



advocacy • education • leadership

The ACOFP represents more than 20,000 osteopathic physicians, residents, and students. Key initiatives include responding to recent mega-issues (COVID-19 and DEI), increased advocacy efforts, expanded member benefits and engagement opportunities, and updating and integrating new technologies to better meet the needs of the ACOFP membership.

ACOFP Leadership

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DEI Advisory Group

The DEI Advisory group meets quarterly to assess DEI related metrics, review the progress of 15 approved recommendations from the DEI Task Force, and function as a resource for other DEI-related issues. 3 of the 15 recommendations are complete.

Of the remaining 12 recommendations, 4 are improvements of existing processes which have been implemented, such as collecting member demographic data to aid in the appointment process and ACOFP's ability to connect to members, implementing a process where the selection criteria for Board members includes their commitment to DEI, implementing cultural competency into OMT training, and incorporating diversity, equity, and inclusion goals into ACOFP objectives, Annual Operating Plan, and Strategic Plan. This year's DEI Committee Training topic was "Microaggressions in the Workplace." This is the second year this training has been conducted, and the response has been positive.

An interview with ACOFP staff was also featured on SIIA's blog as part of being an IMPACT award winner in 2022: <https://www.sii.net/blogs-dei-surveys-and-actions-and-bias-training-propel-acofp-to-impact-award/>

At ACOFP's 2023 Annual Convention, ACOFP continued facilitating meaningful discussions on the intersection between medicine and the health of marginalized communities. An entire track of content at the convention was dedicated to education and conversations on DEI. Notably, sessions focused on a wide range of topics from health disparities between racial/ethnic lines, cross-cultural medicine, structural racism, and LGBTQ+ healthcare. Additionally, a panel was held in celebration of National Transgender Visibility Day, showing commitment to recognizing and supporting this community. During these sessions, an illustrator graphically captured the key takeaways which were put in our main hallway for attendees to review and directly engage with, and then turned into a blog series:

- [Healthcare for the LGBTQIA+ Community](#)
- [Analyzing Racial Cardiology Disparities in Healthcare](#)
- [Cultural Differences and Healthcare](#)

Advocacy

A [call to action campaign](#) has been launched to support the *Rural Physician Workforce Production Act of 2023* which would help address this situation with solutions such as establishing a Medicare graduate medical education (GME) methodology for hospitals training rural residents, enabling hospitals such as critical access hospitals and sole community hospitals to receive Medicare GME funding under this new methodology, and allowing for the growth of rural resident training without regard to resident caps set under the Medicare program. As of July 5th, 104 advocates have sent 300 letters to members of Congress.

The ACOFP 2023 Principles of Healthcare System Reform have been developed and are board approved. The key areas that ACOFP will focus on in the coming year include reducing unnecessary paperwork requirements; preserving the family medicine model of care; addressing the family physician shortage; improving outcomes and reducing costs through primary care and support for family physicians; focusing on vulnerable populations and addressing racial disparities; encourage the appropriate use of telehealth; and addressing the opioid crisis.

Knowledge, Learning & Assessment

Annual Convention

The in-person meeting was held in Orlando, Florida at the Coronado Springs Resort at Disney World. It was a wonderful conference that had record-breaking attendance based on our in-person and virtual registration. The overall response to the Annual Convention has been incredibly positive with a rating of 4.31/5 with about half of the attendees having completed their overall surveys.

OMED

In October, we will be partnering at OMED 2023 taking place in Orlando, FL. We will be providing 25 hours of CME content and partnering with the AOA (American Osteopathic Association) Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine, American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists, American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine, and American Academy of Osteopathy. We will also offer 3-4 OMT workshops in addition to the didactic content which will also be accessible virtually.

Governance

Student Association

The Student Association of the ACOFP chapters have completed elections of their new leadership and have begun to plan the recruitment events on campus for the incoming first year students. Each chapter continues to submit monthly reports for ACOFP for the following categories: communications, meetings/workshops, OMM, membership and national/state participation and meet with their National Student Executive Board liaison in their first virtual roundtable meeting. The Student Association also welcomed a new chapter at the PCOM- South Georgia campus. The Student Association selected their leaders and members for the Membership Recruitment, Resolutions, Public Relations, and Education Committees for the 2023-2024 year.

The National Student Executive Board (NSEB) is currently running campaigns for student chapter presidents, outstanding student chapter shout outs and resident council member spotlights which are being featured on social media, student newsletter and in the ACOFP blog. The NSEB has continued their student newsletter which features chapter updates, education articles, student governor reports and mental health tips.

Future Leaders Conference

The 2023 Future Leaders Conference took place June 23 – 25 in Louisville, Kentucky. 19 new professionals attended. New in 2023, ACOFP and the Foundation are supporting quarterly Future Leaders Alumni webinar series to provide continued professional development and connection to other Future Leaders cohorts. The first webinar in the series was held on June 5th and focused on how to have crucial conversations in the workplace. The second webinar will be held in August on Balancing the Art of Leading Versus Managing.

Partners Make It Possible

ABFM Grant

Deliverables for this grant kicked off at the Annual Convention with five focus groups taking place for the following audiences:

Residency Program Directors & Preceptors

In Training: Medical Students

In Training: Residents and in fellowship

Early career practicing physicians (less than 5 years)

Practicing physicians

Key takeaways from the focus groups that took place in person include the following:

1. Physicians choose family medicine because of the opportunity to see a variety of different patient cases and work on many different types of challenges.
2. Mentors and quality of experience were cited as key influences in the decision-making process. Exposure to a variety of cases and having the opportunity to have a hands-on rotation were critical aspects in the experience, which good mentors and family medicine advocates were able to provide.
3. The timing of the rotation is important as well, within the context of the experience itself. While some students still found their way to family medicine despite not having that rotation early, program directors and preceptors said it was important to have the rotation before a student's third year.
4. Soft skills are important for family physicians and characteristics that residency program directors consider in evaluating matches for their programs. Communication skills, the ability to listen and a natural curiosity are fundamental to the specialty.
5. Work/life balance is a key benefit to family medicine, but physicians in this specialty are constantly fighting the stigma about family medicine being less important or less impressive than other specialties.

Virtual focus groups for students and physicians who did NOT choose family medicine are scheduled in July, along with the launch of the benchmarking survey and literature review which will be conducted in partnership with Kansas City University's and Rocky Vista University's team of librarians and ACOFP's student chapters.

ACOFP Foundation

The Foundation reached its Forging Our Osteopathic Future fundraising goal of \$2 million in March, thanks to a generous donation from the Auxiliary.

The Foundation has also been exploring an In-Service Exam pilot program to fully cover the cost for programs who have not typically supported this pathway, which we are launching this year. A partnership with ACOFP-CA will support this program and efforts are underway to recruit new California Residency Programs agreeing to support the ISE.