-Chair for the System Stroke Committee and Vice-Chair for the System Stroke Quality Committee.

[Watch her 9 minute speech here.](#)

## **Shortage of Iodinated Contrast Media is Impacting Healthcare**

*Truncated from an article by Mariana Lenharo*

A COVID-19 lockdown in China temporarily shut down an important production facility for iodinated contrast media (ICM), a drug commonly used to enhance medical scans. The shortage is being caused by the temporary shutdown of a GE Healthcare production facility for ICM in Shanghai, China, due to a COVID-19 lockdown. The company is one of the major contrast media manufacturers, alongside Bracco, Bayer, and Guerbet. “When that plant was shut down, GE was suddenly unable to meet the supply-demand of its existing customers,” Matthew Davenport, MD, FACR, vice-chair of the American College of Radiology (ACR)

Commission on Quality and Safety, told Health magazine. “They have since moved up the production capability in their facility in Cork, Ireland, and began airlifting contrast media to the United States. Nonetheless, there’s still an acute supply chain shortage,” said Dr. Davenport. He added that GE has informed that a level of normalcy should be reached by June 30, but considering the back log and potential shipping challenges the crisis could continue throughout the summer.

The shortage is affecting all hospitals that relied on GE Healthcare as their preferred vendor. According to Dr. Davenport, most health systems have agreements to buy contrast from specific manufacturers. The extent to which each institution will be impacted also depends on how much stockpile of ICM they had before the shortage.

The ACR recently released a statement recommending a series of mitigation strategies including using alternative exams that don’t require ICM, such as MRI or ultrasound. In certain cases, providers may opt to perform a CT scan without contrast. It is also possible to reduce the dose of contrast based on the patient’s weight. Another measure that has been adopted is to repackage contrast media into smaller volumes to eliminate waste. The use of ICM is indispensable, for example, in cases of stroke. Contrast is also necessary in cases of a heart attack during cardiac catheterization.



## Joy Ishii Zarandy, DO, Wins Taekwondo Tournament

On April 30, Joy Ishii Zarandy, DO, competed in the Gateway Regional taekwondo tournament in St. Louis, MO, and was placed First in Forms, First in Sparring and Third in Weapons! No wonder all of her patients that see her in Cumming, Georgia family practice do exactly what she asks of them. Additionally, Dr. Zarandy serves as an Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at PCOM Georgia. Congratulations Dr. Zarandy!

## Farewell to Tom Bozzuto, DO

Past President of GOMA Tom Bozzuto, DO announced that he is leaving his Albany, Georgia, practice to move back to his hometown. Dr. Bozzuto has accepted a position at Geisinger Health System as Section



Chair of Wound Care for the Northeast Division and will be working in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Dr. Bozzuto explained, “The first weekend in June, we are moving back to my hometown and living in the house where I grew up. One and half hours from Anne’s family in Philadelphia and one and half hours from New York City and five hours to my son Thomas.” GOMA wishes Dr. Bozzuto best of luck in his new position. His lectures to GOMA conference attendees on wound care will be missed.

## Call for Advocacy to Improve Rural Healthcare

The Rural America Health Corps Act would provide physicians with \$200,000 in loan repayments for practicing in a rural area for five years. Aerial Petty, DO, a family medicine

resident in Dothan, Alabama [writes about how to advocate for this bill and why it's important.](#)

## PCOM Georgia 2022 Graduation



On Thursday May 26, at the Ameris Bank Amphitheater in Alpharetta, PCOM Georgia held graduation ceremonies for all of its graduate programs.

[Facebook Live has the graduation recording here.](#)

One highlight to the day was the honoring of Walter

Ehrenfeuchter, DO, FAAO with

title of Professor Emeritus presented by dean of the school, Andrea Mann, DO. Additionally, PCOM alumni Anthony J. Silvagni, DO was honored with a Doctorate of Humanities. Dr. Silvagni, best known as the former dean of the NOVA University Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine, shared his words of wisdom from working as a pharmacist, family physician, international mission worker and dean of a medical school.

Dr. Silvagni spoke to the graduates about the trust that patients have in doctors and the honor of getting that trust, but warned them not to tarnish that trust by being guided off course. Secondly, he discussed student loans and that it is best not to complain about the loans since doctors live at a higher standard of living than the average worker in America. "It's your wants that are going to destroy you, not your needs. Control your wants, and you'll have a great time out there." Then Dr. Silvagni requested for the graduates to "work together in healthcare as a team" and respect other healthcare professionals. Lastly, he directed the graduates to care for themselves and spend quality time with their families.

The 55:00 mark of the recording starts the program that focused on the osteopathic medical students and Dean

Andrea Mann, DO guided them to “consistently practice medicine with kindness, compassion, patience and thoughtfulness. Listen. I mean really listen. Be humble. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Take care of yourself and your family. And finally, my most favorite lesson, always remember to walk a mile in your patient’s shoes.”

One hundred twenty one graduates crossed the stage to get their degree of osteopathic medicine and start their lives as physicians. Two of the graduates were honored for entering the military to do their residencies.

One of the graduates was Neha Mylarapu, DO. Dr. Mylarapu is a future radiologist who plans on becoming fellowship trained in breast imaging while becoming further involved with the intersection of radiology and community outreach and global health. Mylarapu realizes that the field of radiology does not have as many opportunities for outreach as other branches of medicine, but plans to change that. [Learn how here.](#)

One of the members of the class was not present at the graduation on May 26 because he tragically died February 26, 2021. Read about Danny Martinez and the great impact he had on his classmates. The Martinez family has formed an endowment fund in Daniel’s honor with PCOM-GA. [Read more about Danny Martinez here.](#)

## Next Stop: Residency



Almost a third of the PCOM Georgia residents will stay here in Georgia to begin their post-graduate education. The other two thirds spread out across America as far away as Washington State. Are you curious about where the students matched into residency? Learn where the PCOM Philly and PCOM Georgia students matched this year by [checking out the 2022 Residency Match List](#). In fact, 58% of fourth year PCOM Georgia students matched into what the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce considers primary care and core specialty areas. These specialties include family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, general surgery, emergency medicine and psychiatry. [Read profiles of the PCOM & PCOM Georgia graduates and their futures by looking at each of these pages.](#)

### **PCOM South Georgia Student Tony Sciuva Becomes the National Chair of COSGP**



Meet the new National Chair of the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP), Tony Sciuva (DO '24)! In this position, Sciuva will oversee and support all COSGP initiatives as well as serve as the primary liaison to AACOM and have regular meetings with leaders in osteopathic medicine to help provide insight and guidance from the student perspective and

collate the voice of all students' opinions. An important goal of COSGP is to foster professional development and leadership among osteopathic medical students and to advocate for their interests ... to Learn. Share. Lead. Empower.

[Learn more about Tony Sciuva's new role here.](#)

## PCOM South Georgia Student Trent Griner Becomes National Chair of Student Sports Medicine Group

PCOM South Georgia Student Doctor Trent Griner (DO '23) has been announced as the 2022 – 2023 SAOASM National Chairperson. SAOASM is the student chapter of American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine. Griner said, "I have found a home in this organizations and holding this position has been a goal of mine since the beginning. A



special thank you to Dr. Michael Sampson, DO, FAOASM for introducing me to this organization and being the best mentor. I am proud to be an osteopathic medical student and an advocate for the future of primary care sports medicine!"

## PCOM South Georgia Panel Focuses on Health Inequities that Black Women Face



According to the CDC, Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause compared to White women. With that statistic in mind, the office of

Diversity and Community Relations and Sistahs in Medicine hosted an online panel to raise awareness of the health inequities that Black women face.

Much of the panel focused on how PCOM South Georgia students can make a difference through patient advocacy and open conversations. Student Doctor Justice Dove (DO '25) co-founder of the OB/GYN Club at PCOM South Georgia moderated the panel and noted that it is important for PCOM students to hear this advice from Black healthcare professionals. "PCOM is responsible for molding some of the greatest providers," Dove said. "Having access to conversations that place the most marginalized and minoritized groups at the center – while discussing realistic strategies to help – not only benefits those in need, but everyone around them."

Learn more about the panel here: <https://bit.ly/3y2nZWX>

## Virtual Residency Fair

PCOM recently hosted a virtual residency fair for medical students from all three of the PCOM campuses to learn more about their potential residency options. The fair



hosted more than 75 sessions from residency programs across the country with presenters who gave an overview of the program and allowed students to ask questions. This was an excellent opportunity for our students to learn more

about their residency options and what the programs look for in a resident. [Read the full story here.](#)

## Stop The Bleed is Theme of Emergency Medicine Club



At PCOM South Georgia, the student organizations often take their education into their own hands. Sometimes, they work with faculty members or community physicians, but they also take the opportunity to learn from their peers. They align their passions and skills with those who have similar goals, and they learn together. In early May, Ravi Soni (DO '23)

joined the Emergency Medicine Club in a hands-on workshop to teach students how to manage active bleeds. Students learned how to use a tourniquet, how to makeshift a tourniquet with everyday supplies and how to pack a wound.

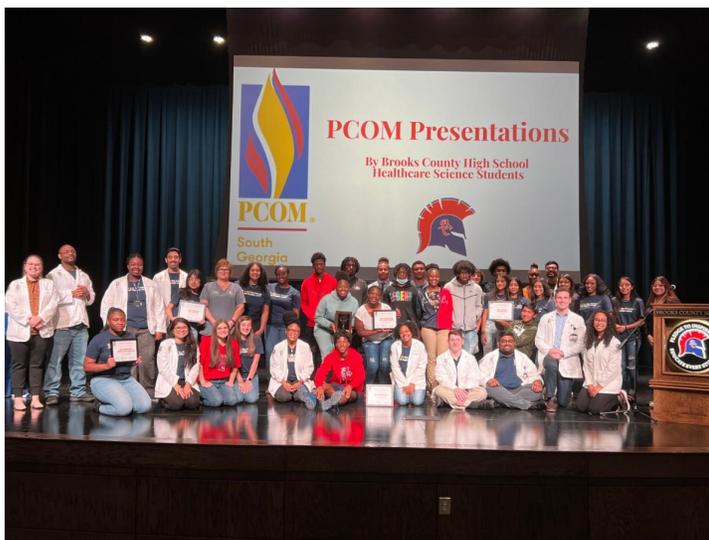
## PCOM Georgia Students and Faculty 'Glow in the Park' at Suwanee Town Center



PCOM Georgia osteopathic medical students and faculty participated in “Glow in the Park” on May 4. The event was held at Suwanee Town Center. The community event featured activities, displays, and performances from local groups and organizations, in addition to a glow-in-the-dark parade around the square after dark. The PCOM Georgia representatives participated by offering blood pressure screenings, assisting with OMM demonstrations and more. PCOM Georgia’s Sim Ambulance was also on-site demonstrating how medical mannequins are used as a training aid.

## **PCOM South Georgia Inspiring Brooks County Youth**

PCOM South Georgia students, faculty and staff spent a day in early May at Brooks County High School (BCHS) judging



healthcare presentations from tenth-grade health sciences students. This event was the finale of the Health Career Collaborative (HCC) between PCOM South Georgia and

BCHS for the academic year.

As part of the HCC, osteopathic medical students mentor the young high school students throughout the year, attending multiple events and activities together. The HCC provides mentorship, engaging health curriculum and exposure to health careers to high school students from low-income, underrepresented minority communities and has four goals:

1. Engage students in project-based learning with a focus on science and health care-related issues;
2. Encourage students to graduate from high school;
3. Model a diverse range of health-related career pathways
4. Empower students to identify the most pressing health needs in their community and engage students in community-based health promotion activities.

Thank you and congratulations to the PCOM South Georgia campus community for spending time with young students in the southwestern part of Georgia and encouraging a career in healthcare!

## Honoring Anatomical Donors at PCOM South Georgia

Early in May 2022, the campus of PCOM South Georgia and the surrounding community of



Moultrie, Georgia honored the anatomical donors and their families with an intimate memorial service on campus. Anatomical donors are the

very first patients of the graduate and medical students. Thanks to the donors' generosity, students at PCOM South Georgia learn firsthand about the intricacies of the human body.

Sarah Amaris (DO '25) shared a sentiment saying, "I often thought about the lifetime of experiences each person had, and how during that lifetime you chose to give us one of the greatest educational experiences we will ever have."

Read the full story here: <https://bit.ly/3sKJCI4>

## Research Day Features More Than 25 Poster Presentations in Moultrie

In early May, students and faculty of PCOM South Georgia presented their research posters at the annual Research Day. During this time, the community reviewed the



posters and learned more about the exciting and innovative research that takes place at PCOM South Georgia. With more than 25 posters presented, topics included gender and

racial disparities, cadaveric case studies, COVID-19 and virtual learning efficacy – just to name a few.

In other words...

*“Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.”*

– Albert Einstein



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