



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

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AMOPS Members' CME Opportunities: Working with AOA and AMSUS

On
Target



LTC Bret T. Ackermann
President

AMOPS is partnering with a variety of organizations to provide you the best possible service. The AOA is offering active duty military half price conferences fees for its convention in Las Vegas next month, visit www.amops.org for details. While AMSUS is allowing AMOPS members to attend the AMSUS meeting in San Antonio at the AMSUS member rate if registered by **October 6**. AMOPS will host a one day CME program at AMSUS on Sunday, November 5, 2006, visit <http://www.amops.org/meetings.html> for details.

AMOPS in San Diego

AMOPS will still host our own CME program at the San Diego Naval Base next April (April 26 to 29, 2007). This is the first time our regular annual meeting will be held on a military base rather than a civilian hotel. We will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of AMOPS founding and the 40th anniversary of D.O.s serving in the Uniformed Services.

Topics and Speakers Wanted

As is so often the case in the last few years, our program chair for the San Diego meeting, LtCol Don Christensen, has been deployed and his local San Diego back up CDR Steve Banks, steven.l.banks1@navy.mil will deploy before the April meeting. Please let him know if you have a topic or speaker to suggest. We are particularly interested in local speakers in order to keep down costs for our members, but all topics are welcome. We want to put on the best possible program to help you help your patients.



CAPT Dan Callan (left) and CDR Allan Finley consider an AOA House of Delegates resolution in Chicago.

AOA & AMOPS Joint Membership Offer

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.

AMOPS is the only divisional society dedicated to furthering the interest of our men and women in the Uniformed Services and our dues 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 or visit www.amops.org

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.

All the Way! This is THE phrase within the Airborne community (not to mention the motto of the 82d Airborne Division). This should also be the motto for all osteopathic physicians in the uniformed services. No, I am not recommending everyone put on a T-10 parachute with reserve, weapon, and seventy-five pounds of light-weight equipment and jump out of perfectly functioning aircraft. Although those assignments are available, and if anyone is interested please contact me (if you are in the Army) and I'll direct you to the persons you should be talking to.



Get Involved

In this specific case I am referring to everyone of us, myself included, contributing as much as we can to the continuing success of your organization, AMOPS. This is not a plea for more money; that would be easy. It is a challenge to become more involved with the continued growth of AMOPS. How far do I want you all to become involved? All the way!

AOA House of Delegates

In July, I attended the AOA House of Delegates meeting in Chicago, IL where John A Strosnider, DO was sworn in as President of the American Osteopathic Association. Dr. Strosnider's address was probably the best one I have heard since I have been attending the House of Delegates since 2000. Dr. Strosnider warned that "when times are good, we become complacent", and he challenged the entire profession to "join him in battle and get "Back to Basics" returning to our essential, fundamental osteopathic philosophy."

(Continued on page 2)

On Target, continued



He further highlighted that to “go from good to great requires disciplined thought and action, a passion for the osteopathic profession, an unrelenting desire to excel, and requires volunteer resources and financial resources.” He was speaking to the entire AOA representation, but he could have just as easily been specifically targeting AMOPS.

AMOPS Represents You

AMOPS is your organization, and we have a very good track record for successfully serving as your advocate for balancing your requirements towards the AOA with the requirements of the medical departments of the Services. Several years ago AMOPS was able to get the AOA to pass a resolution allowing Reserve and National Guard members to choose to have AMOPS as their primary society, if they desired, as opposed to having their state as their primary affiliation. On individual basis, AMOPS has worked with the GME departments of many medical treatment facilities and the AOA, to have internships and residencies attain AOA-approval. Bottom line, AMOPS is your organization it is here for you.

Your Advocate Since 1977

Since its chartering, AMOPS has always been a good organization, but how far do we have to go to become a great organization in line with Dr. Strosnider's vision? The answer: we have to go All the Way! Just like exiting an aircraft at 1,000 feet on a moonless night, it all starts with a single step outside of the door. Your first step is increasing your ACTIVE involvement in AMOPS, whatever that may be. Joining is simply not enough; you will not go all the way just by paying dues once a year. Take an active role in the myriad of opportunities in AMOPS and the AOA.

Volunteer to Speak

AMOPS is a divisional society within the AOA. Everything you do as a member of AMOPS is experience on the local or national level of leadership. Volunteer to speak at AMOPS conferences; this is a national level meeting that you can put on your Curriculum Vitae. This year (**editor's note April 2007**) it will be in San Diego, CA, so residents and staff in this area, please contact our executive director, LTC (Ret.) Jim Yonts, to get on the speaker slate. You will do two things: you will get to speak at a national-level meeting, and you will be helping AMOPS financially. For the first time, AMOPS is partnering with AMSUS at their national meeting in San Antonio later this fall.

We will have one day (**Eight hours of CME on Sunday, November 5, 2006, www.amsus.org**) for a joint meeting with them, and we are looking for osteopathic physicians to speak. If you are attending AMSUS already, you have a chance to be a speaker on an international-level. Again, contact LTC (Ret.) Yonts if you want to participate.

We Are All Leaders

As commissioned officers within the Department of Defense, we are leaders whether we are the Office-in-Charge of an Aid Station or Clinic, the only doctor on duty in the Emergency Department, or if we are the Commanding General of 44th Medical Command, as is BG Phillip Volpe, an osteopathic physician and AMOPS member. Get involved in the leadership of AMOPS.

AMOPS Website Has Information

If you are a student, become an officer in your student chapter, or start a chapter if your school does not have one. I did at what was then SECOM in 1989. If you are a resident, get on one of the resident committees; duty may prevent being physically present at some of these organizations, but email makes it easier to be heard.

Staff physicians: I want to hear you volunteering to serve as AMOPS board members. My time on the Board has much more time behind it than in front of it, and positions will be open for aggressive soldiers, sailors (even ones serving with the US Marine Corps), airmen, or coast-guardsmen to take on these positions and make them their own. The AMOPS meeting this spring in San Diego, CA will be where this will occur. Speaking of the San Diego meeting, our program director looks like he will be deployed (**editors note: he has been deployed, but should be back in time for the meeting**).

Ask any of us who have attended or even our young students who if you have been to conferences and said to yourself, “that slate of speakers was O.K., but it could have been much better if we did X, Y, and Z.” Well now is your chance to define what your X, Y, and Z would be. Contact LTC(Ret.) Yonts if you are interested; and we have had co-chairs in the past.

Opportunities to Get Involved

Additionally, volunteer to serve as a delegate to the AOA House of Delegates. AMOPS receives a certain number of seats, and we can bring alternates as our financial situation allows.

AMOPS:
Uniformed Osteopathic Physicians Treating People,
Not Just Symptoms

Dr. Strosnider issued his challenge to all osteopathic physicians, not just AOA members. Likewise I issue a similar challenge to all osteopathic physicians and HPSP and Reserve osteopathic medical students. It was less than fifty years ago that osteopathic physicians did not have the same practice rights in the Department of Defense that our allopathic colleagues did. The Medical Corps officers who are osteopathic physicians won these battles for us; so thorough is their victory that today, our patients rarely know if their doctor is an MD or DO.

All the Way

Do not descend into complacency. Show your patients that there is a difference, and simultaneously make the AOA, through AMOPS, great by going All the Way in both the Profession of Arms and the Osteopathic Medical Profession.

House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees approve legislation

H.R. 4843 and S. 2562, provide a 2007 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for disabled veterans and their survivors. VA beneficiaries' COLAs require separate legislative approval every year.

Senate bills (S. 3421) to authorize funding for VA hospitals and clinics and (S 2694) a variety of changes, from accelerated payment of GI Bill benefits to veterans in certain fields (e.g., construction, hospitality, energy and transportation) to allowing veterans to hire lawyers to represent them in VA claims proceeding.

To check on the progress of these of other bills visit the U.S. Senate at: www.senate.gov, the U.S. House of Representatives at: www.house.gov or the Library of Congress which publishes Congressional activity at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>



CAPT Dan Callan makes good on his challenge by paying double the dues rate as he hands AMOPS president LTC Bret Ackermann a check for \$200. So far 53 AMOPS members have donated double their dues or more. However what we really need for financial solvency is for those non-dues payers to join AMOPS.

We Still Need Mentors

With the many new osteopathic schools, we have a growing number of students who are hungry to hear about our experiences on active duty, the National Guard, Reserves and the Public Health Service.

Consider Volunteering

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. They need accurate information about careers in the Uniformed Services and the selection process for residency programs.

You Can Help

We would like to have several volunteers for each school. All it takes to get started is an e-mail to jim@amops.org

Veterans Hospitals Practicing Cutting Edge Medicine

The VA operates the largest integrated health-care system in the U.S. with more than 1,400 hospitals and clinics, nearly 15,000 physicians and more than 60,000 nurses. For the sixth straight year, VA hospitals scored higher than private facilities on the University of Michigan's Customer Satisfaction Index, based on patient quality of care surveys.

Doing More with Less

In the past ten years, the number of veterans being treated has gone from 2.5 million to 5.3 million while the number of VA employees has decreased by 10,000. The cost in private care has increased 40% while the VA per patient cost has remained steady.

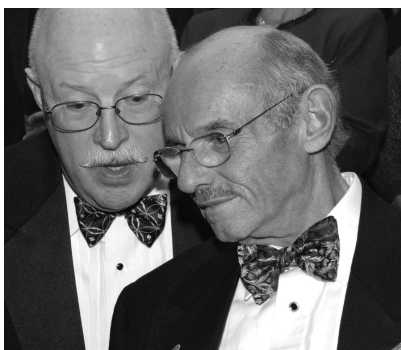
Information Technology is the Key

Patient records were transferred to a system-wide computer network. That means that when a veteran is treated, the doctor has the complete medical history on a laptop. And that means that tests are not needlessly repeated because the doctor has the patient's medical history at hand.

Another change was a bar-code system like that used in the commissary. That allows for matching a patient's wrist band with and a prescription using a hand held bar-code reader. If the codes don't match, the laptop alerts the nurse. These checks have virtually eliminated medication errors at VA hospitals.

Preventive Medicine Stressed

The VA eliminated half its hospital beds and put those resources into 300 new clinics. Keeping patients healthy and out of the hospital saves tax dollars.



CAPT Mike Murphy (Ret.) who rejoined the AOA Board of Trustees at this year's House of Delegates confers with incoming AOA president John Strosnider, D.O.

Photo by Michael Fitzgerald, courtesy of the American Osteopathic Association.



AOA President Philip Shettle, Mrs. Suzie Shettle, LCDR Richard Jadick and Melissa Jadick, D.O. acknowledge the applause from the floor of the AOA House of Delegates as CDR Jadick receives an AOA Presidential Citation recognizing his service in Iraq.

Photo by Michael Fitzgerald, courtesy of the American Osteopathic Association.

AMOPS Now On-Line Not Print

AMOPS has switched from print to on-line for most of our communications in order to conserve money and serve you better.

We still do a quarterly newsletter, but it is posted on line. We also do a short monthly e-mail with updates and links back to the AMOPS website.

Staying In Touch More Important than Ever

It is critical that you keep us up to date on your contact information since we will not get postal returns from quarterly mailings.

Just click the "Have you moved?" button on the AMOPS website or send an e-mail to jim@amops.org

If you do not have e-mail and Internet access, please let us know that as well so we can make other arrangements to stay in touch.

Board Recommends Joint Medical Command by 2007

The Defense Business Board has recommended that a task force be created to oversee establishment of a Unified Medical Command by January 1, 2007.

The Unified Command would take charge of all direct-care health services of the Army, Navy and Air Force. It would also streamline medical logistics, purchasing, information technology, research and development, facility operations, and the education, training and assignment of medical personnel.

Separate Field Hospitals

The services would continue to control medical care in support of front-line units and field hospitals. But Level III operational medicine, all military hospitals and clinics would be run by the new command. The board recommends that the new Command report directly to the Secretary of Defense.

Milestones Recommended

The board also recommended that a transition team for establishing the unified command be created and given 30, 60 and 90 day milestones to ensure progress toward standing up the command. Since DoD already has authority to streamline health services, the board believes legislation is not required.

The services separately recruit, train and assign medical staff and operate three separate systems for logistics, purchasing of supplies and equipment, budgeting, and quality assurance. According to the Center for Naval Analyses, maintaining these separate functions wastes up to \$500 million annually.

We will post updates concerning this on the AMOPS website as they develop.

AMOPS Meeting with AMSUS

AMOPS is going to hold a one day CME program in conjunction with the AMSUS convention in San Antonio, November 5.

This will allow osteopathic physicians to pick up AOA approved credit while attending the AMSUS convention. There will be no extra charge for the AMOPS program.

The program is posted on our website. The presentations will be open to all AMSUS attendees and will not require a separate registration.

You will however have to turn in a form certifying your participation in the program at the end of the day, so we can file your CME credit with the AOA.

Join in the Eske Research Seminar in San Diego

As we celebrate AMOPS 30th birthday at our CME conference, show us what you are working on and apply to present your research project. Application details are on the AMOPS Meetings page, <http://www.amops.org/meetings.html>

If you are selected to present your findings, you will receive transportation to the conference and one night's free stay.

A Variety of Odd and Ends For your Consideration.

The AOA House of Delegates passed a resolution that Divisional Society membership be required for participation in AOA committees and bureaus.

The Food & Drug Administration is looking at the risk of rashes associated with Factive or gemifloxacin used to treat minor infections.

A federally funded study concluded that while Gulf War veterans suffer from a variety of problems, there is no Gulf War Syndrome. That is, there is no unique pattern of symptoms. However, Gulf veterans do suffer increased risk of anxiety disorders, depression, and substance abuse.

AMOPS Students, We Need Your Input to Serve You Better

AMOPS has a student page: www.amops.org/ChapterNews.html. We need news from the schools to keep it relevant. Let us hear from you.

Do You Have a Web Link?

Is there a link on your school's website we should be tied to or a story about your activities that should be featured on the student page? What can we do to make the AMOPS website better for you? Contact: jim@amops.org

Most of our speakers come from the local area or fund their own travel to keep our annual CME Conference costs low. But we still try to put on the best program possible. Your input to the program director is critical to our success.

Perhaps we will be able to wash avian flu away. Dermalalve Sciences says it has tested a new gel and found the gel had a 99.99 percent success rate in killing the avian flu virus within 30 seconds of a single application. The company says the gel's active ingredient will continue working for 30 minutes. Dermalalve developed the gel in partnership with Drug Delivery Solutions Limited. Production on the gel begins in October.

06/067 AMOPS Dues

Our fiscal year is 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.

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

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the University of Colorado at Boulder developed a microchip-based test that distinguishes between flu strains and can help trace strains back to their origins. The FluChip can be used to identify 72 influenza strains (including the H5N1 avian influenza strain) in less than twelve hours.

Our program at the AMSUS meeting in San Antonio is set, but we will need people to speak at the 2007 AMSUS meeting in Salt Lake City to continue the partnership.

Researchers have found the Vitamin D tablets can reduce pancreatic cancer, more research is needed to determine if

AOA/AMOPS Membership Challenge. If you wish to take advantage but have already sent in your AMOPS dues just let us know.

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 ()

E-mail: _____

Specialty Organization: AMOPS

Membership Category: _____

Payment:

Please provide a check made out to AMOPS or your credit card information. Credit card payments will be processed by the AMOPS, then forwarded to AOA.

VISA () MasterCard ()

Amount Paid: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Membership Category Fees:

Active: \$100 Intern/Resident: \$20

Mail to:

AOA/AMOPS Specialty Membership Challenge
1796 Severn Hills Lane
Severn, MD 21144-1061
or

Fax to: (410) 519- 7657

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: _____