



# 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](mailto:jim@amops.org)

Volume 29 Issue 4, March 22, 2011

### San Antonio CME Conference Less than a Month Away, It is the Place to Be

AMOPS does not lobby, but AMOPS does look out for its members in a variety of ways.

One of those ways is to design an annual CME program tailored to the needs of the uniformed services. We not only strive to find the topics most relevant to our members, but to keep the cost as low as possible for our members. The financial goal of the program is to not lose money rather than be revenue source.

We hope that many local DOs will take advantage of a great program at a great price with no need for them to travel. If our attendance grows the meeting could be a revenue source due to economies of scale, but our goal is good CME.

Whether you are coming across post, across country, or across the world to participate in this program, you will find a program that reflects the challenges and concerns of uniformed medical practice.

#### Klobnak Lecture to Focus on Alternative Medicine

Our program features two memorial lectures. One in memory of AMOPS first executive director and one in memory of AMOPS first military flag officer. The Admiral Eske lecture, by LtCol Richard Blair, DO, focuses on research while the Klobnak lecture, by RADM Joyce Johnson, DO, focuses on Oriental medicine.

#### Separate Saturday Student Program

We are meeting on a military base rather than a medical school this year, but still hope to have a good deal of HPSP osteopathic medical student participation.

Based on the success of last year's separate student program in Pomona, where 40 HPSP students participated, there will be a student program on Saturday, April 16, 2011. The student sessions will include a presentation from the American Society for Asset Protection designed specifically for our student members.

Students joining the AMOPS CME meeting in San Antonio will have a unique opportunity to interact with current and former senior military medical officers not just during the presentations but also during breaks and social events.

Students will also have the opportunity to select the student member of the AMOPS Board of Trustees.

#### Register for San Antonio

Reserve **April 14 to April 17, 2011**, and join us in San Antonio, Texas at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club for AMOPS 28th National CME Conference. The fee for the 2011 conference is just \$430 and includes coffee breaks and lunch each day as well as the presidential banquet on Friday evening, April 15.

Program updates will be posted on our website, [www.amops.org](http://www.amops.org) as they are developed. We anticipate 30 hours of Category 1A hours for the program.

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

#### April Members' Meeting

There are two proposed bylaw changes that will be voted on this year. We welcome your ideas at any time, but bylaw changes need to be published in advance of the meeting to promote consideration by the entire membership, not just those who can make the meeting.

That does not mean you could not bring up other ideas but those not already published to the membership cannot be voted on until our 2012 members' meeting.

**AMOPS is your organization, make the most of it and bring along a friend. Our CME meeting is the best CME bargain available.** You will not find better CME at a lower cost anywhere. And that is before considering the opportunity to reach across ranks and services to learn how best to treat our patients.

#### 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.

### On Target



#### CDR Eugene Concepcion AMOPS President

AMOPS Colleagues,  
Greetings. With just 3 weeks left until our 28th



National Conference in San Antonio April 14-17, I hope this note finds you and your families well. Our conference agenda has really taken shape. Highlight events include our flag officer service

updates, operational critical care, psychiatric and austere environment experiences, and an AOA update from AOA President Karen Nichols, DO. Our traditional Presidential Banquet and Conclave of Eagles Installation are on the agenda as well.

#### Great Food Golf & Education

The Fort Sam Houston Golf Club has quite a venue that overlooks their two 18-hole golf courses. Golf club rentals are available at approximately \$20.00 to those of you not wanting to travel with your own golf sets. With enough interest, their golf pro is willing to arrange a small tourney during our stay.

If you have never visited San Antonio (and even if you have), you are in for a real treat. Famous for the Alamo and the Riverwalk, an added bonus will be the Fiesta San Antonio 2011 which is being held April 7-17.

#### Fiesta Time in San Antonio

This city wide festival is famous for its parades, eating venues, and celebrations that include several military tributes. One such stop includes an elaborate Navy Reception at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club on the 14th from 1800-2130. Take a moment to check out the festival website:

[www.fiesta-sa.org](http://www.fiesta-sa.org) for details and tickets.

*(editor's note: Fiesta is a great time to visit San Antonio as those who attended our 2005 conference discovered.)*

(On Target Continued on Page 2)

## On Target, continued



Remember, we anticipate the AOA to grant approval for 30 category 1-A hours of CME for this year's conference, and AMOPS will take care of reporting earned CMEs to the AOA.

Look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.  
Respectfully,  
Eugenio "Gene" Concepcion, DO  
CDR, MC, USN

### Housing Options in San Antonio

Post housing is a possible option, visit: [www.ihgarmyhotels.com](http://www.ihgarmyhotels.com) and enter Fort Sam Houston to check availability. The Army Medical Department Center & School often uses the Residence Inn Marriott San Antonio Airport which offers government rate and continental breakfast.

Your executive director plans to stay at the Marriott Residence Inn Airport. It offers government rate, continental breakfast and is just five miles from Fort Sam Houston.

<http://www.marriott.com/travel/satap-residence-inn-san-antonia-airport/>

or try one of the hotel locator websites such as <http://hotelguides.com/texas/fort-sam-houston-tx-hotels.html>

<http://military-hotels.us/texas/fort-sam-houston-tx.html>

<http://www.expedia.com/Fort-Sam-Houston-Hotels.0-16127453-0.Travel-Guide-Filter-Hotels>

<http://san-antonia.hotelscheap.org/>  
[www.priceline.com](http://www.priceline.com)

### Insuring DO Degree Recognition

On occasion we still have to remind people about the DO degree. Recently we worked with the American Osteopathic Association's General Counsel to remind the Veterans Administration or more accurately, CompHealth working on behalf of the VA. The following letter was sent to Josh Prober, AOA General Counsel.

"This is in further response to your correspondence concerning the eligibility of osteopathic physicians for VA physician positions, with specific reference to a job listing at the San Diego VA Medical Center.

We have received the information relating to your query from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) that we requested.

I want to assure you that osteopathic physicians qualify for employment in VA physician positions. In fact VA employs many osteopathic physicians. With respect to the particular job listing included listing included with your correspondence, VHA asked San Diego Human Resources whether they exclude osteopathic physician candidates and they responded that they do not. VHA provided additional information that the job listing was not a VA employment job announcement. Rather it was an announcement for "agency physicians" through CompHealth, an agency that contracts with the San Diego VA for locum tenens. It appears that CompHealth ran the job listing without prior review by San Diego VA contracting officials. These officials planned to contact CompHealth to inform them that osteopathic physicians qualify for physician positions at VA.

We hope this information addresses the concerns that you raise.

Sincerely yours,  
//s//

Walter A. Hall  
Assistant General Counsel  
Department of Veterans Affairs"

### High Failure Rate in Brain-injury Test Tool

The standard tool used to measure traumatic brain injury on the battlefield fails between 25 and 33 percent said LTG Eric Shoomaker, Army Surgeon General, in response to Representative Joe Heck, DO, a Republican representative from Nevada and colonel in the Army Reserve. Heck also said that the Military Acute Concussion Evaluation (MACE) test has serious flaws including the fact that some soldiers merely memorized the test allowing them to return to duty without a real evaluation.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Tiny Robots Swim Through Eyes

A new tiny robot can be steered through the eye to deliver drugs or perhaps even perform micro surgery. While only performed on pig cadavers at this time, live animal test will begin soon. Microbots are injected into the eye via a needle and electro-magnetically controlled to eliminate the need to carry fuel on board. For more see PC World 15 March 2011. <http://www.pcworld.com>

\*\*\*\*\*

### CPR Method Increases Survival Rate

A five-year clinical trial suggests that a new CPR method can increase the survival rate by 50%. Standard CPR provides less than 25% of normal blood flow to the heart and brain. The new method uses a suction cup that attaches to the patient's chest to manually lift the chest after each compression and a face-mask that prevents air from rushing into the lungs while the first device raises the chest. The study was published on-line in the January 19, 2011, issue of Lancet.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### Search Engine for the Body

Microsoft researchers have developed a tool to index images of the human body. On CT scans it automatically finds organs or other structures to help navigate 3-D medical imagery. (Technology Review March 10, 2011)

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

## Conclave of Eagles, AMOPS: Past, Present and Future

New additions to the COE and those who were not able to attend the initial COE installation in Pomona this year will be inducted on April 15, 2011, at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club.

The five new people to be recognized this year are: RADM Joyce Johnson, USCG, DO; RDML Murray Goldstein, USPHS, DO; CAPT Denny Amundson, USN, DO; COL David Towle, USAR, DO; and James Lally, DO.

Nominees are selected to recognize past contributions to uniformed osteopathic medicine and to encourage their wise counsel in AMOPS' future.

The first induction ceremony, held last year, brought back several AMOPS members from the early days of the association. We hope they, as well as new Conclave members will

stay involved in AMOPS even after they hang up their uniforms. The creation of the Conclave of Eagles and the addition of a retired representative on the AMOPS Board of Trustees is part of an ongoing effort to involve our members from the time they sign an HPSP scholarship agreement or accept a commission in the uniformed services throughout their life.

Any AMOPS member can recommend an individual for consideration. Please consider nominating any individuals you feel should be considered for induction in 2012. Just tell me who you think should be considered and why at: [jim@amops.org](mailto:jim@amops.org)

AMOPS executive director collects the nominations and presents them to Conclave members who select those to be added to the Conclave from among the nominees.

### 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.

## Retired & Student Bylaw Changes Proposed

These proposals were printed in the December Issue of your AMOPS newsletter mailed to all AMOPS members. It was also posted to the AMOPS website, [www.amops.org](http://www.amops.org)

The member category change would create a Retired and Non-Practicing membership category. The category would be for DOs who have served in the uniformed services and are no longer practicing medicine. The second proposed change would make adjustments to AMOPS student membership including how the student member of the AMOPS Board of Trustees is selected. **Please come prepared to discuss and vote on these proposals. This is your change to shape the structure of AMOPS.**



General James F. Amos, Commandant of the Marine Corps, congratulates Carol Jeffries, and Rear Admiral Richard R. Jeffries, Medical Officer of the Marine Corps, as they begin the next chapter of their life while Vice Admiral Adam M. Robinson, Surgeon General of the Navy and Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery looks on. Photo by Combat Visual Information Center, Arlington, Virginia



VADM Robinson, RADM Jeffries, and GEN Amos rendering honors during the retirement ceremony of RADM Jeffries. Photo by Combat Visual Information Center, Arlington, Virginia.

RADM Jeffries began his naval career in 1976. He graduated from the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines, Iowa in 1979. His assignments included serving as Artillery Regimental Surgeon for the 11th Marines, Deputy during Desert Shield, Division Surgeon for the 1st Marine Division, Force Surgeon for Marine Forces Pacific, JFMCC Surgeon in support of hurricane Katrina relief efforts, Commander of the National Naval Medical Center and Medical Officer of the Marine Corps. RADM Jeffries is an AMOPS past-president. RADM and Mrs. Jeffries will join AMOPS in San Antonio for the AMOPS CME Conference in April.

## Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (AMOPS) 28th National CME Conference, April 14–17, 2011, San Antonio, Texas, Fort Sam Houston Golf Club

### Thursday April 14, 2011

0730 Register – Get Badge & Program, etc.  
0745-0800 Orientation & Opening Remarks  
0800-0855 Patient Safety, CAPT Wayne McBride, DO  
0900-0955 Medical Ethics, Maj Jason Miller  
0955-1020 Break  
1020-1115 Military Leadership in Medical Setting, COL James Asher, DO  
1115-1210 Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy, Col Rob Michaelson  
1210-1410 Critical Care/Pulm in Austere Environment? Col Stephen Derdak  
1415-1510 Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy & Traumatic Brain Injury;  
Col Rob Michaelson  
1510-1530 Break  
1530-1625 Intrepid Center, Long Term Rehabilitation;  
MAJ Bascom Bradshaw, DO  
1625-1720 Military Medical Research Developments;  
COL Todd Dombroski, DO

### Friday April 15, 2011

0800-0855 Army Medicine Update; MG Philip Volpe, DO  
0900-0955 Naval Medicine Update; RADM Richard Jeffries, DO  
0955-1020 Break  
1020-1115 Air Force Medicine Update; MajGen Douglas Robb, DO  
1115-1210 San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) Transition Update; Col. Stephen J. Nyles  
1210-1315 Lunch  
1315-1410 Flag Officer Leadership Panel  
1415-1510 Traditional Oriental Medicine, RADM Joyce Johnson, DO  
1510-1700 AMOPS Members' Meeting  
1830-1930 Cocktails  
1930-2030 Presidential Banquet  
2030-2100 AOA Update, Karen Nichols, DO, AOA President  
2100-2130 Conclave of Eagles Installation  
2130-2200 AMOPS Update, CDR Eugene Concepcion, DO

### Saturday April 16, 2011

0800-0815 Welcome  
0815-0905 ICU Operations at Balad Hospital; LtCol Walter Rustmann, DO  
0905-0955 Preparing Future Physicians for the U.S. Military--the RVUCOM Military Track; Bruce Durbin, DO  
0955-1010 Break  
1010-1200 Improved Patient Care Through Lawsuit Protection and Prevention; Larry Oxenham, Amer. Society Asset Protection  
1200-1315 Lunch  
1315-1410 Operational considerations in Psychiatry; Maj Jason Miller, DO  
1415-1510 Operational considerations in Psychiatry, Panel; SAMMC Psych  
1440-1455 Break  
1455-1545 Treatment of Vulvar Cancer; Col Max Clark, DO  
1545-1635 OMT Techniques Tonya Kozminski, DO  
1635-1730 OMT Workshop Tonya Kozminski, DO

### Sunday April 17, 2011

0800-0955 Physicians' Clinical Support System, Anthony Dekker, DO  
0955-1010 Break  
1010-1200 Office-Based Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders,  
Anthony Dekker, DO  
1200-1230 Lunch  
1230-1325 TBD; LtCol Craig Manifold, DO  
1330-1425 Fatigue Management, MAJ Bascom Bradshaw, DO  
1425-1435 Final Remarks and Adjourn

Dear AMOPS Member,

I want to take this opportunity to ask your help in guiding the future of AMOPS. Please share what you want out of your professional association.

AMOPS represents the interests of uniformed osteopathic physicians on various American Osteopathic Association bureaus and committees. We have a member on the Committee on Continuing Medical Education, Committee on Post-doctoral Training, Program and Trainee Review Council and the Bureau on International Osteopathic Medical Education and Affairs. AMOPS also sends a delegation to the AOA House of Delegates. This representation to the larger osteopathic profession allows AMOPS to help the profession understand the unique aspects of medical practice in the uniformed services. It allows us to explain how deployments and the needs of the service can sometimes make it impossible to meet CME or other requirements in the expected timeframe.

We also work to insure the proper recognition of the DO degree as noted on page two of this newsletter.

AMOPS also holds an annual Continuing Medical Education Conference. We try to use as many members as possible as speakers and focus on topics that our members have indicated will best serve their needs. We encourage networking across ranks and Services to the mutual benefit of all. This annual CME meeting is the only place I know of where generals and admirals and ensigns and second lieutenants hold free flowing conversations and where physicians across all the services look to share what works for their patients and might work for other services patients as well.

The annual meeting is the best CME bargain I know of. AMOPS works to keep the costs low and quality high. While the meeting is a bargain, each year it seems to get harder for our members to meet their other military and specialty obligations and attend our meeting. This is why we have moved from meeting in hotels to meeting at military bases and osteopathic medical schools. We don't know until the conference starts how many people we will have and thus can't guarantee a hotel room block.

I need to hear from you. As your Executive Director I serve to meet your needs.

Is there something we can do to make our CME meeting better for you?

Change the number of hours in the meeting? Change the time of year?

Change the days of the week? Change the location?

Add different topics? Drop certain topics?

Add different speakers? Drop certain speakers?

Is there something we can do to improve our electronic communications?

Change the topics listed on the website? Update the website more often?

Expand the website? Add more links to the website?

Provide more or less mass e-mails? Change the topics of mass e-mails?

More content, more frequent updates to AMOPS Yahoo Group? AMOPS on Facebook?

How else can your professional association better serve your needs?

I look forward to hearing from you ([jim@amops.org](mailto:jim@amops.org)).

Sincerely,

James M. Yonts

AMOPS Executive Director

### The City of San Antonio Has Something for Everyone

To learn more about why the city of San Antonio is not only the best CME destination next April but also a great tourist destination visit some of the following websites to learn what is available when you are not participating in the educational program:

[www.thealamo.org](http://www.thealamo.org) The Alamo [www.fiesta-sa.org](http://www.fiesta-sa.org) Fiesta News and Events

[www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com](http://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com) Food & Shopping [www.buckhornmuseum.com](http://www.buckhornmuseum.com) Cowboy Museum

[www.sanantoniocvb.com](http://www.sanantoniocvb.com) Visitors Bureau [www.nps.gov/saan/](http://www.nps.gov/saan/) National Park Service

[www.heartofsanantonio.com](http://www.heartofsanantonio.com) San Antonio Sites [www.sabot.org](http://www.sabot.org) Botanical Gardens

[www.alamocity.com](http://www.alamocity.com) San Antonio Sites

[www.casa-rio.com](http://www.casa-rio.com) One of many outstanding Mexican Restaurants on the Riverwalk, AMOPS went there as a group in 2005. This year we are not visiting any of these sites as a group, but we will be visiting the Intrepid Center as part of the program.