



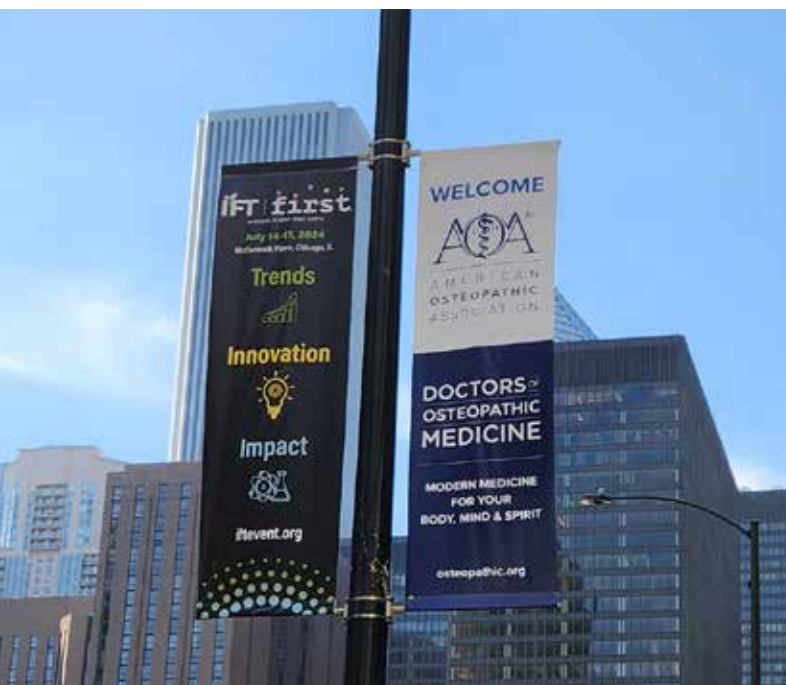
Summer/Fall 2024

FOMA *Journal*

FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



FLORIDA DELEGATION AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES CHICAGO 2024



Drs. Kiran C. and Pallavi Patel, received AOA Presidential Citation at the AOA's House of Delegates meeting.



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 cost onto those with chronic diseases by increasing out-of-pocket cost for critical therapies.

How can Florida physicians help?

- ◆ Join FAIRx. Visit our website to gather the facts and share the physicians'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.

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



www.FAIRx.org

facebook.com/FAIRxFla/

twitter.com/FAIRxFla

info@FAIRx.org

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



The Professionals Resource Network (PRN), a State of Florida's Impaired Practitioners Program, is seeking independent evaluators throughout the state. An evaluator is PRN approved based on their experience, credentials, expertise in treating healthcare practitioners, specific experience relating to potentially impairing conditions, ability to render diverse services, skill in performing forensic quality independent evaluations, and understanding of the special needs of professionals referred to them by PRN. Approved evaluators are required to attend training at PRN's annual conference. If interested in applying, please go to our website www.flprn.org

Follow for information, helpful resources, and more!



Connect with us!

@FL_PRN

[flprofessionalsresourcenetwork](https://facebook.com/flprofessionalsresourcenetwork)

@prnflorida



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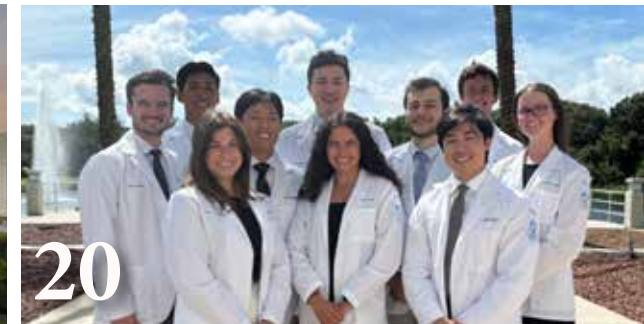
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SUMMER/FALL 2024

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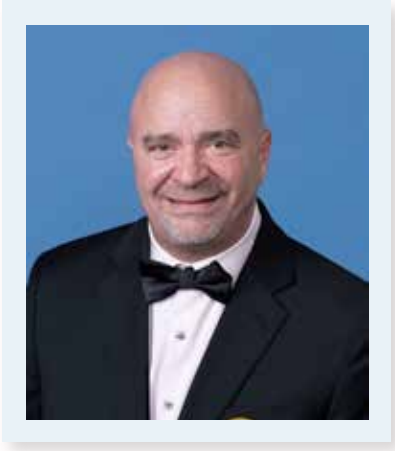
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FOMAJournal

FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

2544 Blairstone Pines Drive • Tallahassee, FL 32301

850.878.7364 • 800.226.3662 (TOLL-FREE) • 850.942.7538 (fax)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Michael Markou, DO, FACOFF

Approaching the fall and holiday season, I want to thank each of you for your trust and continued support this year. It is hard to believe that I am in the second half of my term as your president.

It was a privilege and an honor to represent, along with the other delegates, from the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association for the annual 2024 AOA House of Delegates helping create health care policies. Thank you once again to Dr. Ottaviani, Florida Delegation Chair, for his continued leadership. Thank you to all of the delegates for taking the time from their busy schedules and for being pulled away from their patients and families to participate in this event. Special thanks to Dr. Marc Kaprow again this year for his extra efforts that continue to make this event go most efficiently. We congratulated Teresa Hubka, DO, FACOOG and celebrated her becoming the 128th President of the AOA this year at the House of Delegates Meeting.

Thank you to FOMA and FOMA's legislative team for continuing to provide our members with a powerful voice in the state and national government.

In July, I was honored to represent the FOMA at the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine White Coat Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in Brevard County. I had the opportunity to address the Class of 2028, congratulating them on their entrance into the osteopathic profession. I was honored to attend the White Coat Ceremony for the NSU-KPCOM Class of 2028 in August representing the FOMA as well as the White Coat Ceremony for the Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine in early September, addressing and congratulating them as well. I also want to Congratulate LECOM Bradenton on their White Coat Ceremony Class of 2028 in October.

The FOMA Virtual seminar yielded over 1,000 attendees. I want to specially thank Michelle Larson and the FOMA team as well as our amazing presenters for the continued success in this event.

I attended OMED 2024 in San Antonio, TX on Sept 20-22 and attending the AOF Honors Gala representing FOMA. Congratulations to John Dadah, DO Emerging Leader nominee for Florida.

I wish all of you a safe Fall season. Thanks again for continuing to support the FOMA and Thank You for your continuous support as your President this year!



FOMA President Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP (Far Left) attends the Burrell COM-FL Campus Ribbon Cutting & White Ceremony



I WAS HONORED TO REPRESENT THE FOMA AT THE BURRELL COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE WHITE COAT AND RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY.... I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE CLASS OF 2028.



FOMA President Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP, and Wife Iliana Markou attend the Florida Gubernatorial Fellows gathering at the Governor's Mansion



FOMA President-Elect Bruce Rankin DO, CPI, MRO, FACOFP; AOA Past President Ira Monka, DO, & FOMA President Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP



L-R: Ronald Burns, DO, FACOFP, AOA Past President; Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP; FOMA President; Richard Thacker, DO, MACOI, AOA Board Trustee; Joseph Giamo, DO, MACOI, AOA Past President attend the 2024 Honors Gala



Stephen R. Winn

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Florida Osteopathic Medical Association continues to champion issues and activities most important to our members while staying heavily involved and sponsoring Community Events. During Executive Committee and Board of Trustee meetings, we discuss topics of interest to the osteopathic profession, and take action through legislative advocacy and through directing our policies to actionable and measurable items. FOMA Delegates convened in Chicago for the 2024 Annual AOA House of Delegates meeting, July 18 - 21, and once again, Florida was well represented, under the direction of Anthony Ottaviani, DO, MPH, FACOI, FCCP, Delegation Chair. Florida's Joshua D. Lenchus, DO, RPh, FACP, SFHM, the medical director of Aetna's Florida market in the Southeast region and FOMA's Past President, was elected AOA's Third Vice President and Trustee. Florida continues to be well represented in the AOA. Thank you Delegates and Alternates, and those who served on AOA Reference Committees.



As you know this is a very important Election Year---20 Florida State Senate Seats & 120 State House Seats are up for Election & Re-Election November 5th, 2024

As you know this is a very important Election Year---20 Florida State Senate Seats & 120 State House Seats are up for Election & Re-Election November 5th, 2024. Many local & other elections are also held on November 5th. On a National Level this Election will elect the President—Vice President, some US Senators and the entire US House of Representatives. Jason & I continue to attend Fundraising Events on behalf of the FOMA-PAC, during this very busy time. We recently met with State

Representative Gallop Franklin, State Senator Corey Simon, State Representative Alex Rizo, State Representative Allision Tant and others talking about their campaigns and the upcoming Session.

The 2024 FSACOFPP/FOMA Virtual CME Convention July 26- 27, offered 23 AOA (1-A) credits and was attended by over 225 physicians. A Special Thank you to the FOMA Staff and FSACOFPP Leaders for all your hard work in making this year's Convention such a success.

On August 24th, FOMA staff & families participated and was a sponsor for the 4th Annual Community Outreach event "Hunger Fight." Hunger Fight was able to pack over 160,500 meals and provide 5,900 books for Pre-K students here in the Tallahassee/Big Bend area. The FOMA looks forward to participating in the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education (FRAME) program, which will be announcing the distribution of 16 million plus dollars for the FRAME program. FRAME provides financial incentives to current providers in underserved areas and encourages others to practice in these areas. Dr. Michael Markou, FOMA President, believes that "this program will continue to improve the health of Floridians that may have difficulty accessing healthcare services in rural communities."

The FOMA Legislative Team under the direction of Paul Seltzer, DO, FOMA Legislative Chair, is preparing for Committee Meetings and the 2025 Legislative Session. Jason Winn, Esq., Chris Lyon, Esq., Alex Golden & William Hightower continue to meet with Legislative candidates who are running for election or re-election in the upcoming 2024 election. THANK YOU, for your continued membership and support of the FOMA.

ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MICHELLE W. LARSON, CAE, CMP, reports that Ronald Burns, DO and William Silverman, DO Program Co-Chairs along with the Medical Education committee were pleased with the 2024 FOMA Virtual Seminar, September 6 - 8, 2024, which offered up to 27 (AOA) 1-A credits. We had 1,000+ pre-registered physicians & students attend! The Seminar offered the mandatory hours for Florida relicensure. Attendees have 30 days to watch the lectures and claim their credit. We are working on a 2025 Live Convention, Feb. 21 - 23 at the Hyatt Grand Cypress in Orlando and the 2025 Virtual Convention, March 28 - 30. Look for registration information/details on our website soon. As president of the Association of Osteopathic State Executive Directors (AOSED), she attended their meeting in Chicago, prior to the AOA House of Delegates. There was excellent education & networking with state & specialty executives.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, JASMINE SMITH, shares that FOMA's 2024 Legislative Report, 2024 Know the Issues, was mailed to members in August with an online version available on the FOMA website. Additionally, The FOMA Journal is in production and will be mailed to members in September/October. FOMA's website continues to provide enhanced features for member services including blogging of FOMA's current events, interfaces with social media accounts on the FOMA homepage, detailed member profiles, and automatic syncing with the association's email services. FOMA continues to work with AOSED to share select social media posts. The FOMA Newswire is delivered weekly to your inbox and if you have a story or any recognized achievements you would like to share with members, please let us know at fomapr@foma.org.

DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP & EDUCATION, ANDREW FLOYD, CAE, CMP-HC, reports that as of 10/19, the FOMA has over 4,000 members, which includes students. It is looking like 2023-2024 Dues will be the largest ever! Membership growth continues to be a vital strength of our association. If you know of anyone that would like to receive a membership invitation, please contact me at the FOMA Executive Office at andrew@foma.org. FOMA Members who have not paid their 2024-2025 membership dues by September 30, 2024 were dropped from membership.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP & EDUCATION, HEATHER GRANT, reports that the CME Center (DOCME) continues to be successful for the FOMA, with on demand courses available to all DOs. The 2024 FSACOFPP/FOMA 2024 Annual Convention was a success with over 225 physicians & speakers attending. Quarterly, we invite all new Florida licensees to join the FOMA. Members love it that they can call any time, have someone answer the phone, and get answers to their questions. The Corporate Roundtable Membership continues to grow and support the profession and the delivery of quality healthcare to the citizens of Florida.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, KAYE TAIT, reports that the 2024 - 2025 Annual FOMA Dues Notices were emailed and mailed to all members. Dues can be paid online with optional contributions to the FOMA-PAC and the FOMA Foundation. FOMA members and non-members can register online for all FOMA CME events. Thank you for your online payments! We appreciate everyone's continued involvement and support!

FOMA 2024 Legislative Update

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN

Paul D. Seltzer, DO

“Working with our partners, the FOMA successfully passed legislation important to patients and physicians”

General Election

The FOMA encourages its members to get out and vote in the 2024 General Election scheduled for November 5, 2024. If you cannot vote on Election Day, please take advantage of early voting, which begins on October 26 and ends on November 2, 2024. In this cycle, voters will choose representatives for all 120 House and half of the 40 Senate districts (Odd Numbered Districts). No members of the Florida Cabinet are up for election.

The FOMA thanks everyone who has contributed to the FOMA-Pac and supported our legislative program. If you would like to donate, please visit our website at FOMA.org. Thank you for your support and commitment to patients and the profession.

2025 Legislative Session – Key Dates:

The Florida Legislature will convene for the Organizational Session on November 19, 2024, following the November 5, 2024 General Election. In addition, the House and Senate have scheduled six weeks of interim committee meetings to prepare for the upcoming session, which will convene on March 4, 2025. The FOMA is closely monitoring developments on the legislative front and will keep you informed as events unfold.

Health Care Innovation Council

The Florida Legislature will convene for the Organizational Session on November 19, 2024, following the November 5, 2024 General Election. In addition, the House and Senate have scheduled six weeks of interim committee meetings to prepare for the upcoming session, which will convene on March 4, 2025. The FOMA is closely monitoring developments on the legislative front and will keep you informed as events unfold.

The council’s responsibilities include:

- Facilitating public meetings to discuss and implement new health care technologies and models.
- Coordinating with institutions and businesses to promote health care innovation.
- Evaluating and recommending enhancements to Florida’s health care system.

The FOMA actively monitors developments concerning the council’s activities and will keep you informed as events unfold. No meetings have been scheduled to date.



Florida Osteopathic Medical Association members and students met with Governor Ron Desantis as part of FOMA's Osteopathic Medicine and Health Awareness Day at the State Capitol in February for the 2024 Legislative Session

Legislative Team Members meet With Legislators prior to Legislative Session



Legislative Team Members Jason Winn, Esq. and Chris Lyon, Esq. meet with Senator Erin Grall



Legislative Team Members Jason Winn, Esq. and Chris Lyon, Esq. meet with Senator Gayle Harrell



Legislative Team Members Jason Winn, Esq. and Chris Lyon, Esq. meet with Representative Dana Trubusy

Save the Date!
Stay tuned for more information.

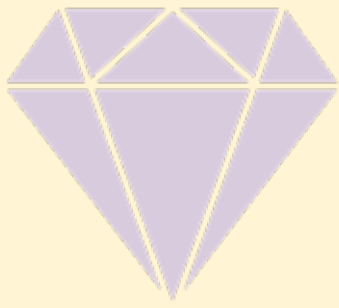
Osteopathic Medicine & Health Awareness Day

Details coming soon!



A NEW 2024 KNOW THE ISSUES WAS SENT TO MEMBERS IN SEPTEMBER

FOR THE MOST CURRENT ACTIONS ON THESE BILLS, AND MORE, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.FOMA.ORG/LEGISLATIVE-UPDATES



2024 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)

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

7 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$15,000)

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Joseph Giaino, DO
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6 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$12,500)

*Nicole Bixler, DO
Anna Hayden, DO*

5 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$10,000)

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Florida Society of the ACOFP
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(AT LEAST \$7,500)

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Philip L. Shettle, DO
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(AT LEAST \$5,000)

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2 Diamond Presidential

(AT LEAST \$2,500)

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1 Diamond Presidential

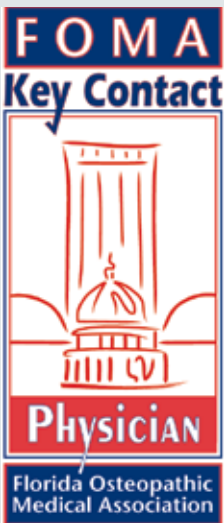
(AT LEAST \$1,000)

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Gerald Reynolds, DO
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Attention FOMA Members!



FOMA is Accepting Nominations for 2025

FOMA Distinguished Service Award

This award is given to an Individual in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in science, professionalism, osteopathic education, or service to the osteopathic profession or citizens of Florida at state or national level. This is the highest honor that FOMA can bestow upon an individual. The award is not limited to osteopathic physicians.

Nominee: _____

FOMA Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is given to an osteopathic physician who has made a significant contribution to the osteopathic community over the span of his or her lifetime. The candidate must be either a Florida-licensed osteopathic physician in good standing or a retired osteopathic physician.

Nominee: _____

FOMA Physician of the Year Award

This award is given to an osteopathic physician who has made a significant contribution to the osteopathic community in the past year. The candidate must be a Florida-licensed osteopathic physician in good standing.

Nominee: _____

FOMA Stephen R. Winn Friend of the Osteopathic Medicine Award

This award is given to an individual in recognition and appreciation for their continuing commitment in promoting the tenets and philosophy of osteopathic medicine in the state of Florida.

Nominee: _____

FOMA OMT Award - *New*

This award is given to an osteopathic physician who serves as an advocate and champion for Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment on a national, state, and or local level. This physician continues to promote OMT through teaching, writing, and with their patients.

Nominee: _____

Please mail nomination form, recommendation letter, and CV of doctor nominated to **FOMA, 2544 Blairstone Pines Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32301**. Questions? Please call Michelle W. Larson at FOMA (800)226-3662

Your Name: (Print) _____

All nominations must be received by December 20, 2024

FOMA Student Awards Criteria



The FOMA will award up to **2** students from each Florida campus:
**LECOM Bradenton, NSU - KPCOM and NSU-KPCOM Tampa Bay,
OCOM, Burrell COM - Florida Campus
(M1 - \$300 & M2 - \$500)**

based on the following criteria:

1. The Student shall be a member in good standing of the FOMA Student District Society at NSU – Kiran Patel COM or LECOM Bradenton.
2. The Student shall be politically active, possess leadership qualities and support the FOMA Student District Society initiatives.
3. The Student shall be a Florida resident or plan to practice osteopathic medicine in Florida.

The Student shall submit the following:

A letter, curriculum vitae and 2 faculty recommendations.

All information is due to the FOMA Awards Committee by **December 20th, 2024.**

The awards and checks will be presented during the 2025 FOMA LIVE Convention.

Please Email/ Mail the above information to:

*FOMA Awards Committee
2544 Blainstone Pines Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32301
email: admin@foma.org*

The winners are selected by the FOMA Awards Committee.

FOMA Executive Committee & Board of Trustees

The FOMA Executive Committee & Board of Trustees met virtually via ZOOM June 5 & 6 and Oct. 21&22, 2024. The following committees reported during the meetings:

The next FOMA Executive & Board of Trustees meetings will be held via ZOOM:
 Monday, December 4, 2024 – 7 pm.
 Tuesday, December 5, 2024 – 7 pm.

FOMA Staff Engages with the Community

FOMA staff and their families sponsored “Hunger Fight” to pack 180,000 meals to Title One Elementary School children in the Big Bend Area this year.



FOMA staff sponsored the Capital City Rowing Club, and shows support by raising awareness for breast cancer and colon cancer.



Capital City Rowing Club - September 2024

Breast Cancer Awareness Month - October 2024

Colon Cancer Awareness - March 2024

2024 FOMA BOARD of TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT MICHAEL MARKOU, DO, FACOPF

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Monina Geda, DO
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Brett Thomas, DO
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Robert Hasty, DO
Benjamin Thomasson, DO
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Cesar DeLeon, DO

SGA

- Marissa McPhail, SGA
 President, NSU KPCOM
 Emily Thach, President, NSU KPCOM TBR
 Victoria Estevez, Pres., SGA, LECOM Bradenton

ALTERNATES

- 2 Doug Pennington, DO
Janae Fry, DO
Donald Pyle, DO
- 3 Charlene LePane, DO
Brian Browning, DO
Victor Aramayo, DO
Ronald R. Burns, DO
William Silverman, DO
Hal Pineless, DO
Eva-Marie Heurich, DO
- 4 Erica O'Donnell, DO
- 5 Frank Armstrong, DO
Jeffrey Grove, DO
Scott Ray, DO
Phillip Shettle, DO
Gregory James, DO
Tracie Leonhardt, DO
- 6 Joshua Lenchus, DO, RPH
Eric Goldsmith, DO
Jorge Luna, DO
- 7 Robert George, DO
Steven Ma, DO
- 8 Misha Denham, DO
- 9 Paul Seltzer, DO,
Legislative Chair
Joseph Giaimo, DO
William Stager, DO
Robert Greer, IV, DO
- 10 Michael Austin, DO
- 12 John Graves, DO
Jeremy Olloqui, DO
Frank Paiano, DO
Lindsey Johnson, DO
- 13 Joseph McNerny, DO
- 16 Stephen Yandel, DO
Adam Weiner, DO
- 17 Daniel Kaplan, DO

Student District Society

- Name, P-elect, NSU KPCOM
 Name, VP, NSU KPCOM TBR
 Idamys Saez Acosta, Vice Pres., LECOM Bradenton

SGA

- Olivia Pisarski, P-elect, NSU KPCOM
 Phillip Ordonez, P-elect, NSU KPCOM TBR
 Gianni Acampora, VP, SGA, LECOM Bradenton

Student District Society

- Samuel Oswald, President, NSU-KPCOM
 Shannon Smith, Pres., NSU KPCOM TBR
 Konstantin Nakov, Pres., LECOM Bradenton

FLORIDA'S DELEGATION AT THE AOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES



2024 Florida House of Delegates AOA Attendees(chair, alphabetical, students): Chair, Anthony N. Ottaviani, DO, MPH, FACOI, FCCP, Vice Chair, Joseph A. Giaimo, DO, MACOI, FCCP; Kayvan Amini, DO, FACC; James M. Andriole, DO; Nicole Bixler, DO; Matt Brill, DO; Lee Ann Brown, DO; Ronald R. Burns, DO, FACOFP; Charles J. Chase, DO; Cesar De Leon, DO; Linda Delo, DO, FACOFP; Traci-lyn Eisenberg, DO; Walter B. Flesner, III, DO; Eric Goldsmith, DO; Jeffrey S. Grove, DO, FACOFP; Gregory J. James, DO, MPH, FACOFP; Marc G. Kaprow, DO, MHA, FACOI; Joshua Lenchus, DO, RPh, FACP, SFHM; Jorge D. Luna, DO, FACOFP; Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP; Sean McCann, DO; Joseph P. McNerney, DO; Michelle Mendez, DO; Jeffrey Nelson, DO; Sasha N. Noe, DO, PhD; Hal S. Pineless, DO, FACN, FAAN; Shailesh Rajguru, DO, FACN; Bruce G. Rankin, DO, FACOFP; Ronald Renuart, DO; Joel Rose, DO; Joseph A. Sassano, DO; Paul Seltzer, DO; Richard R. Thacker, DO, FACOI; Ronald Torrance, II, DO, FAOASM; James Towry, DO, FAOCD, FAAD; Students - Olivia Pisarski, NSU KPCOM, SGA Pres.-elect; Philip Ordonez, NSU KPCOM TBR, SGA Pres.-elect; Victoria Estevez, SGA Pres., SGA Pres.; Gianni Acampora, LECOM Bradenton, SGA Pres.-elect

Over thirty-five delegates represented Florida at the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) House of Delegates (HOD) Annual Business Meeting in Chicago. Teresa Hubka, DO, FACOOG (Dist.) of Chicago, and an American Osteopathic Board of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, is the new president of the AOA for the 2024-2025 term.

Dr. Hubka, founder and medical director of Comprehensive Wellness Care, LLC in Chicago, specializes in obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive health, offering comprehensive care for women of all ages. She also serves as a clinical professor and department chair at Midwestern University Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine.

A graduate of the Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Hubka completed an osteopathic internship at Atlantic City (New Jersey) Medical Center, followed by a residency in OB-GYN surgery at Mercy Hospital & Medical Center in Chicago, where she served



FOMA President Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP & AOA President Teresa Hubka, DO, FACOOG (Dist.)

as Administrative Chief Resident.

As AOA president, Dr. Hubka will prioritize promoting excellence in osteopathic distinction, unity, and physician leadership. "Our unique approach allows us to deliver the most comprehensive care in modern medicine, which is especially remarkable in today's patient-centered healthcare landscape," she said.

The following FOMA members served on Reference Committees during the July AOA House of Delegates:

Ad Hoc Committee:
Michelle Mendez, DO

Constitution and Bylaws Committee:
Linda Delo, DO, Vice Chair;
Kayvan Amini, DO

Professional Affairs Committee:
Cesar DeLeon, DO

Public Affairs Committee:
Marc Kaprow, DO

Resolutions Committee:
Eric Goldsmith, DO, Chair

Rules and Order of Business:
Bruce Rankin, DO, Vice Chair;
Joseph Sassano, DO



L-R: FOMA Directors-at-Large Sean McCann, DO, FOMA; Michelle Mendez, DO; James Andriole, DO



L-R: Anthony Ottaviani, DO, MPH, FACOI, FCCP; Josh Lenchus, DO, RPh, FACP, SFHM, AOA Third Vice President



L-R: Lee Ann Brown, DO, FAAPMR, FOMA Past President; Ronald Burns, DO, FACOF, AOA Past President



L-R: FOMA Directors-at-Large Kayvan Amini, DO, FACCP & Cesar De Leon, DO; FOMA President Michael Markou, DO, FACOF; Victoria Estevez, SGA Pres. & Gianni Acampora, SGA Pres. Elect - LECOM Bradenton; Shailesh Rajguru, DO, FACN

HOUSE OF DELEGATES HIGHLIGHTS



Matt Brill, DO; Phillip Ordenez & Olivia Pisarski, NSU-KPCOM Pres. Elect



Speaker of the House: Ray Morrison, DO; FOMA President-Elect Bruce Rankin, DO, FACOFP, CPI, MRO



Michelle Winn-Larson; Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP, FOMA President; Linda Delo, DO, FACOFP, FOMA Past FOMA President; Judy Winn



L-R: Jeffrey Nelson, DO, FACOFP, FOMA Second Vice-President; Sean McCann, DO, FOMA Director-at-Large; Robert Hasty, DO, FACOI, FACP, Dean of OCOM



This assembly is not only a testament to our democratic principles but also a vivid demonstration of our dedication to ensuring that the voices of osteopathic physicians and medical students guide our organizational direction.





AOA Past President Joseph Giamo, DO, FACOI, FCCP, and sons Christian & who served during AOA HOD



L-R: Traci-lyn Eisenberg, DO, FACOF, FSACOF Past President; Lee Ann Brown, DO, FAAPMR, FOMA Past President



Ron Torrance, DO, FAOASM; Michael Markou, DO, FACOF, FOMA President



L-R Back: FOMA Directors-at-Large Michelle Mendez, DO, & Kayvan Amini, DO, FACCP; FOMA Past President Lee Ann Brown, DO; FOMA President-Elect Bruce Rankin, DO, FACOF, FAAD; FOMA President Michael Markou, DO, FACOF; Bottom L-R: Florida legislative Chairman Paul D Seltzer, DO; Shailesh Rajguru, DO, FACN; Joel Rose, DO, FOMA Past President & Trustee



L-R: FOMA Past Presidents Jeffrey Grove, DO, FACOF & Nicole Bixler, DO, FAOF; Michelle Mendez, DO, FOMA Director-at-Large; FOMA Past Presidents Josh Lenchus, DO, RPh, FACP, SFHM, AOA Third Vice President & Gregory James, DO, FACOF



Florida House Delegates

FROM AROUND THE STATE....

DISTRICT REPORTS

DISTRICT SOCIETY 2

Save the Date:
*26th Annual Primary Care
and Cardiovascular Symposium*
May 14-17, 2025.

The Annual Primary Care and Cardiovascular Symposium is being held at a NEW location in 2025. We are excited to partner with the University of North Florida- Adam W. Herbert University Center @ 12000 Alumni Drive Jacksonville, Florida to bring to you an affordable, CME event. Earn up to 36 credits (including all required CMEs for re-licensure) for MDs, DOs, ARNPs and PAs. Presentation topics cover cardiology, endovascular medicine, hematology, oncology, peripheral vascular medicine, podiatry, surgery and other internal medicine subspecialties areas.

Symposium registration is open now.
For more information, visit www.FOMADistrict2.com

DISTRICT SOCIETY 3



FOMA District Society 3 held a District Society dinner meeting on July 30th, 2024 at Antonio's in Maitland, FL. A lecture entitled "Florida's Waterborne Emergency" was presented by Kevin Sherin, MD. A special thank you to our refreshment sponsors Traci-lyn Eisenberg, DO & Brenton Priest, DO.



Sean McCann, DO, FOMA District 3 President attended the OCOM White Coat Ceremony in Orlando, FL. Congratulations to the inaugural OCOM class!

DISTRICT SOCIETY 4



FOMA District 4 held a meeting on August 29th at Hyde Park Steakhouse in Daytona Beach, FL. FOMA President-elect Bruce Rankin DO, CPI, MRO, FACOFP gave an update on the FOMA and his goals for his upcoming Presidential year. A special thank you to Amgen for sponsoring this District 4 meeting.



FOMA President-Elect Bruce Rankin, DO, CPI, MRO; FACOFP & FSACOFP President Pamela Moran-Walcutt, DO

DISTRICT SOCIETY 5

FOMA District 5 would like to congratulate Past Presidents of the Florida Academy of Osteopathy Michael Hadley, DO, and Gregory Bronner, DO for their recent recognition by the Florida Academy of Osteopathy with the prestigious "Margaret Raffa, DO, Distinguished Service Award". Lisa Belliveau, Administrator for the FAO and the PCOMS was recognized as well with the "Margaret Raffa, DO Distinguished Service Award" for her years of service to the FAO. Lisa was also recognized in 2011 for her service by the FAO. Congratulations Lisa. The FAO held their annual conference May 17-19, 2024 at the Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine, Orlando, FL.



(L) Michael Hadley, DO,
FAO Past President



Gregory Bronner, DO,
FAO Past President



Lisa Belliveau, FAO Administrator

DISTRICT SOCIETY 5 CONTINUED

Tracie Leonhardt, DO, Medical Director of Peaks of Health Metabolic Medical Center, held their “Annual Back to School Physicals” event July 13, 2024, in conjunction with the Pinellas County Health Department. This annual event provides back to school physical exams and backpacks, school supplies at no cost to the children or families. Drs. Garvin, DiMasi, Peters, and Leonhardt participated with student volunteers from the Tampa Bay Campus of the KPCOM.



Five members of FOMA District 5 served as Delegates of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association to the 128th AOA House of Delegates - Gregory James, DO, Immediate Past Chair of the AOBFP, Past FOMA President; Jeffrey Grove, DO, Past President of the ACOFP/FOMA & PCOMS; Lee Ann Brown, DO, Past President FOMA/PCOMS; Anthony N. Ottaviani, DO, Executive Director of the PCOMS, Past President FOMA, FOMA Chair Florida Delegation; and Michael Markou, DO, FOMA President, Past President of the PCOMS.

DISTRICT SOCIETY 7

The FOMA District 7 had its 4 Annual mixer with the FOMA LECOM OSM I and II students. The event was a huge success with 69 students and 10 physicians representing 8 different specialties selected by the students. Students were able to discuss various issues as they are about to begin their pathway to rotations and fields of interest prior to the match.



Dr. Nicole Bence speaking to students.



Dr. Joseph Sassano & Foma Student President Konstantin Nakov



Dr. Richard Yonker's with a group of students.



Dr. Ron Torrance Mingling with attendees

DISTRICT SOCIETY 10

The Hillsborough County Osteopathic Medical Society held a General Membership Dinner Meeting at Maggiano's on August 8th. HCOMS President Ron Torrance, II, DO, FAOASM introduced Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP FOMA President 2024-2025 was a special guest at this event. Dr. Torrance also welcomed new members Brandt Jones, DO & Heather Vermilyea, DO along with several medical students. Brett Scotch, DO, FAOCO and Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP presented a FOMA Presidential Citation Award to Kenneth Webster, Ed.D.



L-R: Brett Scotch, DO, FAOCO, HCOMS & FOMA Past President, HCOMS President Ron Torrance, II, DO, FAOASM and Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP FOMA President 2024-2025 enjoying the evening.



L to R Back: Joseph Giamo, DO, MACOI, AOA Past President; Janet Burns; FOMA President, Michael Markou, DO, FACOFP; Sherry Thacker, RN; Richard Thacker, DO, MACOI, AOA Board Trustee; FOMA Past President, Ronald Burns, DO, FACOFP, AOA Past President; R - L Front: Hetal Rajguru; Shailesh Rajguru DO, FACN; John Dadah, DO; Florida Emerging Leader Nominee.



L-R: Ken Sabatose, OMS II, Brett Scotch, DO, FAOCO, Shailesh Rajguru, DO, FACN, Katsiaryna Merkes, OMS II, Sarah Moyer, OMS II, and Eden Kimiagarov, OMS II



Shailesh Rajguru, DO, FACN, FOMA Trustee, and his wife attend the AOF Honors Gala in San Antonio, TX.

DISTRICT SOCIETY 12

FOMA District Society 12 held a District Society 12 meet & greet meeting on September 12th, 2024 at The Salted Brick in Ocala, FL. The meeting welcomed attendees to gather socially with their colleagues in the area to discuss the future of the District Society. Complimentary food and beverage were provided and the meeting was welcomed with great enthusiasm.



Diana Graves, DO, FOMA DS-12 President; Derek Farr, DO and Nirav Gupta, DO



Jeremy Olloqui, DO; Diana Graves, DO, FOMA DS-12 President; James Towry, DO, FOMA 1st Vice-President



Frank Paiano, DO, Derek Farr, DO, Anuj Andy Sharma, DO, Nirav Gupta, DO, and Stephen Winn, FOMA Executive Director attend the District 12 meeting.



Osteopathic Medical Students from LMU-DCOM attend the District 12 meeting.

DISTRICT SOCIETY 15



Congratulations to Dr. James Andriole, DO on his induction as the Advisory Member for the Professionals Resource Network (PRN) Board! Thanks for all you DO for the Profession!

STUDENT NEWS

LECOM-Bradenton

Victoria Estevez, SGA President, and SGA Board at LECOM in Bradenton, they have been actively working to increase LECOM's community presence by organizing events like a road clean-up scheduled for this Saturday. They have also represented the school at national conferences, including the House of Delegates and the upcoming OMED. The SGA is currently focused on planning a wellness week for the campus, which will feature physician speakers and various events, such as blood drives. They are also supporting club leadership in organizing mini medical conferences and suture clinics. Additionally, the SGA and FOMA are excited to offer a networking opportunity for the student body in the near future.



OCOM

OCOM, Florida's newest Osteopathic College of Medicine, proudly celebrated its inaugural Class of 2028 White Coat Ceremony on September 13th, welcoming over 100 students into the profession. Since then, OCOM has been buzzing with activity, including participating in community events like the Teddy Bear Affair at Nemours Children's Hospital. Here, students had the opportunity to bring joy and comfort to young patients, making a meaningful impact on their lives and embracing the spirit of service that defines the osteopathic profession.

Burrell COM - Florida Campus

On July 26, the BCOM Florida Campus celebrated a major milestone with its ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by its first-ever White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2028. FOMA President was in attendance, delivering inspiring remarks to the future doctors. Since then, the Florida campus students have been actively engaged in the community, notably through CPR training, where they earned certification as BLS (Basic Life Support) providers. With these new skills, students are equipped to perform high-quality CPR, including chest compressions, ventilations, using an AED, and assisting choking victims—whether adults, children, or infants.





WELCOME NEW FOMA MEMBERS

FINAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT - JUNE 2024

PROVISIONAL - 21

District 2	Donald Tice, DO David White, DO	St. Augustine St. Johns
District 3	Andrew Georgeson, DO Jaclyn Gunn, DO Nicholas Houlis, DO Leah Shell, DO	Lakeland Winter Garden Orlando Winter Haven
District 5	Joseph Carragher, DO Glynnis Lyons, DO	Seminole Clearwater
District 6	Aaron Brooking, DO Jesse Kemmerlin, DO Thomas McGuire, DO Christopher Pare, DO Kevin Wilson, DO	Ft. Lauderdale Ft. Lauderdale Weston Plantation Parkland
District 7	Tessa Newman, DO	Bradenton
District 8	Trevine Albert, DO Wayne Evancho, DO	Miami Gardens North Miami Beach
District 9	Michael Agatstein, DO Jeremy Berg, DO Caitlin Prickett, DO	Jupiter Boca Raton Boca Raton
District 17	Rand Kirshner, DO Ashley Warmoth, DO	Naples Naples

OUT OF STATE - 16

Salma Ahsan, DO Deanna Barry, DO Kim Beggs, DO Andrew Brevik, DO Jessica Danison, DO Travis French, DO Robert Goldman, DO Sarah Iannucci, DO Drew Iman, DO Tony Nakhla, DO John Sasinouski, Jr, DO Michael Schwartz, DO Russell Van Maele, DO Azeem Wasay, DO Darrell Webb, DO Millet Yang, DO	Athens, GA Akron, OH Phoenix, AZ Spirit Lake, IA Greenville, NC Calhoun, GA Chicago, IL Collingswood, NJ Las Vegas, NV Santa Ana, CA Knoxville, TN Bermuda Dunes, CA Santa Monica, CA West Greenwich, RI Brentwood, TN Richardson, TX
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1ST YEAR PRACTICE - 4

District 1	Ross Melvin, DO	Panama City Beach
District 3	Yevgeniya Goltser-Veksler, DO	Orlando
District 9	Salvador Forte, DO	Palm Beach Gardens
District 11	Benjamin Heflin, DO	Port Charlotte

INACTIVE / RETIRED - 2

District 9	Carol Shapiro, DO Yvette Wirta-Clarke, DO	Port St. Lucie Stuart
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2ND YEAR PRACTICE - 4

District 2	Tyler Williams, DO	Jacksonville
District 3	Anthony Gray, DO	Orlando
District 7	Anjali Bhadurihauck, DO	Bradenton
District 10	Kristin Khuynh, DO	Tampa, FL

PUBLIC HEALTH / MILITARY - 5

District 6	David Tan, DO	Pembroke Pines
District 9	Gary Popovetsky, DO	Wellington
OOS	Salvatore Labruzzo, DO David Smith, DO Darius Yorichi, DO	El Paso, TX Dayton, OH Gallup, NM

RESIDENT - 9

District 2	Christopher Ladd, DO	Jacksonville
District 5	Benjamin Hughes DO	St. Petersburg
District 6	Dennis Dorf, DO Noemi Bermudez Torres, DO	Hallandale Beach Pembroke Pines
District 7	El Khansaa Dalhy, DO	Parrish
District 8	Aamir Pervez, DO	Miami
Diistrict 15	Tiffany Gillion, DO	Tallahassee
OOS	Christopher Burns, DO William Williams, DO	Chapel Hill, NC San Antonio, TX

JUNE MEMBERSHIP CONTINUED 2024...

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

District 1	Michael Ederer, DO James Howell, DO	Niceville Defuniak Springs	Edna Garcia, DO Gordon Grenn, DO Dennis Hanney, DO	Lake Worth Lake Worth Palm Beach
District 2	Roderick Beaman, DO Douglas Pennington, DO George Woodward, DO Joel Cohen, DO Stanley Cohen, DO Gene Harris, DO Martha McDonough, DO	Jacksonville Jacksonville Jacksonville Ponte Vedra Beach St. Augustine Orange Park Yulee	Edward Hartwig, DO Nelson Olaguibel, DO Chitto Sarkar, DO William Stager, DO Raffi Toroyan, DO Suzan Zimmer, DO	Loxahatchee West Palm Beach Port Saint Lucie West Palm Beach Boca Raton Fort Pierce
District 2	Ira Seasholtz, DO	Jennings	District 10	Tampa
District 3	Todd Chace, DO Michael Doyle, DO Daniel Seff, DO Robert Shultz, DO	Englewood Orlando Winter Park Winter Park	District 11	Lutz
District 5	Samuel Gubernick, DO Gary Heller, DO Joseph Namey, DO Joe Nelson, DO Randal Worth, DO	Palm Harbor Pinellas Park Largo Pinellas Park Largo	District 12	Tampa
District 6	Joel Rush, DO Jon Harrell, DO	Fort Lauderdale Weston	District 13	Ft. Myers
District 7	Douglas Walsh, DO	Palmetto	District 14	Lehigh Acres
District 8	Jeffrey Fox, DO	Miami Beach	District 16	Ocala
District 9	Scott Boydman, DO	Boynton Beach	OOS	Tavares
				Zephyrhills
				Weeki Wachee
				Crystal River
				Beverly Hills
				Key West
				Satellite Beach
				Palm Bay
				Melbourne
				Merritt Island
				Murphy

IN MEMORIAM

District 4	Ralph Banner, DO (KCOM-1965) Ormond Beach
District 5	Jerold Lynn, DO (DMU-COMS-1965) Weston
District 9	Melanie Spritz, DO (KCUMB-COM-1993) Boynton Beach
District 14	James Blumenthal, DO (CCOM-1976) Key Largo



WELCOME NEW FOMA MEMBERS

FINAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2024

PROVISIONAL - 20

District 2	James Meeks, DO	Jacksonville
District 3	Robert Bloome, DO	Sorrento
	Concetta Giuliano, DO	Winter Park
	Elena Timoshkin, DO	Orlando
	Rakhee Ward, DO	Winter Park
District 4	Ronald Lippman, DO	Ormond Beach
District 7	Angelina Deak, DO	Parrish
	Jeffrey Godfrey, DO	Sarasota
District 8	Javier Sanchez, DO	Miami
District 9	Beatriz Behar, DO	Jupiter
	Edwin Flanagan, DO	Jensen beach
	Richard Goldberg, DO	Jupiter
	Harvey Kleiner, DO	Boynton Beach
	Matthew Korn, DO	Boca Raton
	Roger Nicosia, DO	Stuart
District 10	Adetomiwa Shokunbi, DO	Valrico
District 11	Samuel DiCapua, DO	Bonita Springs
	Moses Shieh, DO	Ft. Myers
District 13	Keith Gould, DO	Hernando
District 16	Anita Winkler, DO	Merritt Island

OUT OF STATE - 13

Gerard Abidor, DO	Trumbull, CT
Jehon Amen, DO	Charlotte, NC
Linda Brecher, DO	Ventnor City, NJ
Benjamin Comora, DO	San Diego, CA
Nicholas DeAngelo, DO	Evans, GA
Massimiliano Frasca, DO	Flushing, NY
Jessica Kelner, DO	Denver, CO
Gary Kozlov, DO	Chicago, IL
Michael Ksycki, DO	Browning, MT
Richard Martin, DO	Blacklick, OH
Gerard Myers, DO	Monaca, PA
Travis Snyder, DO	Las Vegas, NV
Dawn Zelenka-Joshowitz, DO	West Bloomfield, MI

2nd YEAR PRACTICE - 1

District 10	Lisa Vaccaro, DO	Tampa
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PUBLIC HEALTH / MILITARY - 9

District 1	Grant Kidd, DO	Panama City Beach
District 2	Bruce Boswell, DO	Fleming Island
District 3	Dennis Bae, DO	Orlando
	Anumeha Singh, DO	Jupiter
District 5	Darren McAuley, DO	Belleair beach
	Rowena Seltzer, DO	Seminole
District 7	Katie Melcher, DO	Lakewood Ranch
District 10	Aalok Patel, DO	Tampa
District 11	Jonathan Von Koenig, DO	Ft. Myers

RESIDENT - 2

District 3	Timothy Brown, DO	Orlando
District 6	Vicky Marsh, DO	Pompano Beach
	Ankit Srivastava, DO	Davie

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

District 7	Richard Yonker, DO	Sarasota
District 13	Joseph McNerney, DO	Beverly Hills

IN MEMORIAM

District 2	E. Dale Brandt, DO (KCOM-1964)	Jacksonville
District 4	James Byrne, DO (PCOM-1974)	Daytona Beach
District 6	Jerold Lynn, DO (DMU-COMS-1965)	Weston
District 12	Elliott Turbiner, DO (KCUMB-COM-1971)	Ocala
District 13	Frederick Taylor, DO (CCOM - 1974)	Riverview

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





February 21-23, 2025
Earn up to 27 (AOA) 1-A Credits

2025 FOMA LIVE CONVENTION

Location: Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort

The 27 Live Credits Include:

- Florida mandatory credits for FL relicensure & 6 On-Demand credits
- **REGISTRATION includes 3 Continental Breakfasts, Lunch and Reception**

*** REGISTRATION IS LIMITED! Register Early to Reserve Your Spot**

Dates: Friday 2/21, 8am-5:30pm; Saturday 2/22, 8am-5:30pm; Sunday 2/23, 7:30am-12:30pm



REGISTRATION FORM

Name (please print) _____

FOMA Member Y / N AOA# _____ FL License # _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Specialty _____ Certification _____

Osteopathic College _____ Graduate Year _____

Please Choose Category Below

Registration Type	Member Rate	Member Rate	Non-Member Rate
	Early Bird Before 1/21/25	After 1/21/25	
<input type="checkbox"/> Practicing DO	\$650	\$675	\$875
<input type="checkbox"/> FOMA Life, Military, or Retired DO	\$450	\$475	\$550
<input type="checkbox"/> Osteopathic Resident/Fellow	\$150	\$175	\$225
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Only - 5 Mandatory Hours	\$325	\$350	\$575
Registration Total:	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Payment (Circle) Check / VISA / Mastercard / American Express/ Discover Signature _____

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____ VCode _____

Credit Card Billing Address, Same as Mailing Address or Billing Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone _____

*FOMA must be notified of any cancellation in writing 14 days prior to the meeting in order to receive a refund. Cancellations received after this date will be charged a \$50 administrative fee.

Please make checks payable to the
FOMA and mail to:
FOMA
2544 Blairstone Pines Drive, Tall., FL 32301
of fax form to the FOMA: 850-942-7538

Questions?
FOMA
1-800-226-3662
www.foma.org



For Hotel Reservations
contact the hotel by Jan. 29, 2025
(or until block is full)
Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Resort
One Grand Cypress Blvd. Orlando, FL 32836
\$300 Single/Double / 407-239-3951

SCAN HERE
TO BOOK



March 28-30, 2025
Earn up to 30 (AOA) 1-A Credits

2025 FOMA VIRTUAL CONVENTION

The 30 Credits Include:

- 5 Florida mandatory hours: 2 hours of each of Prevention of Medical Errors and Prescribing Controlled Substances, and 1 hour of Florida Laws, Rules, and Professional Medical Ethics.
- 2 hours of Domestic Violence and 1 Hour of HIV/ AID's
- Attendees will have 30 days to complete the courses online
 - The seminar will be available for viewing at your convenience, that best suits your schedule.

Dates: Friday 3/28, 8am-4:30pm; Saturday 3/29, 8am-4:30pm; Sunday 3/30, 8am-1pm;
On Demand: 6 Hours



REGISTRATION FORM

Name (please print) _____

FOMA Member Y / N AOA# _____ FL License # _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Specialty _____ Certification _____

Osteopathic College _____ Graduate Year _____

Please Choose Category Below

Registration Type	Member Rate Early Bird Before 3/3/25	Member Rate After 3/3/25	Non-Member Rate
<input type="checkbox"/> Practicing DO	\$575	\$600	\$825
<input type="checkbox"/> FOMA Life, Military, or Retired DO	\$350	\$375	\$475
<input type="checkbox"/> Osteopathic Resident/Fellow	\$125	\$150	\$200
<input type="checkbox"/> Osteopathic Student	No Fee	No Fee	No Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday Only - 5 Mandatory Hours	\$325	\$350	\$575
Registration Total:	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Payment (Circle) Check / VISA / Mastercard / American Express/ Discover Signature _____

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____ VCode _____

Credit Card Billing Address, Same as Mailing Address or Billing Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone _____

*FOMA must be notified of any cancellation in writing 14 days prior to the meeting in order to receive a refund.
Cancellations received after this date will be charged a \$50 administrative fee.

Please make checks payable to the
FOMA and mail to :
FOMA
2544 Blairstone Pines Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32301
of fax form to the FOMA: 850-942-7538

Questions?
Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
1-800-226-3662
www.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 (ADR).

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.



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.



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Registration on page 23