



Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association -E-News

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GEORGIA LEGISLATION WRAP-UP

By Barry A. Doublestein, DSL (Doctor of Strategic Leadership)

We were able to keep the Pathologists from being able to have a monopoly on billing. They attempted to amend the language of the bill on various other vehicles but they were not successful during this session. The bill is still active and can be brought out of an insurance subcommittee in the January 2010 session.

The Medical Practice Act was passed by both chambers and will go into effect on July 1 of this year. Many of the provisions with which the Medical Association of Georgia and some of the other medical specialties had with the original bill were modified, so the resulting bill was decent overall and did not expand the scope of practice of PAs. I am disappointed that our AOA-residency training anti-discrimination language was removed from the Bill and I have forewarned, Senator Don Thomas, Representative Sharon Cooper, and the Georgia Hospital Association's lobbyist that we will be bringing forward a Bill that will force the hospitals to change their bylaws to reflect that they will not discriminate against AOA-certified GME. I have discussed this with all of our coalition partners and with the leadership of MAG and they fully understand the issue and are supporting our efforts to make this vital change. Alan Woolery, DO, PhD and I will discuss the Bill during a session at the annual convention in Hilton Head.

There were a few prompt-pay bills in both chambers, and, at the time of this publication, I am not sure which one of them made it through. It will take me a little time to find this information, but it will be forth-coming. What I do know is that the House did not agree with a substitute that the Senate had passed (HB-321). This means that the Bill is still active and will be seen next session. I will get back to you with an analysis of the Budget for 2010 regarding Medicaid payments.

I found this session much more effective as we were able to work closely with our primary care coalition partners. The coalition represents over 7,000 physicians in this state and allowed us to garner some independence as we advocated for primary care issues. Anyway, I am honored to have been able to represent your interests at the State House again this year.



2009 ANNUAL CME CONVENTION-HILTON HEAD ISLAND



**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE IS MAY 20TH**

The GOMA Annual CME Convention will be June 11-14, 2009 on the beautiful Hilton Head Island at the Crowne Plaza Resort. This year we will again have the South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society join us. Registration information is available online at www.goma.org. Crowne Plaza resort information is available at: www.cphiltonhead.com

Hilton Head Crowne Plaza features 340 elegantly appointed rooms including 9 suites, in a U-shaped, five-story building. Located on the Island's convenient south end within a verdant, semi-tropical setting in Shipyard Plantation, the 11-acre oceanfront haven is just a short drive from I-95 via Highway 278 and the Cross Island Parkway.

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Web Links:

www.goma.org

**2009 CME Convention
Brochure- Register Online**

www.studentdo.com

**Student Osteopathic
Medical Association**

Osteopathic.org

**American Osteopathic
Association**

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DUES ARE DUE!!!



You are important to GOMA, and we do not want to lose you! Per GOMA's Bylaws, all dues were due on or before February 1, 2009. Any member whose dues are not paid by May 1, 2009, will be placed on a non-voting status and will be removed from GOMA's membership list. If you are unsure of your membership status, call the GOMA office at 678-225-7571. Credit cards are accepted. Payment plans are available.

**Membership Dues are Now Over Due.
Don't delay. Mail your check today.**

GA-CAMPUS TO GRADUATE 1ST CLASS OF DO'S

SUWANEE, GA – Seventy eight osteopathic medical students will be among the 90 graduates of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine – Georgia Campus in ceremonies to be held on May 17 at Gwinnett Center in nearby Duluth. The DO degrees are the first awarded since the College's branch campus opened in 2005. Twelve masters of biomedical sciences degrees will also be awarded during the ceremony.



Many members of the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association serve as preceptors for the College's branch campus third- and fourth- year students. "We sincerely appreciate the relationship we enjoy with GOMA and it's members," said H. William Craver III, DO, chair of clinical undergraduate education.

Lt. Gen. Ronald Blanck (USA Retired), former Surgeon General of the U. S. Army and a PCOM graduate, will deliver the commencement address before an audience anticipated to number more than 1,200.

Fifty percent of the DO graduates will be entering primary care residency programs with another 26 percent entering traditional/transitional programs. Of the 78 graduates, 18 percent have been accepted into residency programs in Georgia. Forty-nine percent of graduates will enter residencies in the southern states (including Georgia).

Matthew Schure, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of PCOM, will confer the degrees.

Commencement ceremonies will be preceded on Thursday morning by an honors breakfast and Thursday night by an awards dinner and dance for graduating students.

Georgia Campus - Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine is a private, not-for-profit branch campus of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, an osteopathic medical school built on an over one-hundred-year tradition of educational excellence.

This is the third year of the 2007-2009 CME cycle. Don't wait until the last minute. The requirements for membership in the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) are 120 hours with a minimum of 30 hours in AOA Category 1-A. For those members with 120 CME requirements, 30 CME hours must be obtained in Category 1-A.

CARING HANDS HEALTH CLINIC OPENS IN CLEVELAND, GA

CLEVELAND, Ga. -- It is a sign of the times, and a sign that communities are pulling together to get through tough economic times. Free medical clinics are popping up throughout the Metro Atlanta area. In Cleveland, Ga., a clinic opened its doors for the fifth week in a row to help people who can't afford medical care. In a former drug store on the square in downtown Cleveland, the "Caring Hands Health Clinic" opens its doors for three hours every Tuesday night. The owner of the old drug store gave the clinic a five year lease for free. The White County medical community is volunteering time to work the clinic.

The clinic's Medical Director, **Charles White, DO**, said most of the patients have diabetes or hypertension. "They're patients who haven't had medical care for at least six months."

It looks like most other doctor's offices, but what makes Caring Hands different is that everything was built by volunteers. "Everything you see was donated by the construction community, including their time to put it all in," said Clinic CEO John Flynn. Flynn said most of the furniture was donated. A staff of doctors, nurses and office workers all volunteer. Dr. White said it all started as an idea from a local church. St. Paul's Catholic Church held a festival and raised \$10,000 for the clinic.

Five thousand dollars was spent on medical equipment. "It's really been inspiring to see the outpouring of support that we've received and we'll have an ongoing problem raising money to keep it going," Dr. White said. Without intervention, most of the patients who use the clinic would end up in the hospital for more costly care. Right now, it's open on Tuesday nights from 6pm to 9pm. But Flynn, a retired hospital administrator, said he sees that expanding, and also believes other communities will do the same as Cleveland.

"I think it's just a matter of getting people together discussing the need and once they realize there's a need, then there will be a will in the community."

Article & picture were provide by 11Alive.com



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PATIENT CENTERED PHYSICIANS COALITION SPONSORS

The Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association would like to thank the supporters of our Day at the Capitol. Funding allows us to invite all the legislators to join us for both breakfast and lunch and to not charge a registration fee for attendees. We would like acknowledge the support of:

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PHYSICIANS PHARMACEUTICAL CORPORATION

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Mark your calendar for

Thursday, February 4, 2010

PCPC's Day at the Capitol.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OFFICIAL CALL

To the officers and members of the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association:
You are hereby given notice that the Annual Business Meeting of the association will be held Sunday, June 14, 2009, at 8:00 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Resort, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, in conjunction with the 107th Annual CME Convention.

The officers of the association and other members of the Board of Trustees will be elected and inducted by a special AOA guest. According to the association bylaws, candidates for office selected by the Nominating Committee will be published prior to the election, and presented verbally at the meeting. Nominations may also be taken from the floor at the meeting.

PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES:

NextCare Urgent Care is seeking BC/BE Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine or Med/Ped physicians interested in full-time opportunities. The positions would be for our NEW clinics opening in Kennesaw (July) and in Lawrenceville (October). These are employed positions and malpractice is paid. Full-time is considered 130 hours/month. For further details, please call the NextCare Recruiter Lori at: 866.716.5278 or email: lorimaisch@nextcare.com. Company website: www.nextcare.com

2009 ANNUAL CME & SCIENTIFIC EXHIBITION:

GOMA/SCOMS

JUNE 11-14, 2009

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT

HILTON HEAD ISLAND

678-225-7571

REGISTER ONLINE

www.goma.org

EARLY REGISTRATION

DEADLINE:

May 20, 2009



Georgia Osteopathic Medical Assn
P.O. Box 986
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