



NEWSLETTER

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

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**On
Target**



AMOPS Continuing Medical Education Meeting Evolves to Serve You Better

Our annual CME meeting continues to evolve to serve you better. We have switched our meetings from hotels to military bases and osteopathic medical schools because members were not able to commit to attending far enough in advance to meet contract obligations.

Our 2007 meeting was on the San Diego Naval Base and we are meeting at the UMDNJ/SOM in Stratford, New Jersey May 3-6, 2008. We will be holding our presidential banquet at the Holiday Inn in nearby Cherry Hill New Jersey, 1-800-HOLIDAY or 1-856-663-5300.

www.holidaycherryhill.com

The hotel will also have rooms available at the government per diem rate for AMOPS conference registrants. Be sure to register early to insure a per diem rate rooms and keep us from paying a room block penalty.

Big Topics to Discuss

We have many important topics to discuss. Dues rates have not changed since 1999. Proposed dues increases were discussed in San Diego and will be voted on in Stratford. Those attending the business meeting looked at raising the active rate of \$100 a year to \$125. Rates will be set for all categories during this year's business meeting.

A bylaws change was proposed that would separate the current AMOPS board member that represents both Reserve Component and Retired members into two board members one for the Guard and Reserve and one for those no longer on active duty. If approved the bylaw change would be sent to the AOA House of Delegates for final approval.

New Memorial Lecture

Bob Klobnak who served as the AMOPS Executive Director from AMOPS founding until 1999 passed away last summer. The first memorial lecture in Bob's name will take place next May. RADM Joyce Johnson, USCG, (Retired) will present the first memorial lecture.

Donations in Bob's name can be made to DOCARE International at e-mail docare@osteopathic.org Or website: www.docareintl.org

Mark Your Calendar Now

We have set the date for our next CME conference. We will be meeting, **May 3 through 6, 2008**, in Stratford, New Jersey. The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, School of Osteopathic Medicine, UMDNJ/SOM.

Stratford, New Jersey is just ten miles from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, visit: <http://som.umdnj.edu/>

We are still working on adding speakers and finalizing topics, but we anticipate having eight hours of instruction Saturday through Monday and six hours on Tuesday to allow people to get away easier on the last day.

Let Us Hear From You

This is your chance to suggest topics you would like to present or topics you want to hear someone else speak on, or even people you want to hear speak. Your ideas are not only welcome, they are the key to making this a successful meeting.

Send your CME Meeting ideas to me at: jim@amops.org

We have an opportunity to make this a great meeting, your input will help us achieve that .

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 delegates AMOPS sends to the AOA House of Delegates, the more delegates, the stronger the voice speaking for you.

AMOPS had eight delegates representing you at this year's House of Delegates.

Maj Neil Schwimley AMOPS President

Hello again from Wright-Patterson AFB, OH home of the 88th Air Base Wing, Air Force Research Laboratories, Air Force Institute of Technology, and Air Force Materiel Command. Since my PCS here last summer, the scope of my practice of Orthopedic surgery has broadened.



I am currently doing procedures which I have not done since residency. Dayton is a great place to live – moderate temperatures while still being able to experience all four seasons, many things to do and see.

If needed, Columbus and Cincinnati are within a one hour drive. I have already explored the Museum of the United States Air Force and recommend it to anyone who will be visiting the area and has an interest in military heritage and/or aviation.

One More Follows

I have received good word from one of my med techs whom I was stationed with while at Scott AFB. He had separated from the Air Force while finishing up his required classes for sitting for the MCAT. He had the choice of entering into the Osteopathic or Allopathic medical education system, but liked our philosophy and training.

I am proud to say he will be starting Osteopathic medical school at AZCOM this fall. Knowing his excellent bedside manner, his thirst for knowledge, and skills as an Orthopedic medical technician, I am confident he will be a credit to the Osteopathic profession.

It appears as though we are making headway in The War on Terrorism the Middle East as the weekly casualty listings in the Air Force Times has decreased since the recent troop surge. (Continued on page 2)

On Target, continjured



As the talk continues on whether or not to draw down in Iraq, new thoughts have emerged on building up the forces in Afghanistan. Our needed presence as military medical officers will likely not change in demand over the coming years. With the opportunity to practice in a deployment environment, we will experience and do more than our civilian colleagues.

Making a Difference

The ability of making a difference in the outcome of a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, or Marine in need is what we have trained long and hard for. Our training in Osteopathic Medicine will likely give us an edge in this playing field.

Our battlefield within the medical practice theater is also still active. A Naval psychiatrist recently tried to be recognized as board certified through the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry and was told that it was not a recognized certifying body by the Navy. The medical officer turned to the AOA for help and was immediately redirected to AMOPS.

AMOPS Still Working for You

Many of our members and past officers are currently resolving this issue. It is hard to believe that in 2008 (over 40 years since DO's began serving as military medical officers) that "all the wrinkles" have yet to be ironed out.

As we draw closer to the 2008 AMOPS National CME Conference being held this year at UMDNJ in Stratford, NJ on May 3-6, it is time for anyone who would wish to be a lecturer to get in contact with AMOPS. This will be a great opportunity to tune-up their presentation skills and pass along knowledge to other Osteopathic physicians.

Philadelphia Area Attractions

With the conference being located close to Philadelphia, PA, many historic landmarks will be in the vicinity (such as Independence Hall, The Liberty Bell, the home of Betsy Ross, and others). Please keep the following links to help plan some site-seeing while at the conference: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_sites_of_interest_in_Philadelphia

and

http://philadelphia.about.com/od/historicsites/Historic_Sites_in_Philadelphia_PA.htm.

AMOPS:

Uniformed Osteopathic Physicians Treating People,
Not Just Symptoms

As the annual AMOPS CME conference still remains the best value for your Osteopathic CME dollar combined with the location of this years meeting, it will make an educational opportunity for the entire family.

I will see you in New Jersey!

Maj. Neil L. Schwimley, DO
88th MDG, SGOS/SGCO
Dept. of Orthopedic Surgery
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433

Editor's note: see also

<http://visitsouthjersey.com/>

<http://www.gophila.com/>

MIT Finds Bird & Human Flu Critical Difference

MIT researchers uncovered a critical difference between flu viruses that infect humans and birds. Isolated human outbreaks of H5N1 have raised concerns of a deadly pandemic. The study may help create vaccines that could combat a potential pandemic.

<http://www.physorg.com/news118846913.html>

DoD Authorization Bill Vetoed

The veto of the DoD authorization bill puts many items on hold. Among the items delayed but most likely to come about eventually are an increase in the pay raise of 0.5 percent and the Wounded Warrior Act which seeks to improve medical care for troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

With the Senate not returning to real sessions until January 22 (they are holding one member pro forma session now) the delay is likely to be at least a month if not more.

Traumatic Brain Injury Studied

Soldiers and Marines are often exposed to several roadside bombs during their deployment. We are seeing some personnel coming back with erratic sleep, headaches, difficulty concentrating, fatigue, dizziness and mood changes.

Similar PTSD and TBI symptoms may result in misdiagnosis. Wayne State University is conducting a study to try to determine why so many troops are coming back with TBI and how it might be prevented.

UCLA Studies Spinal Cord Damage

A UCLA study shows that the central nervous system can reorganize itself and follow new pathways to restore the cellular communication needed for movement. This discovery could lead to new therapies for those who suffer traumatic spinal cord injuries.

The study will now try to learn how to entice nerve cells in the spinal cord to grow and form new pathways that connect around or across the injury so that the brain can direct these cells with the goal of restoring mobility to victims of spinal cord injury.

Mentors Needed for Expanding Schools

In our last newsletter a mentor program was proposed, but so far the response has been underwhelming.

Uniformed Medicine is Different

Everyone who has served in the uniformed services recognizes it is not the same as civilian practice. Our HPSP students have questions that are not always easy to answer in a civilian medical school. That is where we need someone that can answer questions about the unique aspects of practicing medicine in the Military and the Public Health Service.

Please Consider Volunteering

We recognize that those in uniform are serving at a very stressful operational tempo and time is precious thing. But becoming a mentor is not necessarily going to demand a great deal of time.

For most mentor interactions we are talking about answering a question via e-mail. We know that most of you will not be located where you can conveniently visit one of the osteopathic medical schools even though the possibility continues to increase as more schools are established.

Visit When Practical

For those of you who do find yourself in proximity to one of our schools, please do consider coordinating a visit with the AMOPS chapter at the school. Please give back a little of your time to make a better profession. Contact me at jim@amops.org

Bird Flu Transmission

The World Health Organization confirmed the first case of inter-human transmission of H5N1, bird flu, in Pakistan, on December 27, 2007. There is no evidence of sustained or community human to human transmission in this incident, family and medical personnel remain asymptomatic.

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.

—ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM—

All requested information is needed for CME credit

25th National Conference

ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

UMDNJ/SOM, Stratford, New Jersey

May 3-6, 2008

Rank _____ Name _____

Service Branch _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-Mail, if applicable _____

AOA Number, if applicable _____

Osteopathic College _____ Year Graduated _____

Registration Fees: check appropriate boxes:

AMOPS Member \$325

Non-Member \$375

Retired, Non-practicing Physician \$75

Physician Assistants & RNs \$75

Intern or Resident \$75

Student, no charge

Spouse \$60

I plan to attend the President's dinner on Monday night (cost is included in all registrations). We need to know who is attending the dinner so that we can give an accurate number to the caterer.

Enclosed is my check made out to **AMOPS** in the amount of \$ _____ to cover advance registration costs as checked above. **Or**

Visa MasterCard

Account Number _____

Exp. Date ____ / ____ (mm/yyyy)

Name on account _____

Phone # _____

Signature _____

Amount Charged \$ _____

Please mail this form and your check to: **AMOPS, 1796 Severn Hills Lane, Severn, MD 21144-1061**

If charging, you may fax completed form to: **410-519-7657**

Odds & Ends That You May Find of Interest; Please Feel Free to Share Your Stories with AMOPS

We Need Your E-Mail Address

This newsletter went via regular (snail) mail, but we send most communications via e-mail. Some Internet providers block e-mail from our server so please visit our website occasionally. **Please send your us your e-mail address and let us know when it changes.** Help us help you. Thanks.

Researchers have found a molecular profile that can detect which precancerous breast tumors can become lethal and which will never become life-threatening, potential saving thousands of women from unneeded treatment. http://www.chicagotribune.com/services/newspaper/printedition/sunday/chi-nat_recap_23dec23,0,3272493.story

Human Genome Sciences said its experimental anthrax treatment improved the survival rate of monkeys exposed to lethal quantities of Anthrax spores. Called ABthrax, it prevents anthrax from penetrating and killing cells, the survival rate for the monkeys was 64% versus none for the placebo group. Government plans also call for vaccine and antibiotic treatment to combat anthrax.



Pictured above is Conference Room 3300 in the University Doctor's Pavilion where AMOPS will hold its CME meeting next May.

The new 'T' strain of acinetobacter identified in injured troops in Iraq and Afghanistan is particularly virulent. It has been observed in troops within two hours of being admitted. It affects the spinal fluid, bones and lungs causing pneumonia, respiratory failure and other complications. Overuse of antibiotics contributes to development of the new strain.

The Military Health System kicked off a re-design of the MHS Web site to make essential information more accessible to medical and non-medical personnel and families, and to improve public knowledge of the system.

The MHS' site includes a crisper look, along with easier to navigate features accessible from a top-level series of buttons arranged under the MHS banner. There are easy to click links to the military services, VA, Public Health Service and more.

The site is easy to find under its new URL, www.health.mil, and now includes a blog that is intended to promote dialogue, not top-down lectures.

Main Page Has Much to Offer

The main page also will become the window into critical information that is currently hard to locate on subsidiary sites such as the Force Health and Protection web page. Highlighting this information will boost accessibility.

Plans call for streaming educational programs to military medical professionals worldwide in the coming months. Mental health, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder are topics considered critical areas for inclusion.

Our Web site is open 24/7

Visit: www.amops.org

jim@amops.org

Free AOA membership for the cost of AMOPS Dues (Only DOs who were NOT AOA members since 5/31/2006)

Contact Information:

AOA ID Number: _____

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Apt., Ste., etc.: _____

Organization, if business address:

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Above address is Home () Work ()

Specialty Organization: AMOPS

Membership Category: Active _____

Payment:

Please provide a check made out to AMOPS or your credit card information.

VISA () MasterCard () (only cards accepted)

Amount: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Membership Fee:

Active: \$100

Mail To:

AMOPS
1796 Severn Hills Lane,
Severn, MD 21144-1061
or
Fax: (410) 519-7657
Phone: (410) 519-8217

A Few Questions:

Do you currently have an unrestricted license to practice medicine in the state listed in your address? Yes () No ()

State License number: _____

Date Issued: _____

Has your license ever been suspended or revoked? (If so, please provide details separately.) Yes () No ()

Have you ever been convicted of a felony offense? (If so please provide details separately.) Yes () No ()

I am applying for membership in the above specified organization and the American Osteopathic Association, and I agree to comply with the constitution, bylaws and code of ethics of these organizations.

Signature: _____

Date: _____