



2025-2026 ACOS Committee Descriptions and Objectives

ACA Scientific Exhibits and Poster Sessions Committee

Description - Responsible for reviewing and judging poster abstracts and exhibits for the Annual Clinical Assembly

Objectives -

Review the poster abstracts for the following year's ACA and consult with other committee members in your discipline to choose from the abstracts applicants to present podium presentations at the next ACA.

At the ACA, participate in the committee meeting and judging of the scientific posters and exhibits as well as the podium presentations in your discipline. Consult with other committee members to select awards winners.

Continue to improve the judging of the posters and the exhibits and the ceremony for presentation of awards.

Develop and implement strategies to encourage students, residents, and trainers to have scientific exhibits and/or poster sessions at the Annual Clinical Assembly.

Encourage student members to present posters at the ACA.

Awards Committee

Description - Responsible for reviewing award nominations and selecting winners.

Objectives -

Recognize the resident award recipients at a reception held during the ACA

Develop and implement methods to increase the nominations submitted for College awards.

Develop recommendations to improve the nomination process for the Orel Martin Medal, Charles L. Ballinger Distinguished Osteopathic Surgeon Award, Humanitarian Award, and Guy

D. Beaumont, Jr, FACOS Award of Academic Excellence for consideration by the Board of Governors

Bylaws Committee

Description - The ACOS Bylaws committee is responsible for:

- Ensuring the ongoing review and adherence to the ACOS bylaws. This entails regular assessments, meticulous scrutiny, and alignment with the overarching framework established by the ACOS.
- Monitoring any amendments, updates, or modifications to the ACOS bylaws, ensuring their consistency with the College's Articles of Incorporation and the broader legal context.
- Ensuring the Discipline and Section bylaws comply with the ACOS bylaws. This involves precise cross referencing, legal alignment, and bridging any gaps between these distinct layers of governance.

- Ensuring the Discipline and section bylaws adhere to the overarching ACOS framework, thereby promoting consistency, clarity, and legal compliance.

Objectives –

1. Examination and Enhancement of ACOS Bylaws:
 - a. Conduct a thorough examination of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons (ACOS) Bylaws
 - b. Propose and recommend improvements to enhance the clarity, effectiveness, and alignment of the Bylaws with the mission and purpose of the ACOS.
2. Ensuring Compliance:
 - a. Monitor and ensure that all disciplines and sections associated with the ACOS adhere to the provisions outlined in the ACOS Bylaws.
 - b. Address any instances of non-compliance promptly and appropriately.
3. Review and Amendment Recommendations:
 - a. Review the Bylaws of each discipline and section within the ACOS.
 - b. Identify areas where amendments or updates may be necessary.
 - c. Compile a comprehensive report detailing recommended changes and submit to the ACOS Executive Committee for consideration.

These objectives aim to uphold the integrity, consistency, and effective governance of the ACOS through diligent oversight and continuous improvement.

Updated as of 1/31/2025

Ceremonial Committee

Description - Responsible for developing the Ceremonial Conclave program held at the Annual Clinical Assembly to recognize new members, award recipients, and other member recognitions.

Objectives -

Evaluate the ceremonial conclave program and make recommendations on how to improve it. Successfully conduct the Ceremonial Conclave at the ACA.

Continuing Education Committee

Description - Responsible for overseeing and developing themes, identifying needs, and planning the CME content of ACOS educational programs including the Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Surgeons (ACA) and online learning programs, in accordance with and adherence to the ACOS Continuing Medical Education (CME) Mission.

Objectives -

The Continuing Education Committee consists of representatives from each discipline and assignment of committee representation is done in accordance with each discipline's bylaws.

Develop and oversee the ACOS CME programming for the Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Surgeons and Online Learning/Webinars. Other activities may be developed as needed.

Ensure the timely planning progression of the ACA and any applicable online learning activities strictly abiding by all American Osteopathic Association (AOA) CME Accreditation Standards, Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) Accreditation Standards, and ACOS CME policies, and ensure seamless dialogue between discipline representatives to ensure a strategic and comprehensive approach to ACOS's continuing medical education.

Identify and develop program themes and CME programming by conducting needs assessments.
Identify learning objectives, educational competencies, and desired learner outcomes.

Identify topics and recruit speakers for disciplinary/interdisciplinary programs and plenary sessions.

The goals of the committee are to:

- increase the competence of healthcare providers through increased awareness and enhanced knowledge of the most current methods of diagnosis, therapy, and disease prevention; and
- present CME content that is balanced, objective, free from commercial bias, and based on the best practices and evidence-based medicine.

Ethics Committee

Description – The Ethics committee is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of integrity transparency, and accountability within our organization. This committee is responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring our code of ethics interpreting the AOA Code of Ethics and how that integrates into the ACOS Code of Ethics ensuring that all activities and decisions align with our core values and ethical principles.

Key Objectives of the Committee Include:

1. **Code of Ethics Development and Review:** Crafting and periodically revisiting the organization's code of ethics to reflect our mission, vision and values, and the evolving landscape of nonprofit governance.
2. **Ethical Guidance and Support:** Providing guidance to board members, staff, and volunteers on ethical issues and dilemmas, fostering a culture of ethical decision-making.
3. **Compliance and Accountability:** Ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, as well as internal policies, to maintain public trust and organizational integrity.
4. **Confidentiality and Conflict Resolution:** Addressing ethical concerns and conflicts confidentially and impartially, promoting a respectful and fair environment for all stakeholders.
5. **Training and Education:** Organizing training sessions and educational programs to raise awareness about ethical standards and practices within the organization.

1. The Ethics Committee plays a crucial role in maintaining the trust and confidence of our donors, partners, and the communities we serve. By championing ethical behavior and accountability, we strive to create a positive impact and uphold the reputation of ACOS. **Code of Ethics Development and Review:** Crafting and periodically revisiting the organization's code of ethics to reflect our mission, vision and values, and the evolving landscape of nonprofit governance.
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Updated as of 1/31/2025

General Surgery In-depth Review Seminar Program Committee

Descriptions - Responsible for selecting program chairs for the meeting and assisting in program implementation and developing program materials.

Objectives -

Recommend two committee members to the President-elect to serve as the program chairs for each program for the next 2 - 3 years.

By means of a formal needs assessment process, plan the following year's General Surgery In-depth Review Seminar program and by August of the preceding year, have a promotional brochure ready to distribute at the ACA.

Meet during the ACA to evaluate the In-depth Review Seminar and finalize plans for the next General Surgery In-Depth Review Seminar program.

Assist the program chairs to implement the following year's program in a timely manner.

Recommend and implement a needs assessment process for General Surgery In-depth Review Seminar program planning.

Government Affairs Committee

Description - The Government Affairs Committee of ACOS is responsible for educating members on important regulatory and legislative matters, developing policy statements, and forming alliances with appropriate affiliate organizations. This committee plays a crucial role in ensuring that our members are well-informed about the latest developments in public policy and regulatory changes that impact our mission and operations. By crafting clear and effective policy statements, the committee advocates for the interests of our organization and the communities we serve. Additionally, the committee actively seeks to build strategic partnerships with affiliate organizations to strengthen our collective voice and influence in the public policy arena.

Objectives -

1. **Educate Members:** Provide regular updates and educational resources on key regulatory and legislative matters affecting the organization and its mission. This includes offering plenary sessions at the ACA on such issues and distributing position statements adopted by ACOS on federal legislation and regulatory issues to enable members to be more effective advocates.
2. **Develop Policy Statements:** Craft clear and effective policy statements that reflect the organization's stance on important issues and advocate for its interests. This includes developing position statements on socioeconomic and political issues affecting osteopathic surgeons and communicating these positions to governments, third-party payers, and ACOS membership.
3. **Monitor Legislation:** Track and analyze relevant legislative developments to anticipate and respond to changes that may impact the organization. Continue to monitor federal legislation and regulations and sign-on to position statements on federal legislation and comment on proposed federal regulations that support the interests of osteopathic surgery.
4. **Form Alliances:** Establish and maintain strategic partnerships with affiliate organizations to strengthen collective advocacy efforts. Continue to partner with organizations and participate in coalitions and alliances whose policies are congruous with those of the College.
5. **Engage with Policymakers:** Facilitate communication and engagement with local, state, and federal policymakers to influence public policy in favor of the organization's goals.

Work with the AOA and other government affairs consultants to have ACOS members appointed to national/federal advisory committees.

6. **Advocacy Campaigns:** Organize and lead advocacy campaigns to mobilize members and supporters around critical issues.
7. **Compliance Support:** Assist the organization in understanding and complying with regulatory requirements to ensure legal and ethical operations.
8. **Feedback Mechanism:** Create channels for members to provide input on policy positions and advocacy priorities, ensuring their voices are heard and considered.

The Government Affairs Committee plays a vital role in maintaining the trust and confidence of our members, partners, and the communities we serve. By championing ethical behavior and accountability, we strive to create a positive impact and uphold the reputation of ACOS

Updated as of 1/31/2025

IDEA Committee

Description - IDEA – Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Action committee was created to explore and engage issues regarding diversity, equity, inclusion in the ACOS membership of surgeons, residents, and students.

Objectives -

Focus on DEI in the ACOS by identifying barriers and hurdles to marginalized, underrepresented, and minority members, and find solutions or resources for the ACOS to decrease these obstructions.

Identify minority or marginalized members (physician, residents, and students) with interest in leadership to integrate them into the IDEA committee and help promote them in ACOS leadership roles as well.

ACOS on Cureus Journal Editorial Board

Description – Responsible for previewing and reviewing poster and article submissions for the ACOS Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, General Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Urological Surgery, and Neurological Surgery Channels on the Cureus Journal of Medical Science platform. The editorial board is also responsible for promoting, where possible, this ACOS member benefit that is available to all members, from students and residents to full and retired members in good standing, to support the osteopathic surgical community.

Objectives –

Provide a platform that supports osteopathic medical students and residents with opportunities to stay competitive in developing a scholarly portfolio for residency and fellowship applications.

Provide a tangible, quantifiable ACOS member benefit (tangible in that an article is published in a peer-reviewed Pub-Med® indexed journal and quantifiable in that members may track their articles based on the following metrics: number of article reads, number of article downloads and number of article citations).

Increase awareness of and interest in ACOS.

Offer a mechanism for our members to expand the reach and exposure of their research to the broader medical/surgical research community.

Membership Committee

Description - Responsible for approving memberships, reviewing, and approving fellow applications, and establishing and implementing membership rules and criteria

Objectives -

Identify and recruit allopathically trained osteopathic surgeons as members. Identify and recruit former members of the College as members.

Develop a program to reach out to members who haven't paid their dues by August 1 to encourage renewals.

Continue to grow the number of applicants who apply for the FACOS designation.

Research better methods to submit applications for the FACOS designation, such as an improved electronic form.

Work with Senior Director, Membership to determine what surgery sub-specialty data should be captured for our members.

Mentorship Committee

Description – The Mentorship Committee is responsible for oversight and development, delivery, assessment, and continuous improvement of a robust mentorship program for students, resident members, members, and fellows of the ACOS.

Objectives –

Review and revise the application process to become a mentee or mentor.

Identify fiscally responsible ways to streamline the mentor/mentee match process.

Create and maintain robust mentorship relationships within the College (student to member/FACOS, student to resident, resident to fellow in training, fellow in training to member/FACOS, and other leadership mentorship relationships like committee member to governor, etc.)

Identify and share meaningful, easy ways for mentors/mentees to meet and discuss topics in a timely fashion.

Create and implement evaluation tools for program assessment.

Report to the Board of Governors annually results for mentorship relationships and effectiveness of the program.

Create educational materials for ACA or other ACOS education-based venues to help develop mentors and mentees during their program experience.

Develop marketing materials to help support ACOS staff.

Develop initiatives to collaborate with other committees and increase engagement. Outcome

Measures:

- Number of mentor mentee relationships in each discipline
- NRMP match results of participating members
- Member engagement in faculty development utilizing educational materials developed by the committee
- Participant satisfaction with program matching process and overall mentor/mentee relationship experience
- Number of interactions on social media, email, and/or the ACOS website
- New members generated to become a mentor or mentee.

ACOS PAC Governing Committee

Description – Consists of up to eleven ACOS members and representatives, is responsible for assisting ACOS staff with ACOS PAC functions, events, and direction. The Governing Committee offers valuable advice and input as members of the ACOS who work to best represent osteopathic surgeons and the ACOS politically.

Article VII, Officers

The officers of the Committee shall consist of a Chair, co-Chair, and Treasurer. The Chair shall be the President-Elect of the College, or a member selected by the President of the College with the approval of the Board of Governors of the College. The Chair will have full voting privileges on the Committee.

Objectives –

Become a Multicandidate Committee.

Raise political awareness to the College and its members. Raise

awareness to the College and its advocacy activities.

Support and promote legislation and regulations that better the osteopathic surgical profession and the patients they serve.

Enhance the effectiveness of the osteopathic surgeon's voice through advocacy activities.

Quality Initiatives Committee

Description - The Committee on Surgical Quality is dedicated to addressing quality-related concerns within the surgical community. The primary objectives include the creation of recommendations for surgical quality outcome methods, ensuring that best practices are identified and implemented. The committee is committed to educating ACOS members and the broader surgical community on quality initiative programs through the development and maintenance of a comprehensive member guide to surgical quality rules and definitions. Additionally, various communication measures are utilized to keep members informed about changes and developments impacting surgical quality of care initiatives.

The committee also reports on quality-related concerns affecting the surgical community by communicating with CMS and other interested stakeholders about issues and recommendations regarding surgical quality of care. The potential use of quality reporting by board specialty groups as a factor for maintaining board certification is under examination. Since 2016, the committee continues to organize annually, a dedicated track at the ACA to further the committee objectives and foster ongoing dialogue and improvement in surgical quality.

Objectives -

Quality-Related Concerns Affecting the Surgical Community

- I. Creation of Recommendations for Surgical Quality Outcome Methods
 - a. Develop comprehensive recommendations aimed at improving surgical quality outcomes, ensuring the adoption of best practices across the surgical community.
- II. Education of ACOS Members and the Surgical Community on Quality Initiative Programs
 - a. Develop and maintain a detailed member guide outlining surgical quality rules and definitions.
 - b. Utilize various communication channels to keep members informed about changes and developments impacting surgical quality of care initiatives.
- III. Reporting on Quality-Related Concerns Affecting the Surgical Community
 - a. Employ diverse communication methods to convey concerns and recommendations regarding surgical quality of care to CMS and other interested stakeholders.
- IV. Examination of Quality Reporting by Board Specialty Groups

- a. Investigate the potential use of quality reporting by board specialty groups as a criterion for the maintenance of board certification.
- V. Annual Track at the ACA
 - a. Annually, the committee will organize a dedicated track at the ACA to further these objectives and promote ongoing dialogue and improvement in surgical quality.

Updated as of 1/31/2025

Social Media Committee

Description – The social media committee was created to enhance our social media presence and increase organizational visibility among other like-minded individuals. These efforts will maximize linking social media and creating uniformed content between the ACOS and its disciplines and sections (student section, resident section). The goal of this committee is to increase visibility for the College in ways that have been underutilized in the past to maximize engagement from our current members and attract new members to join.

Objectives –

Work collaboratively with ACOS committee representatives and others to create content that pertains to the Osteopathic Surgeon and showcases the work of ACOS (ie IDEA, Membership, Awards, ACOS liaisons, etc.)

Create logos and branding unique to ACOS that can be shared and provide uniform visuals for MSS, resident section, and ACOS

Identify and implement fiscally responsible tools to plan the posting of content ahead of time and in a timely fashion.

Create, review, and adapt a policy for moral and ethical standards that is in line with the American Osteopathic Association for posting content both online and on social media.

Create unification of content between the student section, resident section, and ACOS

Amplify other Osteopathic Associations and Organizations by retweeting content.

Outcome Measures:

- Follows
- Retweets/Tweets (X)
- Likes/Views
- Website traffic from social media channels
- Student and resident abstract submission to ACA competitions and to ACOS on Cureus Surgical Journal channels

Strategic Planning Committee

Description – The Strategic Planning Committee of ACOS is dedicated to guiding the organization towards achieving its long-term goals and mission. This committee is responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring the strategic plan, ensuring that all activities and initiatives align with the organization's vision and objectives. By fostering a forward-thinking approach, the committee helps to position the organization for sustained growth and success.

Objectives –

1. **Develop Strategic Plan:** Craft a comprehensive strategic plan that outlines the organization's long-term goals, priorities, and initiatives, ensuring alignment with the mission and vision.
2. **Monitor Progress:** Regularly review and assess the implementation of the strategic plan, tracking progress towards achieving key milestones and objectives.
3. **Environmental Scanning:** Conduct ongoing analysis of internal and external factors that may impact the organization, including market trends, competitive landscape, and regulatory changes.
4. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engage with key stakeholders, including board members, staff, volunteers, and community partners, to gather input and ensure broad support for the strategic plan.
5. **Resource Allocation:** Ensure that resources, including financial, human, and technological, are effectively allocated to support the strategic priorities and initiatives.
6. **Risk Management:** Identify potential risks and develop strategies to mitigate them, ensuring the organization's resilience and adaptability.
7. **Innovation and Improvement:** Foster a culture of innovation and continuous improvement, encouraging new ideas and approaches to achieve strategic goals.
8. **Communication and Transparency:** Maintain open and transparent communication with all stakeholders about the strategic plan, progress, and any adjustments needed.
9. **Performance Metrics:** Establish and monitor key performance indicators (KPIs) to measure the effectiveness of the strategic plan and make data-driven decisions.

The Strategic Planning Committee plays a crucial role in ensuring that ACOS remains focused, adaptable, and prepared for future challenges and opportunities. By championing strategic thinking and proactive planning, we strive to create a lasting impact and uphold the organization's mission.

Updated as of 1/31/2025