

Postgraduate Seminar Scheduled for May 5-7



Dr. Hodges

Sessions on Hand Surgery, Spine Surgery and Foot and Ankle Surgery will highlight AOA's 46th Annual Postgraduate Seminar. The meetings will be held at the Marriott Camelback Inn in



Dr. Cameron

Scottsdale, AZ, May 5-7, 2006.

The over-all theme for the Seminar will be 'Update for Practicing Orthopedic Surgeons with Emphasis on Spine, Hand and Foot & Ankle.'

In line with the policy of assigning portions of the program to sub-specialty sections, the Program Chairmen will be: Roger W. Cameron, DO, FAOAO, for the Hand Section; Michael D. Castro, DO, for the Foot and Ankle Section; and Scott D. Hodges, DO, for the Spine Section.

More than 40 presentations will be featured, including such topics as "Charite Disc Prosthesis," "Distal Radial Ulnar Joint Instability and Reconstruction" and "The Diabetic Foot: Wound Care is Not Enough." The course will carry 20 hours of AOA Category IA credit.



Dr. Castro

Morton Morris, DO, JD, Executive Director of AOA, urges all members to make reservations before April 3 to secure the special hotel rate of \$249 a night.

Camelback – A Treat

One of America's finest resorts, Camelback Inn is recognized world-wide for business, leisure and meeting needs. It has won the prestigious AAA Five Diamond award for 27 consecutive years.

Featuring two private golf courses, a full-service spa and innumerable other amenities, it is the perfect spot to attend meetings and simultaneously enjoy a delightful and joyous vacation.

In addition, several outstanding attractions are located near the Camelback Inn and are often visited by hotel guests.

Dr. Osterman Featured

A. Lee Osterman, MD, will highlight the Hand Surgery program at the AOA Seminar.

Graduating Summa Cum Laude from Yale University, he attended the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, followed by his residency in orthopedics there.

A fellowship in Hand Surgery at the U. of P. ensued. He is now Professor of Orthopedics and Hand Surgery at Jefferson Medical College of the Thomas Jefferson University.

His three talks will cover various aspects of arthroscopy of the hand.

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From the President...

With our holiday and the New Year rush past, I hope each of us is ready for the challenges that 2006 will bring. As I prepared this message, the big question in my house was "Who will win the Super Bowl?" If you combine that with my kids' never-ending question of "Is it ever going to snow so we can stay home from school?" you can see that life is hectic on many levels, yet through it all, my work with the Academy continues.

As we begin the New Year many of our same issues in orthopedics remain. Dr. Morton Morris and I recently traveled to Washington, DC, for the Council on Federal Health Programs. There was to be a freeze on physician fees, and a 4.4% reduction in the Medicare/Medicaid fee schedule was to take place. Fortunately, Congress has put the reduction on hold. In addition, a new concept for reimbursing physicians is being discussed called "Pay for Performance". Although this encompasses a large amount of subjective and objective criteria, in the long run I do not see this being favorable for the physician. In my short period of time as President, it appears very obvious that the political process will march on with or without us. I strongly encourage everyone to become involved from a political standpoint. We have formed a Key Contact Committee with the hope of enhancing our ability to provide support to elected officials on issues that are important to us as well as our profession. Please get involved.

Dr. Morris and Dr. Debra Spatz will be representing the AOA Board at the mid-year AOA Board of Trustees meetings in St. Petersburg, FL. In addition, DO Day on the Hill is at the end of April as well as another meeting for the Council on Federal Health, which Dr. Morris and I will attend. I encourage all to come to Washington to show unified support to the Representatives on Capitol Hill.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Scottsdale in early May. The program looks very interesting and Marriott's Camelback Resort should be beautiful.

*Robert P. Falconiero, DO, FAOA
President*

from the Executive Director

Where do our health premium dollars go?

We all ask that at some time or other, and often the rash conclusion is: defensive medicine.

Not true, according to an interesting report I read recently. Only 10% goes for defensive medicine. Price Waterhouse did the study, released by CQ HealthBeat, with fascinating findings:

Eighty-six percent goes for medical services and 14% for administrative costs. Payments to physicians accounted for 24% of premiums (an increase of 7.8% over 2005). Outpatient expenses were 22% (a rise of 13.6%), and prescription drugs were 16% (an increase of 8.6%). Costs for inpatient hospitalization were 18% (up 7.5%).

Health insurance premiums were up 8.8%, slowing from 13.7% in 2001. This increase was caused by general inflation (27%), increased utilization (43%) and price increases in excess of inflation (30%).

From 2000 to now, family health premiums have increased 73%, whereas inflation rose only 14% and wage-growth just 15%. More than 40% of the increase in health premiums was accounted for by increased use of medical services, high consumer demand, new and expensive medical technology and aging and unhealthy lifestyles.

Lots of statistics and lots for the practicing orthopedist to think about. Maybe someone will come up with some answers.

*Morton Morris, DO, JD
Executive Director*

RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

St. Mary's Medical Center

There are 7 Board Certified Orthopedic Trainers in the Orthopedic Surgery Residency Training Program.

The Program Director is Michael Clemente, DO. There are 14 approved orthopedic positions. We currently have 11 residents in the program: two 4th year residents, and three each in the 3rd, 2nd and 1st years. We anticipate adding four PGY2 positions.

The group involved in the training program is Orthopedic Surgeons, Inc. OSI has two metropolitan offices and three clinics in rural area hospitals. They have been trainers since 1969, initially thru Osteopathic Hospital-University of Health Sciences, now known as Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. The main residency office is Suite #250 at the St. Mary's Medical Mall in Blue Springs, MO.

The residents participate in weekly Grand Rounds and Tumor Conferences, along with lectures presented by the OSI orthopedic trainers and the Department of Orthopedics at Truman Medical Center-West.

The residents participate in out-rotations during their 2nd, 3rd & 4th years. The Pediatric Orthopedic rotation is 3 months at Childrens Mercy Hospital. The Hand rotation is 2 months with Dr. Lynn Ketchum at Menorah Medical Center. The Spine rotation is two months with Drs. Jackson and

Ebelke at North Kansas City Hospital. The Orthopedic Oncology rotation is two months with Dr. Howard Rosenthal at the Mid-America Sarcoma Institute. The out-rotation for Orthopedic Trauma is two months with Dr. Phillip Kregor at Vanderbilt University.

The Orthopedic Program also has multiple affiliations with other area hospitals including: Cameron Regional Medical Center, Carroll County Memorial Hospital, Excelsior Springs Medical Center, Ray County Memorial Hospital, St. Joseph Medical Center, Doctors Specialty Hospital and Shawnee Mission Medical Center. We also have affiliations at several surgery centers in the metropolitan area, including Blue Springs Surgery Center, Briarcliff Surgery Center, Creekwood Surgery Center and Surgery Center of Johnson County, plus several out-of-state rotation in specialized fields.

Benefits include a high case volume with a broad scope of pathology and surgical treatment including Arthroscopy, Sports Medicine and Hand. Residents actively participate in surgeries as they progress in their skills. One of the main unusual aspects of our Residency Program is education and contact with both city and rural practice locations. We plan to increase the number of subspecialty rotations and add more osteopathic trainers to the program.

Hull Becomes Board Chairman

Christopher K. Hull, DO, FAOAO, Fort Worth, TX, is now serving as Chairman of the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery (AOBOS), succeeding Steven J. Heithoff, DO, Port Huron, MI.

Dr. Heithoff will be succeeded on the Board by Bruce Le, DO, Visalia, CA, in March, 2006.

Other members of the Board are: Richard F. Howard, DO, FAOAO, St. Louis, MO, Vice Chairman; Paul J. Deppisch, DO, FAOAO, Akron, OH, Secretary-Treasurer; and Mark E. Triana, DO, Georgetown, SC.

Recertification The AOBOS has changed the Application for Board Recertification to incorporate a more extensive credentialing process, requiring additional documents. For complete details, candidates should download the 2006 Handbook for Candidates for Board Recertification from the AOBOS: www.aobos.org.

Examiners' Meeting: The AOBOS will hold a Clinical Examiner training/orientation session as part of the spring AOA meeting.

Upcoming Dates to Remember:
Recertification Application

Deadline *April 1, 2006*

Recertification Examination,

Scottsdale, AZ *May 4, 2006*

2:00 - 4:00 pm

Examiners Meeting,

Scottsdale, AZ *May 6, 2006*

12:00 - 1:00 pm

NEWLY CERTIFIED MEMBERS

Brendan C. Albracht, DO
Dumas, TX

Douglas A. Albracht, DO
Dumas, TX

Thomas M. Cook, DO
Dayton, OH

Raymond E. Dahl, DO
Camp Hill, PA

Christopher D. DiPasquale, DO
East Stroudsburg, PA

Roy C. Dunham, DO
Tinker AFB, OK

Jeffrey C. Glenn, DO
Zephyrhills, FL

David Hoang, DO
Southbridge, MA

Gordon Holen, DO
Cadillac, MI

Denise T. Ibrahim, DO
Chicago, IL

Mitchell C. Johnson, DO
Sioux Falls, SD

Eric J. Letonoff, DO
Keesler AFB, MS

William B. Lutes, DO
Great Lakes, IL

Richard E. McClain, DO
Goshen, IN

Robert W. McCleary, DO
Point Pleasant, WV

John V. Murphy, DO
Midland, MI

Timothy F. Peters, DO
Dayton, OH

Donald A. Ravasio, DO
Lawton, OK

Anthony R. Ricci, DO
Williams Bay, WI

Stuart M. Shapiro, DO
Corona, CA

Timothy W. Teske, DO
Enid, OK

Shane M. Woolever, DO
Sault Ste. Marie, MI

LEGENDS

Thomas Terrence McGrath, DO, FAOAO

Thomas T. McGrath, D.O., FAOAO, was one of the early trainers of osteopathic orthopedic surgeons. He was known to take residents and help them diversify their training and go on to practice high quality orthopedic surgery. Many of us, through the generations, have been influenced by Tom, who was knowledgeable, innovative and goodhearted to his patients.

A graduate of KCOOM in 1946, he was President of AOA in 1965. He was given the Appreciative Award in 1962, the Knotty Cane Award in 1969, his FAOAO in 1976 and became a Life Member in 1979.

There are so many stories about Dr. McGrath that one can hear from year-to-year from his friends, colleagues, and trainees. Tom taught his residents through a concept that there was little that the resident could damage that he could not fix. He would let you work until you worked yourself into a hole, and then he would pull you out – or until you completed the case. He was ready and willing to discuss alternatives for treatment, teaching us always to think outside the conventional box.

I remember when a small group of orthopedic surgeons would get together once or twice a year and openly discuss difficult or unusual cases. There was constructive criticism of each other's cases, and a bit of light heartedness, and no one went away with hard feelings.



Thomas Terrence McGrath

Years later the Midwest Osteopathic Orthopedic Society came into existence, doing this on a larger scale. Tom and those early pioneers encouraged and supported the younger orthopedic surgeons in this perpetual mentoring effort.

Dr. McGrath truly enjoyed the courtroom. He was as comfortable in the courtroom as he was in the surgical suite. He was always ready, willing and able to educate the legal system on the skilled wonders of orthopedic surgery. He would remind the residents that we knew more about the medical field and the medical treatment provided than did the attorneys. He would remind us it was our obligation to represent our patients.

Tom touched and changed many lives. I smile when I think of all the members of AOA who knew him, and those who did not know him, yet were influenced by his teachings.

Kenneth S. Bayles, DO, FAOAO

IN MEMORIAM

Edward A. Felmlee, DO, FAOAO 1924-2006

Life member Edward A. Felmlee, of Cleveland, OK, succumbed recently to pancreatic cancer at the age of 82.

Dr. Felmlee graduated from Tulsa University, and in 1952 he received his DO degree from the Des Moines Still College of Osteopathy and Surgery. After his internship at Tulsa Regional Medical Center, he completed a 3-year fellowship in orthopedics.

Certified in 1965, he was the first chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at Tulsa, and was its founder. He became an FAOAO in 1978, and also received his FACOS.

He helped establish an orthopedic surgery residency and its graduates now number 30.


He won the Knotty Cane Award in 1976, and the AOA Appreciative Award in 1985 and 1994.

He chaired Oklahoma's AOA delegation for many years. In 1972, he was president of the OOA. He also served as a Trustee of the AOA.

Dr. Felmlee played an influential role in the establishment of the Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine; its Clinical Sciences building is named in his honor.

Over the years, he was awarded many other honors for his dedication to his profession.

The AOA extends sincere condolences to his family: his wife, Jessie, one daughter and four sons. One son, Richard, is a DO.



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Educators' Meeting Features Mehlman

Charles T. Mehlman, DO, MPH, Editor of the AOA Newsletter, will be a guest speaker at the 13th annual Educators' Course, to be held in conjunction with the Annual Postgraduate Seminar.

Dr. Mehlman, who is a Fellow of AOA, serves as Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and Director of Pediatric Orthopedic Resident Training at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

The Educators' Course will be held at Camelback Inn, Scottsdale, AZ, May 6 and 7, 2006.

As in the past, the course will be directed by two outstanding educators. Chairman will be the perennial favorite James A. Farmer, Jr., EdD, who is Professor

Emeritus at the University of Illinois. Co-chairman will be Lee Vander Lugt, DO, FAOAO, of Chickasha, OK, a member of the AOA Board of Directors.

The Program Directors are firming up a schedule that includes such topics as Professional Development, Early Evaluation of Students and Residents, Money and Residents, Helping Residents Prepare for Boards, Board Certification, and Due Process.

The course fulfills the residency standard for all Program Directors to attend a Program Directors' school at least once every three years. Other orthopedic surgeons involved in residency training are required to attend at least once every six years.

the dates
May 5-7, 2006

the place
**Camelback Inn
Scottsdale**

the event
**AOAO
46th Postgraduate
Seminar**

*Outstanding educational sessions.
Good fun. Fabulous facilities.
Program includes presentations on
Hand Surgery, Spine Surgery and
Foot and Ankle Surgery*

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