



# NEWSLETTER

of the **Association of Military  
Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons**

1796 Severn Hills Lane, Severn, MD 21144-1061  
James M. Yonts, Executive Director, Editor  
(410) 519-8217 jim@amops.org

Volume 24, Issue 2, August 2005

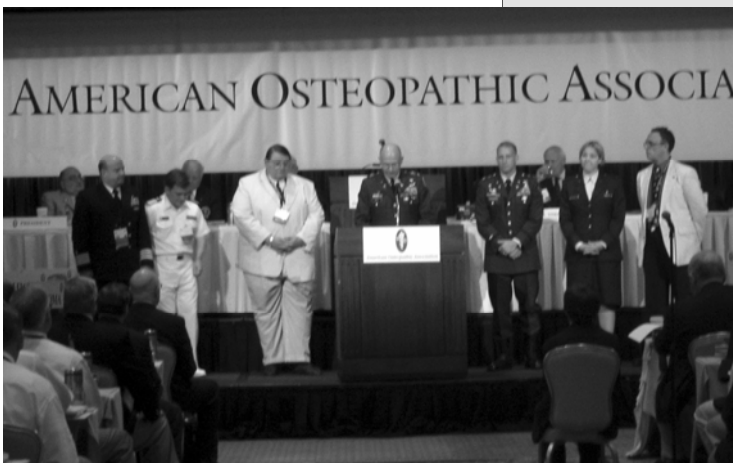
## AOA House of Delegates Supports Our Men and Women in Uniform

Recognizing the fact that AMOPS members can't always take full advantage of the many benefits of AOA membership and in order to support our uniformed physicians, the AOA House of Delegates approved a 25% reduction of AOA membership dues to "those full dues paying osteopathic physician members of the Uniformed Services," previously there was a 15% reduction.

Further, the AOA Board of Trustees had previously agreed "to waive the dues for one year for physicians in the Reserve and National Guard who are called to active duty."

### Reduced Delegation

We did not bring all our delegates to the House due to last minute (needs of the Service) requirements that reduced our delegation, but not the weight of our votes. 2Lt Molly George represented AMOPS at the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) caucus held prior to the House and although not an official delegate to the House sat with the delegation. ENS Bryan A. Currie was at the House as the current SOMA vice president rather than as an AMOPS delegate. We have often had HPSP students in SOMA leadership positions perhaps due to military training or aspirations. (Continued on page 3)



### AOA & AMOPS Joint Membership Offer

This year only, if you are eligible to join AMOPS and were not an AOA member last year, you can join both the AOA and AMOPS for the cost of your \$100 AMOPS dues as part of the AOA's "Get the Power of Two for the Price of One" special offer.

If you did not get your post-graduate training approved by the AOA, this is a great opportunity to initiate that process. AMOPS has a member on the AOA's Council on Postdoctoral Training to help resolve the confusion between military postdoctoral training programs and the osteopathic certification process.

There will never be a better time. to sign up.

**We are always only an e-mail away,  
Jim@amops.org**

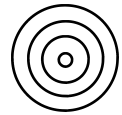
**Stand up and be counted!**

**Please go to the AMOPS website  
www.amops.org**

1. Download the AOA Census Form.
  2. Fill it out.
  3. Send it in to AOA
- This is how they decide how many votes AMOPS has at the AOA House of Delegates, the more votes, the stronger the voice speaking for you.

**The AOA does not know you are a uniformed physician unless you**

## On Target



**CDR David G. Wright  
President**

For those affiliated with the military, summer is often a time of transition: permanent change of station, temporary additional duty, Internship, Residency, Fellowship, operational assignments and deployments happen year round but most often in summer. In July I completed Surface Warfare Medical Officers' Indoctrination and had the opportunity to reflect on the many aspects of military medicine and how they impact the personal and professional lives of military osteopathic physicians. Fresh out of internship, many of my classmates were approaching their first operational assignment with an understandable mix of excitement and anxiety. There were also several more senior officers taking on operational assignments after many years of clinical medicine. This blending of experience levels provided an invigorating environment for study and the opportunity to encourage a number of young DO's with obvious leadership qualities to join AMOPS and participate.



### Changes Coming

Military Medicine as a part of the larger Department of Defense transformation envisioned by Secretary Rumsfeld seems to groan and shudder under the pressure of forces that will significantly alter the practice of military physicians for the next decade. Program Budget Decision (PBD 712) is driving the conversion of hundreds of military billets to civilian providers.

(Continued on page 2)

## On Target continued



In large part, planning assumes that only military unique operational assignments require a uniformed provider and even this assumption is questioned in some quarters. Regardless of how this plays out, it is safe to expect that all of us will find ourselves deployed more often. When not deployed, cost pressures of healthcare will insist that we organize our military medical treatment facilities to provide the very best value of care. The Base Realignment and Closure process promises monumental changes in military healthcare delivery not only in the National Capitol Region but across military medicine.

### High Level Discussions

The Surgeons General of the uniformed services continue high-level discussions on how to best integrate the command and control of military medicine for the optimal performance. All of these personal transitions and organizational transformation will upset the current order of things and certainly provide for exciting times in the months and years ahead for those who relish change, remain flexible, and are committed to serving our nation in dynamic and dangerous times.

Given the operational commitments associated with these transitions, many of the AMOPS board members were unable to attend the American Osteopathic Association's House of Delegates in Chicago. We were able to seat six delegates and we were well-represented. Military DOs were warmly received by the House and honored in both tangible and intangible ways. After Colonel Maul's moving presentation on military medicine which included the video Brigadier General Fox shared with us at the San Antonio conference, the audience was clearly emotionally moved. Practically, the House voted to waive the annual dues of Guard and Reserve Component DOs recalled to active duty and to further reduce dues for all active duty DOs from 15% to 25%.

### AMOPS Well Represented

Our organization continues to be well-represented in numerous leadership positions within the AOA. Captain Lovins serves on the Committee on Post-doctoral Training, a critical liaison for assuring the approval of military-required internships and residencies of our members.

Lieutenant Colonel Phillips anticipates moving into this position. Lieutenant Colonel Kohut sits on the Continuing Medical Education committee and provides us vital counsel as we develop future CME offerings. Captain McBride represents military DOs on the International Council advancing osteopathic medicine world-wide. Most of these leaders have served in these positions for many years and the board is committed to training the next generation of military DOs to excel in these roles. This is vital to our organization's continued broad-based support within the AOA and our continued influence in the years ahead. A uniformed presence is required to assure that the military-unique needs of osteopathic medical officers are understood and supported.

### Mentoring Opportunities

As I wrap up this column, I would continue to encourage each of you to be on the lookout for opportunities to mentor our junior members and to recruit new members with special attention to incoming interns and residents at our training programs. Be sure to highlight the personal benefits of membership including high-quality, low-cost CME, reduced dues structure, camaraderie, and career-development networking opportunities our organization offers. Best wishes to each of you as we move ahead.

## Share Your Stories

We want to put together a CD for AMOPS students to help them understand what it means to a uniformed osteopathic physicians. To that end, if you have a story about your experiences that you feel would help better prepare our students to join the ranks, please send it in to AMOPS. This is another way to help those who follow in your footsteps.

This is another way of mentoring for those of you who do not have the time to work with individual students. You can still help us help them by sharing your experience.



AMOPS delegation escorts COL Maul to the podium to give his report on medicine in the uniformed services to the AOA House of Delegates. (AOA Photo)

## We Need Mentors

We need mentors — people willing to take the time to help the development of those who are coming up behind you. Our request for volunteers has not drawn as large a response as we had hoped. The operations tempo has apparently caused some potential volunteers to have second thoughts about committing time to this cause. While the ideal would be to visit the students in person, many of their questions can be answered via e-mail so it is possible to serve as a mentor from anywhere in the world as long as you have reasonable Internet access.

With the recent start-up of new schools, we have many schools that do not have alumni yet but they do have questions. For a list of all the schools, visit the links page of our website, [www.amops.org](http://www.amops.org). These students are eager to hear about experiences on active duty, in the National Guard, Reserves and the Public Health Service.

### Touch Someone

Mentoring via the internet is the easiest option. If your government travels bring you near one of the schools, or if you live near one, consider making yourself available to these students. Sometimes local military physician recruiters are able to help cover costs of trips to these schools. They need accurate information about careers in the Uniformed Services and the selection process for residency programs.

### Share Your Experience

It is also a way to give back to the profession and ensure that the patients you treat now will still receive quality care after you have hung up your uniform.

We would like to have several volunteers for each school so that no one will find this a burdensome task. All it takes to get started is an e-mail to [jim@amops.org](mailto:jim@amops.org)

Thank you for your consideration.

## Visit "What's New on the AMOPS Website for the Latest on Congressional Bills of Interest

Congress has been in recess, but for the latest on HR 1815 & S 1042 (Defense Authorization); HR 303 (Disabled Veterans Tax); HR 2528 (Veterans Administration/Military Appropriation) and more, visit [www.amops.org](http://www.amops.org) and click on:

**What's New** and use the links to contact your representatives.

AMOPS:  
Uniformed Osteopathic Physicians  
Treating People, Not Just Symptoms

# AMOPS Presentation Stills House

Friday morning COL Maul presented a report on military medicine to the full House of Delegates flanked by the AMOPS delegation to include 2Lt George and your executive director.

COL Maul included the inspirational video used by BG Fox at our meeting in San Antonio in his presentation and the reaction was astounding. I have attended many House meetings and I have never witnessed the total attention paid to COL Maul's presentation not when the AOA president, AT Still speaker or even the Speaker leading an invocation was talking. I don't know that it will last, but that is the closest we have ever come to getting the AOA membership to understand what it means to be a uniformed D.O. I have filled a dozen requests for copies of the video from various osteopathic divisional and regional societies. Both my wife and Mrs. Maul reported noting several attendees misty eyed at the end of the video.

## AMOPS Issues

There was no official AMOPS Board meeting since we did not have a quorum, but a variety of issues were discussed by the delegates. While we did not have the turnout we had hoped for at our CME conference in San Antonio, we cleared \$4,000 due in large part to the efforts of the program director, Maj Wally Rustmann, to secure great local speakers. The idea of assigning people to contact potential educational grant providers was discussed and agreed to by those present.

CAPT Dan Callan is now a member of the United Federation of Osteopathic Societies pool for AOA board consideration. CAPT Callan continues in his role as UFOS Secretary/Treasurer. CAPT Mike Murphy is also in the UFOS pool.

## Osteopathic Pledge of Commitment.

"I pledge to:

provide compassionate, quality care to my patients;

partner with them to promote health;

display integrity and professionalism throughout my career;

advance the philosophy, practice and science of osteopathic medicine;

continue lifelong learning;

support my profession with loyalty in action, word and deed; and

live each day as an example of what an osteopathic physician should be.

We are sending CPT Stephen Homan and LT Matthew Swain to leadership training funded by the AOA through a Pfizer grant. Both CPT Homan and LT Swain have served on the AMOPS board as the student board member in the past and CPT Homan is the current AMOPS treasurer. The training is September 30 to October 1 in Las Vegas. All of the divisional societies were encouraged to send representatives.

## Elections and Selections

John Strosneider, D.O. from Kentucky was elected AOA's president elect and that should bode well for uniformed physicians. It was Dr. Strosneider that introduced the AOA Board resolution that reduced AOA convention fees by 50% when AMOPS was unable to put on a meeting in 2003. He also works with Drs. Murphy, Callan and now Lovins as the Navy continues to relocate to the Pikeville College of Osteopathic Medicine in eastern Kentucky.

CAPT Darrell Lovins continues in his slot on the Council On Post-doctoral Training, COL Steve Phillips serves on the Program and Trainee Review Committee and LtCol Tristan Kohut on Continuing Medical Education and CAPT Wayne McBride on International Relations. Our hope is that CAPT Lovins can become the next COPT chair.

## Online Libraries of Interest

The Deployment Health and Family Readiness Library provides service members, families and healthcare providers a means to find the deployment health and family readiness information. The contents include fact sheets, guides and other products on a wide variety of topics that are made available on a single website for your use. A number of improvements are planned for the library, including a more useful search capability. Please visit their library and provide any suggestions you have. <http://deploymenthealthlibrary.fhp.osd.mil/home.jsp>

The Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce, a collaboration of CDC and other federal agencies, public health organizations, and health sciences libraries. can be found at:

<http://phpartners.org> The website is organized into 10 main categories: health promotion and health education, literature and guidelines, health data tools and statistics, grants and funding, education and training, legislation, conferences and meetings, finding people, discussion and e-mail lists, and jobs and careers.

Mark Your Calendar now,  
April 28 to May 1, 2006  
Baltimore, Maryland

For the first time in many years and only the second time ever, the AMOPS CME conference will be on the east coast. In an effort to try to make it easier for our members to participate in meetings in spite of the increased operational tempo, we plan to rotate our future meeting between the greater Washington DC area, San Antonio and San Diego and also move our meetings from Monday through Friday to Friday through Monday.

LtCol Walter Rustmann has set a high mark for next year's program director Col Vincent Carr to try to equal. If you would like to help Col Carr match the level of this year's program, please contact him at: [vincent.carr@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:vincent.carr@pentagon.af.mil)

While the AMOPS 23d national CME conference is not until next April, Col Carr would welcome your suggestions for speakers or topics now. It may seem like it is a long ways off, but we need to put together an agenda and obtain certification for the program so that it can be promoted in time to allow people to evaluate the program and register to attend the conference. We anticipate putting together a program of 30 category 1A hours.

We can't have pharmaceutical or other companies dictating the program but we do want them to exhibit and provide grants that will help us put on the program. If any of you have a particular contact with a potential grant provider, please let us know.

The following companies exhibited and or provided educational grants in support of the 2005 CME conference:

**American Bio Tech Labs; Astra Zeneca; Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Eli Lilly & Company; Elsevier; Forest Laboratories, GlaxoSmithKline Merck & Co., Inc.; Merck Vaccine Division; Pentagon Federal Credit Union; Pfizer Labs; Pharmacia; Sanofi-Aventis; SonoSite; WSI; and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.**

If you have a contact with these or other potential conference supporters please encourage them to contact AMOPS. We would welcome educational grants to help us keep our program costs low and exhibitors to fill our exhibit hall.

We anticipate having a number of speakers travel north from DC for the conference and hope to have many people travel south the day before our conference for DO Day on the Hill. AMOPS does not lobby the government but all of our members have the right to express their personal opinions to their elected representatives.

## We Need Your E-Mail Address

If this newsletter came in hard copy, we do not have your e-mail address. To keep costs down and serve you better, we are now sending an e-mail with a link to the newsletter on the new and improved AMOPS website, [www.amops.org](http://www.amops.org).

With rising costs and declining pharmaceutical support, we can no longer afford to print and mail four issues each year. The AMOPS website and e-mail can be an effective communications tools. Be sure to let us know how we can make the website more useful. **Please keep us up to date on your mailing and e-mail addresses so we can serve you better.**

Please include your e-mail address on your registration form and use the "Did you move?" button on the AMOPS website to keep us up to date so we can keep you up to date.

We realize that some members may be in a place without good Internet service at least for a while, but as technology moves on there are less and less such places. We also update the website particularly "What's New" more often than a quarterly newsletter.

## Eske Research Seminar Submissions Welcome

We are looking for submissions for the Admiral Eske Research Seminar held during our CME conference next April. Complete details are available on the meetings page of the AMOPS website. Clinton Adams, D.O., Dean, Western University of Health Sciences is coordinating the review of submissions and can be reached at: [cadams@westernu.edu](mailto:cadams@westernu.edu)

Two finalists are selected to make a presentation at the CME conference and receive, coach airfare, one nights stay in the conference hotel, and an Eske Seminar Presenter Certificate. We encourage students, interns and residents as well as all of our other members to share their research projects with the profession.

### 05/06 AMOPS Dues

Our fiscal year runs from 1 June to 31 May. If you were not an AOA member last year, you can get both AOA and AMOPS membership this year for the cost of AMOPS dues. **If your postdoctoral training was not recognized by the AOA, this is a great way to start on the road to AOA recognition for that training.** The form for this dual membership offer can be found at [www.amops.org](http://www.amops.org) on the membership page.

### Items in the News You Would Have Read if you had the Time

Troops wounded in Iraq have come back to the US with unexpectedly high rates of infection with a drug-resistant bacteria. These bacteria have natural defenses against many antibiotics and have proved capable of living on surfaces such as bed rails, tables, etc. for extended periods. Our Veterans Administration hospitals will have to be alert to this challenge.

Health and Human Services and Homeland Security officials have acknowledged that the nation is far from ready for a biological attack with a contagious agent. This is in spite of a national stockpile of medical supplies and equipment and a program to spur pharmaceutical firms to develop vaccines and antidotes.

Our Web site is open 24/7

Visit: [www.amops.org](http://www.amops.org)

or [jim@amops.org](mailto:jim@amops.org)

### The AOA House by 2Lt Molly George

Hi. My name is Molly George. I am a fourth year student at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and I am also enrolled in the Health Professions Scholarship Program with the US Air Force. In mid-July, I was privileged to serve as the national student representative for AMOPS at the 2005 AOA House of Delegates held in Chicago, Illinois. This was certainly a unique experience for me, as I had never attended anything like it before. Although I was not an actual delegate, as a representative I was in a position to be a voice on behalf of osteopathic medical students in the military.

The annual meeting extended over five days beginning On Wednesday, July 13. The first phase of the meeting focused on the student caucus of the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP). Student leders from various osteopathic medical schools deliberated upon 20 resolutions that were presented and acted upon by the House of Delegates. Each of the resolutions discussed dealt with an issue important to students. One resolution in particular, the joint match, initiated a spirited discussion among the students.

Apart from the professional tone exhibited in these discussions, was excited to see

students from diverse backgrounds, schools, and geographical locations proactively and enthusiastically engaged in the process of deciding their future.

The main business of the annual meeting, the AOA House of Delegates, extended from July 15 through 17. Held at the Fairmont Hotel adjacent to Lake Michigan and the Chicago River, delegates from various states and organizations convened to discuss the business and political realities of the medical profession. The delegates' key responsibility, of course, was to debate and act upon resolutions that affect the future of osteopathic medicine. This responsibility was carried out in a manner that gave me a sense that the future of the profession was in good hands.

#### A Military Representative

As the student military representative I felt honored to stand alongside of Army Colonel Ronald A. Maul, D.O. as he presented a military physician update, accompanied by a very moving film of military physicians in action. Colonel Maul's remarks and the sheer awareness of being in the presence of so many dedicated officers and medical professionals stirred in me a sense of pride that I had not felt before.

The weekend had many other highlights. George Thomas, D.O., AOA's past president and Dr. Phillip L. Shttle, DO, AOA's current

president, presented a series of very entertaining videos that highlighted AOA accomplishments of the past year and what the AOA intended to accomplish in the year to come. The caucus discussions, the award presentations and citations were thrilling and inspiring to witness, and the receptions were accompanied with delicious food and beverage. A particularly emotional moment for me was the presentation of the Educator of the Year Award on behalf of Dr. Robert Meals DO who had recently passed away. As a professor of radiology at PCOM, Dr. Meals will be fondly remembered by his former and recent students (including me) for his skill in teaching, his sense of humor and his compassion.

#### Real Highlight

Attending the 2005 AOA House of Delegates Annual Meeting was one of the highlights of my medical school career. I met many amazing physicians and medical students from all over the United States. I was particularly inspired by the individuals I met who have chosen to practice osteopathic medicine while serving their country in the armed forces. In short, as the student representative for AMOPS, I was both proud and humbled to have attended and been part of this wonderful meeting, the 2005 AOA House of Delegates.