



# NEWSLETTER

## of the Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons

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### San Antonio, a Fiesta of Camaraderie, Connectivity and Education

### On Target



The Golf Club at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio provided a great setting for AMOPS' 28th National CME conference. Topics covered a wide range starting with medical harm on Thursday morning and finishing on Sunday afternoon with advances in cardiac resuscitation.

#### Students Saturday Breakout Session

The Student Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (SAMOPS) had a student break out session on Saturday. They held SAMOPS elections and educational sessions targeted specifically for our student members.

Students learned about economic planning from an American Asset Protection Society representative and about military medical career planning from MajGen Douglas Robb. This is the second year that SAMOPS designed their own breakout session.

#### Eight Star Leadership Panel with Q & A

MajGen Douglas Robb, MG Philip Volpe, RADM Joyce Johnson and RADM Richard Jeffries each presented a topic in their area of interest. They also presented a panel discussion with questions and answers about careers and issues in uniformed medical practice.

I don't know of any other meeting that presents a similar opportunity for all participants looking at careers in medicine from the perspectives of students, junior and senior officers from all of the uniformed services.

#### Brain Trauma and Treatment

Taking advantage of the local psychiatry residency program and the expertise that afforded, this year's program had a strong emphasis on the partnership of primary care physicians and psychiatrists in providing the best overall health care for our patients.

Topics from a psychiatric viewpoint included: medical ethics; chronic posttraumatic headache; and combat related PTSD, risk resiliency and recovery as well as a panel on operational considerations in psychiatry. The medical ethics presentation paired very well with military leadership in a medical setting. (see page 2)

### Mark Your Calendars Now

Reserve **May 3 to 6, 2012**, and join us at GA-PCOM in Suwanee, Georgia for AMOPS 29th National CME Conference. The campus is just 27 miles north of Atlanta in suburban Gwinnett county.

Program updates will be posted on our website, [www.amops.org](http://www.amops.org) as they are developed.

If there are topics you want on the program, speakers you want to hear or a presentation you want to make, let me hear from you at: [jim@amops.org](mailto:jim@amops.org)

#### House of Delegates Meets in July

AMOPS has eight delegates at this year's HOD based on the number of AOA members identified as uniformed osteopathic physicians.

This year's AMOPS has one less delegate than in 2010. What this means is that a relatively smaller number of individuals are taking advantage of the AOA's 25% discount on membership dues for active duty military obtained through AMOPS representation to the profession at previous House of Delegates meetings.

For us to represent you well, we need to hear from you. Share your ideas on the future of AMOPS at our Yahoo Group. There is a link to it on the AMOPS website. Don't curse the darkness, send an e-mail.

AMOPS is your organization, make the most of it. If all the AOA members who claim uniformed service and thus lower AOA dues, paid AMOPS dues, we would cover our operating costs and slightly build instead of slowly depleting our reserve.

### 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.

CDR Eugenio Concepcion  
AMOPS President

### Memorial Day

Colleagues, what a conference! Our 28th annual meeting at The Fort Sam Houston Golf Club in San Antonio April 14-17 was a huge success. A sincere thanks to all who attended. Our AOA president, Dr. Karen Nichols, our flag officers MG Volpe, RADM Jeffries, and MG Robb highlighted this years conference. A special thanks to the presenters and students in attendance—the past, present, and future of AMOPS were certainly well represented. Congratulation to the newest Conclave of Eagles members—RADM Joyce Johnson and COL Max Clark. Congratulations also to the new assignments to the AMOPS board members.



#### Did You Know?

Major Bradshaw put together an outstanding conference this year. Did you know:

The Declaration of Geneva was issued by the World Medical Association to update the Hippocratic oath as a result of atrocities practiced by WWII Nazi doctors.

U2 planes while flying at about 70K feet and are decompressed to a physiologically/physical challenging level of about 30K (commercial planes fly at about 30K and are decompressed to comfortable 8K).

The San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) trains Army, Navy, and Air Force clinicians.

The Center for the Intrepid, BAMC-SAMMC's premier amputee and burn care rehabilitation center has a wave/surf pool for patient rehabilitation—too bad it was closed during our tour—I would have loved to try it out!

40 amputees are currently serving on active duty. (continued on page 2)

## ON Target (continued)

Lessons learned from Iraq include rapid blood testing to facilitate near immediate use of walking blood banks.

DoD leadership discussions are available online on the Military Health System (MHS) website.

The AOA is actively pursuing more AOA GME opportunities for graduating students.

There were so many more teaching and OMT pearls shared by our presenters. Among them, one of my favorites was shared by Col Dardak:

Q. What is the most effective ICU intervention administered through the ear?

A. A kind word.

### A look Ahead

Thanks again to all who attended. Thank you Jim for ensuring our attendees receive their CMEs. I know many of you were able to enjoy the Fiesta San Antonio. I look forward to next year's AMOPS in Atlanta and hope to see you there.

Students and members, start spreading the word. Lets have another great student turnout! Board members, please look at your calendars to try and be available to the upcoming AOA House of Delegates.

Respectfully,  
Eugenio "Gene" Concepcion, DO  
CDR, MC, USN  
President, AMOPS

## Conclave of Eagles Nominations

I know it is a long way from next years CME conference, but please take time to think about those who should be recognized by AMOPS for their service to the profession. Nominations for new additions to Conclave membership may be made by any AMOPS member. However, the selection of future additions to the Conclave is voted on by current Conclave members.

The lead time is needed in order for me to provide the Conclave members with a list of nominees, have them vote on acceptance of the new members and notify those who have been selected of our desire to recognize them at our meeting in May of 2012. This year three of the five nominees were not able to join us for the induction ceremony. We hope that more advance notice will result in more participation.

### Let Me Hear from You

To add someone's wise counsel or recognize past contributions to uniformed osteopathic medicine, please submit a name and short narrative of why you feel they should be considered to: [jim@amops.org](mailto:jim@amops.org)

## San Antonio Conference (from page 1)

The two-hour presentation by Larry Oxenham of the American Society of Asset Protection helped conference participants learn how to protect their assets so they can devote their worrying to how to protect their patients rather than their family.

The two hours devoted to OMT gave everyone a chance for a little "hands on" learning at the end of a day of lectures. The learning atmosphere was so productive that participants had to be encouraged to leave at the end of the two hours so the room could be reset for an evening function at the golf club.

### Neither Weather Nor Technical Difficulties

Neither the weather that trapped Anthony Dekker, DO, nor the problems with feedback from microphones was able to prevent the Sunday morning addiction medicine workshop from taking place. With her BlackBerry plugged in to prevent power loss, RADM Joyce Johnson relayed Dr. Dekker's presentation to participants and audience questions to Dr. Dekker. Although Dr. Dekker's flight was grounded in Baltimore, his slides, CDs and notes were mailed ahead. The weather event and AMOPS response provided a good lesson for students and other participants on the need to be able to respond to the unexpected in order to accomplish the mission. In medicine in general and uniformed medicine in particular, the circumstances are not always what was expected, but the patients or in this case CME conference participants still need to be served.

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### New Marker Identified for Prostate Cancer

A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS) shows promise for more reliable diagnosis of prostate cancer. Current use of the PSA marker has been criticized for false positives leading to unnecessary operations. <http://www.pnas.org/>

Also a ten year study of 19,000 men indicates that symptoms of an enlarged prostate are not associated with the risk of prostate cancer according to study published in the American Journal of Epidemiology.

<http://aje.oxfordjournals.org/>

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### Defense & VA Agree on Joint Health Record

The two departments have agreed to the following steps to reach a joint health record: Develop a common data model; Negotiate data center consolidation; Select a common graphical user interface; Acquire a common enterprise service bus which manages messaging between applications; Set up the open source custodial agent; and Select data models.

### Veterans Crisis Line Record Number of Calls

The VA Crisis Line received 14,000 calls in April setting an all time record for the four year old program. The 24 hour a day/seven day a week line is a suicide prevention and crisis coun-

## AMOPS Members in the Media

AMOPS has had several members in the media recently.

COL R. Todd Dombroski, DO, has been quoted in a number articles about IED protective measures in his role as a surgeon for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization or JIEDDO. Publications have ranged from Military Times to USA Today.

Alan Moloff, DO, COL USA (ret) has an article in Combat Casualty Care, Q2, 2011 on "Medical Management of Complex National Disasters" [www.tacticaldefensemedia.com](http://www.tacticaldefensemedia.com)

RADM Joyce M. Johnson, DO, USCG, (Ret) has a regular column on health care in Military Officer a publication of the Military Officers Association of America.

Do you publish health care advise or other material? Let us know we would like to hear from you and share your media experience. <http://www.moaa.org/>

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### New Treatment for Stroke Patients

A new treatment for stroke patients combining minimally invasive surgery, an imaging technique, and the drug t-PA was reported at the European Stroke Conference last week in May in Hamburg Germany. Led by Johns Hopkins researchers, surgeons drilled a dime sized holes in patients' skulls close to the clot and employed neuro-navigational software threaded catheters through the holes directly to the clots, dripping t-PA into the clot.

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### Army Tries New Scan for Brain Damage

Fort Campbell doctors are trying a scanning procedure more commonly used to study dementia. The scan, single-photon emission computerized tomography, or SPECT, produces data about the level of perfusion or blood flow inside the brain, which is rendered in colors red and white to blue and gray. The results of a SPECT scan can help confirm brain injury and determine treatment which a standard scan is not able to show.

### 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.



Karen Nichols, DO, AOA President, receives an AMOPS coin from Jim Yonts, Executive Director, while CDR Eugenio Concepcion, DO, AMOPS President looks on.



The SAMOPS students attending our conference in San Antonio salute this year's inductees to the Conclave of Eagles.



RADM Joyce Johnson uses her BlackBerry to help present the Buprenorphine support system and office based treatment for opioid use disorders when Anthony Dekker's plane is grounded in Baltimore.



MajGen Douglas Robb, DO, elaborates on Joint Medical Support to the Warfighter.



MG Philip Volpe and BG Daniel Perugini catch up on activities since they last saw each other.



LTC Alexandre Migala describes developments in combat trauma training.



Col Craig Manifold shows a new resuscitation device that he added to the tools employed by the San Antonio Fire Department where he serves as medical director.



MAJ Bascom Bradshaw presents the last talk of the conference before people head to the airport.



The last hour of the day was a perfect time for some hands on training as conference participants got in touch with their bodies and honed their OMT skills. CAPT David Wright discusses approaches with CPT (P) Matthew Kozminski (seated on the portable OMT table). CPT Kozminski spoke during the conference on operational considerations in psychiatry.

Tonya Kozminski, DO, adjusts MajGen Douglas Robb while describing the procedures she is employing to the conference participants. Dr. Kozminski was the presenter for the two-hour OMT program. The first hour talked about techniques while the second hour employed the techniques and provided feedback as the techniques were applied.

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### To all current, future and former Uniformed Osteopathic Physicians:

Last year I asked you to both join and participate in AMOPS, an organization dedicated to serving the needs of uniformed osteopathic medicine. You get out of an organization what you put into it.

This is the organization that advocates for you with the American Osteopathic Association.

Educating the profession on the unique aspects of uniformed service, resulting in a 25% reduction in American Osteopathic Association dues for DOs on active duty;

Securing a permanent seat on the **Council on Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training (COPT)**, to help navigate the challenges to getting postdoctoral training recognized by the AOA;

Placing a representative on the **Program and Trainee Review Council**, to bring understanding of the constraints uniformed service places on an individual, the **Council on Continuing Medical Education**, to recognize the difficulty of obtaining CME while deployed, and the **Bureau on International Osteopathic Medical Education and Affairs (BIOMEA)** to share our unique experience with foreign governments;

This is an organization that advocates for you with the Uniformed Services.

When intern or resident program qualifications are questioned, AMOPS works to educate those making uninformed decisions.

This is an organization that sponsors an annual CME meeting with your needs in mind and hosts both a website ([www.amops.org](http://www.amops.org)) and an AMOPS Yahoo Group (<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/AMOPS/>) to help you stay connected no matter where the needs of the Service take you. This is also an organization with the lowest dues of any divisional society.

Please join, participate and bring a friend. AMOPS provides the framework but you make it a great organization.

Jim  
James M. Yonts  
AMOPS Executive Director