

ACOFP Activity Update | August 13-14, 2021

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The ACOFP represents 18,000 osteopathic physicians, residents and students. Key initiatives include responding to recent mega-issues (COVID-19 and the growing focus on racial disparities and health), 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

ACOFP is the largest specialty in the osteopathic profession and is governed by a 16-member Board and its Congress of Delegates with proportional representation by state.

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Congress of Delegates

In March 2021, our Congress of Delegates approved our Bylaws changes to allow MDs as members. The Membership Committee plans to host a podcast interviewing ACOFP's first allopathic member, Brian Bixler, MD. You may recognize the last name. 😊

ACOFP '21 Virtual

The 2021 Annual Convention was a tremendous success! We broke records for overall attendance and the overall event was rated at 4.26/5. New this year, we were able to implement a few recommendations from the Task Force on Convention Innovation report approved in October 2020:

- Different tracks: Attendees were able to choose from education that was labeled by track (General Care, Emergent Care, Outpatient Care, In-Patient Care and New Physician and Resident) and 77% of conference-goers found this helpful.
- Concurrent sessions: Multiple sessions were made available to attendees at the same time allowing them to choose the content of most interest live, while having the opportunity to stream other content on-demand. 94.7% of attendees liked having these options available.
- Opening keynote: This year we had a true opening keynote speaker, Sekou Andrews, who provided a wonderful breakdown of diversity and how it can be a positive force for change. That session rated in line with the event as a whole at 4.26/5.

DEI Task Force

We have partnered with The Exeter Group, a healthcare consulting firm based in Chicago, to complete Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Assessment to help us identify our strengths and areas of opportunity related to DEI. This assessment has allowed us to further enhance our commitment to creating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for all. In addition to a DEI survey for members, Exeter conducted interviews with key stakeholders of our organization and provided DEI training to staff and the Board of Governors. Our discussions with Exeter and amongst ourselves will be more informed with the understanding of the perspective of the members that completed the survey. Although the survey is completed, the work is not nearly done. The Task Force on DEI sub-committees (Governance, Education and Community Outreach) are currently convening to review the findings and provide recommendations to the Board in October.

Additionally, a DEI Task Force Blog Content Development Team has been formed and has contributed multiple blog posts for acofp.net on first-person accounts, social determinants of health, PRIDE Month and DEI awareness, among other topics.

Faculty Development/Program Directors Workshop Update

This year's FDPDW set an attendance record as well. Much of the success is attributed to the content and marketing, but this year we also tried a promotion with OMTeaching where residency programs that purchased OMTeaching subscriptions received one free registration for FDPDW.

Other Updates and Initiatives

AAFP - Direct Primary Care Summit

ACOFP is cohosting the 2021 Direct Primary Care Summit (DPC Summit) with the AAFP, DPC Alliance and the Family Medicine Education Consortium on July 16-18, 2021 in a virtual/livestream event. ACOFP physician members and staff have represented ACOFP on planning committees that resulted in over thirty hours of CME educational programming consisting of a mix of allopathic and osteopathic physicians that work in the DPC setting. Medical students and residents interested in learning about DPC also have a dedicated track and scholarships available.

The Student Association of the ACOFP

The Student Association of the ACOFP currently has 50 Student Chapters at the 58 Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and branch campuses. Members of the National Student Executive Board (NSEB) host quarterly regional Chapter President Roundtables to discuss chapter family medicine activities, national and local challenges they are facing and share ideas with each other.

The NSEB is developing proposals for leadership webinar series for the chapter officers which will be moderated by students and involving members of the ACOFP Board.

The NSEB moderated a panel of members from the Resident Council for a on demand webinar and two-part podcast called *Oh the Places You'll Go* which is about family medicine residency programs, selecting a program, discussing sub-internships, ranking programs, match process and work-life balance, among others. The NSEB is working with the Resident Council and the ACOFP Foundation on an upcoming webinar on the different pathways for board certification, the Early Entry Initial Certification pathway, and the Initial Certification Grant opportunities.

Students remain interested in leadership opportunities, both at the national level and within their chapter. The student association has four committees that are beginning to meet (Education, Membership Recruitment, Public Relations, and Resolutions).

Advocacy

In addition to the four [comment letters](#) ACOFP has developed on its own this year on the HIPAA Privacy Rule, H.R. 1025, the FY 2022 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System Proposed Rule and healthcare infrastructure, we have been busy partnering with other organizations to advance legislation on a larger scale. In February, we signed on to elements of the Black Maternal Health "Momnibus" Act and letter to President Biden in response to the National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness; in March, we partnered with STFM to sign-on to a request for legislators to support the Rural Physician Workforce Production Act; and in May, we signed on to a letter addressing Dr. Lorna Breen

Health Care Provider Protection Act (S. 4349) and the recently passed H.R. 1195, the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, with AOA and other specialty and affiliate societies.

We also hosted an advocacy webinar on the first 100 days of the Biden Administration, which was converted into a podcast, and we developed several [blog posts](#) on key issues, like GME and E/M reimbursement, as well as the member-generated content, What About Advocacy? and All Hands on Deck: How a Forward-Thinking Profession Can Embrace Advocacy.