



MARCH 4, 2016

## Family Connections Student Edition



### New Benefit Headed Your Way

After almost three years delivering AOA-centric news to our members, it's time for AOA Family Connections to evolve. We know DOs and students value staying on top of the latest health care news, so we're partnering with Bulletin Healthcare to deliver information to you in a new way. The "AOA Morning Brief" email will arrive three times a week, combining the top health care headlines with the most important updates from the AOA. You should be receiving a welcome letter in your inboxes over the next two weeks, and the first issue will come around March 14.

### OMT Studies Earn National Coverage

Studies published in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* found that OMT reduced pain and improved function in patients suffering from chronic, nonspecific low back pain. Further, patients reporting the worst pain and higher degrees of disability received the most substantial benefit from the treatments. The initial study was intended to measure [whether OMT aided in recovery](#), while the second study sought to [identify characteristics of patients who received the most benefit](#) from the treatments. The studies have already been covered in [UPI](#), [Yahoo News](#), and [MD Magazine](#).

### Delivering Care in Guatemala

AOA President John W. Becher, DO, and CEO Adrienne White-Faines have just returned from a medical mission trip through Guatemala with DOCARE International. Joining them on DOCARE's largest global health outreach projects were 40 osteopathic medical students and many physicians of all specialties, nurses and other health care professionals. The group provided screenings at one of DOCARE's three permanent clinics in Latin America and traveled to rural villages to bring access to care to some of the most underserved areas in the country. [Learn more about DOCARE](#) and how you can get involved, like [completing a student rotation](#) through DOCARE.

### NHSC Scholarship Opportunity

Osteopathic medical students committed to primary care can apply for a National Health Services Corps scholarship and have

their **tuition, educational costs, and living stipend** covered in return for a **two-year commitment to work** at an NHSC-approved site in a medically underserved community. [Applications](#) will be accepted through April 28. [Learn more](#) online, or join an NHSC [webinar on March 24](#) for application and program guidance.

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## Profession Celebrates Black History Month

Throughout February, the osteopathic profession celebrated Black History Month by reaffirming its commitment to minority health care with several stories and events:

- The Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine hosted its annual “I am the Dream” awards ceremony on Feb. 26. Regina Benjamin, MD, the 18th U.S. surgeon general, served as keynote speaker at the ceremony, which recognized students and faculty who have made a positive impact on the lives of others, and have demonstrated excellence in their own personal and professional lives. See below for a full list of award winners.
- A group of osteopathic medical students from the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine [authored an opinion piece for The DO](#) discussing why the “White Coats for Black Lives” campaign matters to them.
- [The DO also profiled several past recipients](#) of the William G. Anderson, DO, Minority Scholarship to see the impact it has had on their lives and careers.
- Learn about more DOs and osteopathic medical students working to reduce health disparities in [this article from The DO](#).

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## DOs on the Move

- **Michael L. Epter, DO**, program director for emergency medicine at Arizona’s Maricopa Medical Center, was awarded the Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award by the ACGME.
- AOA Trustee **James Lally, DO**, was [interviewed on the health podcast No Copay Radio](#) for an episode covering his role as team physician for the U.S. Olympic shooting team and how they may be affected by the Zika virus.
- **Joseph Love, DO**, trauma surgeon and associate professor of surgery at McGovern Medical School, has been named as the new Medical Director of Memorial Hermann Life Flight.
- **Kenneth Steier, DO**, founding dean and professor at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Middletown, N.Y., has been appointed as Board Secretary and a member of the Executive Committee for the Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center.
- PCOM “I am the Dream” Award winners:
  - Distinguished Alumni Award: **Barbara Williams-Page, DO**
  - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award: **Judith A. Lightfoot, DO**
  - William M. King, DO Award: **J. Steven Blake, DO, MSc**
  - Student of Merit awards: **Olivia Menardy, OMS IV; Jameel Shareef, OMS IV; and Michael Stefanowicz, OMS IV**
  - William M. King, DO Endowed Minority Scholarship: **Israel Benjamin, OMS I**
- **AOA Past President Larry A. Wickless, DO**, has been named President of the American Osteopathic Foundation’s Board of Directors.

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## Quick Links

- [Osteopathic.org](#)
- [Family Connections archive](#)
- [The DO](#)
- [Resources for Osteopathic Medical Students](#)
- [Alliances for Members](#)
- [AOA Match Program](#)



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