2008 AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING

OMS President Paul Tortland, DO, and Vice President Darrin D'Agostino, DO, represented COMS as the delegates to the recent annual AOA House of Delegates meeting in Chicago.

BUREAU OF EMERGING STATES CONCERNS MEETING

Discussion was held regarding the definition of an “emerging state.” The current definition is a state with fewer than 300 AOA members. However, this does not reflect the actual number of DOs in the state, nor the number who belong to the state osteopathic society.

One advantage to being an “emerging state” is a sizeable discount received on advertising rates in The DO magazine for CME programs.

The discussion focused on whether to redefine “emerging state.” One consideration is to look at membership in the state society, perhaps as a percentage of the total number of DOs in the state or the number of AOA members. Another suggestion is to consider a “tiered” system, again based on an agreed upon number of DOs in a given category.

A second line of discussion centered on the budget constraints affecting the AOA in general and in the Division of Affiliate Affairs in particular. The DAA is responsible for assisting state societies. (Elizabeth Harano, COMS’ current acting Executive Director, is a full-time staff member in the DAA.)

The benefit to emerging states from the DAA cannot be underestimated. It is, in part, directly because of the assistance provided by the Division that COMS has grown so successfully in recent years. Massachusetts and Rhode Island likewise are receiving DAA assistance.

The DAA is critically understaffed, resulting in a contraction of services available to the emerging states. A motion was passed to present a resolution to the AOA Board of Directors to increase staffing for the Division.

Continued on page 4
DOS IN THE NEWS

At their 15th Annual Scientific Assembly and Annual Meeting last November, the Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians inaugurated David Charash, DO as President, and COMS Member Bryan Jordan, DO, as President-Elect. Congratulations, Drs. Charash and Jordan!

Congratulations to COMS Member Patricio Bruno, DO, who was named United States Air Force Reserve Command Flight Surgeon of the Year by the United States Society of Air Force Flight Surgeons. The presentation was made on May 9, 2008, at the Aerospace Medical Association Annual Conference and Scientific Seminar in Boston, MA.

Congratulations also to COMS President Paul Tortland, DO, who will travel in late August to Courcheval, France as the Team Physician for the U. S. Figure Skating Team. Eight athletes will represent the United States in this first event of the 2008 International Figure Skating Junior Grand Prix.

Osteopathic speakers at the 2008 Oceanside CME Conference included (in alpha order): COMS Members Greg Czarnecki, DO; Darrin D’Agostino, DO; Jeffrey Helfand, DO; James Ryan, DO; and Paul Tortland, DO, FAOASM. Other DO speakers were AOA President Carlo DiMarco, DO, FOCOO of Pennsylvania; UNE-COM Associate Dean Kenneth Johnson, DO of Maine; Nova Southeastern U. COM faculty member John Pellosie, Jr., DO, FAOCOPM of Florida; and Paul Labinson, DO and Scott Wolf, DO, FACP of both of Connecticut.

Congratulations to COMS Member Nicholas J. Palermo, DO, MS who was awarded Life Member status and Trustee Emeritus by the Society at its 2008 Annual Membership Meeting. Also at that meeting, Society Members reelected to the Board the following: President Paul Tortland, DO, FAOASM; Vice President Darrin D’Agostino, DO, MPH; Treasurer & Secretary James Ryan, DO; Immediate Past President Andrew Yuan, DO; and Trustees William Garrity, DO; Christina Kozar, DO, FAAP; and Jeffrey Miller, DO. Newly elected as a Trustee was Greg Czarnecki, DO. The Society is in good hands with these dedicated leaders!

Do you have news about a professional or personal accomplishment? Please share with your DO colleagues.

Send the details to Connecticut@osteopathic.org or call COMS staff at (800) 648-9777.

DEAN’S UPDATE

Thank you for the opportunity to update the Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society on recent happenings at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNECOM).

My first week as vice president for health services and dean was highlighted by a number of exciting and important events on our beautiful Maine seacoast campus. The week started off with a community service project from the College’s Office of the Deans in which faculty, staff, administrators, and students volunteered alongside Biddeford city staff to “blaze a new trail” along the Saco River, removing brush, trees, and trash to help in the creation of a Diamond Park riverside trail. Special events that week included the College’s Clerkship Caucus in which faculty from the Clinical Training Center sites participated in faculty development, and a workshop of the graduate medical education program faculty of the Northeast Osteopathic Medical Education Network (NEOMEN OPTI). Of course one of the major highlights each year for any college or university is commencement, and on June 7 this year we celebrated the 27th graduation and the conferring of degrees to 123 new doctors of osteopathic medicine. Stephen Shannon, DO, MPH, former dean, gave the commencement

Be sure to hold the dates of Friday, May 1 to Sunday, May 3, 2009 for the 2009 Oceanside CME Conference. We will return to the Mystic Marriott in Groton, CT, which received rave reviews earlier this summer. To book your hotel rooms at the COMS discounted rate of $159/night, call the Marriott at (866) 449-7390 and request the CT Osteopathic Medical Society rate not later than 4pm on Thursday, April 2, 2009.
Welcome to the first edition of the COMS newsletter! We are excited to be launching this newsletter as a way of bringing DOs in Connecticut up to date on what is happening in our osteopathic community.

First off, COMS is alive and well, and growing strongly! Our recent annual clinical conference in Mystic in June was one of our most successful in COMS history, both financially and academically. Hats off to Darrin D’Agostino DO, COMS Vice President and conference Program Chairman. Darrin assembled an outstanding lineup of topics and speakers, and the feedback from attendees and speakers alike was overwhelmingly positive.

This past conference also marked the first time the meeting was held at the Mystic Marriott (which, technically, is in Groton). It was an outstanding venue, and the fact that we have “graduated” to a more upscale property is yet another sign of the growth of COMS. Most of the conference attendees had only positive comments about the hotel.

The AOA was also very instrumental in assisting with this year’s meeting. Elizabeth Harano, our Executive Director, is a full-time AOA staff member, and she flew out from Chicago to help manage the administrative side of the conference. Elizabeth and the AOA have been working diligently to assist in the growth and success of COMS.

Second, this an exciting time for the osteopathic community in Connecticut. The osteopathic internship and internal medicine residency at UConn is firmly established, and many of its graduates are choosing to stay and practice in Connecticut. Furthermore, additional osteopathic residencies are in the planning stages, including family practice, surgery, psychiatry, and ob/gyn. The osteopathic residents currently in training are highly regarded.

Above all, however, it is important to remember that COMS is the only voice representing osteopathic physicians in Connecticut. We exist to serve you. So we need to hear from you! Let us know how COMS can help you. Also, as we begin planning for next spring’s annual conference, we would like to know if there are particular topics that you would like to see presented.

Over the coming year we hope to sponsor dinner programs to encourage DOs to meet and network with each other, while at the same time hear a timely academic presentation.

We look forward to seeing or hearing from you in the coming months!

Paul Tortland, DO, FAOASM
COMS President
The UFOS is a caucus of all the “small states” (based on the number of DOs in the state), and represents over 20 states. This now accounts for over 45% of the AOA members. The purpose of the UFOS is to present a unified voice representing the interests of the small states. One practical aspect of this caucus is the agreement on DO candidates put forth for election to the various offices in the AOA.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES OPENING SESSION
The opening session consists of recognizing the outgoing AOA President for his achievements during the preceding year; honoring selected DO’s for exemplary service, including this year identification of the “Pioneers of the Profession” who were also profiled in the most recent issue of The DO magazine; an address by the new AOA President; and reports from the various AOA departments.

The incoming AOA president, Carlo DiMarco, DO, is an ophthalmologist from Pennsylvania who has addressed the attendees at the COMS annual clinical conference the last 2 years.

A highlight of the session was a recounting of the recent successful efforts by the AOA, in conjunction with the AMA, in working to effect the override of President’s Bush’s veto of the proposed plan to prevent cuts in physicians’ Medicare payments.

Medicare payments to physicians were scheduled to be cut by 10%. Congress proposed a plan to rescind the cuts, and to make up the budgetary balance by drawing from the profits of the insurance companies. President Bush vetoed this plan, but Congress mustered enough votes to override it, with significant help from the AOA and AMA.

HARTFORD HOSPITAL

Position Opportunity: Internal Medicine Clinician Educator

Hartford Hospital Department of Medicine seeks a full time Internist to join our academic and clinical programs as the Associate Program Director for our Osteopathic Internal Medicine Residency program. The successful candidate will be a dedicated educator and will supervise care delivered by Internal Medicine Residents and Students in the outpatient and hospital settings as well as have protected time for program administrative duties. Share night and weekend call in supporting residents and providing clinical oversight with seven other faculty members (averages 1:7 weeks). Must be board eligible or certified in Internal Medicine. Prior clinical or Chief Medical Resident experience a plus. Hartford Hospital is the largest teaching site for the University of Connecticut Internal Medicine Residency Programs. Faculty appointment with the University of Connecticut commensurate with experience is available and opportunity exists to become a program officer in education. Not a J-1 opportunity.

Send statement of interest and CV to Farris Milling c/o Department of Medicine, Hartford Hospital, Hartford CT 06102. Hartford Hospital is an equal opportunity employer.
It is with great pleasure that I am writing this article for our very first newsletter from the Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society. We have seen tremendous growth in our organization and we are seeing many more osteopathic physicians in the state of Connecticut participate in our educational activities. I have been proud to serve as Vice President these last few years and I am looking forward to the continued growth our Osteopathic Society will see over the next few years.

Although traditionally the Vice President’s main job is to oversee and develop continuing medical education programs, we have a new energy emerge for COMS and all of the Board members have worked hard and have been generous with their time to help develop programs. These efforts have helped the Annual Conference to grow over the last three years. We have seen an increase in participants, an overall improvement in the quality of education and speakers, and there is an anticipation among DOs in Connecticut for this program. I attribute this to the enthusiasm and overall positive energy of the entire Society.

What I would like to do in this article is briefly summarize the success of our most recent CME Program and then discuss the state of Osteopathic education in Connecticut, discuss possible future venues, and elicit the thoughts and suggestions of our membership. It is only with the individual member’s suggestions that we can continue to grow as a society and make changes and implement programs that the membership want.

DEAN’S UPDATE continued from page 2

The College of Osteopathic Medicine has been working on a strategic plan over the past year. This plan, which includes a revised statement of its mission, vision, philosophy, and core values, has been submitted to the senior university leadership and the Board of Trustees for final approval. One central theme that you might be interested in is that the College has identified the theme of “putting the patient first” as a unifying central element of what makes UNECOM special. The new mission draft is as follows: “The University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine transforms students into health care leaders who advance patient-centered, high quality osteopathic primary care and community health for the people of New England and the nation.” Goals that have emerged from this strategic plan are academic excellence, research excellence, service excellence, and operational excellence. Look for much more detail on the strategic plan and the College’s innovative “Patient First Curriculum” at our website (www.une.edu).

Please do plan to visit the College of Osteopathic Medicine for the Columbus Day weekend (October 8-11, 2008) for an exciting weekend that includes a Primary Care CME, Fall Clerkship Caucus, White Coat Ceremony, and the celebration of the 30th year for the College! I look forward to meeting more of you in person and also to sharing more about the College’s building on its heritage and yet blazing a new path on the way to achieving its strategic goals. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any feedback or if I can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd
Vice President for Health Services and
Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of New England
This summer, Congress voted to enact the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (H.R. 6331). This legislation would, among other provisions, stop the 10.6% cut in Medicare payments to physicians who serve Medicare patients. The legislation was vetoed by President Bush, but bipartisan efforts in both the House and Senate led to a successful override of the veto.

Voting WITH physicians and patients on this legislation were every member from Connecticut:
- Senator Christopher Dodd
- Senator Joseph Lieberman
- Representative John Larson (1st)
- Representative Joseph Courtney (2nd)
- Representative Rosa DeLauro (3rd)
- Representative Christopher Shays (4th)
- Representative Christopher Murphy (5th)

Please be sure to thank your Members of Congress for supporting access to health care for seniors and for stopping these cuts – at least for the next 18 months.

If you would like to receive alerts on these federal issues, please send your email address and your request to Connecticut@Osteopathic.org.

HEALTHNET & OMT ADVOCACY

Healthnet has introduced a new policy requiring prior authorization for manipulation. COMS is taking an active role on behalf of the state’s DOs in trying to get Healthnet to grant a carve-out exception for OMT. As you know, OMT is not chiropractic treatment or physical therapy. It is a medical procedure with its own unique CPT codes, independent of those for chiropractic, physical therapy, and even physical medicine. Forcing a patient to come back for OMT causes greater patient inconvenience and saddles them with another co-pay, needlessly takes up another appointment slot, and potentially delays treatment. Requiring prior authorization also further burdens an already overtaxed office staff. Please support COMS in this effort. The more members we have, the more voices we represent, which increases the “clout” we can carry with the insurance plans. Your membership counts!

CHARTER OAK

Connecticut on 6/30/08 enrolled the first residents in the State's new “Charter Oak” health care plan for the uninsured, an $11 million state-subsidized plan that offers low-cost health insurance to individuals 19-65 years old, the 7/1/08 Courant reported.

The article provided contact information for additional information: Residents can call a toll-free hot line, (877) 772-8625, or go to www.charteroakhealthplan.com.

ANNOUNCING THE JOSEPH H. KANTER PRIZE FOR PHYSICIANS

The Joseph H. Kanter Prize will be given to one U.S. practicing physician each year who has contributed significantly to enhancing the delivery of healthcare in our nation using a method that will diminish existing healthcare disparities. This prize is open to physicians who have either a DO or an MD degree. This award will include $100,000, to be awarded in the spring of 2009. With this award, granters hope to:

- Contribute to uncovering solutions for health care disparities due to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, beliefs, bias, etc.
- Recognize the talent, dedication, and creativity of a physician and elevate them to the ranks of professional prize winners.

As stated by AOA President Carlo J. DiMarco, DO, “To live in one of the wealthiest nations in the world and still see people not receive the health care they need because of race, religion or socioeconomic status is an atrocity. It’s time for the U.S. to find a solution to cover the uninsured, especially our children, and take care of our growing health care costs. The Joseph H. Kanter Prize recognizes a physician with extraordinary ideas who can be a catalyst to change our system today, so all Americans will have high quality health care tomorrow.”

Please contact COMS, if you are aware of a potential nominee via (800) 648-9777 or Connecticut@osteopathic.org. Visit the Kanter Prize website at www.healthlegacy.org to learn more about nomination and selection criteria or for additional information contact them at KanterPrize@healthlegacy.org.

CMS PROPOSES MORE THAN 330 NEW DIAGNOSIS CODES FOR 2009

As the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced more than 330 new diagnosis codes proposed for the 2009 ICD-9 CM coding book, the AOA can help you become familiar with the changes and make sure you receive proper reimbursement for the services you provide. The more than 330 codes will be posted in an upcoming Federal Register. Because these
For more information, visit www.DO-Online.org.

**JANUARY 1ST CMS REGULATORY CHANGES COULD IMPACT THE WAY YOU PRESCRIBE**

As of January 1, 2009, CMS will require that any Medicare Part D computer-generated prescription comply with the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs Script Standard, and be transmitted electronically and not via fax.

If you use an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system to prepare and submit prescriptions to pharmacies, it is very possible that your EMR is automatically routing prescriptions to the pharmacy’s fax machine. This will not be in compliance with the upcoming shift in requirements. That’s why the American Osteopathic Association is participating in a national program to help practices prepare for this change.

Visit www.GetRxConnected.com/AOA to complete a quick e-prescribing readiness assessment and instantly get a free, personalized practice capability report. The report also contains a feature that will allow you to instantly send your vendor a request for connectivity.

**Act now!** There are only four months left until the new regulations go into affect and your vendor will need time to upgrade your system and familiarize your practice with any changes that are made. Don’t have an EMR? Visit www.GetRxConnected.com/AOA for guidance on how to evaluate and acquire e-prescribing technology.

Do you have a question about legislation, regulations, reimbursement, or other practice-related issues? Submit them in writing to COMS member newsletter via fax (312) 202-8224 or Connecticut@Osteopathic.org.

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**CONNECTICUT OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETY**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Hello, my name is Elizabeth Harano, and I serve as your Society’s Interim Executive Director. I’m employed by the American Osteopathic Association in their Affiliate Affairs Division out of the Chicago headquarters, and my job is to manage osteopathic societies that contract with the AOA for this service. I joined the AOA in 2003 after 10 years in state and alumni relations and 13 years with Illinois State Government. Since then, I’ve worked with four osteopathic state societies (IL, MA, CT, and ID), two specialty colleges (Pediatrics and Addiction Medicine), and two non-practice affiliates (Bureau of Hospitals and the Advocates for the AOA), in most cases as the Executive Director.

The Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society (COMS) has worked with our division since 2005, and I began working with your Society exactly one year ago. Since that time, I have:

- met regularly with your President and Vice President;
- met with your full board in person last November and via conference call in May;
- discussed with the Board the strategic opportunities for COMS;
- scouted new sites for the Oceanside CME conference with your Conference Program Chair;
- secured CME credit for the September 2007 dinner meeting;
- met with your membership at the Annual Meeting during the Oceanside CME;
- assisted your delegation to the AOA House of Delegates; and
- worked extensively on the very successful 2008 Oceanside CME.

**Continued on page 9**
2008 OCEANSIDE CME CONFERENCE

On May 16, 17, and 18, the Annual Oceanside Conference of the Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society took place. This year the venue for the meeting changed to the Mystic Marriott, which was a very positive and welcomed move. The Mystic Marriott was accommodating and welcoming. They provided service to our conference which we had not experienced over the last few years having this conference at the Mystic Hilton. I believe the change in venue added new life to the conference, it was very comfortable and the management at the Marriott was extremely accommodating. I do believe we will have future meetings there and may in fact use this as the CME Meetinghouse for the Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society in the future.

CME TOPICS: SPECIALISTS & PRIMARY CARE

The topics for the Continuing Medical Education have evolved in the last three years. Although the conference is specifically designed as a primary care update, there is considerable need and desire among physicians in the state to include subspecialty updates. With this information the conference had updates in areas that are not typically considered primary care venues. For instance, pulmonary medicine has seen changes in the diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. A local expert, Dr. Ed Salerno, came to discuss the most recent medical updates. This provided the opportunity for primary care physicians to learn from specialists’ approach to this disease and to gain tools to evaluate and manage COPD in the office. At the same time, this specialist outlined when it is appropriate and who should be referred to the specialist, based on disease burden. Another example of introducing specialty care into the conference was the lecture on Wound Management and Vascular Compromise. COMS was very fortunate to have a nationally recognized expert in vascular and wound medicine speak to us about hyperbaric therapy and wound management. George Perdrizet, MD delivered an outstanding lecture and review on wounds and their care. Although this is a highly specialized area of medicine, there are components and diagnostic procedures that should be performed in the primary care office which were reviewed and outlined. Even though most significant wounds are referred to specialists, Dr. Perdrizet very clearly and very precisely discussed some important and powerful techniques that can be used by primary care physicians to help their patients. Other conference topics included an update on hematologic malignancies and abnormal blood work interpretation, injuries of the foot and their care, an anatomy review with Ultrasound guidance and ophthalmology for the primary care physician. This was a great conference!

I believe this conference has opened the doors to future CME activity that COMS is dedicated to provide our membership. I was very excited about the success of this meeting, was grateful for the evaluations and information that those physicians who participated relayed to us and I am looking forward to future programs throughout the year for the growth of our wonderful profession.

OSTEOPATHIC GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION ISSUES

At this time I would like to discuss some of the current issues wrapped around osteopathic education in the state of Connecticut. As many of you know, I am the Program Director for the Osteopathic Internal Medicine Residency at the University of Connecticut and in addition, the Osteopathic Director of Medical Education. Therefore, I have been involved with many programs that are either in the process of being developed or are being considered for new programs.

The Osteopathic Rotating Internship is ten years old at the University of Connecticut. The origin of this program and the desire to create this program were simple. The University of Connecticut’s then-Program Director of the Allopathic Internal Medicine Residency, Richard Garibaldi, MD, had the forethought and understanding of Osteopathic Medicine and approached the AOA to develop a rotating internship. This early foray into osteopathic education has developed an incredibly symbiotic relationship with our Allopathic brethren at the University of Connecticut. Since that time, the rotating internship has grown from 4 residents in its first year to 13 residents currently. In addition to that, the rotating internship created the foundation for an Osteopathic Internal Medicine Residency. We have currently recruited our third class into this program and feel that it is an extremely strong residency for the state of Connecticut. The success of these two programs has to do with the high quality, determination, and intellectual curiosity of the residents who participated in these programs starting ten years ago. We have seen these graduates move into all specialties, both in the Allopathic and Osteopathic worlds, and many of you reading this now are working with graduates from this program.

Because of this success I have been approached by a number of residencies to include and develop an osteopathic component to their allopathic counterpart. Currently we are discussing developing a Family Practice Residency, have been approached by Psychiatry to develop a Psychiatric Residency, and are looking into the feasibility of a Surgical Residency. All would serve the
people of Connecticut. This is an incredible time for osteopathic education in the state of Connecticut.

This newsletter provides information about what COMS as an organization is doing for its members. However, I would like to see this newsletter serve an additional purpose: to be a tool to disseminate information and recruit osteopathic physicians to engage in medical education in a way many of the osteopathic physicians in Connecticut have not participated in the past.

There is tremendous opportunity to re-discover our roots and develop programs that can better our profession throughout Connecticut. We all have had experiences where patients seek out and only wish to be treated by osteopathic physicians, and it is a shame that we don’t have enough DOs to care for all of the people looking for this service in this state. In the last ten years, since the rotating internship in internal medicine residency has been in existence, the number of DO physicians practicing has increased and has placed these physicians all around the state. Note that many are leaving for Fellowships but are coming back to Connecticut to practice.

THE IMPACT OF CT OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS

The physicians in Connecticut paved the way for those of us transplanted to Connecticut to succeed in our practices. I commend you all for your hard work and dedication, and thank you whole heartedly for mentoring me and for being a resource for the Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society.

In closing, I would like to thank our current Board members and the membership of the State Society for their continued support and dedication to Osteopathy. I believe Connecticut is destined to become an epicenter of Osteopathic medicine on the East Coast. It’s the dedication of the members of our Society and the Osteopathic communities in general that will help us achieve this goal.

Respectfully submitted by,

Darrin C. D’Agostino, DO, MPH
Vice President and CME Chair, Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Continued from page 7

Also, I act as the Publisher and Editor for our newsletter, so please be sure and let me know you think about it and how we can make it better!

I truly enjoy working with DOs, whether you are a Society member or a volunteer leader. Working with the state society also gives me the chance to represent you to prospective patients who seek referrals to DO quality, so please let me know if you wish to be on a referral list we’re developing (including information about your practice, such as whether you utilize osteopathic manipulative medicine techniques, since we get a number of calls every month about that).

Right now we’re focusing on continuing to increase the quality of CME in Connecticut (see the CME needs survey to let us know what you’d like to see next); advocating for the profession (see the News You Can Use section, for example); and helping members to connect with fellow DOs. By this time next year, we’ll have offered another outstanding CME conference and we expect to have a website back up to help you 24/7.

Feel free to call or email me with any comments or recommendations, because only by meeting your real needs can this Society succeed – so that’s my goal as your Executive Director!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Forkins Harano, Interim Executive Director
(800) 648-9777
Connecticut@Osteopathic.org

KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS

Capitol Hill Fact: Give Peace a Chance

Which Members of Congress were once Peace Corps Volunteers?

Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn
Dominican Republic - 1966-68

Colombia - 1964-66

El Salvador - 1965-67

Rep. Tom Petri, R-Wis.
Somalia - 1966-67

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn.
Fiji - 1968-70

Nepal - 1970-72
September 11 – 14, 2008
Surgeons (with Proctologists and Orthopedic Surgeons) 81st Annual Clinical Assembly of Specialists, Boca Raton Resort and Club. For more information: www.facos.org or www.aoao.org or proctodoc55@hotmail.com.

September 12 – 14, 2008
VSAOPS 102nd Annual Fall Conference, StoweFlake Resort & Conference Center, Stowe, VT. 21 hours anticipated. For more information: nocdos@comcast.net.

October 10 – 12, 2008
UNECOM Annual Fall CME & Alumni Reunion Weekend, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME. 15 hours anticipated. For details, (207) 602-2589 or CME@une.edu.

October 13 – 17, 2008

October 28 – November 3, 2008
AOA Annual Convention including numerous specialty colleges. Venetian Hotel/Sands Expo, Las Vegas, NV. NOTE: Registration and hotel booking now available online at www.DO-Online.org.

November 4, 2008
GENERAL ELECTION DAY – DON’T FORGET TO VOTE!

January 30 – February 1, 2009

February 25 – March 1, 2009
AOA Board of Trustees Midyear Meeting, Ritz-Carlton, Washington, DC. For details, www.do-online.org.

March 4 – 8, 2009

March 25 – 29, 2009

May 1 – 3, 2009
COMS Oceanside CME, Mystic Marriott in Groton, CT. Book hotel room by 4pm on Thursday, April 2, 2009 for COMS rate of $159/night. For additional information, contact COMS staff at (800) 648-9777 or Connecticut@osteopathic.org.

July 13 – 19, 2009
AOA Annual Board of Trustees Meeting and House of Delegates, Fairmont Hotel, Chicago, IL. For details, www.do-online.org.

Various dates
OMM series at UNE-COM. For details, www.une.edu/com/cme/events.asp, call (207) 602-2589 or CME@une.edu.

Additional CME programs are listed for:
- Hartford Hospital at www.harthosp.org/newsandevents/
classrooms
- Yale Medical School at http://info.med.yale.edu/calendar
- UConn Medical School at http://cme.uchc.edu
- UNE College of Osteopathic Medicine at www.une.edu/com/cme/events.asp
- The entire osteopathic family at www.DO-Online.org, then click on Calendar.
WHAT CME DO YOU NEED?

The volunteer members of the COMS Education Committee develop at least 20 hours of Category 1-A CME at the Oceanside CME program each year. Please reply by October 1st by fax to: (312) 202-8483 or e-mail: Connecticut@Osteopathic.org. Thank you for your time.

Your City, State: ______________________________________________________________________________________________

Specialty/Practice Type: ______________________________________________________________________________________________

1. How many hours of Category 1-A CME did you earn in the past 12 months? ______________

2. How many total hours of CME did you earn in the past 12 months? ______________

3. What difference does having joint ACCME sponsorship mean to you (through Hartford Hospital):
   - No Difference
   - It Helps
   - Essential

4. What is the optimum length of a CME program?
   - 1 day
   - 1.5 days
   - 2-3 days
   - 4 or more days

5. What THREE factors are important to you when deciding on a CME program? (Please rank with 1 being most important)
   - Content
   - Faculty
   - Price
   - CME Sponsor
   - Need for CME Hours
   - Location
   - Other (what?) ______________________________________________________________________________________________

6. What are the three most significant clinical problems you are experiencing now?
   _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

7. What subject matter would help guarantee you to come to a COMS Oceanside CME?
   _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

8. What topic areas would you like to see covered in a CME conference? (check all that apply)
   - Allergy/Asthma
   - Neurology
   - Cardiology
   - Ob/Gyn
   - Dermatology
   - Ophthalmology
   - Emergency Med
   - Orthopedics
   - Family Practice
   - Pediatrics
   - Gastroenterology
   - Psychiatry
   - General Surgery
   - Pulmonology
   - Geriatrics
   - Radiology
   - Hem/Oncology
   - Rheumatology
   - Internal Medicine
   - Sports Medicine
   - OMM
   - Urology
   - Others (please specify) ______________________________________________________________________________________

9. What other locations might you prefer for an IOMS CME program? (check all that apply)
   - Mystic, CT area
   - Downtown Hartford
   - Other CT city (which?)
   - Non-CT New England
   - Cruise Ship (to where?)
   - US Virgin Islands
   - Other (please specify) ______________________________________________________________________________________

10. Are you a CME lecturer willing to speak at a COMS CME? If yes, on what topic(s)?
    If yes, your contact information: ______________________________________________________________________________

11. What other information would be useful to COMS in meeting your CME needs?
    _______________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for helping us help DOs!
Be sure to hold the dates of **Friday, May 1 to Sunday, May 3, 2009** for the 2009 Oceanside CME Conference. We will return to the Mystic Marriott in Groton, CT, which received rave reviews earlier this summer. To book your hotel rooms at the COMS discounted rate of $159/night, call the Marriott at (866) 449-7390 and request the CT Osteopathic Medical Society rate not later than **4PM on Thursday, April 2, 2009.**