May 13 – 16, 2010: Annual Oceanside CME
Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society Annual Oceanside CME. 25 hours 1-A CME anticipated, pending AOA CCME approval. Mystic Marriott Hotel at Groton, CT. For more information: Connecticut@Osteopathic.org or (800) 648-9777.

June 13-16, 2010: Cranial Academy June Introductory Course in Osteopathy in the Cranial Field, La Quinta Resort, Palm Springs, California. For more information: Cranial Academy, (714) 594-0411; E-mail: info@cranialacademy.org or www.CranialAcademy.org

June 17-20, 2010 Annual Conference - Dwelling Place: Spirit and Matter in Osteopathy
Conference Director: R. Paul Lee, DO, FAO. La Quinta Resort, Palm Springs, California. For more information: Cranial Academy, (714) 594-0411; E-mail: info@cranialacademy.org or www.CranialAcademy.org

June 17-20, 2010: NEMOA & MOA Annual Summer Conference
Mission Point Resort, Mackinac Island, Michigan. Contact: Jane Villarreal, 800-617-1556 or jvillarreal@mi-osteopathic.org, 24.5 hours of Category 1-A CME.

July 13-18, 2010: AOA Board of Trustees and House of Delegates Fairmont, Hotel, Chicago. For more information: www.do-online.org.

July 13-18, 2010: Alaska Annual Summer CME
Anchorage, AK. For more information: www.nwosteo.org.

August 14–15, 2010: 5th Annual Summer Primary Care Update: Cardiovascular Review
Four Points by Sheraton, Fairview Heights, IL, near St. Louis, MO. Co-sponsored by COMS and ACOFP IL Society. 12-15 hours of 1-A CME anticipated (pending AOA CCME approval). For more information, contact ACOFP IL President-Elect Barry Lawson, DO, MA, FACOFP, FAACP; e/a ROME@COMS.org

August 20-22, 2010 Annual Yankee Conference
Hyatt Regency, Newport, RI. Sponsored by Rhode Island Society of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons with the Massachusetts Osteopathic Society. For more info: RISOPS@Osteopathic.org.

October 24-28, 2010: AOA UNIFIED CONVENTION and “OMED” Osteopathic Medical Education Conference
San Francisco, CA. For details: www.DO-Online.org.


Greetings Everyone, I hope the winter did not get you down and the snow gave you the opportunity to have a snowball fight, make snowmen and drink hot chocolate!

It just keeps getting better! The Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society is having a great year. We have seen growth in our membership, have developed collaborative relationships with Rhode Island and Massachusetts and are planning our next Annual Oceanside Conference. All of this has been accomplished by some very motivated members of our Society and with the assistance of the AOA. COMS is in the best place possible right now… and we are poised for growth!

Our Annual Conference is nearly set and the speakers we have lined up are going to be talking about very up-to-date issues and innovations in medical practice. We have continued the format of “5 pods” (half-day tracks) so there will be the ability to tailor your education based on your needs. This was popular last year and we think this will help grow our attendance. Dr. Greg Czarnecki and our Executive Director Elizabeth Harano are doing a wonderful job arranging speakers, hotel rooms and in getting all the details completed to make a fantastic conference come to life! Keep your eyes open for the advertisements and get ready for a wonderful weekend starting May 13 (Thursday evening) through May 15.

Over the past few months, I have been working with the AOA and the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Osteopathic Medical Societies regarding the development of a Southern New England ROME conference. Rome (Regional Osteopathic Medical Education) is a developing concept that offers tremendous opportunity for the societies to grow, develop market recognition and offer consistent and unified education to the Osteopathic community. We are expecting to develop and participate in the ROME conference in...
UNE-COM DEAN’S UPDATE

Marc B. Hahn, DO, has been named Dean of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, effective September 1, 2009. In his most recent previous position, Dr. Hahn served as a joint Scholar-in-Residence for the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). Prior to that, Dr. Hahn served as Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of COM in mid-September. He came to UNE from a joint position with AACOM and AAMC; prior to that he served as dean of the University of North Texas Health Science Center COM for eight years.

In Dr. Hahn’s address to the college and university community, he laid out his vision and plans for the future. During that speech he addressed class size, tuition and scholarships, facilities, University Health Care and more. Details can be found on the COM homepage: http://www.une.edu/com/  There you can also find a video of Dr. Hahn’s speech as well PDF documents of his PowerPoint and the “Maine’s Medical School” brochure, as well as recent coverage by the Portland Press Herald.

Updates
UNE-COM is preparing for their November 2010 AOA Accreditation visit. The Self-Study chair is Lisa Gouldsbrough, DO ’87, assisted by Ken Johnson, DO ’92.

Sarah Mildred Gamble, DO of Stamford has been appointed Instructor in Clinical Medicine, in the Department of Medicine by Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Gamble is currently working as a Hospitalist at Stamford Hospital, where she helps lead the inpatient medicine teams for both IM and FP residents there. Dr. Gamble also works part time doing Aesthetic Medicine at the Ultimate Solutions Medical Spa in Darien, CT. Dr. Gamble also was elected to the board of directors of the Federal Non Profit organization www.friendsofmedicalcapital.org. Dr. Gamble has been traveling with the organization since 2003. The organization provides quarterly two-day medical clinics in the slums and remote villages surrounding Dakar, Senegal. At each clinic hundreds of sick infants, children, and adults are given medical and dental treatment as well as any needed prescriptions and supplies free of charge. Friends in Africa always welcomes the expertise of doctors and financial support. Please visit the website if you are interested in volunteering or donating to this extraordinary group.

DOB in THE NEWS

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**PAGE 6**

**CONNECTICUT OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETY**

**DOs in the News, Continued from Page 2**

Closer to home, the National Association of Free Clinics held one of their free clinics in Hartford, CT in February 2010. James Ryan, DO participated, and recommends it to fellow DOs.

Congratulations to **William T. Marshall, III, DO, of West Hartford, who recently earned board certification in General Surgery. Dr. Marshall is a critical care surgeon and a member of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.**

Congratulations to **William Garrity, DO, MPH**, appointed Vice-Chair of the American Academy of Osteopathy Bylaws Committee.

Congratulations to these Connecticut DOs who were nominated to the AOA for consideration as Mentors of the Year: John M. Aversa, DO of Woodbridge and Robert J. Capodanno, DO of Fairfield.

During a Faculty Assembly held September 22, 2009 at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth, several osteopathic physicians were presented awards, including our COMS President, **Darrin D’Agostino, DO, MPH**. President D’Agostino received the Rising Star Award — presented to new research faculty who achieve success in obtaining extramural grant support. Dr. D’Agostino serves as Associate Professor and Chair of Internal Medicine at TCOM. (Source: Texas Do The Journal of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association; November/December 2009 issue.)

Paul Tortland, DO, FAOASM, a team physician for the U.S. Figure Skating Team, accompanied the team to Dresden, Germany last fall for one of the season’s international Junior Grand Prix events. U.S. Figure Skating sends physicians with the various teams to international events in order to insure quality medical care for team members. Dr. Tortland has been a physician for U.S. Figure Skating since 2003, and he has traveled to Croatia, Hungary, Japan, England and France with the team for international competitions.

Osteopathic speakers at the 2009 Oceaneide CME Conference included (in alpha order): **Laura Benedetto, DO; Scott Benson, DO; Greg Czarnecki, DO; Darrin D’Agostino, DO; John Graneto, DO; Marty Hoffman, DO; Peter Later, DO; Jeffrey Miller, DO; Jeffrey Nacson, DO; James Ryan, DO; Peter Schnatz, DO; Peter Schriver, DO; Thomas Terenzi, DO; Paul Tortland, DO; John Pelletier, DO; and Richard Weaver, DO.**

Connecticut DOs who spoke to other CME conferences in New England include Paul Tortland DO, who spoke at the 2009 annual meeting of the Rhode Island Society of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (RISOPS) in Newport, RI and the Vermont State Association of Osteopathic Physicians. His topic in RI was “Managing Aging with Bio-identical Hormones” and focused on the use of bio-identical hormones for managing the aging process and for treating various medical conditions, and in VT was “The Use of Platelet-Rich Plasma for Treating Musculoskeletal Injuries.”

Society Members reelected to the Board: President **Darrin D’Agostino, DO, MPH**; Immediate Past President Paul Tortland, DO, FAOASM; Vice President **Greg Czarnecki, DO**; Treasurer/Secretary **James Ryan, DO**; and Trustees **William Garrity, DO, MPH; FAASFP; Christina Kozar, DO, FAAP; Jeffrey Miller, DO; and Andrew Yuan, DO**. Continuing as Trustee Emeritus is Nicholas J. Palermo, DO, MS. The Society remains in good hands with these dedicated leaders. If you are interested in being considered for a Trustee position or service on a Committee, please let COMS know: Connecticut@osteopathic.org or (800) 648-9777.

**In Memoriam**

Thomas Hedley Reynolds, PhD, former President of the University of New England (UNE), passed away Tuesday, September 22, 2007, at his home in New Castle, ME. Dr. Reynolds, a World War II veteran who served as President of Bates College from 1967-1985, left retirement to become UNE’s third President in 1998; he led UNE for five years.

**2009-2010 APPOINTMENTS TO AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION BUREAUS, COUNCILS, COMMITTEES FROM CONNECTICUT**

Council on Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institutions: **Darrin D’Agostino, DO, MPH**

American Osteopathic Foundation: **Pamela P. Bennett, RN, BSN, Director**

**2009-2010 BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**President**

Darrin D'Agostino, DO, MPH
W. Hartford, CT

**Vice President**

Greg Czarnecki, DO
Hartford, CT

**Treasurer/Secretary**

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Glastonbury, CT

**Trustee**

Jeffery Miller, DO
New London, CT

**Trustee**

Andrew Yuan, DO
Cheshire, CT

**Trustee Emeritus**

Nicholas J. Palermo, DO, MS
Manchester, CT

**Interim Executive Director**

Elizabeth Forkins Harano
142 E. Ontario Street
Chicago, IL 60611
(800) 648-9777
connecticut@osteopathic.org

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

The Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society continues to grow in both membership and services for the Osteopathic physicians and surgeons of Connecticut. As your interim Executive Director, I get to work with some of the most interesting and committed DOs who make up the COMS Board. In addition, I regularly speak with patients from CT seeking a DO. It is a privilege to represent you!

Our number one benefit is outstanding continuing medical education. Your CME committee, under the direction of Program Chair Greg Czarnecki, DO, have recruited speakers on cutting edge topics (e.g., eye movement desensitization and reprocessing; emotional freedom techniques & self healing, etc.). National topics will be tapped on several topics (e.g., adult premenopausal disease, travelers’ medical palliative care). We spotlight some of our own Connecticut experts in pain management, physiatry, endocrine and vitamin D deficiencies, dermatology, and many more. COMS CME programs utilize straight lectures, accelerated presentations (not just your average 60 minutes…), workshops, dual-tracks for those needing an overview versus state-mandated topics, and this year a role-played interactive patient case. Now this year will be our opening session workshop, a moderated discussion on health care policy issues and the profession. It is our goal to offer at least 25 hours of 1-A CME annually so that you may earn all the CME you need for your license renewal without leaving the area.

We’re keeping a watch on what goes on in Hartford and in Washington, DC in conjunction with American Osteopathic Association (AOA) staff, and have joined quality health care collaborations such as the CT chapter of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease and the Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative. COMS now sends a full delegation to the AOA House of Delegates each summer in Chicago, and we are increasing our visibility in and support of the profession nationally through modest donations to the American Osteopathic Foundation and the Advocates for the AOA “Well Fit for Life 5K” at the AOA’s annual OMEID conference. With COMS leadership, a new website is about to be unveiled (check your inboxes this summer for the address!), and continue to publish this COMS Connections. Finally, with the addition of a membership specialist in the AOA Division of Affiliate Affairs (the division that I work in full-time, with my role as your Interim Executive Director one of my favorite responsibilities!), we hope to have some new member benefits to offer over the coming months.

This is all being done in an environment that offers significant challenges to Medical Societies around the country. There is much uncertainty about how national health system reform will role out and impact our members’ practices, hospitals, and patients. Pharmaceutical companies are merging, cutting back on their on-site representatives and their underwriting for state CME programs. Even such wondrous efforts of the Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Connecticut. As your interim Executive Director, I get to work with some of the most interesting and committed DOs who make up the COMS Board. In addition, I regularly speak with patients from CT seeking a DO. It is a privilege to represent you!

Here are a few ways you can help ensure the continued growth and success for our Connecticut Osteopathic Medical Society…

- Renew your membership
- Recruit a new member
- Attend the Oceaneide CME program
- Recommend topics and/or speakers for future CME programs
- Volunteer to be a prospective osteopathic medical student shadow you
- Let us know when you change your address, email, or phone
- Let us know when a new DO moves into your community, so we may reach out to them with an invitation to participate
- Volunteer for a COMS Committee (education, website, advocacy, etc.)
- Reach out to COMS with any suggestions, comments, complaints
- Introduce yourself to your state legislator as an osteopathic physician who can be a resource of information when health care policies or legislation are considered.

It’s easy to reach COMS: we’re at Connecticut@Osteopathic.org or toll-free (800) 648-9777. I look forward to working with you all!
Qualified non-physicians where permitted) who perform an initial visit and that occurs (inpatient/outpatient/office) and that physicians will code patient E/M visits with the codes that represent the level of complexity of that consultation code with the primary payer’s payment information. Example: If the patient comes in as a new patient and the patient has a detailed history, detailed exam and low complexity medical decision making and you billed the primary payer with a 99243 consultation code, to bill Medicare secondary you should record this to a 99201 which is equivalent from a complexity perspective. For additional coding & billing hints, AOA Members may sign in to www.DO-Online.org, go to the My Practice section and select Billing & Coding Hints.

JOB HUNTING?
Check out www.ModerateHealthcare.com’s 100 Best Places to Work in Healthcare, and the lone Connecticut entity on this year’s list: 71st place: Yale-New Haven Hospital, in New Haven.

JOB HUNTING PART TWO
UNE-COM writes that they are looking for an experienced CME professional to oversee the day-to-day operations of the CME department and its staff. The CME Director focuses on program development and strategic planning, effective budget management including grant submissions, and maintaining the University’s CME accreditation status. A minimum of a bachelor’s degree is required, and a health care background is desirable. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in this position, please contact Ken Johnson, DO, Associate Dean for Clinical Education, UNECME by emailing a CV to Kjohnson@une.edu.

DISASTER RESPONSE RESOURCES FROM THE CDC
H1N1 Influenza Updates
H1N1 Key Points and FluView: Updated CDC Key Points for seasonal and 2009 H1N1 flu available at: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/weekly/.

Novel H1N1 Influenza: Resources for Clinicians http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinicians/ Locate all H1N1 Flu guidance documents http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/ Haiti Earthquake 2010 Update
Mental Health Advisory for Health Professionals Providing Care for Survivors of the 2010 Haitian Earthquake. This document provides information on mental health considerations for survivors of the 2010 Haiti Earthquake. Developed for health professionals, this document details cognitive, emotional, and inter-personal reactions to traumatic events in the context of disasters. This information is available at: http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/mentalhealth_h1n1fau.docx. More information is available at: “After an Earthquake: Mental Health Information for Professionals” http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/mentalhealth_do.cc.aspx


Earthquake Information for Clinicians: http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/clinicians.aspx

CDC Travelers’ Health: Haiti Earthquake and Travel: http://www.cdc.gov/travel/content/haiti-earthquake-travel.asp

CDC Emergency Preparedness and Response Earthquake Information: http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/

RED FLAG RULE UPDATE
The Federal Trade Commission wrote to the AMA, copying the AOA, on 12/25/10 regarding implementation of its “Red Flag Rule,” stating that the letter was sent to all trade organizations exempt physicians from having to comply with the rule, but stands ready to assist in helping our members prepare for its 6/1/10 implementation. Learn more on the FTCWeb site (http://www.ftc.gov/redflagrule).

ONLINE CME RESOURCE
COMS was contacted by Bernard M. Sklar, MD, MS, about his regularly updated online listing of Online CME sources: Announced List of Online Continuing Medical Education at www.comelist.com/list.htm. He writes that the site now has links to more than 100 Online CME sites offering more than 13,000 CME courses and more than 23,000 hours of CME credit. There is no charge for accessing the list and no registration is required. For more information, contact Dr. Sklar at (510) 526-4018 or bersklar@netcinta.com.

HILL FACTOID FROM THE AOA
Connecticut Independent Senator Joseph L. Lieberman taught Democratic Senators Sherrod Brown of Ohio and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota in separate seminar classes at Yale University. Ironically, Klobuchar’s program was about the Democratic Party.

Check out www.moderatehealthcare.com’s 100 Best Places to Work in Healthcare, and the lone Connecticut entity on this year’s list: 71st place: Yale-New Haven Hospital, in New Haven.

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Mental Health Advisory for Health Professionals Providing Care for Survivors of the 2010 Haitian Earthquake. This document provides information on mental health considerations for survivors of the 2010 Haiti Earthquake. Developed for health professionals, this document details cognitive, emotional, and interpersonal reactions to traumatic events in the context of disasters. This information is available at: http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/mentalhealth_h1n1fau.docx. More information is available at: “After an Earthquake: Mental Health Information for Professionals” http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/mentalhealth_do.cc.aspx


Earthquake Information for Clinicians: http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/earthquakes/clinicians.aspx

CDC Travelers’ Health: Haiti Earthquake and Travel: http://www.cdc.gov/travel/content/haiti-earthquake-travel.asp

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