



AMERICAN
COLLEGE OF
OSTEOPATHIC
SURGEONS

2025



ANNUAL REPORT

Contents

Letter from the CEO	1
Mission + Vision	2
Board of Governors	3
ACOS Staff	4
Outgoing President’s Address	5
2025 Award Winners	6
2025 Presidential Citation Award Winners	7
College Service Award Recipients	8
Committees	10
2025 Meetings in Review	11
Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Surgeons	12
Continuing Education	13
Resident Section	15
2025 Resident Robert C. Erwin Literary Award Winners	16
Resident Achievement Award Winners	16
ACOS Medical Student Section	17
Medical Student Section Officers	21
2025 Student Robert C. Erwin Literary Award Winners	21
Membership	22
Incoming President’s Address	24



Letter from the CEO

Valerie Sheridan
D.O., FACOS, DFACOS, FACS

It is an honor to serve as CEO of ACOS, working alongside the heart and soul of our organization—our members. From rural communities to major academic centers, you represent the strength and diversity of osteopathic surgery, meeting the needs of patients who rely on us daily.

Despite challenges such as the Single Accreditation System and the COVID-19 pandemic, ACOS has remained steadfast in its vision: **to sustain and grow a united community of surgeons committed to the highest standards of osteopathic surgical practice.** This vision represents not just a set of words—these words are our compass, our engine and our strategy. They have guided us through decades of transformation and continue to drive us forward with surgical precision.

In 2025, we achieved milestones that reflect this commitment:

Strengthened Governance: Updated bylaws and a more engaged Board shaping strategic direction.

Quality Initiatives: Programs aimed at elevating patient care and professional standards.

Education and Mentorship: Expanded offerings and accessibility to support career growth and networking opportunities for our membership and leadership.

Annual Clinical Assembly (ACA): Delivered exceptional education and networking opportunities for students, residents and valued members.

Infrastructure Investments: Initiating upgraded systems and the development of the 2026-2028 Strategic Plan.

These successes are the result of dedicated staff, volunteers, and leaders who believe in our mission. As we approach our 100-year anniversary in 2027, we are not just celebrating longevity—we are celebrating legacy. Every surgeon before us has laid the track; every surgeon today fine tunes the engine; and every future surgeon will take the wheel with confidence, knowing they are a part of something enduring and extraordinary.

Our vision keeps us united, focused, and moving forward—faster, smarter, and stronger. It fuels innovation, mentorship, advocacy, and leadership. It ensures osteopathic surgery is not only respected—it is revered.

I invite you to stay engaged, get involved, and help us build the future of osteopathic surgery—one meaningful moment at a time. Together, we will accelerate through the finish line in 2027 defining the next century of excellence.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime with questions, comments or feedback at vsheridan@facos.org.

Valerie Sheridan, DO, DFACOS, FACS
Chief Executive Officer

Mission + Vision

The ACOS is committed to promoting excellence in osteopathic surgical care through mentorship, education, advocacy, leadership development, and the fostering of professional and personal relationships.

To sustain and grow a united community of all surgeons that promotes the highest level of osteopathic surgical practice.



Board of Governors

PRESIDENT

Francesco T. Mangano, D.O., FACOS

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Nelayda Fonte, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS

PAST PRESIDENT

J. Bracken Burns, Jr., D.O., FACOS, FACS

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Benjamin Lam, D.O., DFACOS, FACS

MEMBER AT LARGE

J. Franklin Oaks, Jr., D.O., MHA, FACOS

GOVERNORS

Julie Caffrey, D.O., FACOS

Shannon M. Davis, D.O., FACOS

Kelly B. Gabel, D.O., FACOS, FACS

Moez Khorsandi, D.O., FACOS

Francis A. Kralick, D.O., FACOS

Sharon Beth Larson, D.O., FACOS

Jesse J. Lopez, Jr., D.O., FACOS

Tanya Minasian, D.O., FACOS

Daniel A. Pacella, D.O., FACOS

Olutayo A. Sogunro, D.O., FACOS

Michelle Southard, D.O., FACOS

RESIDENT MEMBER

David R. Mann, D.O.

STUDENT MEMBER

Allie Heineman

ACOS Staff



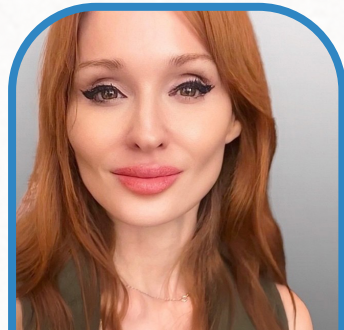
Douglas Holbrook, CPA
DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS



Hillary Roberts
MANAGER, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



Valerie L. Sheridan, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS, FACS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Anastasia DiCicco
MANAGER, EDUCATION AND EVENTS



Jill Weems
ONLINE COMMUNITIES AND CONTENT MANAGER



Outgoing President's Address

Francesco Mangano, D.O., FACOS

Dear Fellow Osteopathic Surgeons,
As I reflect on the exceptional privilege I have had to serve as president of ACOS over the past year, I want to first express my most sincere gratitude and appreciation for allowing me the opportunity to serve the College in this role.

During my participation within the College, the Board of Governors, and the Executive Committee of ACOS, I experienced us not only accepting new challenges

we faced but also rising to turn them into opportunities for continued growth and success of the College. For example, we now have beautiful new offices in Alexandria, Virginia, and financial stability that allows us to continue investing in strategic planning for the future.

Our vision remains front and center, and I have used it as our beacon to guide us in challenging times: **To sustain and grow a united community of all surgeons that promotes the highest level of osteopathic surgical practice.**

Our growth has been evident at every level this year and is having a significant impact, with more than 5,000 medical student members and the addition of more than 100 resident members. With the formalization of mentoring programs and research initiatives, such as the ORIGINS Program in the Medical Student Section and the Nature research platform pilot program with our residents, we continue to strengthen the

bond and invest in those who will be the future leaders of our College.

Our members, who through their unique skill sets and abilities span the spectrum of clinical care, academic and research excellence, and dedication to education and innovation, continue to embody what the College truly represents: ACOS is the home of ALL osteopathic surgeons. Ultimately, we are the forward-facing image and message of osteopathic surgical care to the American public. Our unique and individual professional purpose is to provide the best possible care for our patients. This is the very real and palpable example of our purpose, the values with which we practice medicine, and how this represents the ACOS.

I firmly believe that we continue to emerge as a stronger organization year after year, partly because we have been forced to reinvent ourselves as an organization, but also because we have sought out solutions to be more cohesive, more efficient, and through dedicated members, we have met the challenges in front of us. I have no doubt that this will continue through our membership, Disciplines, ACOS committees, Board of Governors, and Executive Leadership. But I also encourage and challenge all of us to simply replace ourselves to ensure that our values are passed on for generations to come.

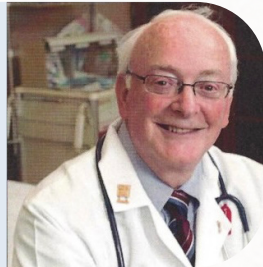
This year has been a great honor, and I wish the College all the continued success it deserves.

Francesco T. Mangano, D.O., FACOS

2025 Award Winners

OREL F. MARTIN MEDAL

Alan L. Meshekow, D.O., DFACOS



HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Vincent U. Ohaju, D.O., FACOS



CHARLES L. BALLINGER DISTINGUISHED OSTEOPATHIC SURGEON AWARD

Lisa J. Finkelstein, D.O., FACOS



GUY D. BEAUMONT, JR., FACOS AWARD OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Ray L. Morrison, D.O., DFACOS



2025 Presidential Citation Award Winners

Kyle A. Mcgrath, D.O.

Alexandra Beier, D.O., FACOS

J. Bracken Burns, Jr., D.O., FACOS



College Service Award Recipients



2024-2025 ACOS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD - COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Olutayo A. Sogunro, D.O., FACOS



2024-2025 ACOS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD - LECTURER
Sharon Beth Larson, D.O., FACOS



2024-2025 ACOS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD - MENTOR
Michael A. Burchett, D.O., FACOS



Thank You
Your time and dedication make all the difference. We are deeply grateful to the members who generously share their expertise, energy, and passion to advance the mission of the College. Your commitment strengthens our community and helps us continue to grow and serve.



Committees

ACA Scientific Exhibits and Poster Sessions

CHAIR:
Alana R. Harrison, D.O., FACOS, M.S.

Awards

CHAIR:
Kelly M. Van Fossen, D.O., FACOS

VICE CHAIR:
Lauren Kopicky, D.O., FACOS

Bylaws

CHAIR:
Shannon M. Davis, D.O., FACOS

Ceremonial

CHAIR:
Scott W. Grover, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS

VICE CHAIR:
Alan L. Meshekow, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS

Continuing Education

CHAIR:
Dan E. Miulli, D.O., FACOS

Ethics

CHAIR:
J. Bracken Burns, Jr., D.O., FACOS, FACS

VICE CHAIR:
Andrea R. Hufford, D.O., FACOS

General Surgery In-depth Review Program

CHAIR:
Nelayda Fonte, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS

Government Affairs

CHAIR:
Mandip S. Atwal, D.O., FACOS

VICE CHAIR:
Amanda Baright, D.O., FACOS

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action (IDEA)

CO-CHAIRS:
Nefertiti Childrey, D.O.
Christopher Jessie Richardson, D.O., MBA, FACOS, FACS

ACOS on Cureus Journal Editorial Board

CHAIR:
J. Bracken Burns, Jr., D.O., FACOS, FACS

Membership

CHAIR:
Sharon A. Rooney-Gandy, D.O., FACOS, FACS

VICE CHAIR:
Kelly B. Gabel, D.O., FACOS, FACS

Mentorship

CHAIR:
Michael A. Burchett, D.O., FACOS

Quality Initiatives

CO-CHAIRS:
Olutayo A. Sogunro, D.O., FACOS
Aleksandr Sokolovsky, D.O.

Social Media

CO-CHAIRS:
Thomas M. Cox, D.O., FACOS
Katelin A. Holmes, D.O., FACOS

Strategic Planning

CHAIR:
Laurence H. Belkoff, D.O., FACOS



2025 Meetings in Review

General Surgery Mid-Year Updates

APRIL 4-6, 2025 | OMAHA, NEBRASKA

PROGRAM CHAIRS:
Igor G. Elyash, D.O.
Lauren Kopicky, D.O., FACOS, FACS

The General Surgery Mid-Year Updates took place April 4-6, 2025, in Omaha, Nebraska. A new and improved workshop focused on the general surgeon across subspecialties, with special sessions dedicated to the rural surgeon, bariatric surgery, and quality improvement. A new feature this year, the half-day Quality Track, highlighted quality improvement initiatives and emphasized performance measured against national standards. Participants in the Quality Track had the option to earn OCC-Component 4 credit, approved by the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery, or elect CME credit for participation.

Approximately 87 surgeons registered ahead of the event, and an additional 43 surgeons accessed the content once it became available online. Eligible participants were able to earn up to 24 AOA Category 1A or AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

Looking ahead, the next General Surgery Mid-Year Updates will be held April 10–12, 2026, in Charleston, South Carolina, in conjunction with the Neurosurgery Mid-Year Meeting.

COMMITTEE CHAIR
Nelayda Fonte, D.O., DFACOS

BOARD LIAISONS
Jesse J. Lopez, Jr., D.O., FACOS
Daniel A. Pacella, D.O., FACOS

PROGRAM CHAIRS

Igor G. Elyash, D.O.
Lauren Kopicky, D.O., FACOS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jessica L. Bartock, D.O., FACOS
Hania B. Bednarski, D.O., FACOS
Stuart J.D. Chow, D.O., FACOS
Holly C. Foote, D.O.
Shani Fruchter, D.O.
Kelly B. Gabel, D.O., FACOS, FACS
Dina Galaktionova, D.O., FACOS
Jessica L. Marshall, D.O.
Robert J. Marx, D.O., FACOS
Victoria L. Schlanser, D.O., FACOS
Jennifer E. Susoreny-Velgos, D.O., FACOS
Tyler Tominello, D.O.

STAFF LIAISONS

Kathleen Fitzgerald
Anastasia DiCicco

Urological Surgery Discipline Mid-Year Meeting

PROGRAM CHAIRS
John Kowalczyk, D.O., FACOS
Joel Abbott, D.O., FACOS

The 2025 ACOS Urological Surgery Mid-Year Meeting took place on April 27 during the American Urological Association’s (AUA) Annual Conference at The Venetian Convention & Expo Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. Under the direction of Program Chairs John Kowalczyk, D.O., FACOS

and Joel Abbott, D.O., FACOS, the event featured a high-quality continuing medical education (CME) program. Participants were eligible to earn AOA Category 1A CME Credits or AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.



Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Surgeons

SEPTEMBER 17-24, 2025 | SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

THEME: Precision, Compassion, Innovation: The Osteopathic Advantage

The 2025 Annual Clinical Assembly was held September 17 – 24, 2025, at the Grand America Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. Our theme, “Precision, Compassion, Innovation: The Osteopathic Advantage,” highlighted the defining principles that distinguish osteopathic surgeons in modern medicine. This year’s meeting emphasized the power of combining advanced surgical precision with the humanistic, patient-centered care that lies at the heart of the osteopathic tradition. Attendees engaged in a dynamic program of continuing medical education sessions, hands-on workshops, and interdisciplinary discussions designed to inspire innovation while reaffirming our shared commitment to compassionate, whole-person care.

Under the leadership of Committee Chair Dan E. Miulli, D.O., FACOS, the Continuing Education Committee delivered an exceptional conference program. ACOS once again demonstrated its dedication to upholding the highest standards of clinical accuracy, educational integrity, and professional excellence in its CME offerings. Sincere thanks to our committee members, chairs, speakers, staff, and all who contributed to making the event a success.

Highlights to this year’s programming included:

- KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**
Gita Pensa, MD, FAAEM | “Doctors and Litigation: Beyond Legal Outcomes”
Peter Angood, MD, FRCS(C), FACS, MCCM, FAAPL(Hon) | “Surgical Leadership in Contemporary Times”
Andrea Cooley, DO, FACOS | “Artificial Intelligence Transforming Delivery of Healthcare and Surgical Education”

THEODORE F. CLASSEN MEMORIAL LECTURER:
Karla Witzke, DO, FACOS | “From Setback to Strength: The Power of Peer Support in Surgery”



Mark Your Calendar! Future Programs

- 2026 GENERAL SURGERY
MID-YEAR UPDATES**
April 10-12, 2026
The Francis Marion Hotel
Charleston, South Carolina
- 2026 ACOS UROLOGICAL SURGERY
MID-YEAR MEETING**
May 17, 2026
Walter E. Washington Convention Center
and the Marriott Marquis
Washington, DC

**ANNUAL CLINICAL ASSEMBLY OF
OSTEOPATHIC SURGEONS**
September 30 - October 4, 2026
Hyatt Regency
New Orleans, Louisiana

October 20-24, 2027
Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
Orlando, Florida

Celebrating
100 Years
of Osteopathic
Surgical
Excellence

Continuing Education

In accordance with the ACOS Mission, the Continuing Education Committee is responsible for developing conference themes, identifying educational needs, and planning the accredited Continuing Medical Education (CME) activities of ACOS educational programs including the Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Surgeons (ACA).

- Committee Chair**
Dan E. Miulli, D.O., FACOS
- Board Liaisons**
J. Franklin Oaks, Jr., D.O., MHA, FACOS
Olutayo A. Sogunro, D.O., FACOS

- Members**
Gerard A. Baltazar, D.O., FACOS
Joshua Sterling Bentley, D.O.
John Carabello, D.O., FACOS
Daniel A. Carr, D.O., FACOS
Kyle O. Colle, D.O., FACOS
Wantzy Cooper, D.O.
Darren Lee Jacobs, D.O., FACOS
Justin J. Koenig, D.O., FACOS, FACS
John James Kowalczyk, D.O., FACOS
Tanya Minasian, D.O., FACOS
Saikiran Murthy, D.O., FACOS
Farid Nossoni, D.O.
Herbert E. Oye, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS
John Paul Palu- Regan, D.O., FACOS
Felippe Sartorato, D.O.
Michelle Martin Southard, D.O., FACOS

- Nicole Szell, D.O., FACOS
Wayne Waterman, D.O.
Anumeha Kumar Whisenhunt, D.O., FACOS
Karla D. Witzke, D.O., FACOS
- Staff Liaisons**
Kathleen Fitzgerald
Anastasia DiCicco





Resident Section

The Annual Resident Section Business meeting was held on September 20th, 2025. David Mann, D.O., Chair of the Resident Section for the 2024 - 2025 academic year, led the meeting. The agenda for the meeting included an update from Dr. Mann highlighting the progress made over the last academic year regarding medical student engagement, resident member recruitment, social media presence, and the developments regarding the Nature Masterclass Scholarship Program. Grace Young, D.O., the Secretary/Treasurer for the 2024-2025 academic year, then gave updates on the Resident Section Budget.

Elections were held and the newly elected 2025-2026 Resident Section Officers were announced: Zachary Brennen D.O., Chair, Grace Young, D.O., Chair-Elect, Whitley Figge, D.O. Secretary/Treasurer, Drew Thibault, D.O. Chair of Academic Advancement and Engagement, Courtney SanCraint D.O., Member-at-Large. Goals for the upcoming year were discussed and included continued efforts at recruitment and involvement with new Resident Section members, engagement and collaboration with the ACOS-MSS, social media engagement, revisions and approval of the Resident Section Bylaws, and further development of the Nature Masterclass initiative.



2025 Resident Section Officers

CHAIR

David R. Mann, D.O., PGY-5
Medical University of South Carolina

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Rachel Oppenheim, D.O., PGY-5
Cleveland Clinic - South Pointe

CHAIR-ELECT

Zachary Brennen, D.O., PGY-3
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

CHAIR OF ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

Kayla Brown, D.O., PGY-5
St. David's South Austin Medical Center

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Grace Young, D.O., PGY-3
Cleveland Clinic - South Pointe



2025 Resident Robert C. Erwin Literary Award Winners

1ST PLACE

Zachary Brennan

*TAVR Offers No Early Recovery Advantage
Over SAVR in Patients Under 75*
Cardiothoracic Surgery

2ND PLACE

Bhairav Shah

*The Impact of Social Determinants of Health on
Ostomy Reversal in Diverticulitis*
General Surgery

3RD PLACE

Vaishnavi Patel

*Pelvic Inflammatory Disease and its
Association with Overactive Bladder*
Urological Surgery

4TH PLACE

Grace Young

*The Use of COMLEX Performance When Considering DO Applicants
to General Surgery Residency Programs*
General Surgery

5TH PLACE

Zachariah Taylor

*Minder matters: how anxiety and depression shape low-risk prostate
cancer active surveillance adherence in a real-world population*
Urological Surgery

Resident Achievement Award Winners

Urological Surgery
Zachariah Taylor, D.O.

Program Director: *Laurence Belkoff, D.O., FACOS*
Main Line Health

Urological Surgery
Michael L. Smith, D.O.

Program Director: *James Siegert, D.O.*
Franciscan Health Olympia Fields

General Surgery
David R. Mann, D.O.

Program Director: *Colleen Donahue, MD*
Medical University of South Carolina

Neurological Surgery
Elise Yoon, D.O.

Program Director: *Boyd Richard, D.O.*
Henry Ford Providence/Michigan State University



ACOS Medical Student Section

The American College of Osteopathic Surgeons – Medical Student Section (ACOS-MSS) had an exciting and impactful year in 2025, marked by unprecedented growth, innovation, and student engagement. With 6,459 members, ACOS-MSS reached its largest membership to date, reflecting the growing enthusiasm and unity among future osteopathic surgeons nationwide.

Spring Conference 2025

The 2025 ACOS-MSS Spring Conference was held on April 12–13, 2025, at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OSUCOM) in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The event welcomed 300 osteopathic medical students from across the country for a weekend of hands-on learning, research presentations, and professional development.

The weekend began with a community service event at Iron Gate Tulsa, where attendees volunteered their time to support the local pantry. Featured speakers included Dr. Tom Hamilton (Otolaryngology), Dr. Chad Robbins (General Surgery), Dr. Raji Gill (Urological Surgery), Dr. Frank Oaks (Vascular Surgery), and ACOS Resident Section Chair Dr. Zach Brennan (Cardiothoracic Surgery, PGY-2). Their lectures covered topics such as navigating surgical residency applications, thriving under pressure, and exploring diverse surgical career paths.

The conference also showcased student-led quick shot and poster presentations, featuring 80 research projects across multiple surgical disciplines. Attendees gained valuable technical experience during hands-on workshops held in OSUCOM's Simulation Lab, which included OR simulation, cricothyrotomy, chest tube insertion, and laparoscopic training.

At the spring business meeting, the ACOS-MSS elected the 2025–2026 Executive Board (pictured on page 20).

Ongoing Initiatives

Throughout the year, ACOS-MSS continued to expand its educational programming and member engagement. Monthly Zoom sessions featured the “DO You Know?” series, where distinguished osteopathic surgeons shared their journeys and insights, as well as the Subspecialty Series, which spotlighted various surgical fields to help students explore potential career paths.

Collaboration with the ACOS Resident Section also flourished through joint journal clubs, mentorship programs, and cross-section initiatives aimed at supporting students through the residency application process.

ACOS-MSS subcommittees—including the Conference Committee, IDEA Committee, Engagement Committee, Research Committee, HPSP Committee, and Resources Committee—remained active, advancing the section’s mission of promoting education, diversity, leadership, and professional development among osteopathic surgical students.

Annual Clinical Assembly & Fall Conference 2025

In the fall, the medical student section convened during the 2025 Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Surgeons in Salt Lake City, Utah, on September 19–20, 2025, at The Grand America Hotel. The event united students, residents, and attending surgeons for two days of education, mentorship, and networking.

Featured speakers included ACOS Past President Dr. Francesco Mangano (Neurosurgery), ACOS President Dr. Nelayda Fonte (Trauma Surgery), Dr. Frank Oaks (Cardiothoracic Surgery), Dr. Chad Robbins (General Surgery), ACOS President-Elect Dr. Benjamin Lam (Plastic Surgery), ACOS Past President Dr. Dawn Tartaglione (Neurosurgery), Dr. Chris Pfeifer (General Surgery), and Dr. Joseph Queeney (Neurosurgery). Their sessions

explored topics such as breast reconstruction, neurosurgical innovation, and effective communication in surgical practice.

A panel consisting of Dr. Maxwell Jabaay, Dr. Andrew Vogel, and OMS-IV Vincent Alexander shared valuable perspectives on thriving during surgical clerkships and preparing for residency. The speed mentoring event was once again a highlight of the conference, connecting over 50 mentors with students for personalized guidance and networking opportunities. Research excellence was also showcased through quick shot and Oral Presentations, emphasizing student innovation and academic curiosity.

Looking Ahead

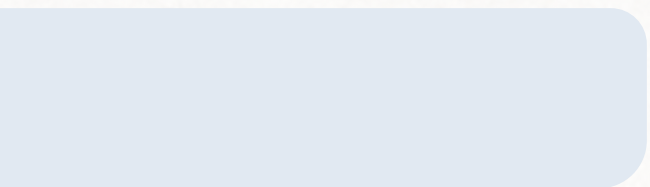
The ACOS-MSS looks ahead to 2026 with ambitious goals to elevate its national impact—expanding Spring Conference attendance, deepening collaboration with the ACOS Resident Section, and strengthening partnerships among osteopathic medical schools across the country. The upcoming 2026 Spring Conference will be hosted at the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine – Old Westbury on March 28-29, 2026, and planning is already in full swing to make it the most engaging and expansive event in ACOS-MSS history.

We thank all our student leaders, mentors, and faculty who continue to support our mission of inspiring and shaping the next generation of osteopathic surgeons.



6,459 Members

ACOS-MSS reached its largest membership to date, reflecting the growing enthusiasm and unity among future osteopathic surgeons nationwide.





2025 Student Robert C. Erwin Literary Award Winners

1ST PLACE

Austin Lui

Frailty Predictors for In-hospital Outcomes in Patients with Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury: A Prospective TRACK-SCI Study
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

2ND PLACE

Megan Crotts

Doramectin Induces Apoptosis in B16 Melanoma Cells
GENERAL SURGERY

3RD PLACE

Angelica Bartholomew

A Split Renal Function-Based Approach for Predicting New Baseline Glomerular Filtration Rate After Radical Nephroureterectomy
UROLOGICAL SURGERY

4TH PLACE

Ishrar Shaid

Comparison of Urologic Complications Between Ureteroneocystostomy and Ureteroureterostomy In Kidney Transplants
UROLOGICAL SURGERY

5TH PLACE

Austin Lui

Comparison of Neurosurgical Intervention and In-hospital Outcomes Between Cervical Central Cord Syndrome and Other Cervical Incomplete Spinal Cord Injuries: A Prospective TRACK-SCI Study
NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Medical Student Section Officers

CHAIR

Allie Heineman, OMS IV

Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine - Tampa Campus

VICE CHAIR

Will Huff, OMS IV

Lincoln Memorial University DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine - Knoxville

TREASURER

Emily Stack, OMS IV

William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine

SECRETARY

Hannah Valdez, OMS III

Lincoln Memorial University DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Nicole Duskey, OMS IV

A. T. Still University - Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

CONVENTIONS COORDINATOR

Jia Yi Koh, OMS III

Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Skylarr Beerman, OMS IV

New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University

TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

Andrea Schmitt, OMS IV

Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine Colorado

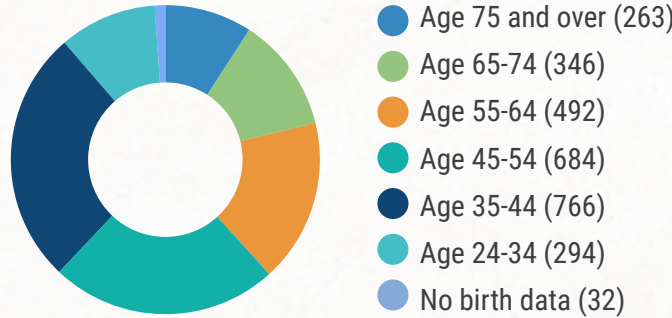
Membership

This year we honored twenty-six members who earned the designation, Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons (FACOS) and three who earned the designation, Distinguished Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons (DFACOS). ACOS Fellows and Distinguished Fellows demonstrate continued engagement and service to the College, contribute to our profession with their time, their service, and their education of others, and are committed to the practice of surgery, surgical teaching, and leadership in their community, and local, state, and national organizations. These designation honors are bestowed upon the best of our profession.

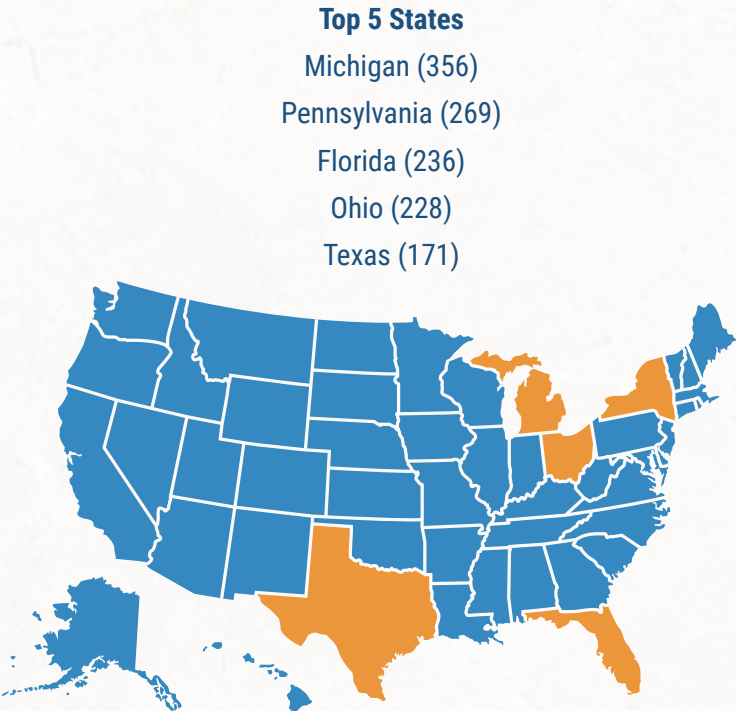
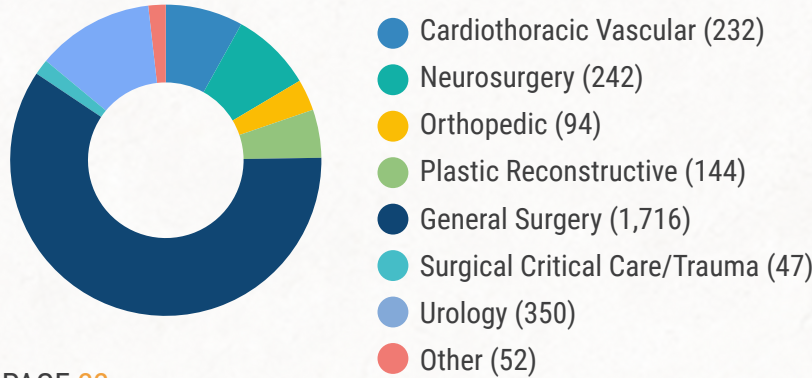
Thirty-three new members have joined the College and will be completing their membership requirement of participating in the annual member induction ceremony in New Orleans, Louisiana. This year brought incredible momentum for ACOS membership. Resident membership surged by 33 percent, and we proudly introduced our new International Membership category, opening our doors to surgeons around the world.

ACOS by the Numbers

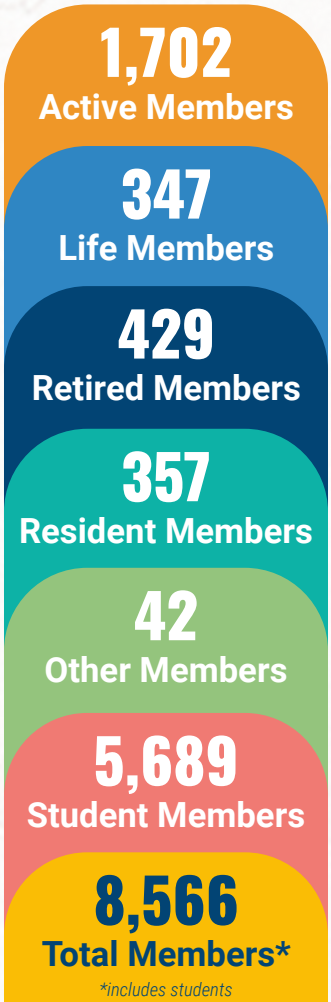
Members by Age



Members by Specialty



Resident membership surged by 33 percent.



Financials

Statement of Financial Position - Audited As of 6/30/2025

	2025	2024
Total Assets	\$11,172,141	\$9,742,129
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$11,172,141	\$9,742,129

Statement of Activities - Audited

	2025	2024
Total Operating Revenue & Support	3,073,456	2,569,672
Total Expenses	2,290,049	2,617,942
Net Asset Gain (Loss) From Operations	783,407	(48,270)
Total Non-Operating Activity	331,469	698,197
Total Net Asset Gain	1,114,876	649,927
Net Assets Beginning of Year	5,842,147	5,192,220
Net Assets End of Year	\$6,957,023	\$5,842,147



Incoming President's Address

The ending of another year marks the beginning of my year as President of ACOS. We certainly have had challenges, but as someone not new to adversity, I recall my mantra, "Can't means won't." What I have seen is staff coming together despite shortages to put together a great ACA with record numbers of on-site registrations. Salt Lake City welcomed us warmly, and attendees enjoyed an educational event with the added benefit of friends and colleagues surrounding them.

I couldn't be more pleased to watch the lifeblood of our organization—our rural and community surgeons—becoming even more active and involved, wanting their voices heard and a seat at the table. We see you; we hear you! You have excellent representation on the Board of Governors. The Rural Surgeons Forum has grown to standing-room-only attendance! I proudly say, "Welcome back."

There has been exponential growth in our Military Members Forum. Thank you all for your service. I want you to keep it up. I have definite ideas for increasing involvement from all of you and have appointed Colonel Richard Marx to the General Surgery In-Depth Review Committee. I want bigger and better opportunities for our military members at the 2026 ACA in New Orleans.

The energy I witnessed at the Urological Surgery Discipline Annual Business Meeting was heartwarming. Right then and there, they decided to meet further and explore ways to grow, reach out, and sponsor students and residents (their future) while

addressing the needs of their current membership.

The CTV discipline took the challenge to heart, already mentoring and bringing students and residents interested in CTV surgery to the ACA, encouraging and supporting scholarly activity in real time—a benefit to those already involved and those to come.

The Plastic Surgery discipline is learning that "The Meeting" is not helping their section grow. They realize that their future as DOs relies on increased presence and support for one another, as well as for the students and residents who follow. The grass is not always greener on the other side. Sometimes you have to see that for yourselves to appreciate what you have—fellow osteopathic surgeons who know you and support you, now and throughout your evolving and changing careers.

Neurosurgeons, never to be left behind, are vocal and active individuals who take the mantra of reaching further seriously. Not only are they involved in scholarly activity, but they are also creating funded research-year opportunities that provide our osteopathic students interested in neurosurgery the ability to be the best-qualified candidates they can be without suffering economic hardship. Thank you, Dr. Mangano! In keeping with increased scholarly activity and providing members with additional CME, Neurosurgery will be joining the General Surgery Discipline on April 10–12, 2026, in beautiful Charleston, SC, for neurosurgical updates and some fun times.

The General Surgery discipline continues its outreach to students and residents, offering scholarships to the ACA and the General Surgery Mid-Year Meeting (GSMY). The excellent programming at the GSMY has led to increasing attendance and greater variety in topics appealing to a broader range of practicing surgeons—from rural interests to robotics and the use of AI in surgery. The very popular Quality Improvement (QI) session will return and provides four hours of CME (or will satisfy the OCC 4 requirement). This is good for any physician participating in OCC regardless of specialty, so come join us—and bring a friend! In a few short months, we have seen an increase in the number of COMs from 57 in September to over 60 by January. Most have Medical Student Sections of the ACOS, and the need for surgeon school liaisons continues to grow. We now have over 6,400 student members seeking mentorship. A little bit of our time goes a long way in helping to guide these young men and women. Volunteer!

Our residents are coming back!! After years of decreasing numbers, we have seen over 100 new resident members this year. There is a new vigor and passion for education, research, outreach, mentorship, and camaraderie with their fellow DO residents. No one knows you better or understands you better than another DO. Don't ever underestimate that.

Committees are already working hard. Some have changed leadership and have been charged with new causes to meet the needs of our ever-changing

membership. We look forward to new initiatives from IDEA, Mentorship, Membership, and Social Media. Our Government Affairs Committee has been more active, increasing advocacy while combining forces with our brethren osteopathic organizations to help us improve and protect the path for practicing surgeons, the care of our patients, and the sustainability of medical education for our students.

As your 99th President, I hope to be the bridge to our future at ACOS. We added a new category of membership last year—international membership—and I hope to see that grow and expand. But with expansion comes the need to support that growth. We are happy to announce that we are undertaking AMS upgrades in our computer systems, website redesigns, new strategic plans, and right-sizing our staffing to better support our organization and our membership.

So now, my challenge to you all: Be involved! Don't just complain—come up with solutions. Teach, mentor, be a PI for a student or resident looking to do research (learn how; it's not hard and anyone interested can do it). Help us plan our 100th anniversary. Donate to the Trust Fund! The opportunities are limitless. Find the one that gives YOU joy—I guarantee others will benefit from it too.

I was invited as a special guest this year to the ACS—my first. All around me were signs that the ACS is the House

of Surgery. It was big, and a lot was going on. I met many friends and made new ones. While there, I ran into a few osteopathic students who had also been to the ACOS. We talked and compared notes, but in the end, we all agreed on one thing: The ACS may be the House of Surgery, but the ACOS is the HOME of all osteopathic surgeons. And there is no place like HOME.

ITS GOING TO BE AN EXCITING YEAR!!

Nelayda Fonte, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS





AMERICAN
COLLEGE OF
OSTEOPATHIC
SURGEONS

1680 Duke Street, Suite 500 | Alexandria, VA 22314

facos.org