



# NEWSLETTER

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

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## Everything Really Was Bigger in Texas Except for the Turnout

There was a consensus among the attendees that the AMOPS conference struck a good balance of operational medicine and science. The food was great and the camaraderie memorable. The only thing lacking was the number of attendees as AMOPS had its smallest turnout ever.

### Operational Tempo

The operational tempo of the Uniformed Services meant not only that many members were unable to attend because they were deployed, but also that many physicians who were not deployed still were unable to attend because they were covering for those who were deployed.

### Changes Coming

As a result of this year's meeting experience, we are changing the footprint for next year's meeting. Instead of meeting Monday through Friday, we will be meeting Friday through Monday. We will have educational sessions spread over four days rather than five and we will include the weekend in that training time. This should allow more people to get away for the conference and enable local physicians to participate more easily. We will be in Baltimore, Maryland April 27 to May 1.

### 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 \$90 AMOPS dues as part of the AOA's "Get the Power of Two for the Price of One" special offer.

AMOPS is the only divisional society dedicated to furthering the interest of our men and women in the Uniformed Services and our dues, even though they have gone up this year, are still the lowest of any divisional society

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.

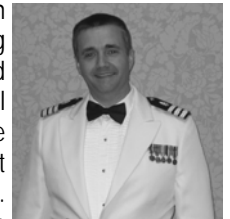
We are always only an e-mail away, please send your questions to, [jim@amops.org](mailto:jim@amops.org) or visit [www.amops.org](http://www.amops.org)

## On Target



CDR David G. Wright  
President

Viva Texas! We have just completed a wonderful conference in beautiful San Antonio. Thanks to the extraordinary talents of LCOL Rustman, 33.5 hours of high-quality 1-A AOA CME were provided and the breadth and depth of topics was unparalleled in our organization's history. Despite the demands of high OPTEMPO, shrinking TAD/TDY budgets, and waning pharmaceutical support, the conference turned a modest profit for the organization.



This success underscores the value of holding our meetings in locales with a large number of high-caliber speakers readily available. This lesson learned, COL Carr is already at work on the program for our next conference in College Park, Maryland with the exact dates to be established soon.

### AOA President Spent Whole Week

We were exceptionally fortunate to have Dr. Thomas, President of the AOA with us for the entire week vice just the President's Reception and Banquet. This gave AMOPS current and former Trustees ample opportunity to share our unique concerns with our profession's leadership in a relaxed and highly-productive setting. In addition to continuing the membership drive that allows new members to AMOPS to receive their first year's AOA membership free (a \$500 savings) for payment of only AMOPS dues of \$90 (if paid by August 1<sup>st</sup>), \$100 thereafter for active members. We also discussed the possibility of a further discount on AOA dues for military members and will keep you posted as this issue moves forward.

(Continued on page 2)



The newly elected AMOPS Board of Trustees with AOA President Dr. George Thomas at the AMOPS Presidential Banquet at the Omni Hotel in San Antonio, Thursday, April 21, 2005.

### Please go to the AMOPS website

[www.amops.org](http://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 has eight delegates representing you at this year's House of Delegates.

## On Target, continued



Dr. Thomas' comments were very encouraging and reflected a deep respect for the service each of provided or continue to provide to our nation. The AOA Board of Trustees has determined to bring as many of the original DOs commissioned in the military in the mid-60's to the 2007 House of Delegates as all-expenses paid guests of the AOA. If you have any contact information on members of this elite group of trailblazers please contact me.

### More Offices Open to Guard and Reserve

We also voted to allow both active and reserve component members to serve as Secretary and Treasurer, offices previously reserved for Active duty members. We need to take every opportunity to encourage involvement throughout our organization at every level. Even with the financial moves approved at the members' meeting, we will need to increase our membership to remain a financially viable organization in the long run. There are at least 2000 DOs affiliated with the military according to AOA records and yet we have fewer than 600 members and fewer than 100 that can make the annual meeting. Every day we run into DOs in our medical treatment facilities that have not heard of AMOPS and may not even be AOA members. Encourage them to join AMOPS and save their first year's AOA dues as well. Those of us in teaching facilities can reach junior medical officers, encourage them to join and mentor them. They are the future of our organization.

In addition to the quality CME, we all enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie of our annual meeting. But even for those unable to attend, the network of members is an invaluable resource. Recently, one of our members was suddenly faced with discrimination within his chain of command and was uncertain how best to proceed. By contacting the AMOPS board, we were immediately able to provide him with insight from the perspective of current and former commanders, flag officers as well as the Surgeon Generals' Specialty Advisors for Osteopathic Medicine for their respective service branch. Ultimately, the incident was satisfactorily resolved and the thoughtful discussion improved communication and understanding.

The newsletter is moving to an electronic format (for the two issues between the Pre- and Post-Conference issues). Please be sure we have your current preferred email address. We will send you a link to the newsletter and you can either review it on line or download as you prefer. For members that would prefer to receive a hard copy in the mail, we will continue to provide this service at your request.

Dr. Thomas reviewed this year's AOA theme as "The Year of the Patient". Many of our organizations are moving to assure that patients and their families are truly at the center of what we do. As leaders throughout military medicine, I encourage each of you to evaluate your practice setting and assess whether your practice is truly patient-centered, or is it patient-centered in name alone.

### Improved Communications is Key

As I conclude my first column as your president, I want to thank each of you for your support and your innumerable contributions to our organization. In the year ahead I believe our most critical challenge is to build our membership. We each have different opportunities to recruit. Guard and Reserve gatherings, training programs, and military clubs at our osteopathic medical schools are but a few of these opportunities. For the Navy Physicians, I would encourage you to visit the Osteopathic Medicine Community of Practice Webpage on Navy Knowledge On-line. Another goal I have as the Navy Surgeon General's Specialty Leader is to upgrade and update this website to be more useful for uniformed Osteopathic Physicians. It represents an excellent opportunity to improve communication with current and potential members. I believe my Army and Air Force counterparts may have this avenue available to them as well. Any efforts we make to improve communications with DOs in the military will benefit our organization and its members in the long run. Take care in all you do and everywhere you go.

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

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**

## We Need Mentors

In our last newsletter we asked for volunteers to mentor the many DO scholarship students wondering about what comes after graduation. Because it was published to our website instead of mailed, we had a limited response.

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

### Reach Out

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.

### Give Back

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.

### AOA's Mentor Recognition Program

The Mentor Recognition Program was developed by in conjunction with the Pfizer Medical Humanities initiative to honor DOs who have shaped the future of osteopathic medicine.

For all the details of the program and to nominate someone for recognition of as a mentor visit

[http://www.osteopathic.org/YOM/Mentor\\_recognition.htm](http://www.osteopathic.org/YOM/Mentor_recognition.htm)

Nominations can be submitted from the website and must be in by **July 18, 2006**, to be considered. You can also print a form from the website and mail it to the AOA.

CDR Steven Banks from San Diego was among those recognized as a mentor by this program last year. We welcome your input into those who should be recognized this year.

AMOPS:

Uniformed Osteopathic Physicians Treating People,  
Not Just Symptoms

# Great Food, Friends and Education

From the dynamic opening talk on Monday morning by BG Charles Fox through the LtCol Rustmann's closing on Friday with an update on COPD, the conference lived up to its promise of education, inspiration and camaraderie. Subjects ranged from practical medicine topics such as alcoholism evaluation and heart failure, to medical ethics and quality management to Air Force medical issues and a Veterans Administration update.

## Attuned to the Audience's Needs

The program was an excellent blend of the practical and the theoretical, all designed to help participants return to their assignments refreshed, recharged and ready to better fulfill their missions.

There was general agreement that this year's program director 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 AMOPS 23d national CME conference is not until April of next year, 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.

The operational tempo for the Uniformed Services being what it is today, some speakers switched their times to accommodate the "needs of the service," but the only speaker who did not make it was LTG Ron Blank, Ret, who was left stranded overseas by airline mechanical problems.

## 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.



BG Dan Perugini, Ret., who now works with General Blanck at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine delivered General Blanck's presentation including a short video depicting what medicine on the battlefield of the future may look like while technology (mechanical problems on his flight) kept General Blanck out of the country.



During a break from the educational sessions, the new tourniquet now being issued to troops in Iraq was demonstrated.



Conference attendees enjoy a Mexican dinner at the Casa Rio restaurant overlooking the River



Medic Statue outside the Army Medical Museum at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

## AMOPS Dues Increased, First Time in Seven Years

AMOPS financial picture has gone downhill for the last several years. The Iraq war caused the cancellation of our annual conference in 2003 and while we have had a conference the last two years, the operational tempo of military medicine has allowed fewer members to attend which also means fewer companies exhibiting.

### Changes for a New Environment

We are attacking this problem on several fronts: a raise in dues; a change in the footprint of our annual meeting; and a variety of steps to cut expenses. While active and associate dues were doubled, this is the first raise since 1998 and our dues are still the lowest of any divisional society. Our meeting next year will be four days rather than five and will go over a weekend rather than Monday through Friday. We will use the Internet more and mailing and printing less while continuing to explore other means of reducing costs without decreasing service.

Comments, questions or suggestions on how we can improve service are always welcome.

## Thanks to our Exhibitors for Their Generous Support

Thanks to those who exhibited at our conference or provided educational grants in support of our CME program. Without their generous support, we would not be able to put on a great program at a bargain price. We would never ask you to use something that did not make sense for your patients, but when their representatives call please try to find time to listen to what they have to say. Exhibitors included:

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

Sanofi-Aventis

SonoSite

WSI

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

Educational Grants were provided by:

Forest Laboratories

Pfizer Labs

Pharmacia

## Electronic Communications Take On a Bigger Role

The new and improved AMOPS website, [www.amops.org](http://www.amops.org) will take on a bigger role in our communications. While this newsletter came to you in hard copy the next one will come to you via the Internet. In order to keep our costs down and at the same time serve you better, we will send you an e-mail with a link to the newsletter which will be posted on the AMOPS website.

### We Need Your E-Mail Address

You need to 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.

With rising printing and postage 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 address so we can serve you better.**

## Eske Research Seminar Winners Recognized by the Profession



RDML Clint Adams, Ret, presents Eske Research Certificates to CAPT Robert J. Mendez and 2Lt Daron Olmsted. The research seminar is named after Admiral Louis H. Eske, D.O., the first osteopathic physicians to achieve flag rank in the military. In presenting the awards, RDML Adams noted the importance of research in the practice of medicine and the influence of Admirl Eske as a mentor to 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. AMOPS is the only organization dedicated to promoting the interests of osteopathic physicians in the Uniformed Services.

AMOPS membership information and dues applications are available with this newsletter, on our web site or by contacting us by phone, fax or e-mail.

Our Web site is open 24/7

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

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

**Free AOA membership for the cost of AMOPS Dues (Only for those who were not AOA members last year)**

#### 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: \$90

#### 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: \_\_\_\_\_