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GEORGIA OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
— 1902 —

GOMA News & Updates

Volume 47, October 2025



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MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
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**GOMA 2025
Virtual Fall CME
Conference
October 24-25**



Our Virtual Fall CME Conference. Your CME.

Join us for the GOMA Virtual Fall CME Conference on October 24-25, where you can earn up to 16 CME credits from the comfort of your own home! Live Stream Friday, Oct. 24 and Saturday, Oct. 25, but available On-Demand through December 31, 2025.

Confirmed topics include the following:

Controlled Substance Prescribing

Neuroplasticity as an Approach to Pain Management

Modern Treatment Approaches for the Arthritic Hip and Knee

The Not-So-Scary Facts About HVLA

Introduction to Cryoneurolysis for Primary Care Practitioners

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy - Appropriate Indications

AI in Practical Practice and Pitfalls

Chronic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (CIRS), also known as biotoxin illness

Substance Use Disorder Update

Preceptor Training for Medical Students

OB/GYN Update

Neonatology/Pediatrics Update

[All the lectures and faculty featured in previous newsletters can be found here.](#) The last addition is “Peripheral Vascular Disease and Current Therapies” by Atlanta vascular surgeon Anu Whisenhunt, DO, MPH. She spoke on this subject at GOMA’s fall conference in 2024 and it was the best lecture of that conference.

Don't miss out—[REGISTER TODAY](#) and secure your spot in this essential learning experience!



Jeremy Walker, DO has become the new Chief of Staff at Northeast Georgia Health Systems

Congratulations to Dr. Walker, who has become the new Chief of Staff at Northeast Georgia Health Systems (NGHS) in Gainesville, Georgia. Dr. Walker has been working at NGHS for over 10 years and has been working at PCOM Georgia for over 5 years. He has been awarded the Top Hospitalist Doctor Award and the Top Hospitalist Doctor Award with his wife Tara.



Dr. Walker has become the new Chief of Staff at Northeast Georgia Health Systems (NGHS) in Gainesville, Georgia. He is a board-certified internist and has graduated from the University of Georgia College of Medicine. He has been awarded the Top Hospitalist Doctor Award and the Top Hospitalist Doctor Award with his wife Tara.

Michele Melamed DO Founds New Jewish Medical Network

Truncated from article by Marcia Caller Jaffe, *Atlanta Jewish Times*

Michele Melamed, DO, MPH is not only a healer, she's a "doer."

Dr. Melamed is the founder and president of the relatively new Jewish Medical Professional Network (JMPN), where medical professionals across the board come for engagement, support, and learning. JMPN fosters a vibrant community guided by Jewish principles, compassion, and integrity, offering educational opportunities, social support, and professional networking to enhance members' personal and professional lives through meaningful connections and collaborative service."

Two previous events started with 15 attendees, grew to 30, then, on Thursday, Aug. 28, at the Toco Hills home of Dr. David Isaacs, more than 50 came to hear Rabbi Dr. Ira Bedzow's, session, "Wearing a White Coat and Star of David: Embracing Your Identity in the Workplace Amid Antisemitism."

Past events included topics like medical ethics, and balancing a career with the demands of life. Dr. Melamed, an emergency room physician who immigrated to America from South Africa in 1994, made this statement to her executive board: "I'm extremely grateful for your willingness to share input and time in helping this important network fulfill its mission and expand its reach. Our core principles are founded on the basis of quality educational opportunities based on Jewish tenets, the creation of a safe, social support group, and professional networking. Through a variety of events featuring well-rounded speakers, socials, and professional marketing for its members, it's my goal to apply these principles in an impactful way."

Melamed has plans for future events like a comedian, concert, family outings, sports, and website development coaching on how to market practices and get patient referrals. Though the majority of the attendees were medical doctors, all health professionals are welcomed, and there are no dues. Approximately 150 are on the current list.

Dr. Melamed is a 2017 graduate of PCOM Georgia in Suwanee who completed her Emergency Medicine residency at Emory in 2020, as well as earning a Master's in Public Health from Emory University.

Her career blends clinical practice, innovation, research, and leadership. She has co-authored publications on topics like COVID-19 complications, Urgent Care Medicine and contributed to “Israel: The Startup Nation for Medical Innovation.”

Dr. Melamed serves as a Supervising Physician at the Georgia Injury Center, Medical Director at Arimed Mobile Intergraded Healthcare, Medical Director for Gwinnett Technical College EMS Program, and founded MelaMedicine Healthcare Consulting, LLC. A dedicated volunteer, she has supported United Hatzala of Israel since 2008, provided medical care at events like the NFL Super Bowl (2019), and The Masters Tournament (2019), and mentored medical students. Her honors include the 2019 United Hatzala Award, the Hadassah Chesed Award and multiple osteopathic community service awards.

Outside work, Dr. Melamed enjoys athletic, web design and event production, photography, music and culinary arts. Her main focus is definitely driven by leadership in emergency medicine, public health, and Jewish community initiatives.

[Read the full article](#)



Reunion of Staff of Doctors' Hospital in Tucker

On Saturday September 27th, a reunion of the staff of old Doctors' Hospital in Tucker was held at Vintage Pizzeria in Dunwoody. The old hospital was closed down in 1989, and clinical services were

moved to Northlake Regional Medical Center in Tucker. That facility now serves as Emory's Orthopedics and Spine Hospital on Montreal Road. The old hospital on Idlewood Road was torn down and replaced with Tucker Middle School. For decades, most of the osteopathic physicians in Georgia had either worked or trained at Doctors' Hospital.

Big smiles and plenty of laughs were heard as the physicians updated each other on their lives and families. In the past, most doctors would socialize with each other in the doctor's lounge while eating lunch so the connection between these doctors is deeper than most professional relationships these days.

One of the highlights of the evening was when Dr. Eric Deal read a poem to the group that recalled the physicians that have died but used to practice at Doctors' Hospital. See the poem below.

Pictured above (left to right): Michael Baron, DO (family practice); Terry Schwartz, DO (family practice); Neil Nickelson, DO (pediatrics); Glenn Kasow, DO (urology); Bill Delp, DO (family practice & OMT professor); C. Duane Barclay, DO (family practice); David Conaway, DO (orthopedics); James Hogue, DO (emergency medicine); Eric Deal, DO (emergency medicine); Christian Geltz, DO (ob/gyn); Fred Katz, DO (radiology); Tom Cain, DPM (podiatry); E. Scott Leaderman, DO (anesthesiology). A second picture was taken with spouses.

***Ode to Doctors Hospital
or memories of an intern***

*Dr Haight was the best surgeon I've ever seen to this day
During surgery his hands barely moved
It was like witnessing a ballet*

*Right next to him was Dr Payne
A great name for an anesthesiologist
His humor while patients were out was insane*

*Dr Strickland was also anesthesiologist
He was so big and tall
I couldn't believe he could start IV's
Or even walk through the halls*

*Don Secrest was the most decorated physician in the Vietnam war
He loved his museum of guns*

*John Kelley our most recent loss did over a hundred mission trips
But his real passion was playing music and having fun*

*Roger Sorg and Wulf were like brothers
They both hated autopsies every day
It was Rogers legs that finally gave way*

*Art Green was the Hollywood Doc
He would go into a room
And no matter what, patients would swoon*

*I hired Cliff Becker in '83
He was better than fare
Cliff was the first black man on DH staff
In the shadows of Stone Mountain and the Klan
He didn't care*

*Harvey Apple and Jan had a son named Dan
I have known him since he was a lad
He has become a hell of a man*

*This poem can't be complete
Without commending Dr Dalton McGlamary
He was a game changer
With his teaching and the book on feet*

*Others important to me:
Richard Lieberman
Jan Baxt*

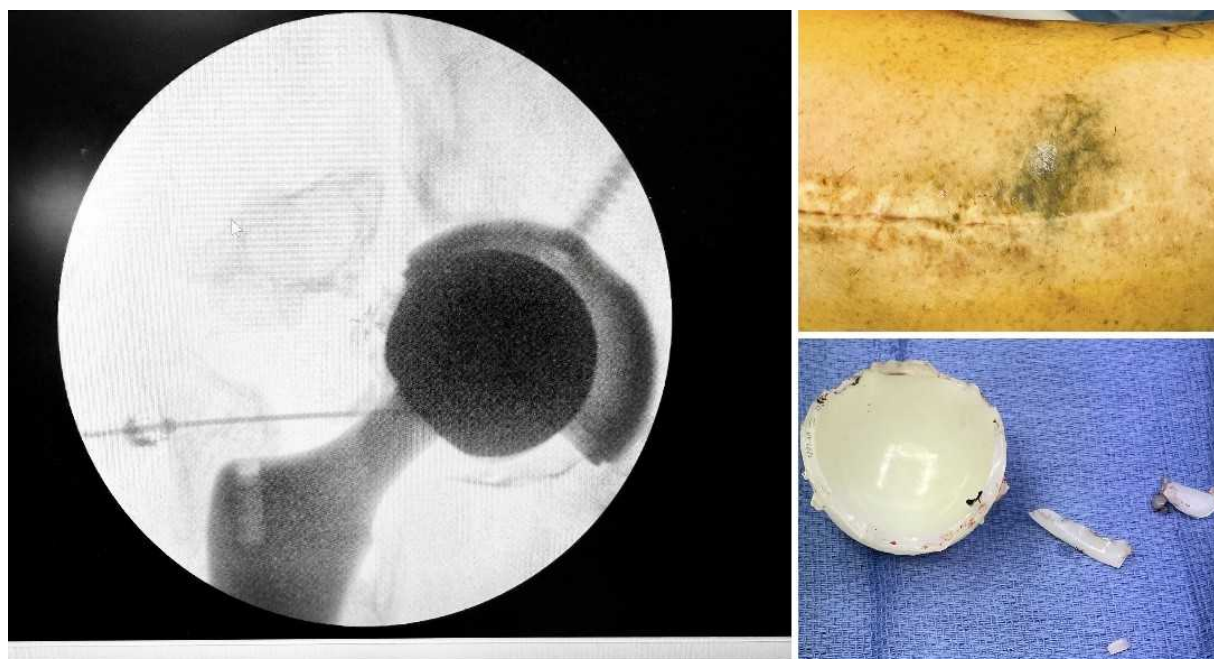
Rick DiNappoli

**FTC Warns Healthcare Companies about
Restrictive Noncompete Contracts**

The Federal Trade Commission is urging major healthcare employers and staffing companies to review their employment agreements to root out any restrictive noncompete clauses. On September 9, 2025, FTC Chair Andrew Ferguson sent letters to an unspecified number of healthcare companies warning them that regulators will enforce the law against unfair or anticompetitive noncompetes. The letter stresses that recipients are not under any suspicion of illegal conduct.

It's part of a larger philosophical shift at the FTC when it comes to noncompetes, as the agency pivots away from the total ban espoused by the Biden administration toward a targeted enforcement strategy. The FTC's new position is likely a relief for hospitals and other employers, which had lobbied heavily against the ban.

[Read the full article from *Healthcare Dive*.](#)



Jon Minter DO Documents Dermatologic Findings of Artificial Hip Failure

Jon Minter, DO is an orthopedic surgeon at Northside Hospital in Atlanta. He is very experienced at revising failed artificial joints. He

noted skin changes on a LinkedIn post in mid-September with pictures to help educate his contemporaries.

Dr. Minter wrote: “So, here’s the deal ... When you have a metal on metal hip due to poly wear, and the skin takes on a focal gray discoloration, is there a name for that? I think we should call it Minter’s Sign! Everyone agree?” While over a hundred doctors were intrigued by this finding, Javier Jose Gutierrez Berciano, MD, an orthopedic surgeon in Madrid, Spain corrected Dr. Minter’s claim to fame. Dr. Gutierrez wrote, “Interesting, but this skin finding was first described by Akimoto as injury mimicking a malignant skin tumor in 2003, and the focal skin discoloration was first described by Sporer and Chalmers in 2012.”



PCOM South Georgia Unveils Outdoor Fitness Trail to Promote Wellness & Connection

On September 18 PCOM South Georgia students, faculty, staff, and PCOM Alumni gathered to celebrate the official opening of their new

on-campus Fitness Trail! This outdoor space, made possible by generous faculty and staff donors, provides the community with a peaceful place to recharge, reflect, and focus on wellness throughout the day. The administration wrote, “We are grateful to everyone who helped make this trail possible and look forward to enhancing it further in the future!” [Learn more here](#).



JJ Norris, DO'17 and his son, Jackson Norris (DO '29)

PCOM South Georgia Students Help South Georgia Kids HEAL Through Grief

Students from PCOM South Georgia recently volunteered with Camp HEAL, a community program organized by Archbold Medical Center in Thomasville, Georgia for children who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

Camp HEAL creates space for healing through play, creativity, and shared understanding. Our students assisted with activities throughout the day to create a positive, supportive environment for campers.



PCOM South Georgia Student Melea Neely (DO '28) Determination in Action

When Melea Neely, a second-year Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine student at PCOM South Georgia, walks into class, she carries more than textbooks and notes. She carries determination—the focus to pursue her lifelong dream of medicine and the desire to show others that their goals are within reach.

“Ever since I could talk, I've always wanted to be a doctor,” she said. “That never changed.”

Growing up, student doctor Neely moved between North Carolina and New York before settling in Atlanta, where she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in biological sciences from Georgia State University. She chose PCOM South Georgia for two reasons: community and focus.

“When I visited for Accepted Students Day, it just felt like family. That sense of belonging made me feel like this was the right place,” Neely said.

Neely is both a medical student and the mother of two daughters, Paetyn and Mahogany, and she's learned to balance those roles seamlessly. She also serves as president of PCOM chapter of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA). Her journey has

been shaped not just by balancing it all, but by perseverance—pushing through self-doubt, retaking the MCAT, and embracing each challenge as part of her path forward. That determination fuels her pursuit of one of medicine's most competitive fields: neurosurgery. “I've always been fascinated by the brain, and that's why I want to pursue neurosurgery,” she said. “As a Black woman, I sometimes feel out of place, but quitting was never an option. I remind myself I've already beaten so many odds, and I can do this.”

Pursuing medicine isn't just a personal goal for Neely — it's also about leaving a legacy. She wants her daughters, and other young Black women, to see themselves in spaces where they've long been few.

“Reaching my goals isn't only for myself,” she said. “I want others to know they can do it too, even if the path looks different for them. Growing up in Baldwinsville, New York, my family was the only Black family in the community. I know what it's like to be the only one, and if I can help others not feel that way, I want to.”

Moments like the White Coat Ceremony stand out for Neely as a significant milestone in her medical school journey that she describes as both validating and motivating.

“My white coat reminds me that everything I've worked for has led me here,” she said. “Now it's about honing the skills it takes to be a doctor.”

Illness is the night side of life, a more onerous citizenship. Everyone who is born holds dual citizenship, in the kingdom of the well and in the kingdom of the sick. Although we all prefer to use the good passport, sooner or later each of us is obliged, at least for a spell, to identify ourselves as citizens of that other place.

– Susan Sontag (1933 – 2004)