



AMERICAN
COLLEGE OF
OSTEOPATHIC
SURGEONS

CELEBRATING 95 YEARS

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ENTER



OUR CORE PURPOSE

Excellence in osteopathic surgical care.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

To be the primary organizational home for all osteopathic surgeons while providing valuable resources, education, and uniting a strong community base that helps our members deliver the highest quality care to their patients.

OUR CORE VALUES

HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

Demonstrated by honesty, professionalism, and transparency in communication and actions.

ADAPTATION

Demonstrated by visionary, inspiring, and realistic leadership; responsive to an ever-evolving environment.

SURGICAL EXCELLENCE

Demonstrated by an enduring commitment to promote and support the highest quality osteopathic and compassionate surgical care.



Board of Governors

PRESIDENT

Christopher A. Reeder, D.O., FACOS, FACS

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Kristen Conrad-Schnetz, D.O., FACOS, FACS

PAST PRESIDENT

Christopher A. Reeder, D.O., FACOS, FACS

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Janie L. Myers, D.O., FACOS, FACS

MEMBER- AT- LARGE

Francesco Mangano, D.O., FACOS

GOVERNOR

Peter U. Baik, D.O., FACOS

Alexandra D. Beier, D.O., FACOS, FACS

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

Mark W. Byrge, D.O., FACOS

Stuart J.D. Chow, D.O., FACOS

Shannon M. Davis, D.O., FACOS

Benjamin Lam, D.O., FACOS, FACS

Andrew S. McCague, D.O., FACOS

Lynne M. McCormick, D.O., FACOS

Janie L. Myers, D.O., FACOS, FACS

Jared Storck, D.O., FACOS

W. Britt Zimmerman, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS

RESIDENT CHAIR

Nichollette M. Black, D.O.

STUDENT CHAIR

Zachary Brennan



ACOS Staff

CEO

Valerie Sheridan, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Sonjya Johnson, CAE

VICE PRESIDENT, EDUCATION AND EVENTS

Stephanie Santini, CMP, DES

MANAGER, EDUCATION AND EVENTS

Kate Fitzgerald, CMP, DES

DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Douglas Holbrook, CPA

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, HEALTH POLICY & ACOS-PAC

Carter L. Alleman, JD, CAE

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Melanie Jones, MBA

MANAGER, MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Jennifer Peterson





Outgoing President's Address

Christopher Reeder, D.O., FACOS, FACS

Creating the legacy of tomorrow

For 95 years, ACOS has been creating and forging a legacy for osteopathic surgery. Our legacy is decades in the making. The mission was and still is promoting excellence in education, patient care, research, and service.

We believe that "excellence" is not a destination but a continuous journey. Every year we strive for excellence adds to the legacy of osteopathic surgery.

Current osteopathic principles embody an interaction of mind-body-spirit. With our traditional medical heritage and evidenced-based training, we have a rather unique profession that starts on the "doorstep" of greatness!! Our hands-on training along with a holistic approach provides a superior delivery of healthcare compared to allopathic medicine.

I saw myself as a relay runner. I would take the baton and I would run my leg of the race. And then I'd pass the baton to someone else. Each generation tries to make progress knowing that what we do is not going to be perfect. But hopefully we've run our leg of the race effectively – and the world's gotten a little bit better.

Our future is in your hands. We have put you in a better position and place in history. It is now your time to run the race.

Let's continue to ride the tailwinds of our past success into a future of greatness for our osteopathic profession!

Award Winners

award winners



OREL F. MARTIN MEDAL:

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



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

Laurence H. Belkoff, D.O., FACOS



CHARLES L. BALLINGER DISTINGUISHED OSTEOPATHIC SURGEON AWARD:

Dan E. Miulli, D.O., FACOS



HUMANITARIAN AWARD:

Duangnapa S. Cuddy, D.O., FACOS

2022 Resident Achievement Award Winners

NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Brian Michael Fiani, D.O.

Program Director: Javed Siddiqi, M.D., Ph.D.
Hospital: Desert Regional Medical Center

GENERAL SURGERY

Hillary Lynn Simon, D.O.

Program Director: Alan Murdock, M.D.
Hospital: Allegheny Health Network

NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Michael M. Young, D.O.

Program Director: Jason Seibly, D.O.
Hospital: Carle BroMenn Medical Center
(Formerly Advocate Health Care)

GENERAL SURGERY

Aimee LaRicca, D.O.

Program Director: Donald Hura, M.D.
Hospital: OhioHealth Doctors Hospital

GENERAL SURGERY

Michael A. Bishop, D.O.

Program Director: Constance P. Cashen, D.O.,
FACOS, FACS
Hospital: Mercy Health – St. Vincent Medical
Center

2022 Robert C. Erwin Literary Award Winners

1ST PLACE

Young Son, D.O.
Urological Surgery

Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy Increases Rate of Urinary Anastomotic Leaks in Patients Undergoing Radical Cystectomy with pT2-T4 Bladder Cancer

2ND PLACE

Kathryn Schwalbe, D.O.
General Surgery

Endoscopic findings do not predict per-oral pyloromyotomy (POP) response

3RD PLACE

Christopher Cappellini, D.O.
General Surgery

Outcomes of Transcarotid Artery Revascularization and Carotid Endarterectomy at a Single Institution

4TH PLACE

Javier Piraino, D.O.
Urological Surgery

Consistent Lack of Consistency in Defining the Acute and Chronic Phases of Peyronie's Disease: A Review of the Contemporary Literature

5TH PLACE

Aimee LaRiccio, D.O.
General Surgery

Mean arterial pressure (MAP) augmentation in traumatic spinal cord injuries: early hyperperfusion treatment influences neurologic outcomes

5TH PLACE

Joseph Lim, D.O.
General Surgery

Overcoming the Arduous Transition for Robotic Hepatopancreatobiliary Cases: A Multi-Procedure Learning Curve Study Utilizing CUSUM Analysis

College Service Award Winners



2021-2022 ACOS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD - COMMITTEE MEMBER:

Olutayo A. Sogunro, D.O., FACOS



2021-2022 ACOS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD - LECTURER:

Victoria L. Schlanser, DO, FACOS, FACS



2021-2022 ACOS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD - MENTOR:

Janet M. Krettek, D.O., FACOS



2021-2022 ACOS OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD - RECRUITER:

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

2022 Presidential Citation Awards



Bernard Lanter, M.D., FACS



Nirmalendu K. Pandeya, D.O., FAAOS, FAACS, FICS, FAIS, FAAPRS

Committees

ACA Scientific Exhibits and Poster Sessions

CHAIR

Rafael Eduardo Villalobos, D.O., FACOS

Responsible for reviewing and judging poster abstracts for the Annual Clinical Assembly.

Awards

CHAIR

Lane Mark Lee, D.O., FACOS

Responsible for reviewing award nominations and selecting winners.

Bylaws

CO-CHAIRS

Larry Armstrong, D.O., FACOS, FACS

Jeffrey Lance Jacobs, D.O., FACOS

Responsible for ensuring ACOS and SOSA Bylaws are upheld and examining recommendations for modifications.

Ceremonial

CHAIR

Scott W. Grover, D.O., FACOS

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

Continuing Education

CHAIR

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

Responsible for overseeing and developing themes, identifying needs, and ensuring the progression of all ACOS educational programs.

Ethics

CHAIR

Todd A. Nickloes, D.O., MBA, FACOS, FACS

Responsible for reviewing, updating and interpreting the AOA Code of Ethics, and investigating all complaints regarding unethical member conduct.

General Surgery In-depth Review Program

CHAIR

Nelayda Fonte, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS

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

General Surgery In-Service Examination

CO-CHAIRS

Michael A. Burchett, D.O., FACOS

Daniel Wu, DO, FACOS, FACS

Responsible for developing the General Surgery In-Service Examination and evaluating the results.

Government Affairs

CHAIR

James E. Johnson, D.O., FACOS

Responsible for educating members on important regulatory and legislative matters, developing policy statements, and forming alliances with appropriate affiliate organizations.

IDEA Committee

CO-CHAIRS

Nefertiti Childrey, D.O.

Christopher Jessie Richardson, D.O., MBA, FACOS, FACS

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.

Membership

CHAIR

Sharon A. Rooney-Gandy, D.O., FACOS

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

Quality Initiatives

CHAIR

John W. Royalty, D.O., FACOS

Responsible for providing informational resources and addressing concerns regarding quality initiatives, developing outcome measures and recommendations, policy statements, and liaising with CMS.

Residency Evaluation and Standards

CHAIR

Mandip S. Atwal, D.O. FACOS

Review standards and policies, update discipline model criteria, review and approval of resident annual and training program reports and ensure successful transition of all osteopathic surgical programs from AOA to ACGME accreditation.

Strategic Planning Committee

CHAIR

Laurence H. Belkoff, D.O., FACOS

Working in conjunction with the Board of Governors, systematically review the ACOS's desired future and translate the vision of the board into achievable goals and objectives. Regularly review the existing strategic plan and make necessary adjustments. Periodically conduct research to guide the long-term strategic of the ACOS.

2022 Meetings in Review

After several years with the weight of the COVID-19 pandemic transforming our meetings, 2022 ushered in a new phase with a partial transition back to in-person events. ACOS remained steadfast in its commitment to the health and safety of members, staff, and the community at large. To that end, some of this year's ACOS events were held digitally before ultimately being able to meet in person. Despite the challenges, the College remained committed to our mission of promoting excellence in osteopathic surgical care through education.

Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Surgeons

SEPTEMBER 15 – 18, 2022 | AUSTIN, TX

95th Anniversary of the ACOS

2022 ACA Theme: Creating the Legacy of Tomorrow

The 2022 Annual Clinical Assembly was held at the JW Marriott Austin in Austin, Texas. After two years of virtual conferences due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are excited to reunite, in-person, at the 2022 ACA to celebrate the 95th anniversary of the ACOS. The theme of this year's special anniversary ACA was Creating the Legacy of Tomorrow. After 95 years, the ACOS with our valued members are excited about Creating the Legacy of Tomorrow!

The ACOS Continuing Education Committee developed a top-notch educational program. Under the leadership of our Committee Chair, Valerie L. Sheridan, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS. We thank all our Committee Members, our Committee Chair, Speakers, ACOS Staff, and countless others for their commitment to excellence.

Highlights to this year's programming included:

- Keynote Speaker: **William McNulty**
Embracing the Suck: Turning Challenges into Endless Opportunities
- Keynote Speaker: **Eugene W. Laveroni, Jr., DO, FACOS, DFACOS**
All Aboard the ACOS Accelerated Cosmic Time Machine
- Theodore F. Classen Memorial Lecturer: **Debra Classen, MA**
A Holistic Approach to Grief for Surgeons and their Patients
- Inaugural Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Action (IDEA) Committee Lecturer: **Michaela A. West, MD, PhD, FACS**
- Perspectives on Trans-forming Surgical Care



Urological Surgery Discipline Mid-Year Meeting

MAY 14, 2022 | NEW ORLEANS, LA

Program Chair: W. Britt Zimmerman, D.O., FACOS

In the spring, ACOS was pleased to assemble in-person for the first time since the fall of 2019. The 2022 ACOS Urological Surgery Discipline Mid-Year Meeting was held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Urological Association (AUA) in New Orleans, LA. Under the superb direction of our Program Chair, W. Britt Zimmerman, D.O., FACOS, the College delivered a first-rate program!

The 2022 Urological Surgery Mid-Year Meeting marked our 10th Anniversary of partnering with the AUA. We are grateful for this steadfast partnership and look forward to many more years of delivering this program at the AUA Annual.

General Surgery In-Depth Review Seminar | Digital Seminar

LAUNCHED: APRIL 26 – 29, 2022

In the spring, pandemic conditions dictated that the ACOS should, for the third year in a row, offer a digital edition of our annual board review course, the General Surgery In-Depth Review Seminar (IDR). Broadcast via the ACOS eLearning Portal, the IDR continues to deliver a comprehensive course for AOBS and ABMS board exam preparation. The Seminar also offered the established surgeon an opportunity to earn either AOA Category 1-A CME Credits or AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

The curriculum was developed by our 2022 IDR Program Co-chairs – Jessica L. Bartock, DO, FACOS, and Hania B. Bednarski, DO, FACOS, along with the support of the In-depth Review Committee. ACOS extends a special thanks to Co-Chairs, and the IDR Committee, led by Nelayda Fonte, DO, FACOS, DFACOS, FICS, for their tireless efforts to produce this year's superb program.

Launched virtually on April 26 with new content introduced each day through April 29, the full program is currently available for purchase and on-demand viewing in the ACOS eLearning Portal.



2021-2022 General Surgery In-Depth Review Committee Roster

CHAIRMAN & BOARD LIAISON

Nelayda Fonte, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS

Annika C. Storey, D.O.

Jennifer E. Susoreny-Velgos, D.O.

Richard J. Unger, D.O.

PROGRAM CHAIR

Jessica L. Bartock, D.O.

Hania B. Bednarski, D.O., FACOS

STAFF LIAISON

Stephanie Santini, CMP, DES

MEMBERS

David Lee Coffman, D.O.

Christopher L. Finley, D.O.

Katelin A. Holmes, D.O.

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

Marylou Rainone, D.O., FACOS

Victoria L. Schlanser, D.O.

Continuing Education

Continuing Education Committee

CHAIR

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

BOARD LIAISON

Nelayda Fonte, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS

MEMBERS

Arnold C. Almonte, D.O., FACOS

Gerard A. Baltazar, D.O., FACOS

Alexandra D. Beier, D.O., FACOS

Joshua Sterling Bentley, D.O.

Kent James Blanke, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS

John A. Carabello, D.O., FACOS

Gabriel Chiu, D.O.

Stuart J.D. Chow, D.O., FACOS

Gregory T. Clabeaux, D.O., FACOS

Jamie L. DiPietro, D.O.

Alanna Fostyk, D.O., FACOS

Darren Lee Jacobs, D.O., FACOS

Michael Kakareka, D.O.

Moez Khorsandi, D.O., FACOS

Justin J. Koenig, D.O., FACOS, FACS

John James Kowalczyk, D.O., FACOS

Jayram Krishnan, DO, MBA

Benjamin Lam, D.O., FACOS, FACS

Tanya Minasian, D.O., FACOS

Dan E. Miulli, D.O., FACOS

Janie L. Myers, D.O., DFACOS, FACS

Herbert E. Oye, D.O., FACOS

Hiren N. Patel, D.O., FACOS

Elizabeth A. Renaker-Jansen, D.O.

Kenneth F. Shockley, D.O., FACOS

Annika C. Storey, D.O., FACOS

Karla D. Witzke, D.O., FACOS

Xin Sean Xin, D.O.

AOCPR MEMBER

Kathryn Freeman, D.O.

STAFF LIAISON

Stephanie Santini

General Surgery In-depth Review Committee

CHAIR

Nelayda Fonte, D.O., FACOS, DFACOS

PROGRAM CHAIRS

Jessica L. Bartock, D.O., FACOS

Hania B. Bednarski, D.O., FACOS

MEMBERS

David Lee Coffman, D.O.

Christopher L. Finley, D.O.

Katelin A. Holmes, D.O.

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

Marylou Rainone, D.O., FACOS

Victoria L. Schlanser, D.O., FACOS

Annika C. Storey, D.O., FACOS

Jennifer E. Susoreny-Velgos, D.O., FACOS

Richard J. Unger, D.O.

STAFF LIAISON

Stephanie Santini

Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education (OGME)

General Surgery In-Service Examination

In January, 84 residents from 10 General Surgery Programs sat for the 2022 ACOS General Surgery In-Service Examination. Created by the ACOS In-Service Exam Committee, led by Co-Chairs, Michael A. Burchett, D.O., FACOS, and Daniel Wu, D.O., FACOS, FACS, the exam is comprised of 300 multiple choice questions. This annual assessment is designed to evaluate the resident's level of knowledge relative to other residents at the same level of training, to identify a resident's area of weakness, and to track a resident's progress from year to year. Thank you to the members of the In-Service Exam Committee for their year-round work in the production of this important exam.



General Surgery In-Service Examination Committee

CO-CHAIRS

Michael A. Burchett, D.O., FACOS
Daniel Wu, DO, FACOS, FACS

BOARD LIAISON

Kristen J. Conrad-Schnetzer, D.O.,
FACOS

MEMBERS

M. Lisa Attebery, D.O., FACOS
Mary K. Boggs, D.O., FACOS, FACS
Robert S. Brumberg, D.O., FACOS
J. Bracken Burns, Jr., D.O., FACOS
George W. Cummings, III, D.O.
Shannon M. Davis, D.O., FACOS
Vincent M. DiGiovanni, D.O., FACOS
Victor V. Dizon, D.O., FACOS
Lauren E. Donatelli-Seyler, D.O., FACOS
Brett D. Dunbar, D.O., FACOS
Christopher J. Esper, D.O., FACOS
Thomas H. Etter, D.O., FACOS
Anthony John Falvo, D.O., FACOS
Betty Fan, D.O., FACOS
Franklin Garcia-Godoy, D.O., FACOS
Mario F. Gomez, D.O.
Tanja L. Gunsberger, D.O., FACOS

Lauren Kopicky, D.O., FACOS
Richard A. Lopez, D.O., FACOS
John R. McCormick-Deaton, D.O.,
FACOS
Todd A. Nickloes, DO, FACOS, FACS,
MBA
Claudia B. Perez, D.O., FACOS
Andrew H. Rikkers, D.O., FACOS
Chad Michael Robbins, D.O., FACOS
Jacob E. Roberts, D.O., FACOS
Sandra P. Sanchez, D.O.
Lilibeth Sanchez-Geswaldo, D.O.,
FACOS
Christina Sanders, D.O., FACOS
Mohit Sood, D.O., FACOS
Dominic Storto, D.O., FACOS

STAFF LIAISON

Stephanie Santini

Resident Section

The Annual Resident Section Business Meeting was held on September 15. Paulette Dreher, D.O., 21-22 Chair of the Resident Section facilitated the meeting. The agenda included discussions about ACOS business, Bylaws, new council positions and collaboration with the student section. The newly elected 2022-2023 Resident Section Council was announced: Nicholette Black, D.O., Chair, Nicholas Kinder, D.O., Chair-Elect, Kayla Brown, D.O., Secretary/Treasurer, David Mann, D.O., Chair of Academic Advancement & Engagement and Zachariah Taylor, D.O., Member-at-Large. Nicholas Kinder shared goals for the Resident Section for the upcoming year, which included increased presence at the medical student conferences, Resident recruitment and engagement, social media presence, and ACA advertisement and communication.

Resident Section Officers

CHAIR

Paulette Dreher, D.O., OGME IV

Main Line Health

CHAIR ELECT

Nicholette M. Black, D.O., PGY-2

Rowan SOM/Jefferson and Our Lady of Lourdes

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Kayla K. Brown, D.O., PGY- 1

St. David's South Austin Medical Center

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Nicholas C. Kinder, D.O., PGY- 1

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Fort Worth

CHAIR OF ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

David R. Mann, D.O., PGY-3

Medical University of South Carolina



ACOS Medical Student Section

The ACOS-Medical Student Section (ACOS-MSS) celebrated its most successful year to date in 2022. In the Spring, over 200 osteopathic medical students from across the country met at the University of North Texas HSC Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth, TX for the annual student conference. The conference was headlined by keynote speaker and neurosurgeon Dr. John Boockvar, who was featured on Netflix's Lenox Hill and spoke about the grit and mindfulness required to succeed as a surgeon. The conference also featured resident and program director panels, student research, and a talk on leadership from the Chair of the ACGME Board of Directors, Dr. Karen Nichols.

At the Spring meeting, the ACOS-MSS elected the 2022-2023 Executive Board: Zachary Brennan (Chair, MSU-COM '23), Grace Young (Vice Chair, ATSU-KCOM '23), Sarin Paluri (Secretary, CCOM '24), Rachel Hess (Treasurer, ACOM '23), Shayan Memar (Research, ATSU-KCOM '23), Addie Schumacher (Technology, MSU-COM '24), Samantha Santora (Conventions, RVUCOM-CO '24), and Olivia Panchal (Communications, UNTHSC-TCOM '24).

The ACOS-MSS added monthly Zoom meetings for students, which covered a variety of topics including networking in medicine, surgery residents with families, leadership in medicine, ERAS application preparation, and a guide to using VSLO. They created several new student-led initiatives including a volunteer drive, journal club, a resource toolkit, and a subcommittee dedicated to improving inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in surgery.

In Fall 2022, the ACOS-MSS reached record attendance at the student section of the Annual Clinical Assembly in Austin, TX. Numerous ACOS Fellows shared their expertise on leadership in medicine, research as a DO student, osteopathic considerations in surgery, and finding mentors. Students also had the opportunity to practice suturing and other surgical skills.

The ACOS-MSS is looking forward to another successful year in 2023. They already have many events planned including the upcoming student conference at Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Parker, CO in April.

ACOS Medical Student Section Officers

CHAIR

Zachary Brennan, OMS-IV

VICE CHAIR

Grace Young, OMS-IV

TREASURER

Rachel Hess, OMS-IV

SECRETARY

Sarin Paluri, OMS-III

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Olivia Panchal, OMS-III

CONVENTIONS COORDINATOR

Samantha Santora, OMS-III

RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Shayan Memar, OMS-II

TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

Addie Schumacher, OMS-III

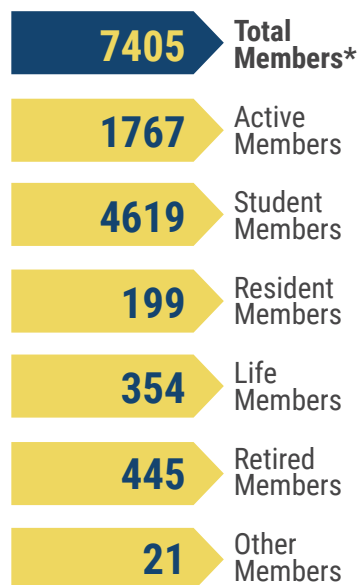
Membership

This year, we honored eighty-three members who earned the designation, Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons (FACOS), and nineteen members who earned the designation, Distinguished Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons (DFACOS). Since an induction ceremony was not held since 2019, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, candidates who were approved for their designation in 2019, 2020, and 2021 were able to complete the final step in the process and participate in an induction, in Austin. ACOS Fellows and Distinguished Fellows demonstrate continued engagement and service to the College, contributed to our profession with their time, their service, and their education of others, and are

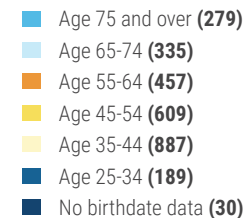
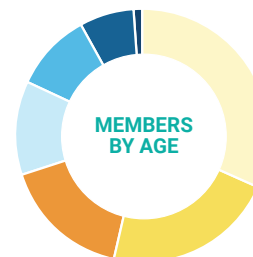
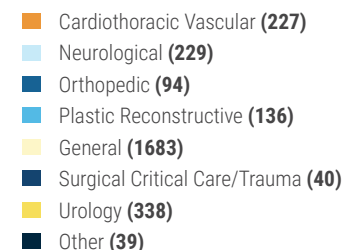
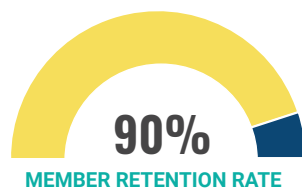
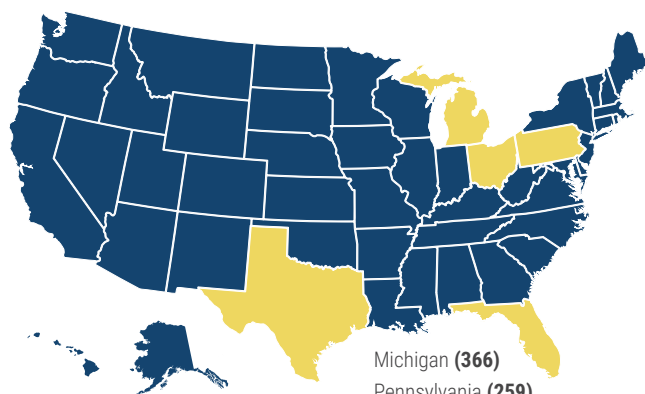
committed to the practice of surgery, surgical teaching, and leadership in their community, and local, state, and national organizations. These designation honors are bestowed upon the best of our profession.

ACOS by the numbers

Statistics as of December 31, 2022



* Including Students





Incoming President's Address

Kristen Conrad-Schnetz, D.O., FACOS, FACS

The future of our College and the success of our profession of osteopathic surgery is about all of us, together, working hard to be good stewards of our profession. I believe our College is the place we come back to when we need support, camaraderie, brother and sisterhood, advocacy, and a trusted peer with whom we can share ideas and experiences. It is our responsibility to help this profession not just sustain but grow in both mass and strength.

No doubt Single Accreditation is testing us. We can use our energy to come together and watch our profession grow, even in the setting of single accreditation. It is time to use less energy feeling powerless and unworthy and more energy moving closer and closer to reaching our vision.

I am here as the next President of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, like many of you, because another DO surgeon paved my way. Theodore Classen along with a few other DO physicians opened Brentwood Hospital when he had nowhere to admit his patients. His son Roger Classen gave me the opportunity to train in the now ACGME-approved residency program I direct. Single accreditation hasn't changed the fact that we need to continue to make a path for those who follow behind us. Is it harder now? Perhaps but it sounds easier than opening a hospital.

This is going to take a grassroots effort. This will only work if we all work together. I would like to share a few ideas of HOW you can do your part and inspire others to do the same.

Students – be fearless and bold. When you are told a program doesn't take a DO be brave and open dialogue. Be the first to go to a program, then take others with you.

Residents – mentor the students. Collaborate with them with scholarly activity then sponsor them for national presentations. Reach out to the local osteopathic school to lecture, do a suture clinic, or set up a networking event. Advocate for osteopathic students to be interviewed and highly ranked in your programs.

ACOS Members, Fellows, and Distinguished fellows – reach out to your local osteopathic colleges of medicine to be an ACOS liaison or mentor those coming behind you. Call the person you met at the last annual organization meeting to get a resident or student an interview somewhere. Don't think you have the skills to mentor a student or resident? Go to the mentor workshop or visit our website and get the information you need. Get involved in an ACOS committee or pursue an idea that you think would make the college better – we need more DOers!

If you are at a training program that has no DOs advocate to interview and highly rank osteopathic candidates then inspire them to get involved with the resident section.

We need more surgeons involved at the state and national levels. Get involved in your state osteopathic societies and advocate both locally and nationally.

We also need more exposure. Get involved in other organizations – show these people who we are and what we do. Networking with colleagues in other organizations will help us build relationships to help our students and residents be successful in pursuing careers in all surgical specialties.

My parents always told me to watch my bobber. Adversity hasn't stopped us before and it's time to roll our sleeves up and start with ourselves. We have two options. Sit back and watch, or roll up our sleeves and get to work. The success of our college starts with us. WE have to be our own agents of change and we can do this together.



AMERICAN
COLLEGE OF
OSTEOPATHIC
SURGEONS