



Newsletter



President's Perspective



George D. Vermeire, DO
POMA President

Leadership. As POMA increases its profile in Harrisburg and throughout the state, it is incumbent upon us to have those willing to step up, step in and lead. I've been working with some great ones this past year. Joan Grzybowski, DO and Pam Goldman, DO have stepped up by attending the AOA LEAD conference this week. They are currently in Austin learning more about the AOA strategic plan and the role of state and specialty organizations as the profession moves forward. I want to thank them both for stepping up.

Anthony DiMarco, DO stepped up and in this week when he presented as part of a panel discussing collaborative practice agreements with the House Professional Licensure Committee. Dr. DiMarco was joined by a physician representing PAMED as well as three CRNPs. Taking time out of his practice to review materials, our position and participate on a pre-panel conference call demonstrates leadership. We will provide you a link to the transcript of the presentation as soon as it's made available. We don't get opportunities to lead by being passive.

I'd like to recognize our lobbyist, Bruce Hironimus, for his leadership in ensuring the osteopathic message was presented in the context of equally important to the medical society.

Leadership opportunities are increasing within POMA. District 9, dormant for quite some time, will be meeting at the District 8 program to talk about reformation. Districts are also preparing to select delegates to the POMA House in the coming weeks. Interested? Contact Jason Leeper at jleeper@poma.org at the Central Office for more details. Have a skill, area of specialty or interest, are you a subject matter expert or interested in presenting medical education to your colleagues? Let us know. There are many opportunities to lead. You simply just have to DO it.

Collective Wisdom



Diana M. Ewert, MPA, CAE
POMA CEO

I had the opportunity to participate in a meeting of the Association of Osteopathic State Executive Directors (AOSED) winter program this week. This meeting allows me to network with state and specialty executives, talk about issues of importance, discuss policy and how, together, we can support the osteopathic profession

and maintain osteopathic distinctiveness. The collective wisdom of these individuals is a constant source of wonder, amazement and pride.

Pete (Arizona) shared how their association was involved in the opioid issue. Policy papers, research, communication with the legislative and executive branches has ensured osteopathic medicine has a role. Pete will be sending me his materials shortly to see how we might be able to adapt and engage in Pennsylvania.

Kris (Michigan) discussed how they involve new physicians and residents in the policy process. He shared his goal of increasing engagement through teaching these future leaders how to develop policy and write resolutions. He talked about election of delegates to their own and the AOA House.

(continued on page 4)

Save These Dates

Register Now for DO Day on Capitol Hill

DO Day on Capitol Hill will be held on March 7, 2018. This day is a chance to educate your elected representatives in Congress on the importance of DOs and osteopathic medicine. Those in attendance will engage with lawmakers and staff to communicate positions on important health policy issues and foster legislation supporting the practice and principles of osteopathic medicine.. [Click here](#) to register.

POMA's 110th Annual Clinical & Scientific Seminar

Registration for the 110th Annual Clinical Assembly & Scientific Seminar held at the Radisson Valley Forge & Valley Forge Event Center on May 2 - 5, 2018 will open on February 2, 2018. Mark you calendar now so you don't miss out on the great educational programs and networking opportunities.



District Branch News

Upcoming Meetings

District 9

Friday, January 26

Nemacolin Woodlands Resort
Marquis Ballroom
Farmington, PA

3:45 pm — POMA Leadership invites you to a POMA District 9 informational meeting.

Representatives from the POMA leadership will lead the meeting and discuss what is happening with POMA, leadership opportunities, and district activities.

For more information or to RSVP please contact Jason Leeper
Email: jleeper@poma.org

District 12

Saturday January 27

Nemacolin Woodlands Resort
Farmington, PA

12:30 pm – Lunch/Business Meeting

Offsight attendees, please RSVP by Friday, January 26

This is an important meeting as there will be elections for delegates and alternative delegates to the POMA House of Delegates annual business meeting in May.

RSVP to:
Lisa Witherite-Rieg, DO,
District Chair
Email: lisawr64@gmail.com

District 4

Saturday, January 27

Hockey Night



Mohegan Sun Arena
at Casey Plaza
7:05 pm



Binghamton Devils @
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins

Free tickets available to District 4 members and their families!

Contact Darlene Ann Dunay, DO,
District Chair for tickets.
Phone: (570) 457-7150
Email: dadunay@aol.com

District 10

Friday, February 23

Blue Bell Inn
Blue Bell, PA 19422

5:30 pm — Lecture/Dinner
6:30 pm — Business Meeting

Business Meeting will follow to elect delegates and alternate delegates to the POMA House.

Lecture: "A SpA Disease: What to Look for When Diagnosing Ankylosing Spondylitis"
Speaker: Daniel Norden, MD
— educational support provided by AbbVie, Inc. —

RSVP to Carol D. Bowes-Lawlor,
DO, District Chair
Phone: (215) 718-5290
Email: carollawlor@aol.com

Watch for Your Local District Meeting!

The beginning of a new year means it's time for POMA districts to hold their annual elections. This year, districts are electing delegates and alternate delegates to the POMA House. Your attendance and participation is critical so make plans to attend your local meeting! Check your email, www.poma.org and POMA's social media channels for meeting alerts. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

From the Governor's Desk

Wolf Administration Issues Statement on CHIP Re-authorization

Governor Tom Wolf and Department of Human Services Acting Secretary Teresa Miller recently released a statement on Congress passing funding re-authorization for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for the next six years. The bill was passed Monday, January 22, 2018.

"I am relieved Congress has finally reauthorized this critical program after months of uncertainty for the Pennsylvania families who access health care for their children through CHIP," Governor Wolf said. "I am thankful to those in Congress who have made CHIP re-authorization a priority.

Read Governor Wolf's statement, <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wolf-administration-issues-statement-chip-re-authorization/>.

Pennsylvania Launches New Interactive Database for Drug Prescribing and Overdose Information

The Wolf Administration announced on January 23, 2018 the launch of a new interactive data report system that provides information on opioid prescribing and drug overdoses. The system is meant to help the Opioid Operational Command Center identify communities that are experiencing spikes in overdoses.

The data is collected through the Department of Health's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) using the information reported by prescribers. The interactive data report system also collects data from emergency departments from across the state. Out of the 171 emergency rooms in the state, 152 are reporting as part of the report system.

To find out more about the data report system, visit <https://www.governor.pa.gov/>.

Legislative Update

Written by: Bruce Hironimus, Legislative Consultant



Bruce R. Hironimus
Legislative Consultant

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives, Professional Licensure Committee held an informational meeting on collaborative agreements between certified nurse practitioners (CRNP) and physicians.

Anthony DiMarco, DO, immediate past president of POMA, was one of two physicians on the panel.

Seventeen legislators of the 25 committee members were in attendance.

Chairman Mark Mustio (R-44) made a clear point that this is not a hearing on any specific legislation, rather a time to educate the committee on the definition of a collaborative agreement, its purpose and functions, and what required guidelines and authority it grants CRNPs relative to patient care.

After a brief history on collaborative agreements, the committee's questions focused on how the form is com-

pleted, with a focus on the required amount of physician supervision and chart review. Each CRNP requires at least one main physician and an alternate on any collaborative agreement. Dr. DiMarco clearly pointed out, with support from all the other panelists, that each agreement is set on a case by case basis. Each agreement is different based on the CRNP involved. No legal requirement or state law exists on the number of charts the collaborating physician is required to review. Additionally, there is no required timetable in which to complete the review. The majority of collaborative agreements use the language "as needed."

The committee angled questioning toward the existence of a governing body or central repository for all the collaborative agreements signed by CRNPs in the state. No such entity is in place, nor is there set language for the agreements.

Ms. Bock, Ms. Caruso, and Ms. Fattibene answered several questions about how often the physician on the agreement actually interacts with the patient or whether the

(continued on page 4)



Anthony DiMarco, DO with State Representative Mark Mustio



Anthony DiMarco, DO with State Representative Marguerite Quinn



House Professional Licensure Committee



House Professional Licensure Committee

How Are You DOing?

Physician, Know Yourself



Samuel J. Garloff, DO

In our day-to-day lives as student physicians, residents, fellows and fully licensed practicing physicians,

several things can add up to give us a less than pleasant day. Demanding patients, unexpected emergencies, backups in the waiting room, medication changes, pharmacy changes, and my favorite thing to dislike, the electronic health record, overwhelm us and add to our feelings of being

stressed. Often we feel as if we are simply driftwood tossed randomly in a sea of regulations and compliance stipulations. Maybe not. How much do we actually add to the feeling of being stressed and under pressure?

The NIH, as well as other medical organizations, reveal our biases when dealing with patients. Emergency room physicians endorse patient bias at a rate of 62%, orthopedic surgeons 50%, psychiatrists 48%, and family physicians and ob/gyns at 47%. At the other end of the spectrum we have pathologists at 10% and radiologists at 22%. Cardiologists ranked low also.

What triggers our bias? Patient emotional problems for 62% of us, followed

by weight, intelligence, language difficulties and insurance coverage. Obviously, our propensity to be biased is not a positive factor for the patient. We think of ourselves as being rational decision-makers not influenced by extraneous data. Wrong. We are after all human.

Physician know thyself. Recognize what bias you may have and learn how to compensate for it or seek help learning how to deal with these unnecessary and unfortunate reactions. We can't change the EHR requirements but we can change ourselves.

You will have a better day. After all, no one ever said being human was easy.

Collective Wisdom

(continued from page 1)

David (Oregon) provided an overview of the DOCME, an on-line platform for continuing medical education that we can not only tap into for our members but we can post programs and make them available to osteopathic physicians across the country and share revenue.

Brian (Missouri) provided an update on the CME Consortium and the CMEPRN app which can be downloaded for free and allows you to see state and specialty programs happening across the country. Sherrie (AAO) and I discussed AAO providing a treatment room at our annual conference for attendees. I must say, my colleagues are brilliant people who embrace the “distinctive practice of osteopathic medicine.”

I return to Pennsylvania invigorated, excited and #POMAProud!

Legislative Update

(continued from page 3)

physician is even on premises during the patient encounter, specifically in regards to the retail and independent clinics. There is no legal requirement for the physician to be on site.

Dr. DiMarco mentioned that with the advances in technology and telemedicine, it is now easier to review charts and information than when collaborative agreements began.

The committee attempted to ask questions on malpractice insurance, liability, case examples, patient care, cost and billing but Chairman Mustio refocused the questioning. These lines of question are designed for a hearing not an informational session. The committee has no plans for consideration of the associated legislation at this time.

A transcript of the session will be made available in the future by the Professional Licensure Committee. When available it can be found [here](#).

Classified Advertisements

Please address all correspondence for POMA Box Letters to: Box __, c/o POMA, 1330 Eisenhower Boulevard, Harrisburg, PA 17111-2395.

Physicians Wanted

CORRECT CARE SOLUTIONS: HIRING MEDICAL DIRECTORS in these cities: Cambridge Springs, Mercer, Huntingdon, Somerset, Waymart. For details call Robert Cross at 717-216-2055 or 570-954-0479.

OPPORTUNITY — PHYSICIAN POSITIONS AVAILABLE: Kennett Square, King of Prussia, Lansdale and Media. Flexible hours, private practice, 3-4 hour shifts, no on-call, malpractice insurance needed. For more information, please contact us at pwc.media@gmail.com or call (610) 566-8885.

Practices Wanted

PRACTICES WANTED: Retiring physicians, part-time or full-time practices, call (215) 669-4001.

Follow POMA on social media for all the latest news!



CLASSIFIED AD RATES

— Per insertion —

Member Ads*: \$10 for the first 20 words, .25 for each additional word. \$2 each for special services: box letter, all caps or all bold type, boxing an ad in.

Non-member Ads: (Payment must be received in advance.) \$50 for the first 20 words, .50 each additional word. \$5 for each special service (listed above).

***Please Note:** Member ad rate to be used only by POMA members and only for their medicine- or practice-related ads. Charges for other types of members' ads will be calculated using the non-member ad rate.

POMA does not take a position of endorsing any organizations, individuals or services whose classified advertisements appear in this publication. The *POMA Newsletter* reserves the right to select and edit all advertisements submitted.

POMPAC IS

The Collective Voice of the Osteopathic Profession



Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Political Action Committee

Send your personal check today to POMPAC in care of the Central Office, 1330 Eisenhower Boulevard, Harrisburg, PA 17111-2395, or charge your contribution to your VISA or MasterCard! PAC contributions are not tax-deductible.

Calendar of Coming Events

JANUARY

Pennsylvania: January 26

"POMA District 9 Meeting," Nemaconlin Woodlands, Farmington. Representatives from the POMA leadership will lead the meeting and discuss what is happening with POMA, leadership opportunities, and district activities. Contact Jason Leeper at jleeper@poma.org for more information or to RSVP.

Pennsylvania: January 27

"POMA District 12 Meeting," Nemaconlin Woodlands, Farmington. Elections will be held for delegates and alternate delegates to the POMA House of Delegates annual business meeting in May. Oversight attendees, please RSVP by Friday January 26. RSVP to Lisa Witherite-Rieg, DO, District Chair at lisawr64@gmail.com.

Pennsylvania: January 27

"POMA District 4 Hockey Night" at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre Township, Pa. The Binghamton Devils vs. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins game starts at 7:05 pm. For free tickets for District 4 members and family, contact Darlene Ann Dunay, DO, District Chair, at 570-457-7150 or e-mail dadunay@aol.com.

FEBRUARY

Pennsylvania: February 9

"SCOPE for Pain Training" Boston University and the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission at Spring Mill Manor, Ivyland, Pennsylvania. For more information and to

RSVP, please contact Donna Foisy at (215) 444-2740 or e-mail dsfoisy@buckscounty.org.

Pennsylvania: February 10

"Pediatric Medicine," Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, (PCOM) Philadelphia. Program chairman: Rosemary E. Vickers, DO. AOA CME credit anticipated 5 credits Category 1A. For more information, please contact Linda Miller, CME coordinator, at (215) 871-6348, fax (215) 871-6781, e-mail lindam@pcom.edu or www.pcom.edu.

Pennsylvania: February 23

"POMA District 10 Meeting," The Blue Bell Inn, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. Elections will be held for delegates and alternate delegates to the POMA House of Delegates annual business meeting in May. For more information, and to RSVP, please contact Carol D. Bowes-Lawlor, DO, District Chair, at (215) 718-5290, e-mail carollawlor@aol.com or visit www.poma.org.

MARCH

New York: March 1-4

"Primary Care Conference 2018 "LECOM, Peek'n Peak Conference Center, Findley Lake. AOA CME credit anticipated: up to 25 credits, Category 1A. For more information, please contact the LECOM CME office at (814) 860-5125, e-mail cme@lecom.edu or visit www.lecom.edu/cme.

Pennsylvania: March 8

POMA Professional Guidance/Young Professionals - West Region Meeting. Location TBD. For more information, please

contact Tammy Keller at tkeller@poma.org or call the POMA Central office, 1-800-544-POMA (7662), ext. 130 or www.poma.org.

Pennsylvania: March 20

POMA Professional Guidance/Young Professionals - Central Region Meeting Harrisburg. For more information, please contact Tammy Keller at tkeller@poma.org or call the POMA Central office, 1-800-544-POMA (7662), ext. 130 or www.poma.org.

Pennsylvania: March 28

POMA Professional Guidance/Young Professionals - East Region Meeting. Location TBD. For more information, please contact Tammy Keller at tkeller@poma.org or call the POMA Central office, 1-800-544-POMA (7662), ext. 130 or www.poma.org.

APRIL

Pennsylvania: April 21

"Osteopathic Spring Symposium," Reading Hospital, Reading. AOA CME credit anticipated: 5 credits, Category 1A. For information, please contact Amy Cavanaugh, Education Coordinator, at (484) 628-5501, e-mail amy.cavanaugh@towerhealth.org or visit www.reading.towerhealth.org/cme.

MAY

Pennsylvania: May 2-5

"POMA 110th Annual Clinical Assembly & Scientific Seminar," King of Prussia. AOA CME credit anticipated: 40 credits. For information, call (717) 939-9318, e-mail cme@poma.org or visit www.poma.org.

Quality Payment Program Webinar

The Philadelphia Regional Office of CMS has announced its upcoming webinars for the Quality Payment Program (QPP). The Year 2 of the Quality Payment Program webinar, will focus on the changes to the program in 2018, including the MIPS low-volume threshold for 2018, new exemptions for clinicians in small/rural practices, scoring methodology, as well as changes to Advanced Alternative Payment Models (APMs).

If you are interested in this webinar, please register at this link:

- February 6: Year 2 of the Quality Payment Program, 1:00 - 2:30 PM EST --> [Click Here](#)



PRIMARY CARE CONFERENCE 2018

Peek'n Peak Resort, Clymer, NY • March 1-4

Presented By: L|E|C|O|M HEALTH

Conference Information

Primary Care 2018 offers a unique learning experience for physicians and health care professionals seeking to learn the latest information about medical advancements and treatment options. LECOM faculty and guest lecturers will present topics pertinent to primary care physicians as well as specialists.

The conference will focus upon health problems commonly seen in the offices of primary care physicians. Topics for this year's conference will include two hours of opioid training; pain management, the identification of addiction and the practice of prescribing or dispensing of opioids. Along with clinical lectures, topics presented will be related to women's health, sports medicine, gastroenterology and much more! Primary Care 2018 will also devote up to five hours to the mandated patient safety and risk management requirements.

Pre-Conference Workshop

The Lake Erie Integrated Geriatric Health Team (LIGHT) is supported by a \$2.2 million Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) grant which supports the development of a health care workforce that improves health outcomes for older adults by integrating geriatrics with primary care, maximizing patient and family engagement, and transforming the health care system.

This pre-conference workshop will consist of continuing education sessions for all levels of licensed health care professionals and will prepare them for certification in geriatrics through the certifying body for each discipline. The workshop will be held on Thursday, March 1 from 12-5pm.

Fees and Credit Hours

Physician Registration - Up to 20 Credit Hours: \$375.00
Allied Health Professionals - Up to 20 Credit hours - \$250.00
Students, Residents, Interns - Up to 20 Credit Hours - \$150.00*
Thursday Pre-Conference Workshop - Up to 5 Credit Hours: \$100.00**

Conference Schedule

Thursday, March 1: 12:00pm-5:00pm
Friday, March 2: 7:00am-5:30pm
Saturday, March 3: 8:00am-5:30pm
Sunday, March 4: 7:00am-11:00am

**Students must be current medical, pharmacy or dental students.*

***The Thursday Pre-Conference Workshop is an add-on and is not included in the Physician or Allied Health Professional registration.*

Register Online at LECOM.edu/CME

Early-bird registration ends February 1, 2018