



**FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

Winter 2026

FOMA*Journal*

FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year





About FAIRx

Floridians for Attainable and Innovative Rx (FAIRx) is a physician-led and patient-focused coalition dedicated to helping insured Floridians access the life-sustaining, innovative therapies they need. We are working to raise awareness of discriminatory insurer benefit design that could keep Florida families from essential treatments.

Why do we need FAIRx?

More than 13 million Floridians live with at least one chronic disease. If all Floridians had access to the treatment they need, an estimated 82,500 lives could be saved annually, according to the Partnership to End Chronic Disease. Unfortunately, health insurers in Florida are increasingly designing their plans in order to shift larger portions of health care costs onto those with chronic diseases by increasing out-of-pocket costs for critical therapies.

How can FAIRx help?

While FAIRx hopes the state - with support from lawmakers - will continue down this promising path, we know this effort will require Florida's patient and provider groups, as well as individual patients, to speak with one voice.

Together, we want to engage in an advocacy campaign to:

- + Support state policies that make insurance coverage, coinsurance and copays more transparent and equitable.
- + Urge regulators and state policymakers to take action to protect all insured Floridians from out-of-pocket costs that could jeopardize their health.
- + Share personal stories from patients whose out-of-pocket costs are causing hardship for them or their families.

FAIRx Campaign Partners



How can Florida physicians help?

- + Join FAIRx. Visit our website to gather the facts and share the physician's perspective on the impact of high patient out-of-pocket costs.
- + Help get patients involved. Tell them about the organization and urge them to share their story on the Take Action page of our website.

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Deland, Florida

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CMP-HC

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Executive Coordinator

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WINTER 2026

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FOMAJournal

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bruce Rankin, DO, CPI, MRO, FACOFP

President's Message: A New Era for FOMA

Happy New Year!

I am anticipating an exciting and transformative year for FOMA in 2026.

Following the announcement of **Steve Winn's** retirement as FOMA CEO this past December, our committees moved swiftly to initiate a comprehensive selection process for his successor. After a thorough review, I am pleased to announce that the committees have unanimously approved **Michelle Larson** as our new CEO, effective January 1, 2026.

Michelle brings nearly 30 years of experience to the role and has been a driving force behind our association's phenomenal growth. Please join me in congratulating Michelle and we look forward to the great strides we will make for our members under her leadership!

We also owe a profound debt of gratitude to **Mr. Winn** for his more than 51 years of steadfast leadership and devotion to this organization. We invite you all to help us celebrate his extraordinary legacy at our next FOMA live meeting in **Fort Lauderdale on February 6th**.

Reflecting on 2025, FOMA had an exceptionally active and productive year. We represented our members on critical state issues, including school immunization rules, and hosted a highly successful **Osteopathic Health and Awareness Day** at the state capital. Additionally, our members and legal team presented vital testimony in support of the COMLEX Level 3 to the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine. Our delegation to the **AOA House of Delegates** remained one of the largest and most active, continuing to advocate for our profession on the national stage.

We are also immensely proud of FOMA member **Dr. Richard Thacker**, who was installed as AOA President-elect. We eagerly anticipate his upcoming installation as the AOA President this July.

Our membership and district activities saw excellent growth throughout 2025. Districts across the state increased their meeting frequency, and FOMA hosted several "Meet and Greet" events to re-energize our local membership. The FOMA leadership and staff remain fully committed to supporting each district's unique activities and recruitment efforts.

Florida's Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (COMs) continue to serve as a robust foundation for our profession. With five existing campuses, we are excited to welcome two more this year in Duval County. Both **LECOM at Jacksonville University** and **Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (LMU-DCOM) in Orange Park** will begin accepting their inaugural classes in 2026. FOMA looks forward to supporting these new institutions and the student physicians they will train.

Finally, I recently had the pleasure of attending the **Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society's** holiday dinner, where it was an honor to see the scholarship awards presented to two outstanding physician researchers. It is an honor to serve as your FOMA President as we embark on this New Year together.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our FOMA live convention in Ft. Lauderdale February 6-8th.

With warmest regards,

Bruce Rankin, DO, CPI, FACOFP



PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

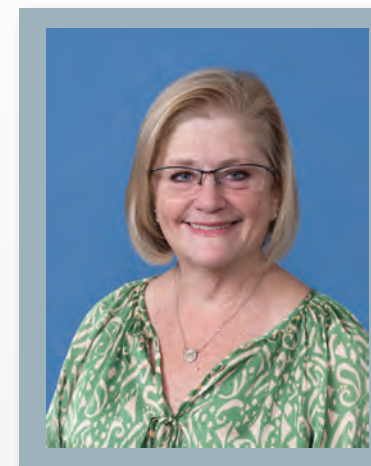
James Towry, DO, FAOCD

The year 2025 presented FOMA with several unexpected challenges, all of which were met with focus and collaboration. As President-Elect, I was actively involved in many of the organization's committees and initiatives, serving as Chair of the Finance and Ethics Committees, the CEO Selection Committee, and the Membership Committee. I also participated in FOMA's DO Day on the Hill in Tallahassee.

DO Day on the Hill was a particularly successful event, with strong participation from Executive Board members, Deans of Osteopathic Medical Schools, practicing DOs, and numerous osteopathic medical students. Our legislators responded very positively, appreciating the opportunity to meet directly with members of our organization and engage in meaningful dialogue about osteopathic medicine and its impact.

A significant transition for FOMA this year was the selection of a new CEO following the resignation of Mr. Steve Winn, who led the organization for more than 50 years. We extend our sincere gratitude and best wishes to Mr. Winn for his decades of dedicated leadership and service. After careful consideration, we are confident that Mrs. Michelle Winn Larson is the ideal choice to lead FOMA forward. With nearly 30 years of service with the FOMA, she possesses deep institutional knowledge and a clear understanding of the organization's mission, allowing her to step seamlessly into this role.

I look forward to my year serving as FOMA President and to working closely with Mrs. Larson. As the third-largest osteopathic state organization in the United States, FOMA is well positioned to continue its strong advocacy for osteopathic physicians and to advance the profession throughout Florida and across the nation.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Michelle Winn Larson, CAE, CMP

2025 was a busy and exciting year. I am looking forward to the year ahead and all that we will accomplish. I am especially looking forward to supporting and working with our members in the new year as the FOMA's new CEO.

The 2025 FOMA Mid-Year Seminar, was a success, with 1400 physicians & students attending! We are working on both the 2026 "Live" Convention: Feb. 6 - 8 at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa in Ft. Lauderdale & "Virtual" Convention, March 6 - 8. The Live Convention will offer up to 27 1-A credits & the Virtual Convention will offer up to 30 1-A credits. Both CME meetings include the 5 mandatory hours for Florida relicensure. Ronald Burns, DO, Chair, and the FOMA Bureau of Medical Education promise educational and informative programs. I attended the AOF Board meeting & Honors Gala, in September and AOA OMED in Nashville, TN. The FOMA is very proud and congratulates all of the physician and student award winners from Florida. The FOMA has added education to The CME Center (DOCME) which is available to all DO's needing education.



FOMA EXECUTIVE STAFFS' MESSAGE

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP & EDUCATION, ANDREW FLOYD, CAE, CMP-HC, reports that the FOMA added over (600) members over the past year! The new members include: 313 - Provisional/ Active, 31 - 1st Year, 15 - 2nd Year, 52 - Military/Public Health, 52 - Inactive, 100 - Out of State, 12 - Faculty, 5 - Associate, and 36 - Residents. If you know a DO in your area who is not a FOMA member, invite them to one of your District Society meetings or tell them how they can get involved with the FOMA. This is a great chance to interact with your peers and keep up to date on the latest changes in osteopathic medicine and to showcase what the FOMA has to offer! If you would like our office to send someone a membership packet, please contact me at the FOMA Executive Office.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, KAYE TAIT, reports that registrations are coming in steady for the both the 2026 Live & Virtual FOMA Conventions. On-line registration can be found on our website at FOMA.org for your convenience. The FOMA Executive Office is actively working with Harvard & Associates on the FOMA 2024-2025 Fiscal Year-end paperwork, as well as, preparing for the 2025 Calendar Year-end.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, KAYLEE PETERS, MPH, reports that since joining the FOMA team in October, the digital Summer/Fall Journal has been released and is now available for viewing on the FOMA website. Be on the lookout for the digital Winter Journal coming this December/January. In December, the FOMA had it's 31st Annual Osteopathic Medicine & Health Awareness Day where we had over 50 physicians and students join us in Tallahassee! In addition, we are working on enhancing our social media presence and updating our websites to better connect with members and share important FOMA initiatives. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all the physicians and students who continue to share their photos, achievements, and stories for the FOMA Weekly Newswire, Journal, and social media channels. We are excited as we look ahead to our 2026 LIVE & VIRTUAL Conventions taking place in February and March!

EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR, LETISSA HARRIS, joined the FOMA Team in October and has been assisting in the various FOMA departments: FOMA Foundation, FOMA Family Tree, FOMA membership and Education. Please reach out to the FOMA Executive Office, with any questions you may have, we are here to assist and help you.



RECENTLY RETIRED CEO'S MESSAGE

Steve Winn

October and November were busy months for the FOMA Staff and me, as we finalized the remaining details of the transition to the NEW CEO, Michelle Larson, ahead of my retirement on January 1, 2026. On the Legislative front, I worked closely with Dr. Seltzer, Jason Winn, and Chris Lyon on legislative issues that needed my attention before my departure, which includes attending legislative interim committees, fund raisers and meeting with legislators on health-care bills of interest to the FOMA.

I attended several fundraisers for state legislators and legislative candidates, as well as U.S. Representatives. Together with others, I cohosted fundraising events for U.S. Representatives Laurel Lee, Daniel Webster, and Neal Dunn. In addition, I met with U.S. Senator Ashley Moody in Tallahassee. Through these events, we were able to convey FOMA's concerns and interests related to healthcare regulation and policy.

Law enforcement officials in Florida continue to prioritize mental health as a major legislative priority. Working closely with our partners in the law enforcement and mental health community, I have attended several policy development workshops surrounding the issue. I have also attended several meetings concerning mental health policy, including an annual multi-county workshop sponsored by Senator Simon. I also attended a meeting with the Florida Cattlemen's Association to discuss healthy eating.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, Past Presidents and FOMA members for the confidence they have shown in me. It has truly been an honor & a privilege to serve such a Wonderful & Caring Association.

The FOMA would like to thank Steve Winn for his service to the organization. His dedication, passion, and kindness has served the organization and osteopathic profession in Florida well. Thank you for all you have done for the FOMA and osteopathic profession over the years.

We asked our members "what stands out most to you about Steve's leadership," here are some of the responses recieved:

"Steve Winn is an outstanding leader, and that is because he is the ultimate giver. Always hospitable and thinking of others. the FOMA is Steve Winn, and Steve Winn is the FOMA. I became FOMA President in 2012-13 due to Steve's trust and belief in me. Steve is one of the most honest, loyal and trustworthy people I have ever known."

"Steve Winn leads with purpose and kindness. Steve raised the bar when it comes to leadership and he brought the FOMA up with him during his service to our organization. It was a privilege to work with him and learn from him. He is a true gentleman and has earned all the respect he has been given over the years in Tallahassee and in the AOA. Thank you Steve for teaching me to be a better leader and thank you for your kindness to me and my family."

"Steve Winn has been a friend, mentor and role model. Since relocating to Tallahassee over 30 years ago he has taught me so much about what happened in medicine behind the scenes. As physicians we are taught the "academics" of medicine. We can and do effectively treat patients. What makes our job easier or harder is the "politics" of medicine. Steve Winn has taught me and countless others what goes on behind the scenes. He has advocated for the issues that impact our livelihood."

"Steve is a genuine "gentleman" in every sense of that word: he is caring, calm, polite, empathetic, sincere, loving and gentle! Whatever we needed- whether to ask advice or share our knowledge or concerns, he would always listen and try his best to resolve issues quickly."



**FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

FOMA

2026 Legislative Preview

Paul Seltzer, DO
Legislative Chair

Michelle Larson
CEO

Jason D. Winn, Esq.
Legal Counsel/Lobbyist

Chris Lyon, Esq.
Lobbyist

Important Legislative Dates

- **January 13:** Regular Legislative Session Convenes
- **March 3:** Last day for Regularly Scheduled Committee Meetings
- **March 13:** Last Day of Regular Session

FOMA Legislative Priorities

- Scope Expansion by Non-physician Providers
- Recovery of Damages for Medical Negligence Resulting in Death
- Parental Rights
- Vaccines and Immunizations

Legislative Issues to Watch

- EKGs
- Vaccines
- Recovery of Damages for Medical Negligence Resulting in Death
- Parental Rights
- Acupuncture
- Step-therapy
- Temporary Licensure of AAs
- Medical Review Committee
- Mandatory Review of Insurance Claim Denials
- Psychiatric APRN
- Florida Health Choices Program
- Chiropractic Medicine
- pharmacists/MATs
- Naturopath
- Physician Assistants
- Mobile Opportunity by Interstate Licensure Endorsement Act
- Psychology Prescribing
- Prescribing Authority
- Connecting to Care Act
- Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child
- Electronic Prescribing
- Out-of-Network Providers
- Federal Rural Health Transformation Grant Program

For more information about FOMA legislative work, please visit our website at foma.org



2026 FOMA-PAC

Roll of Honor

The FOMA-PAC wishes to express its appreciation to the following contributors. Your financial contributions and your participation in the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Political Action Committee (FOMA-PAC) demonstrate your commitment to osteopathic medicine and your concern for the future of quality healthcare for all Floridians.

10 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$30,000)

Jeffrey Grove, DO
Jamie Goodman, DO

9 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$25,000)

Joanne Bujnoski, DO

8 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$20,000)

Joseph Giaimo, DO
James Milne, DO
James St. Louis, DO
Joel B. Rose, DO
Stephen R. Winn

7 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$15,000)

Ronald Burns, DO
Donald Howard, DO
Gregory James, DO, MPH
Largo Medical Center
Staff of Memorial Hospital,
Jacksonville, Florida
Staff of Orange Park Medical
Center, Jacksonville, Florida
Anthony Ottaviani, DO, MPH
Hal S. Pineless, DO
Paul D. Seltzer, DO
William Silverman, DO
William Stager, DO, MPH
Joel D. Stein, DO
Richard R. Thacker, DO
Andrew Guidry, DO

6 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$12,500)

Nicole Bixler, DO
Anna Hayden, DO

5 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$10,000)

Allan Escher, DO
Florida Society of the ACOFP
Mark A. Foppe, DO
William Hightower
Marc Kaprow, DO
Michelle Mendez, DO
Ronald Renuart, DO

4 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$7,500)

Advocates to the FOMA
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Charles Chase, DO
Linda Delo, DO
Walter B. Flesner, III, DO
Larry L. Mattingly, DO
Philip L. Shettle, DO
Col. Jose Thomas-Richards, DO, Ret.
James Towry, DO

3 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$5,000)

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Joseph Gaetano, DO
Michelle Fiorillo, DO
Robert J. George, DO
Christopher Guzik, DO
Ronald L. Knaus, DO
Michelle W. Larson, CAE, CMP
Joshua Lenchus, DO, RPN
Jorge Luna, DO
John Potomski, DO
Sandy Seltzer
Anthony J. Silvagni, DO

2 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$2,500)

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Majdi Ashchi, DO
John T. Bailey, DO
James H. Barker, DO
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Broward Health Medical Center
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Gene DiBetta, DO
Perry Dworkin, DO
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Glenn Moran, DO
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Todd Patterson, DO
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Mary Schmieder, DO
Brett Scotch, DO
Lee Shettle, DO
Dottie Silverman
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Sherry Thacker
Amelia Tunanidas Pantelis, DO
Claudia Peterson, DO
Ty Tvedten, DO
Kenneth Webster, EdD
West Palm Hospital Medical Staff, Inc.
Gregory Williams, DO
Sanford Zelnick, DO



1 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$1,000)

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Michael E. Belotti, DO
Kenneth Blaze, DO
John Choies, DO
James Clary, DO
Joseph Corcoran, DO
Gordon Crozier, DO
George R. Davis, DO
John B. DeCosmo, III, DO
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Archie McLean, DO
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David Mosch, DO
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Dennis Penzell, DO
Bruce Rankin, DO
Gerald Reynolds, DO
Sandra Schwemmer, DO
Robert Shultz, DO
Craig Silver, DO
Ava Stegall, DO
Din-on Sun, DO
Glenn Syperda, DO
Jason Winn, Esquire
Judy Winn

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Joanne Bujnoski, DO
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James Byrne, DO
Charles Chase, DO
Gene DiBetta, DO
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Richard R. Thacker, DO
James Towry, DO

Osteopathic Medicine & Health Awareness Day

December 2-3, 2025 | Tallahassee, FL



**FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**



The Florida Osteopathic Medical Association hosted its 31st Annual Osteopathic Medicine and Health Awareness Day on December 2-3, 2025, bringing together osteopathic medical students and physicians in Tallahassee to engage with lawmakers and discuss healthcare initiatives.

The event kicked off on Tuesday, December 2, with a dinner, where attendees met and connected before heading to the Capitol on Wednesday, December 3rd. The FOMA leaders also discussed the legislative process, important legislative issues the FOMA is interested in, and events that would take place at the Capitol on December 3.

On Wednesday, December 3, attendees enjoyed an exciting visit to the Capitol, where they gained a deeper understanding of Florida's legislative process and met with multiple Florida legislators.

The group toured the Senate Chamber, where the FOMA presented Senator McClain with the Senate "2025 Legislator of the Year Award." Senate President Ben Albritton, Future Senate President Jim Boyd, and Senator Hooper also took time to visit with the group while in the Senate chamber.

Later in the day, the group met with Lieutenant Governor Jay Collins and presented him with the first of its kind, the FOMA "Excellence in Leadership Award."

To end the day, attendees gathered outside the House chamber and presented Representative Kimberly Berfield with the House "2025 Legislator of the Year Award."

The event was a chance to learn firsthand about the legislative process and address policies that benefit both healthcare providers and patients. The 31st Annual Osteopathic Medicine and Health Awareness Day served as a reminder of the importance of advocacy in shaping healthcare policy and ensuring that the osteopathic profession remains a vital part of Florida's healthcare landscape. The connections made and the conversations held will help drive positive changes for the future of healthcare in Florida.



FROM AROUND THE STATE....

DISTRICT REPORTS

DISTRICT SOCIETY 2



Michelle Mendez, DO, FOMA Director-at-Large, District 2 Trustee and Robert G. G. Piccinini, DO, D.FACN, AOA President, proudly representing the osteopathic profession during their visit to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Mendez and Dr. Piccinini, along with other physicians and leaders, advocated for sustained THCGME funding, permanent telehealth flexibilities, and repeal of the CMS WISer model.



District 2 would like to congratulate Janae Marracino, DO, FOMA Trustee, on being awarded the AOA State Emerging Leader Award. Congratulations Dr. Marracino!

DISTRICT SOCIETY 5

The Pinellas County Osteopathic Medical Society was honored to have FOMA President Dr. Bruce Rankin in attendance at the holiday dinner held on December 5th. The event was held at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort on Clearwater Beach.



Dr's Hadley, Rankin, Ache and Scholarship recipients.

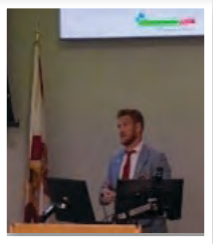
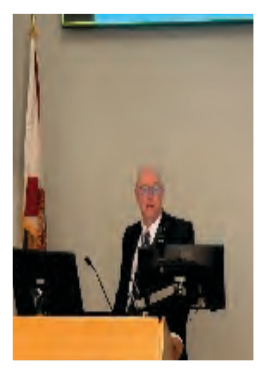


Dr. Rankin addresses the attendees.

DISTRICT SOCIETY 7

FOMA District 7 held its 16th Annual Fall Seminar on November 8th at LECOM-Bradenton. The event offered attendees 8 hours of AOA category 1-A CME credits including the Florida State Mandated courses.

A special thank you to LECOM-Bradenton for hosting the event and Dr. Joseph Sassano for all of his work in planning the event.



DISTRICT SOCIETY 10

The FOMA District Society 10 (Hillsborough County Osteopathic Medical Society) recently held a dinner to celebrate the holidays and its members. During the dinner, several awards were given out, including 2 "Distinguished Resident Achievement" awards, a "Physician of the Year" award, and a "Distinguished Service of the Year" award. A scholarship was also awarded.



(L-R): Nick Blair, DO, Alex Sher, DO, Allan Escher, DO, FAOCA, HEC-C, Junaid Saleh-Esa, DO and Nabeel Karim, DO



Distinguished Resident Achievement Awards. (L-R): Alex Sher, DO and Junaid Saleh-Esa, DO

Scholarship recipient Weronika Stelmawicz with Dr. Escher.



DISTRICT SOCIETY 16

FOMA District Society 16 held its 35th Brevard County Post-Acute & Long-Term Care Symposium on Wednesday, November 19th, 2025 at the Melbourne Hilton.

The meeting was sponsored by Brevard County Medical Directors Association in Collaboration with Brevard County Commission on Aging and FOMA District 16.

Lecture topics included:

- Update on Federal and State Regulations in Post – Acute and Long-Term Care by Kimberly R. Smoak, MS, Deputy Secretary ACHA & Bob Coni, DO, EDS, FAAN
- Laughter is the Best Medicine – by John H. Potomski, DO CMD & David Browning
- Update on Cardiology in the PA-LTC Settings by Junaid Ahmed, MD & Jay Olson, DO.



STUDENT NEWS

LECOM-Bradenton

Madeline Spettel, OMS-4, LECOM-Bradenton student and FOMA member, has been named LECOM-Bradenton's 2025-26 Student DO of the Year!

As voted on by a committee of faculty and students, Madeline was selected for her exceptional dedication to the osteopathic profession and consistently demonstrates the highest level of leadership, service, and integrity.

As campus winner, Madeline will go on to compete for the national SDOY award against students from all the other osteopathic colleges.



Joachim Kavalakatt, OMS-4, LECOM-Bradenton student and FOMA member, has been nominated for LECOM-Bradenton's 2025-2026 Student Researcher of the Year Award!

He will go on to compete nationally for this award.



OCOM

Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine students and FOMA members, Hanna Schindler and Max Lasday, have been selected for OCOM's Student Doctor of the Year Award and Student Researcher of the Year Award.

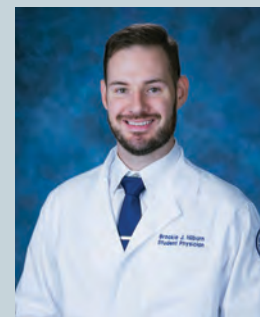
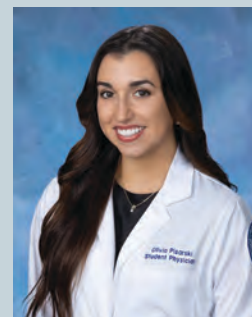
They will go on to compete nationally for these awards.



NSU-KPCOM

FOMA Members and NSU Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine students, third-year Olivia Pisarski at the Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus and fourth-year Brookie Hilburn at the Tampa Bay Campus were selected as the KPCOM's 2025 Student D.O.s of the Year.

They will go on to compete nationally for this award.



Burrell COM - Florida Campus

Florida student physicians delivered outstanding case presentations at the A. Hollis Wolf Competition, showcasing their clinical reasoning and osteopathic approach.

Congratulations to student physician Margaret Jeng, first-place winner who will represent the Burrell COM Florida campus at the 2026 SAAO National Convocation, and congratulations to all other winners and participants for their exceptional work!



Protecting Patients from Counterfeit Medicines and Illicit Pharmacies

Osteopathic physicians are trusted by their patients to provide important health information. Patients look to their physician for guidance on health and potential threats to their overall well-being. One rapidly growing threat is the proliferation of counterfeit medicines and unregulated “Canadian” pharmacies.

Interpol's Operation Pangea XVI 2025 underscored the magnitude of this issue:

- 50.4 million doses of counterfeit and unapproved medicines were seized worldwide,
- 769 suspects were arrested for selling counterfeit or unapproved medicines, and
- 123 criminal groups dismantled for selling counterfeit products.

Counterfeit versions of medicines have even been identified in developed countries like Canada, Australia, and here in the United States. Because these illegitimate substances are not produced under regulated conditions, patients can unknowingly ingest harmful or even lethal substances.

The risks for patients are real. Counterfeit antibiotics may lack the active ingredient, delaying treatment and leading to worsening illness. In more life-threatening cases, unregulated and untested pills can be unknowingly laced with lethal substances, such as fentanyl. In 2024, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) seized more than 60 million fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills and nearly 8,000 pounds of fentanyl powder. In 2025, the DEA fentanyl seizures have represented over 232 million deadly doses. And according to Interpol, “some fake medicines have been found to contain mercury, arsenic, rat poison, or cement.”

Educating patients and staff about these could be lifesaving.

Unfortunately, many patients are lured by online offers promising “Canadian” or “cheaper” medications without realizing that more than 95% of online pharmacies operate illegally. These operations often bypass U.S. pharmaceutical standards and safeguards that protect consumers, including prescriptions verified by a licensed physician, clear labeling, and transparent sourcing.

In addition to unsafe drugs, patients face the risks of identity theft and financial fraud when purchasing from unverified networks.

What can we, as physicians, do to help protect our patients? We must educate our patients to:

- **Buy only from reputable pharmacies** — ideally brick-and-mortar or verified online pharmacies approved through the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) “Buy-Safely” program.
- **Avoid websites or social media sellers** that do not require a prescription.
- **Contact your pharmacist or doctor** if you have any questions, concerns, or experience unusual effects.

Counterfeit medicine remains a global public health threat. As osteopathic physicians, we can remain vigilant, help raise awareness, and guide patients to trusted sources. Safe medicine is effective medicine.



WELCOME NEW FOMA MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2025

ACTIVE - 33

District 1	Katherine Parikh, DO	Pensacola
	Amber Reid, DO	Pensacola
District 2	Kim Barbel Johnson, DO	Jacksonville
	Diana Figueroa, DO	Jacksonville
	Justin Oring, DO	St. John's
	Andrew Simonsen, DO	Jacksonville
	Daniel Vergara, DO	Jacksonville
District 3	Joseph Geffen, DO	Winter Garden
	Stephanie Kaplan, DO	Lakeland
	Michael Seto, DO	Orlando
	Suzanne Supplee, DO	Orlando
	Jason Szymala, DO	Longwood
District 4	Earle Pescatore, DO	Palm Coast
District 6	Heather Brown-Warburton, DO	Pembroke Pines
	John Halpern, DO	Tamarac
	Rosa Kotzen, DO	Hollywood
	Thiago Queiroz, DO	Cooper City
	Tracy Romanello, DO	Plantation
District 7	Stacey Gill, DO	North Port
District 8	Modinat Balogun, DO	Miami
District 9	Calvin Krom, DO	West Palm Beach
	Stephen James, DO	Stuart
	Bennett Lewis, DO	West Palm Beach
	Shaun Nazar, DO	West Lake
	Nicholas Starkey, DO	Boca Raton
	Lisai Zhang, DO	Boca Raton

ACTIVE CONT.

District 11	Marianne Jacobs, DO	Port Charlotte
	Richard Murphy, DO	Sanibel
	Tom Soker, DO	Ft. Myers
District 13	Gerald Randall, DO	Odessa
	Jasmine Weaver, DO	Riverview
District 16	Amy Selwach, DO	Cocoa
District 17	Ramandeep Dhillon-Gill, DO	Naples

1st YEAR PRACTICE - 6

District 3	Gustavo Martinez Briceno, DO	Orlando
District 5	Daniel Gable, DO	Oldsmar
District 10	I-Chi Liang, DO	Lithia
District 12	Francis Matuszak, DO	Ocala
District 15	Jeffrey Plante, DO	Tallahassee
District 17	Austin Boyd, DO	Naples

2nd YEAR PRACTICE - 3

District 6	Shilpa Raval, DO	Oakland Park
District 8	Stephanie Montarroyos, DO	Miami
District 10	Hanna Ro Dowell, DO	Tampa

WELCOME NEW FOMA MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2025

PUBLIC HEALTH/MILITARY - 5

District 2	Camille Alvarado, DO	St. Augustine
	Robert Nottingham, DO	Jacksonville
District 3	Anne-Marie Moukala-Cadet, DO	St. Cloud
District 9	Mezeda Sainvil, DO	West Palm Beach
District 10	Lindsey Ehren, DO	Tampa

OUT-OF-STATE - 13

Robert Blok, DO	Prospect, KY
Nancy Ebling, DO	East Aurora, NY
Jeffrey Elias, DO	State College, PA
Robert Fetchero, DO	Jeannette, PA
Jocelyn Idema, DO	Venetia, PA
Hope Jordan, DO	Bremen IN
Brian Kahan, DO	Annapolis, MD
Ryan Messiner, DO	Andover, MD
Sandy Naples, DO	Poland, OH
Casey Dluhos-Sebesto, DO	Steamboat Springs, CO
Jason Sebesto, DO	Steamboat Springs, CO
Steve Tortorice, DO	Copperopolis, CA
Revathi Toshok, DO	Sewickley, PA

RESIDENT - 9

District 3	Samatha Dion, DO	Orlando
	Umbul Haider, DO	Orlando
	Jerativat Satayarekha, DO	Altamonte Springs
	Reece Whitaker, DO	Oviedo
District 8	Jessica Espinosa, DO	Miami
	Vivianne Gonzalez, DO	Hialeah
District 10	Mariya Yaroshenko, DO	Tampa
District 12	Matthew Petersen, DO	Gainesville
District 15	James Perrigan, DO	Tallahassee

INACTIVE/RETIRED - 2

Disrict 9	Ronald Lutsic, DO	Boca Raton
District 11	John Koncelik, DO	Punta Gorda

FACULTY - 2

District 2	Adriana Cantville, DO	Jacksonville
	Ryan Cantville, DO	Jacksonville

DECEASED - 1

District 3	Glenn Bigsby, DO, III (DMU-COMS-1967)
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For further information regarding your membership, contact:

Andrew Floyd, CMP-HC, Director of Membership & Meetings
2544 Blairstone Pines Drive, tallahassee, FL 32301
850.878.7364 Email:Andrew@foma.org





Florida HEALTH | Project READY

Healthy Aging, Healthy Brain

IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT

Over the past year, the Florida Department of Health (DOH) has been working closely with several partners, including the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA), to develop and distribute resources related to Alzheimer's Disease and other related Dementias (ADRD).

As ADRDs are some of the most difficult conditions to diagnose and treat, osteopathic physicians play an important role in ADRD management.

Osteopathic physicians are well-suited to practice early detection and provide a timely diagnosis because of their experience in looking beyond symptoms to explore how lifestyle and environmental factors impact a patient's current and future quality of life. Moreover, a whole-person approach to treatment is ideal because these diseases take a toll on a patient's mind, body, and support system.

Early diagnosis and identification of modifiable risk factors is crucial to improving health care outcomes for patients and their families. However, because cognitive decline can be difficult to diagnose in a primary care setting, it is important to use validated cognitive assessment tools to screen patients 65 and older during yearly Medicare visits.

In collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, DOH has made a variety of resources available through the Project READY webpage and the featured QR Code, including cognitive assessment tools, CPT code information, and professional development opportunities.

FOMA would like to thank everyone who has donated to the FOMA FAMILY TREE

FAMILY TREE LEAVES:

Andrew Jackson, LLC (3)
James Andriole, DO
Henry Araya
Dr. & Mrs. George Arcos
John Bailey, DO
Barker, Hebblewhite & Lynch
Greg Barker
The Bellingar Family
Dr. Nicole Bixler & Family (2)
Wayne Bizer, DO
Dr. Lee Ann Brown & Family
Patricio Bruno, DO
Joanne L. Bujnoski, DO
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Burns & Family
Winn, Larson, Hightower
CE Broker
Dr.'s Charles & Elena Chase
Community Realty of Killearn
Dr.'s Hilda & Joe De Gaetano
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Duggar Bush PA
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Dr. Jeffrey Grove & Family
Dr. Andrew Guidry & Family
The Guzik Families
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Dr. & Mrs. Gregory James (2)
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James Voirin, DO
Dr. Greg Williams & Family
Jason Winn, Esq. & Family
Stephen & Judy Winn (2)

IN MEMORY & HONORING LEAVES

Andrew Jackson, LLC - In Memory of Morton Terry, DO
Andrew Jackson, LLC - Honoring the Memory of Robert S. Hand, DO, FOMA President 1987-88
Nicole Bixler, DO - In Memory of Rob Heath, Father of Nicole Bixler, DO, FOMA President 2016-17
Robin Dybas - In Honor of & with much Love to Our Parents, Grandparents & Best Friends: Minnette & Alan Kaye
FOMA District 2 - In Honor & Memory of Lionel Gatien, DO, Physician, Leader, Mentor
FOMA District 10 - Honoring Kenneth E. Webster, EdD: Over 30 years of Leadership & Dedication to the osteopathic profession & Hillsborough County Osteopathic Medical Society
FOMA Physicians & Friends - In Memory of Kelsey Brooke Tatum, DO, Honorary LECOM Bradenton, 2021
FOMA Physicians & Friends - In Memory of David Levine, DO (6/16/44 - 7/21/2007) FOMA President 1997-98
FOMA Physicians & Friends - In Honor & Memory of Howard L. Neer, DO, FOMA President 1976 - 77 & AOA President 1988 - 89: A Pioneer, Educator, Mentor and Friend
FOMA Physicians & Friends - In Honor & Memory of Marcelino Oliva, DO, Legislative Chairman, FOMA President 1974 - 75 & AOA President 1988 - 89
FOMA Family - In Honor of Marcelino Oliva, DO, FOMA President 1974 - 75, Lora Lee Oliva & Family
Don Jablonski, DO - To My FOMA Family, in Honor of Catherine Jablonski and Don Jablonski, DO, FOMA President 1995-96
Dr. & Mrs. Gregory James - In Honor of David Kudelko, DO, graduate of KCOM
Dr.'s Kenneth & Michelle Johnson & Family: Thank you FOMA for all that you DO - Simply the Very Best!
James McCormick, DO - In Loving Memory of Patricia McCormick
In Loving Memory of Morton Morris, DO, JD, FOMA President 1978 - 79, and Marie G. Morris
Fred Porcase, DO - In Honor of our Brother, Friend, Father & Husband: John Anthony Fetchero, DO (6/4/51 - 1/19/2015)
Melvyn Rech, DO - In Memory of Hamilton & Eric Rech & Morton Morris, DO, JD, FACOS, FAOAO
Dr. & Mrs. William Silverman: In Honor of our Children - 2022
Dr. Mrs. Joel Stein - In Honor and Loving Memory of Dr. Leon & Shirley Stein
Dr. & Mrs. Brett Thomas: Keep Osteopathic Medicine Pure
James Towry, DO & Family - In Honor of Paul E. Wilson, DO, FOMA President 1954- 55 & AOA President 1974 - 75
Doug, Nancy and Zach Treadway - In Loving Memory of Tanner Douglas Treadway (1994 - 2014)
West Palm Hospital Medical Staff - In Memory of Martin J. Frisosky, DO, for his Service, Leadership, Wisdom and Friendship
Stephen & Judy Winn and Family - In Loving Honor of Senator Sherman & Roslyn Winn
In Honor of Michelle Winn Larson, CAE, CMP becoming FOMA CEO - Mom, Dad & Family - 2026
Winn Families & William Hightower - In Loving Memory of Christopher Marc Burns (5/16/90 - 3/19/2016)



Project READY and the Healthy Aging, Healthy Brain Initiative is brought to you by the Biomedical Research Program under the Public Health Research Section within the Division of Community Health Promotion.



Background Screening Requirements Now Apply to ALL Physicians

Avoid interruption in providing care during licensure renewal cycles.

About Background Screenings

Effective July 1, 2025, all health care practitioners must comply with new background screening requirements when applying for initial licensure or renewing their licenses. Staying compliant with the new law is mandatory to maintain licensure.

How It Works

If **applying for initial licensure**, complete a background screening as part of your license application. If **renewing your license**, be prepared to complete the screening requirements before your license expires. Waiting too long will result in licensing delays or expiration.

1. Understand Your Timeline
2. Schedule Your Screening
3. Submit Required Documentation

For FAQs and more information and guidance on this process, visit <https://FLHealthSource.gov/Background-Screening/>.

*Florida Department of Health, Division of Medical Quality Assurance
Bureau of Operations – Background Screening Unit
4052 Bald Cypress Way,
Bin BSU-01 Tallahassee,
Florida 32399*

Phone: (850) 488-0595
Email: mqa.backgroundscreen@flhealth.gov



**FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**



Florida HIE Begins New Chapter with CRISP Shared Services

The Florida Health Information Exchange (Florida HIE) is transitioning to the CRISP Shared Services (CSS) platform, marking the end of its longstanding relationship with PCC/ Audacious Inquiry. This strategic move ensures continuity while introducing scalable, modern infrastructure and expanded services. CSS brings innovative tools for care coordination, public health integration, and data interoperability. Visit the new website flhie.org to explore onboarding resources and learn more. Stakeholders are encouraged to reach out via info@flhie.org to stay informed and engaged during this exciting transition.