Welcome to the First AOA Education Newsletter

Welcome to the first Department of Education Newsletter. One of the recommendations from the Education Policy and Procedure Review Committee III (EPPRC III) was for the Department of Education to centralize all of its individual newsletters from the various Bureaus and Councils into one comprehensive newsletter to be distributed to all stakeholders in Education, whether they be postdoctoral leaders, Continuing Medical Education (CME) sponsors, or certification leaders. Education initiatives are of interest to all of our leaders and to membership at large, so the decision to build one newsletter was not a surprising one.

Our goal is to be transparent and open about policy changes. For instance, Resolution 29, which for a short while replaced Resolution 42, was rescinded in 2012 and this change was sent to all program directors and DMEs in the Council on Postdoctoral Training (COPT) Newsletter immediately following the COPT/Bureau of Osteopathic Education (BOE) decision to recommend it. After each COPT meeting, all resolutions are required to be posted on the AOA website for 45 days. All comments are taken to the BOE or the Board of Trustees (BOT) for their deliberations on whether or not a resolution should be adopted. Approved resolutions will go onto the website for programs and trainees to review.

We invite everyone to review this Newsletter so that you are aware of what is happening in Education after bureau and council meetings. If you have suggestions about what you would find helpful to read in the Department of Education Newsletter, please send inquiries to Ariel Ryan at aryan@osteopathic.org.

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Welcome

The purpose of the AOA Department of Education Newsletter is to inform you of certification, continuing medical education, graduate medical education, and program review related activities as well as activities of its bureaus (BOE and BOS) and councils (CCME, COPT, COPTI, and PTRC).

Bureau of Osteopathic Education

Update from the BOE

At the December BOE meeting, a memorandum requesting a seat on the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) for the BOE chair was drafted following the charge from the Board of Trustees (BOT) that the BOE should be addressing the continuum of education in terms of Undergraduate Medical Education reporting and oversight. The memorandum was received by COCA and BOE Chair Joanna Pease, DO, was able to attend the COCA meeting as an invited non-voting, ex-officio observer on May 5, 2013. In order to facilitate this continuing relationship, the dates of future BOE meetings in relationship to COCA meetings are being considered so that the BOE Chair can attend both meetings.
The BOE formed a COCA Review Subcommittee, with BOE members Drs. McNerney, Lausen, and Cymet volunteering to work on the Subcommittee.

A task force was assembled to study the possible impact of ACGME training on DOs with the proposed ACGME-AOA unified accreditation system. BOE member Tyler Cymet, DO, volunteered and was voted as the lead of the task force. William Cunningham, DO, and Mark Bailey, DO, PhD, also volunteered to be on the task force.

The BOE approved one resolution from the Council on Continuing Medical Education (CCME) and eight resolutions from the Council on Postdoctoral Training (COPT), which were reviewed at the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting in March for final approval.

At the May 2013 meeting, Secretary Diane Burkhart, PhD, reported that during the 2012 AOA Match, 95% of first year funded positions were filled. There were a total of 11,659 AOA approved internship and residency slots. This included a growth of 245 funded first year positions. A total of 599 student DOs have matched through the post-match through the newly offered on-line post-match service. The need for additional first year slots continues to be a critical issue as the number of DO graduates grows at an unprecedented rate.

In May, the BOE approved six resolutions from the COPT to be reviewed at the BOT meeting in July for final approval.

Certification

Updates from the BOS

Osteopathic Continuous Certification is Here!

The specialty certifying boards of the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS) have worked tirelessly to develop Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC), which is now in effect. Each of the AOA’s 18 specialty boards has demonstrated its commitment to quality, research-based and psychometrically sound board certification administration processes.

The OCC process for all AOA specialty certifications was approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the 2013 Physician Quality Reporting System Maintenance of Certification Program Incentive program. This means that all osteopathic board certification entities have participated in a vetting process to ensure that their Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) programs meet the requirements for participation in this incentive.

The AOA has launched a dashboard on Osteopathic.org for certified osteopathic physicians to easily track their compliance with OCC requirements.

The BOS has speakers available for specialty and society meetings. Complete and submit the Speakers’ Bureau Request Form if you are interested in having a BOS speaker at your next meeting.

Continuing Medical Education

Updates in CME from the CCME

The 2014 CME Sponsors Conference will be held at the Hilton Austin on Thursday, Jan. 9 - Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014, in Austin, Texas.

2010-2012 CME Cycle – The end of the 2010-2012 CME cycle was Dec. 31, 2012, and all Category 1 CME Sponsors had until May 31, 2013, to report any/all outstanding CME credits that had not been submitted to the AOA Division of CME. This period has been extended to Nov. 30, 2013. After Nov. 30, 2013, CME credit for the 2010-2012 CME cycle will not be accepted. All CME credit may be submitted to the CME office at CME@osteopathic.org. If you have any questions, you may contact a CME Representative at (800) 621-1773 ext. 8262.
Physicians Reporting CME Credits -- Physicians who do not meet their requirement by May 31, 2013, will be placed on a probationary membership status and given an extension to report hours no later than Nov. 30, 2013. After the Nov. 30, 2013, deadline, physicians who failed to meet their 2010-2012 CME requirements will be dropped from membership and their AOA board certification will be placed on "inactive" status.

2013 CME Sponsors Accreditation and Registration Fees – The annual accreditation fees for each AOA-accredited CME Sponsors are now due. CME Sponsors had up to 90 days to pay. If these fees are not paid within 90 days of receipt of the annual invoice, the AOA may withhold the awarding of CME credit until payment is received. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Moreno at (800) 621-1773 ext. 8053, or kmoreno@osteopathic.org.


AOA Grant Funding Available For Prescriber Education on Extended-Release and Long-Acting Opioid Analgesics (REMS) - The AOA is one of 10 partners in the Collaborative for REMS Education (CO*RE). CO*RE recently received approval from the REMS Program Committee (RPC) for its national initiative to support educational activities addressing the public health crisis surrounding the use, abuse, diversion, and overdose associated with Extended Release/Long Acting (ER/LA) opioids.

As a result of this partnership with CO*RE, the AOA has block grant funding available for AOA affiliates to present AOA Category 1-A CME based on the 2012 FDA-approved risk evaluation and mitigation strategy (REMS) for ER/LA opioids. Each grant includes a trained speaker to deliver programs that convey the core message required by the FDA Blueprint for Prescriber Education for Extended-Release and Long-Acting Opioid Analgesics. Grant-funded programs must also include a needs assessment, learning objectives, and program evaluation. AOA affiliates will receive a stipend for administrative support of the program. Grants are available for programs presented between May 1, 2013, and April 30, 2014. For more information, contact Mary Ewert at (800) 621-1773, ex. 8175, or mewert@osteopathic.org.

CME Sponsors Accreditation Standards Crosswalk and Documentation Pad

At its Jan. 4, 2013, meeting, the Council on Continuing Medical Education (CCME) revisited the approved CME crosswalk -- a document to be used for random site visits based on the unified standards requirements -- and an expense voucher for use with all onsite visits. The chair of the CCME re-appointed a subcommittee to review the document and provide feedback on four areas: 1) definition of financial hardship, 2) triggers of an on-site visit, 3) development of rules for an audit, and 4) definition of a formal complaint to assist in the development of an attestation form which would be used by AOA Category 1 CME Sponsors who were financially challenged. The purpose of this process is to protect the accreditation status of the group and to maintain the highest CME standards. A resolution was sent forward to the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Education (BOE) to adopt the onsite visit guidelines.

Pilot of 30% Faculty Requirement vs. Current 50% Faculty Requirement

The CCME revisited its faculty requirement pilot of 30% osteopathic faculty time presentations vs. the current 50% osteopathic faculty time presentations. The pilot is still in place.

Accreditation

The CCME reviewed 30 document surveys for re-accreditation. Twenty-one document surveys received three-year accreditation and the remaining nine received two-year accreditation. Kansas City University of Medicine Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon, Inc. were awarded three-year accreditation and “Level 3 Accreditation with Commendation” status.

The following hospitals were approved as Category 1 CME Sponsors (total sponsors to date are 161):

1. Adena Health System – Chillicothe, OH
2. Allegiance Health – Jackson, MI
3. Fairfield Medical Center – Lancaster, OH
4. Midwestern University-Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Graduate Medical Education
Updates from the COPT, PTRC, and COPTI

The Osteopathic Medical Education Leadership Conference entitled “Patient Safety – Addressing the Training Gap” was held at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess Hotel in Scottsdale, Ariz., Jan. 4 – 6, 2013. Conference attendees had the chance to receive up to 14.5 hours of AOA Category 1A CME credit. The 2014 OME Leadership Conference will be held in Austin, Texas.

From the Council on Postdoctoral Training

The COPT met in Chicago on April 12 and 13, 2013. Several issues were presented and discussed on the agenda as noted below.

AOA Match – Diane Burkhart, PhD, reported on the most recent AOA match data. In addition, the COPT reviewed post-match scramble data. Available funded positions are continuing to be filled as reported weekly on the AOA post-match website. In 2012, 626 positions were filled post-match, however it is anticipated that approximately 800 positions will be filled this year. Combined with match numbers, it is anticipated that approximately 95% of all funded AOA positions will be filled by July 1, 2013. Exact numbers will not be available until the October TIVRA entries are collected and reviewed.

Dermatology in the 2014 AOA Match - OGME-2 Dermatology positions that start training in 2014 will begin to be offered in the 2014 AOA Match. Applicants interested in obtaining an OGME-2 Dermatology position through the Match must currently be in, or have already completed, OGME-1 training, as well as sign up for the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). Therefore, fourth-year medical students are not eligible for these positions. To register for OGME-2 Dermatology positions, you must still register and participate in the AOA Match, which is administered by National Matching Services Inc. (NMS) on behalf of the AOA. For additional information, please contact NMS at (416) 977-3431 or www.natmatch.com/aoairp.

IM Fellowship Participation in ERAS for the 2014 Application Season - Beginning July 1, 2013, the AOA and the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI) will participate in a new electronic application service. Programs interested may register their program with the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) for the 2014 application season. One hundred twenty-nine fellowship programs may volunteer to join more than 7,500 programs that have abandoned paper-driven application processes for ERAS’ electronic system. For questions regarding getting prepared for the first season, please contact ACOI Executive Director, Brian Donadio, at bjd@acoi.org. For questions regarding the registration process, or help with using ERAS features, please contact the ERAS Help Desk at (202) 828-0413, or at erashelp@aamc.org.

Program Accreditation Cycle - A resolution approved last November by COPT for program accreditation to be changed to a full five year cycle for all fully approved programs was approved by the AOA Board of Trustees in March. The COPT will initiate the new five year policy in July, 2013. Programs will be evaluated by Crosswalk for percentage of compliance with Basic Standards. Scoring will be as follows:

71-100% = Five years with full implementation of corrective actions as required
Below 70% = One year probation with no recruiting permitted, full implementation of corrective actions as required, and re-site review in one year

Continuing approvals of two, three, and four years will no longer apply.

Institutional Review Cycle - The scoring for institutional reviews will remain unchanged:

80-100% = Five years with full implementation of corrective actions as required
Below 80% = One year to correct deficiencies or may lose approval
If any section (IV-VIII) of the Institutional Review Crosswalk scores below 80%, the entire institution may lose approval.

Duty Hours - Duty hours ruling for programs which require some form of outside activity, such as a Master's degree and/or hours in class or on internet, or research, will be counted toward allowable work hours. If such outside activity is not required by the residency program, it will not count toward work hours.

OGME Consortia - Applications were reviewed and supported for two new educational consortia. Due to the increasing number of applications, a discussion occurred regarding intended structure and function of consortia. A subcommittee was appointed by COPT Chair, Clint Adams, DO, to evaluate the consortium concept and requirements. All consortium applications must include educational benefit and rationale descriptions.

TIVRA and Opportunities - A resolution was approved that both TIVRA and Opportunities annual reporting must be submitted as complete and accurate reports. Both reports are subject to fines if submitted incomplete, inaccurate, and/or after the deadline. OPTIs are encouraged to assist its member programs prior to submission for assurance in accuracy and completeness.
Affiliation Agreement - A resolution was approved to update the sample AOA Affiliation Agreement. It must include the names of the rotations and the reasons why the affiliated rotations are indicated.

Growth in AOA Programs - A review of AOA programs and positions since 2009 indicates a program growth from 762 (2009) to 883 (2012) programs. Positions increased from 8094 (2009) to 9742 (2012). Growth in new programs over the past three years reveals:

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Teaching Health Center (THC) Programs - The AOA has supported the growth of THC programs, which are funded by HRSA to enhance physician numbers in underserved areas. The COPT approved a resolution "that the ambulatory and continuity requirements in the primary care specialties which are HHS grant funded be permitted to be interpreted and site-reviewed consistent with the requirements and intent of the HHS, THC grant programs."

Proposed Performance Based Accreditation System (PBAS) - The COPT met in Executive Session to discuss the new proposed PBAS for accreditation of AOA programs. This is a trainee and program competency based and checkpoint driven system which provides accountability and cost effectiveness in program requirements to meet accreditation standards. It requires annual trainee and program evaluation reports from programs to SPECs and an every five year site review validation and standards compliance survey. The PBAS significantly enhances the position of the OPTI as an active participant in the educational process. This system is currently and will continue to be pilot tested by a number of OPTIs and SPECs and will continue to be refined and reported at COPT. The concept of PBAS was supported by COPT.

From the Council on Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institutions
The Council (COPTI) held a meeting and workshop for OPTI leaders on April 22-23, 2013, in Baltimore, MD, prior to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine-Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators’ (AACOM-AODME) annual meeting.

At its meeting on April 22, the COPTI reviewed the new OPTI annual report, which will require OPTIs to provide short responses regarding OPTI demographics, accreditation process verification, and outcome reporting. This will allow the report to provide meaningful data on overall OPTI success, which can be disseminated to OPTI leadership and published in the JAOA. The report was developed by a subcommittee of COPTI and an ad hoc committee of the AODME OPTI Council. The draft OPTI Annual Report is up for public comment.

On April 23, the COPTI hosted an OPTI Workshop which provided an opportunity for leadership and administrators from the 21 AOA-accredited OPTIs to come together to receive updates on AOA policy and share best practices. The Workshop included discussions regarding new OPTI standards, academic sponsorship, new AOA program inspection process, common OPTI deficiencies, and what the potential ACGME merger could mean to OPTIs. The OPTI Workshop also included training for new OPTI inspectors.

From the Program and Trainee Review Council and Program Services
In the fall of 2012, a number of new program applications were expedited for AOA approval so that the programs would be eligible for HRSA funding. As a result, seven new programs were approved for the Teaching Health Centers (THC) grants through Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in November 2012.

The PTRC met on April 11, 2013, in Chicago under the leadership of PTRC Chair, John Bulger, DO. During this meeting the PTRC granted 63 Continuing Approvals, 21 new program approvals (186 positions total), and 21 increase approvals (92 positions total). From July 1, 2012, to the present the PTRC has granted 74 new program approvals for a total of 786 additional positions as well as 66 increases for a total of 326 additional positions.

Training Program Review Services

Introduction to New Education Division and Its Staff
A new division within the Department of Education of the American Osteopathic Association has been formed. With the support of the AOA Board of Trustees, the Division of Training Program Review Services has begun its charge of reviewing all osteopathic training programs with the expectation to eventually perform 160 reviews per year according to the budget approved by the Board of Trustees (BOT). The first review was Jan.15, 2013, with the goal of accomplishing two (and eventually three) reviews per day. The division will travel approximately three out of every four weeks, allowing Division Director Stephan Trent, DO, to be available to travel to meetings and conferences. Dr. Trent spoke at the
ACOFP Program Director’s Workshop in Las Vegas on March 20, 2013, at the AODME meeting in Baltimore April 24-27, 2013, and at the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI) meeting on May 4, 2013.

In the future, notices will be sent out six months before a program or institution review is scheduled. Once scheduled, there will be limited scheduling changes. With six months advance notice, there will be a better chance of successfully rescheduling a review if needed. Visitors and observers from specialty colleges are permitted to attend a site review with the AOA reviewers at the SPEC’s expense.

The Crosswalk will be used for each review. All programs and institutions scheduled for review must complete a pre-review Crosswalk and submit it to the AOA no later than four weeks prior to the scheduled site review date. It is a useful pre-review tool. It will help programs and institutions by showing what their review score may be ahead of time. Programs that are in the same vicinity will have linked reviews to minimize travel time for reviewers and to allow more time for each review. All institutional reviews will be done concurrently with scheduled internship/residency site reviews.

A recent proposal calls for a change in the accreditation cycle. If approved, the new review cycle would likely go into effect July 2013. The new cycle calls for the Training Program Review Services (TPRS) to review all programs at an institution together. All programs that achieve a minimum score (≥ 71%) will receive a five year accreditation cycle. If a score of <71% is achieved, the program will receive a one year cycle and probationary status. These are ultimately decisions of the Program and Trainee Review Council in conjunction with the specialty colleges and not the decisions of the TPRS specialists.

To lead the new TPRS division, Division Director Stephan Trent, DO, was hired in August 2012. Dr. Trent is a 1980 graduate of Kansas City University of Medicine and Bioscience and is certified by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. He completed an American Board of Family Medicine fellowship and National Institute for Program Director Development fellowship. He served patients in a rural practice for 17 years before he began teaching family medicine 14 years ago. He has also been program director of a dually accredited family medicine program in Casper, Wyo., and later served as DME of a new group of residency programs associated with the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Melissa Rose, Dr. Trent’s administrative assistant, is a graduate of Indiana University with a Bachelor of Arts in Stage Management and a Bachelor of Science in Arts Administration. She previously served as Assistant to the Artistic Director and General Manager at a regional theatre in White River Junction, Vt. She is excited to play an integral role in the creation of an administrative system for the new division.

Savita Misra joins the AOA in the Department of Education, Division of Training Program Review Services in the role of Postdoctoral Review Specialist with 14 years experience in education, strategy, and organization development. She has a Bachelor of Science in Business Management as well as a Master of Arts in Training and Development. She is currently a doctoral candidate in Organization Development at Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill. Her areas of research are in the field of Positive Organizational Scholarship, specifically in Energy and Performance Management.

Tiffany Moss came to the AOA with six years of healthcare leadership experience. During her time in healthcare, she managed both osteopathic and allopathic medical education programs. Tiffany has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Economics, and a Masters in Business Administration with a concentration in Organizational Development.

For the immediate future, the three reviewers will travel as a team reviewing programs. The TPRS team looks forward to working with all of the postdoctoral programs and assisting them as they pursue excellence in resident training.

Find Answers to Your Questions

Educate yourself on changes, including Osteopathic Continuing Certification, that impact the osteopathic medical profession by visiting Osteopathic.org.

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