The recent announcement by the AOA and the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine regarding the agreement to unify with the ACGME marks a significant point in the history of graduate medical education and the osteopathic profession.

There are many unanswered questions that lie ahead. The ACOI has been studying the potential impact of unification on our training programs for the past two years. Significant concerns were identified and transmitted to the AOA last year. Due to the confidentiality of the unification agreement, it is not known whether these concerns have been addressed. We remain prepared to speak for the values and strengths of our programs as this relationship moves forward.

Let us not forget that osteopathic graduate medical education has been extremely successful. Our growth and our ability to train highly-competent physicians in an economically efficient manner, typically outside of the major university setting, has not gone unnoticed by the federal government and others who make GME policy.

Fellows Nominations Due April 14

The deadline for submitting nominations for the honorary Degree of Fellow is April 14, 2014. The minimum eligibility requirements for consideration are two consecutive years of Active ACOI membership and certification by either the American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine or the American Board of Internal Medicine. Nomination packets have been mailed to all current Fellows, as well as those who are eligible through AOBIM certification. Interested members who are certified by the ABIM are asked to contact the ACOI office for an application as the College does not maintain a complete list of ABIM-certified physicians.

Nominations also are sought for the Internist, Researcher and Teacher of the Year Awards, Master Fellow and Resident Humanism and Teaching Award (see criteria below). The deadline for nominations for these awards is May 15.

ACOI Special Awards

The three special awards made to members of the ACOI are Teacher of the Year, Researcher of the Year and Internist of the Year. The awards are given annually when qualified candidates are identified and include a $1,000 stipend to defray the cost of traveling to the annual convention. The criteria for each award is as follows.

Teacher of the Year

One who has made major contributions to osteopathic medical education, which may include, but are not limited to:

• Recognition through the receipt of teaching awards for excellence in teaching in undergraduate or graduate medical education;

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The osteopathic training model has brought medical education and care into communities large and small, providing high-quality, competent physicians who are comfortable practicing medicine in a wide variety of practice environments, often with limited subspecialty support.

Our teaching principles, board certification system and metrics, and our dedication to producing quality physicians are second to none.

Identifying and promoting the strengths in our successes is essential to the conversations ahead of us. While many fear change, we remain open to the possibility that unification may, in fact, expand our opportunities and allow us to further promote our concepts in medical education. The ACOI Board of Directors is committed to representing our members and to promoting the values of osteopathic internal medicine education that have been essential to our success.

As always, I welcome learning your views on these issues.

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**Letter from the President continued from page 1**

**Tell the Whole Story**

The 1995 Documentation Guidelines for Evaluation and Management (E&M) Services state that “Medical record documentation is required to record pertinent facts, findings and observations about an individual’s health history including past and present illnesses, examinations, tests, treatments and outcomes.” As such, the patient’s progress, response to and changes in treatment, and revision of diagnosis should be documented. The documentation in a patient’s record should demonstrate medical necessity for the service which Medicare indicates is the “overarching criterion for payment in addition to the individual requirements of a CPT code.”

What does all this official, formal language mean to a physician? Simply, tell the patient’s story when documenting a visit. The record communicates information about the patient’s current status and shows what direction the physician is taking in the care and treatment of the patient. The chart record should be a complete and accurate account of the encounter. From the patient’s initial comments about their illness or injury to the ending with the details of a diagnosis and a plan. If it is a complete story, documentation will satisfy all the official language and rules.
Act Now to Repeal the SGR!
The House and Senate committees of jurisdiction have reached agreement on legislation to repeal Medicare’s flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) physician payment formula (H.R. 4015/S. 2000). It is essential that you contact your US representatives to urge them to approve this legislation. With yet another substantial cut in physician reimbursement looming, the timing has never been better for Congress to act. In order to prevent the cut and eliminate the SGR formula for good, final action is needed by the full House and Senate by March 31. Contact your representatives today and ask them to support this critical legislation by visiting http://capwiz.com/aoa-aoia/issues/alert/?alertid=63084721.

CBO Releases New Estimates for Physician Reimbursement Reform Legislation
The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) recently released a cost estimate for the “SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014” (H.R. 4015/S. 2000). Additional congressional action is required by March 31 in order to prevent a nearly 24 percent reduction in physician reimbursement under the Medicare program. The legislation provides a guaranteed five-year positive update of .5 percent and moves the current fee-for-service system to one that is outcomes-based, among other things. According to the CBO, the legislation would cost approximately $138.4 billion from 2014 through 2024. The estimate assumes enactment this spring. The legislation, does not include “extenders” of other Medicare programs that are traditionally dealt with when addressing Medicare physician reimbursement. As such, any efforts to add this omitted component will drive up the cost of the legislation. Enactment of this legislation is further complicated by the application of pay-as-you-go rules which require that the cost of the legislation be offset by increasing revenue or decreasing expenses elsewhere equal to the cost of the bill. The ACOI is continuing to monitor the situation closely.

Surgeon General Nominee Advances in Senate Committee
The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP) approved the nomination of Dr. Vivek Murthy to serve as US Surgeon General. While he is expected to be confirmed by the full Senate, his nomination has been slowed by opposition caused by his vocal support for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and gun control issues. If confirmed, Dr. Murthy will replace Dr. Regina Benjamin who resigned in July 2013 and will become the 19th Surgeon General.

Administration Releases 2015 Budget
The White House issued its fiscal year 2015 budget request on March 4. Included in the request is $1 trillion in federal health spending. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would see a reduction of $1.3 billion. Under the request, the National Institutes of Health would be funded at approximately its current level. In addition, the Centers for Disease Control would be cut by six percent. The President has, however, requested $5.2 billion over 10 years to be invested to fund 13,000 residency positions and improve access to primary care. Unfortunately, the request also includes a 10 percent reduction in Indirect Medical Education (IME) payments to teaching hospitals. Finally, the budget proposal would extend through 2015 a requirement that state Medicaid programs pay primary care at Medicare rates.

The budget proposal is a mixed bag for physicians and medical training. While the President’s budget proposal offers a blueprint for what he would like to see in federal spending, it is unlikely that many of the provisions contained therein will be enacted. Congress is now at work putting together budgets for each of the federal departments that comprise the federal government. It is a process that takes months. The ACOI will continue to monitor budget negotiations that affect physicians and their patients.

CMS Announces Start of Data Collection on Payments to Physicians
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has indicated that data submis-
New Program for Chief Residents, Future Leaders Announced

The ACOI will hold its first Chief Residents and Future Leaders education program May 2-4, 2014 in Orlando, Florida. Designed by the Council on Education and Evaluation, the program will be held in conjunction with the Annual Congress on Medical Education for Residency Trainers, which is attended by most internal medicine and subspecialty program directors.

The program is intended for residents who will be chiefs in 2014-15 and other residents and fellows interested in acquiring skills essential to leading health care teams. The agenda includes sessions that will be held together with the program directors on such topics as The Difficult Trainee, GME financing and the proposed unified accreditation system. Residents will also participate in breakout sessions on conflict resolution, the chief resident job description, social media and professionalism and leading the healthcare team, to name a few.

This program offers residents an opportunity to meet and interact with experienced program trainers and policymakers. It also meets the requirement for attendance at an ACOI education program that each resident must meet once during his or her training program. Registration information is available at www.acoi.org.

The American College of Osteopathic Internists
2014 Chief Resident & Emerging Leaders Symposium
May 2-4, 2014
Registration Form
World Center Marriott Orlando
8701 World Center Drive, Orlando, FL 32821
800 228-9290/Reservations

TUITION FEES
(Includes continental breakfast each day, coffee breaks and welcome reception)

ACOI Chief Resident/Emerging Leader................................. $450
($500 after April 9)*
Additional Resident/Fellow from Same Institution .......... $400
($450 after April 9)*

* Please add $50 for registrations postmarked after April 9, 2014.
A $50 cancellation fee will be charged to any registrant who cancels his or her registration.

NAME:_________________________________________________________
BADGE NAME:__________________________________________________
TRAINING INSTITUTION BEING REPRESENTED:
________________________________________________________________
SPECIALTY REPRESENTED (i.e. Internal Medicine, Cardiology):
________________________________________________________________
MAILING ADDRESS:
________________________________________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP__________________________________________________
OFFICE PHONE___________________________________________________
AOA NUMBER____________________________________________________
EMAIL___________________________________________________________

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION
MasterCard/VISA #__________________________________________________
Expiration Date______________ 3 Digit Security Code_____________
Billing Address__________________________
City/State/Zip______________________________
Signature______________________________

Please fill out only if you are paying by credit card (mail checks directly to ACOI)
11400 Rockville Pike, #801
Rockville, MD 20852
Awards Nominations Sought

Leadership as a program director, course director or director of medical education in which valuable contributions to the profession and a positive impact on a significant number of trainees have been made;

Development of a model program that has led to innovation in osteopathic medical education;

Receipt of Federal or foundation grants;

Publication of articles on medical education in medical education journals.

Researcher of the Year

One who has made major contributions to clinical or basic research related to osteopathic internal medicine as demonstrated by:

• A substantial record of extramural funding from Federal or foundation sources, such as the National Institutes of Health, American Osteopathic Association, the American Heart Association, etc.;

• Publications of original research in referred journals;

• Discovery of new technology, therapeutic interventions, or a new approach to clinical care that has had a significant impact on clinical care.

Internist of the Year

One who has made major contributions to osteopathic internal medicine as demonstrated by:

• The opinion of osteopathic internal medicine leaders relative to clinical excellence;

• Receipt of awards recognizing clinical excellence from hospitals, state healthcare organizations and the community;

• Development of a model clinical program that has made an impact on osteopathic internal medicine;

• Leadership role in clinical direction as a chief of medicine, medical director, etc.;

• Recognition of bedside teaching excellence;

• Excellence as a mentor and role model for osteopathic residents and students.

Master Fellowship

Nominations are sought for candidates for the Grover Gillum Society of Master Fellows, which honors osteopathic internists who have achieved superiority in clinical practice, teaching or research. Individuals accepted for membership will have demonstrated that their participation has raised the level of excellence of the organizations in which they participate. To be considered, a candidate must be a Fellow who is nominated by letter specifically outlining the candidate’s qualifications.

Resident Teaching, Humanism Award

The Board of Directors is seeking nominations for an award recognizing residents and fellows for excellence in teaching and humanistic qualities. The award honors compassion in the delivery of care, respect for patients, their families and healthcare colleagues, as well as demonstrated excellence in clinical teaching. The Board has approved funding for four awards this year, which will be made at the Convention in October. Each awardee will receive a $500 prize, plus up to $1000 in expenses to attend the Convention.

For additional information, visit www.acoi.org or contact Susan Stacy of the ACOI, susan@acoi.org.

Try ACOI’s New App for the Latest Information

The ACOI has just introduced a new way for members to learn about its education programs, news of note and other important information: the ACOI app for smart phones and tablets. The app includes much of the information that is available on the ACOI website. It has links to certification information, GME standards and reports, member services information, board, committee and staff contacts and more. In addition, the agenda materials and syllabuses for all continuing education meetings will be accessed via the ACOI app.

There is no charge for the ACOI app and it is available in all major formats. Learn how to download it via this link: http://eprodirect.com/ema-sites/acoi/.

Member Milestones

David L. Broder, DO, FACOI of Melville, N.Y., was installed as vice speaker of the House of Delegates for the American Osteopathic Association at a meeting of the AOA Board of Trustees in early March. A board-certified general internist, Dr. Broder is a graduate of the inaugural class of the Osteopathic Heritage Health Policy Fellowship. He serves as president and CEO of the New York Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Educational Consortium. Additionally, Dr. Broder is the associate dean for postdoctoral education at the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM) in Old Westbury and serves as a clinical associate professor of medicine at NYITCOM and the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York City.

For additional information, visit www.acoi.org or contact Susan Stacy of the ACOI, susan@acoi.org.
OCC Requirements
Must be Met in Each CME Cycle

The AOA implemented Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) to replace the existing method of recertification in 2013. It is being phased in between now and 2022. The ACOI and AOBIM jointly have created a web resource to assist certified internists in meeting the requirements of OCC. Those holding time-limited certificates that expire after 2015 must register with the AOBIM via the OCC Education Center for Internal Medicine (https://occecim.acoi.org/). Those whose certificates expire prior to January 1, 2016 may recertify under the old system on the AOBIM website www.aobim.org.

In addition to registration, the new website provides information on the OCC requirements, a personal dashboard to track your progress in meeting the requirements, a place to submit OCC activities for approval by the AOBIM, and access to ACOI’s Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Modules, which were created as a means to comply with OCC.

OCC is based on the concept that certification should be a continuous, lifelong process rather than a one-time event. The intent is to ensure that board-certified DOs maintain currency and demonstrate competency in their specialty area.

In addition to previous recertification requirements, OCC requires physicians to complete ongoing educational activities in medical knowledge self-assessment and practice performance improvement.

The ACOI has created a continuing education program in medical knowledge self-assessment that meets the AOBIM requirements for OCC in internal medicine and most of the subspecialties. The ACOI Medical Knowledge Self-Assessment Modules test your acumen in a case-centric format on the 30 most common acute, chronic and other presentations seen by the practicing internist. The modules use the latest in brain science and game theory to help you acquire information quickly, remember it long-term and recall it accurately in the clinical practice setting.

For general internists, completion of 12 of the 15 ACOI modules over the 10-year recertification period provides all of the OCC points required in medical knowledge self-assessment. Completing several of the modules during each three-year cycle meets the OCC requirement for continuous self-assessment of medical knowledge. Certain of the modules provide needed points for subspecialists and internists recertifying with a hospitalist.

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**INTERNISTS - Yakima & Toppenish Medical Dental Clinics.**

We are recruiting for two internists to join our dedicated provider teams at the Yakima and Toppenish Medical Dental Clinics. These are outpatient Internal Medicine positions in multi-specialty clinics. All inpatient work is taken care of by hospitalists and there is only light phone call.

If you are looking for a position that provides you with an opportunity to give back to your community, then consider joining a community and migrant health center. We offer a good salary, beautiful, state-of-the-art facilities, and a well-balanced home life. We are looking for physicians that have a passion for providing high-quality healthcare in a multi-cultural environment.

Both positions are located in the beautiful Yakima Valley where we enjoy over 300 days of sun per year. We are located just a short drive from the beautiful Cascade Mountain range and in close proximity to countless outdoor activities. During the summer months we enjoy an extensive variety of locally grown fruit and vegetables from local farmers.

**A few of our benefits include:**

- A competitive productivity-based compensation program
- A comprehensive benefits package
- A great work/life balance
- Hiring bonus and relocation package
- Loan repayment options
- Visa sponsorship
- Monthly stipend for 3rd year residents

**About Us**

The Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic (YVFWC) is the largest community health center in the Pacific Northwest. We are dedicated to providing our patients with the highest quality care and offering them affordable healthcare options. YVFWC provide comprehensive medical, dental, and social services in over 17 Pacific Northwest communities. Our medical and dental services are complemented by behavioral health services, nutrition services, drug and alcohol treatment, an HIV/AIDS clinic, community health services, the Northwest Community Action Center (which provides employment, training, mentoring, and other case management and referral services), and a mobile medical and dental unit.

**The Pacific Northwest**

You will have the added benefit of living in the Pacific Northwest, where you can enjoy spectacular wilderness areas, scenic ocean beaches, and crystal-clear lakes and rivers. You can enjoy fresh seafood, fine Northwest wines, and a spectacular selection of fruits and vegetables.

You will also be within an easy drive to a thriving metropolitan area, offering fine dining and shopping, theatres, museums, and world-class universities.

If this sounds like the opportunity you have been looking for, please apply online or contact us to learn more about what we have to offer. Call us toll free at 877.983.9247 or email us at providerjobs@yvfwc.org. Our mission celebrates diversity. We are committed to equal opportunity employment.

**Apply Here:** [http://www.Click2apply.net/sk9n88c](http://www.Click2apply.net/sk9n88c)

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**MEDS/PEDS PHYSICIAN NEEDED - Yakima & Toppenish Medical Dental Clinics.**

Are you ready for a change? Do you want a position that allows you to give back to your community? Join a community and migrant health center without giving up a good salary, beautiful, state-of-the-art facilities, and a well-balanced home life. We are currently looking for a Med-Peds physician to join our dedicated team of mission-driven providers. If you have a passion for providing high-quality healthcare in a multi-cultural environment, we would like you to consider becoming a member of our team!

**A few of our benefits include:**

- A competitive productivity-based compensation program with potential of $170k+
- A comprehensive benefits package
- A great work/life balance
- Hiring bonus and relocation package
- $50k guaranteed loan repayment and State and Federal Loan repayment options
- Visa sponsorship
- Monthly stipend for 3rd year residents

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**Apply Here:** [http://www.Click2apply.net/sxx9qby](http://www.Click2apply.net/sxx9qby)
Future ACOI Education Meeting Dates & Locations

NATIONAL MEETINGS

• 2014 Internal Medicine Board Review Course
  March 26-30  Westin Savannah Harbor Resort & Spa, Savannah, GA

• 2014 Challenges in Inpatient Care
  March 27-30  Westin Savannah Harbor Resort & Spa, Savannah, GA

• 2014 Congress on Medical Education for Residency Trainers
  May 24  Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, FL

• 2014 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 15-19  Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, Baltimore, MD

• 2015 Internal Medicine Board Review Course
  March 18-22  The Cosmopolitan Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

• 2015 Challenges in Inpatient Care
  March 19-22  The Cosmopolitan Hotel, Las Vegas, NV

• 2015 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 28-Nov 1  Marco Island Marriott Resort Golf Club and Spa, Marco Island, FL

• 2016 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 12-16  San Francisco Marriott Marquis, San Francisco, CA

• 2017 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 15-19  Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, Washington, DC

• 2018 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 17-21  Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, FL

• 2019 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 30-Nov 3  JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa, Phoenix, AZ

Please note: It is an ACOI membership requirement that Active Members attend the Annual Convention or an ACOI-sponsored continuing education program at least once every three years.

Information on any meeting listed here may be obtained from ACOI Headquarters at 800 327-5183 or from our website at www.acoi.org.

2014 Certifying Examination Dates & Deadlines

Internal Medicine Certifying Examination
Computerized Examination 200 Sites Nationwide
September 11, 2014 - Application Deadline: Expired
Late Registration Deadline: April 1, 2014

Subspecialty & Certification of Added Qualifications:
Aug. 23, 2014  •  Lombard, IL - Application Deadline: April 1, 2014
Late Registration Deadline: May 1, 2014
Cardiology  •  Critical Care Medicine  •  Endocrinology  •  Gastroenterology  •  Hematology  •  Infectious Disease
• Interventional Cardiology  •  Nephrology  •  Oncology  •  Pulmonary Diseases  •  Rheumatology

Internal Medicine Recertifying Examination
Computerized Examination 200 Sites Nationwide
September 12, 2014 - Application Deadline: April 1, 2014
Late Registration Deadline: May 1, 2014

Focused Hospital Medicine Recertification
Computerized Examination 200 Sites Nationwide
May 8, 2014 - Application Deadline: March 1, 2014

Subspecialty and Added Qualifications Recertifying Examinations:
Aug. 23, 2014  •  Lombard, IL - Application Deadline: April 1, 2014
Cardiology  •  Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology  •  Critical Care Medicine  •  Endocrinology  •  Gastroenterology  •  Geriatrics  •  Hematology
• Infectious Disease  •  Interventional Cardiology  •  Nephrology  •  Oncology  •  Pulmonary Diseases  •  Rheumatology
Late Registration Deadline: May 1, 2014

Further information and application materials are available at www.aobim.org or by writing to: Gary L. Slick, DO, MACOI, Executive Director, American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine, 1111 W. 17th Street, Tulsa, OK 74107. admin@aobim.org.

OCC Requirements

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focus. Each module is set-up so that you may complete it in one sitting; or you can pause at any point and complete it as your schedule permits. The modules also provide 5 AOA internal medicine CME credits.

The AOA has indicated that those with time-limited certificates who do not participate in OCC will be listed as “not in compliance” in the AOA database of certified physicians. Because the requirements for OCC must be met throughout the certification period, you are urged you to visit the Education Center for Internal Medicine today and complete the necessary registration.

CME Calendar:
• Professional Opportunities: 6-7
• Member Milestones: 5
• Government Relations: 3
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