



AMERICAN  
COLLEGE OF  
OSTEOPATHIC  
SURGEONS  
ANYTIME. ANYWHERE. ACOS.

2017

# Annual Report



**INCREASING**  
knowledge of  
osteopathic surgery

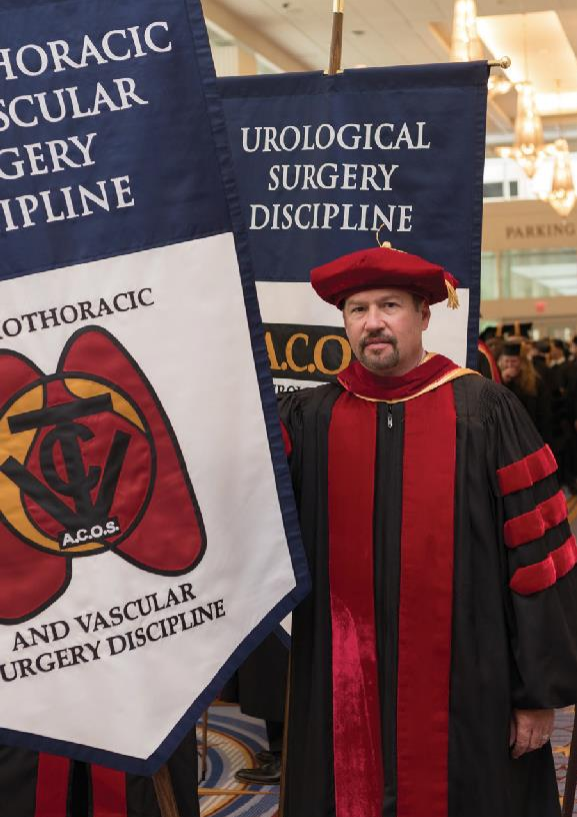


**INSPIRING**  
compassionate patient care



**INVESTING**  
in education, networking,  
and leadership development

**ACOS – Osteopathic Surgeons for Compassionate Patient Care**



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## ACOS Staff

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Linda Taliaferro, MHCM, CAE

**Associate Director, Health Policy**  
Carter Alleman, J.D.

**Manager of Education**  
Jessika Brown

**Senior Director, Membership,  
Technology, and Specialty Services**  
Sonjya Johnson

**Manager, Marketing and  
Communication**  
Melanie Jones

**Director, Resident and  
Program Services**  
Susan Rall, M.Ed

**Director, Finance and Operations**  
Doug Holbrook

**Office Administrator**  
Dan Salmon

**Director, Education and Events**  
Stephanie Santini, CMP





ACOS is  
**INDISPENSABLE**

#### 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

Ray L. Morrison, D.O., FACOS

### President-Elect

Todd A. Nickloes, D.O., FACOS

### Past President

Scott A. Blickensderfer, D.O., FACOS

### Secretary-Treasurer

Larry G. Armstrong, D.O., FACOS

### Governor

David L. Acuna, D.O., FACOS

### Governor

Mandip S. Atwal, D.O., FACOS

### Governor

Dawn M. Bodell, D.O., FACOS

### Governor

J. Bracken Burns, D.O., FACOS

### Governor

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

### Governor

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

### Governor

Nelayda Fonte, D.O., FACOS

### Resident Section Representative

Alice A. Higdon, D.O.

### Governor

Eugene W. Laveroni, D.O., FACOS

### Governor

James S. McAdoo, D.O., FACOS

### Governor

Christopher A. Reeder, D.O., FACOS

### Governor

John W. Royalty, D.O., FACOS

### Governor

Brett A. Schlifka, D.O., FACOS

### Governor

W. Britt Zimmerman, D.O., FACOS



ACOS is  
INCLUSIVE

I'm In!  
Are You?



## President's Address

### Dear Colleagues,

The past year was an eventful time for the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons and our profession. Reviewing all of the years' noteworthy events—including the move into our new headquarters office—one extraordinary milestone stands out.

On January 26, 2017, ACOS celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Nearly a century ago, eight osteopathic surgeons put their vision for raising training standards, improving the quality of patient care, and giving osteopathic physicians a respected voice in action. Can you imagine their delight at seeing the organization that ACOS is today?

However, ACOS is not resting upon its laurels. I am pleased to announce a major new initiative. We are working to bring you the *Journal of Multi-disciplinary Surgery*, the official journal of the ACOS, in early 2019.

The first journal dedicated to osteopathic principles in surgery, the *Journal of Multi-disciplinary Surgery* will present clinically relevant research and scientific reviews across surgical sub-specialties. The editorial will be consistent with the osteopathic philosophy of comprehensive, patient-centered, surgical care while treating the "whole person" using the tools available through modern medicine.

While I do not have crystal ball, I am very optimistic about our future. ACOS is many things. With more than 3,200 active, engaged members, we are strong. And through our 3,000 student members we are growing in influence and service.

At the Annual Clinical Assembly you may have seen, or received, a pin reading *I'm In-Are You?* I hope you will wholeheartedly support and share this campaign.

- **Are you** invested in the College's mission?
- **Are you** inspired by the osteopathic philosophy to provide compassionate patient care?
- **Are you** involved in our education, networking, advocacy, mentorship, and leadership development opportunities?

### *I'm In-Are You?*

Looking forward, I know that ACOS will meet whatever challenges or opportunities that arise. The future truly is in our hands.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray L. Morrison".

Ray L. Morrison, D.O., FACOS  
President

# ACOS is INNOVATIVE



## ACOS Award Winners

The Charles L. Ballinger Distinguished  
Osteopathic Surgeon Award  
**Eric A. Goldsmith, D.O., FACOS**

The Guy D. Beaumont, Jr., FACOS Award  
of Academic Excellence  
**J. Bracken Burns, Jr., D.O., FACOS**

The Humanitarian Award  
**Timothy M. Burandt, D.O., FACOS**

The Orel F. Martin Medal  
**Eugene W. Laveroni, D.O., FACOS**

## Resident Achievement Award Winners

**David B. Cahn, D.O.**  
Einstein Healthcare Network  
Urological Surgery

**Nicholas J. Madden, D.O.**  
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine  
General Surgery

**Esther Han, D.O.**  
Detroit Medical Center  
Urological Surgery

**Benjamin A. Raymond, D.O.**  
University of Pennsylvania Medical  
Center - Horizon  
General Surgery

## Robert C. Erwin Literary Awards

**First place: David B. Cahn, D.O.**  
Urological Surgery

*Contemporary practice patterns and survival  
outcomes for locally advanced urethral  
malignancies: An NCDB analysis*

**Second place: James Kurtz, D.O.**  
General Surgery

*Surveillance strategies in the follow-up of  
melanoma patients: too much or not enough?*

**Third place: Benjamin A. Raymond, D.O.**  
General Surgery

*Pneumoperitoneum secondary to spontaneously  
perforated pyometria: a case report*

## 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

Chair: Adam B. Smith, 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

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

### Ethics

Chair: Scott A. Blickensderfer, D.O., FACOS

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

### General Surgery In-depth Review Seminar Program

Chair: Nelayda Fonte, D.O., FACOS

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

### General Surgery In-Service Examination

Co-Chair: J. Bracken Burns, Jr., D.O., FACOS

Co-Chair: Chad Michael Robbins, D.O., FACOS

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.

### Membership

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

Vice Chair: Kelly B. Gabel, D.O., FACOS

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

### Quality Initiatives

Chair: Carl M. Pesta, D.O., FACOS

Vice 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

Vice Chair: Francesco T. Mangano, 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: Michael G. Moncman, 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.





## ACOS on Capitol Hill

On April 4, 2017, ACOS members met with Members of Congress. James Johnson, D.O., FACOS, Robert Rappel, D.O., J.D., FACOS, David Wright III, D.O., FACOS, David Dellinger, D.O., FACOS, Mandip Atwal, D.O., FACOS, Scott Blickensderfer, D.O., FACOS, and Valerie Sheridan, D.O., FACOS stressed the need to fully fund Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education.

Two members represented the College at the Alliance of Specialty Medicine Congressional fly-in on July 18. Mandip Atwal, D.O., FACOS and Hope Harris Burkett, D.O. visited the Hill and advocated on issues regarding regulatory burden reduction, medical liability, and narrow network issues.

## Policy Achievements

Participating with other surgical specialty associations, ACOS achieved:

- *Repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).*
- *Technical changes to the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) including*
  - *Excluding Medicare Part B drugs from the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) payment adjustments; eliminating improvement scoring for Costs Category for three to five years of MIPS, and modifying the eligible provider determination.*
- *Two years' of funding for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program.*
- *Increasing discussions and communications with Department of Health and Human Services and Congress on issues relating to regulatory burden, physician burnout, and patient's access to care.*

## Informative and Crucial Communications

Our e-newsletters, the monthly **ACOS News** and the bi-monthly **Inside Surgery Today** delivered updates on ACOS activities and general professional news throughout the year. More than 68,850 copies of **Inside Surgery Today** and more than 65,300 copies of **ACOS News** were delivered in 2017.



# ACOS is INFORMATIVE



## 2017 Meetings in Review

Last year, ACOS sponsored another series of conferences and seminars offering continuing education and an opportunity for attendees to network and learn from one another. Through inspiring keynote sessions, educational programming, and forums, innovations and advances were shared.

### **General Surgery In-depth Review Seminar** **April 20-23, 2017 | Atlanta, GA**

#### **Program Chairs**

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

Graydon F. Stallard, D.O., FACOS

### **ACOS Urological Surgery Mid-Year Meeting** **May 13, 2017 | Boston, MA**

#### **Program Chair**

Craig B. Hunter, D.O.

#### **Co-chair**

Nathan Hale, D.O., FACOS

ACOS again hosted the 2017 Urological Discipline's Mid-Year Meeting in conjunction with the 112th Annual Meeting of the American Urological Association.

### **2017 Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Surgeons** **October 11-15, 2017 | National Harbor, MD**

The 2017 Annual Clinical Assembly was co-located with the annual meeting of the American College of Osteopathic Internists' (ACOI).





### 2017 ACA Program Chairs

Lauren Baldinger Schulz, D.O.  
*Urological Surgery*

Shonda L. Banegas, D.O., FACOS  
*Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery*

Andrea C. Cooley, D.O., FACOS  
*Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery*

Samer M. ElFallal, D.O.  
*Neurological Surgery*

Sean J. Henderson, D.O., FACOS  
*Urological Surgery*

William R. Henwood, D.O., FACOS  
*General Surgery*

Robert J. Marx, D.O., FACOS  
*General Surgery*

Jared C. Storck, D.O., FACOS  
*Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*

### Student Osteopathic Surgical Association (SOSA)

Nearly 130 students attended SOSA's 2017 Spring Conference at Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine, April 1-2, for lectures, hands-on workshops and networking.

At SOSA's 2017 Fall Conference, in National Harbor, MD, more than 100 SOSA members from around the nation came together to learn about various surgical specialties, master surgical skills, and network with residents, surgeons, and program directors. More than 30 ACOS member mentors also participated in a speed mentoring session with the students.

### Upcoming Annual Clinical Assembly Dates

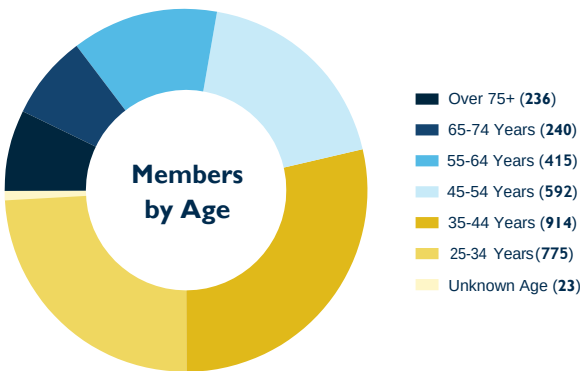
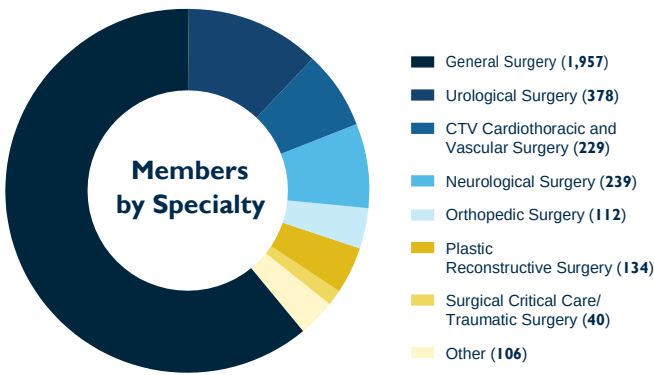
**2018**  
October 17 – 21 | Atlanta, GA

**2019**  
October 19 - 23 | Colorado Springs, CO

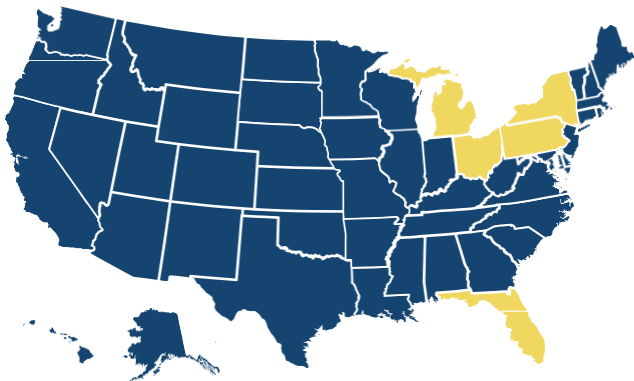
# ACOS is INVOLVED

## Membership

Sixty-eight members earned the prestigious designation, Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeon (FACOS), by demonstrating their commitment to the practice of surgery, surgical teaching, authorship of professional papers, and participation in local, state, and national organizations.



Top 5 States for ACOS Members

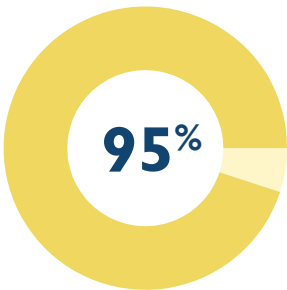


1. Michigan 2. Pennsylvania 3. Ohio 4. Florida 5. New York



140

In October, 140 new members were inducted during the ACA Ceremonial Conclave, held at the Annual Clinical Assembly.



Member Retention Rate

## ACOS by the Numbers

1,727

ACTIVE MEMBERS

3,062

STUDENT MEMBERS

796

RESIDENT MEMBERS

304

LIFE MEMBERS

12

HONORARY MEMBERS

332

LIFE RETIRED MEMBERS

24

OTHER MEMBERS

6,257

TOTAL MEMBERS\*





## Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education

On January 13, 592 general surgery residents took the ACOS General Surgery In-Service Exam

The Resident Section Business Meeting was held in conjunction with the Annual Clinical Assembly. David Cahn, D.O. recent program complete (US) from Albert Einstein Medical Center, chaired the meeting. Representatives of the Resident Section Governing Council (RESC) and American Osteopathic Board of Surgery provided information on the status of the unified accrediting system and expectations regarding changes in the certification process. Representatives reiterated that, “No Resident Will Be Left Behind” during the transition and the importance of being engaged with ACOS.

Congratulations to the following programs for receiving Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) initial accreditation:

### General Surgery

Flushing • Geisinger • Metro • PCOM • Henry Ford Allegiance • Mercy St. Vincent • Botsford • Swedish Medical • John C. Lincoln • Community Health • Henry Ford Wyandotte • NYU Lutheran • Beaumont • Berkshire • St. Joseph’s • Sinai-Grace • Orange Regional • Wyckoff Heights • Arnot Ogden • Doctors • Hackensack • Henry Ford Macomb • Inspira • St. Anthony’s • McLaren Lansing • Plaza Medical • Oklahoma State

### Neurological Surgery

Carilion and Providence/St. John’s

### Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

St. Joseph’s Medical Center

### Urological Surgery

Albert Einstein • Sparrow • Charleston • Detroit Medical Center • Hahneman • Detroit Metro • John H. Stroger • St. John Macomb

## 2017 – 2018 Resident Section Governing Council

### Chair

Alice Higdon, D.O., OGME-5 (GS)  
*St. John’s Episcopal Hospital*

*Dr. Higdon will serve as the resident representative to the ACOS Board of Governors.*

### Chair-Elect

Daniel Edwards, D.O., OGME-3 (URO)  
*Hahneman University Hospital*

### Secretary/Treasurer

Chris Foote, D.O., OGME-4 (URO)  
*Albert Einstein Medical Center*

### Member-at-Large

Tran Huynh, D.O., OGME-4 (GS)  
*St. John’s Episcopal Hospital*

## ACOS AOA Document Survey Audit

In early 2017, the ACOS was due for a Document Survey (audit), the results of which determine our AOA accreditation renewal. This audit reviews the ACOS’ performance as it relates to AOA CME policies and procedures.

After earning 100 out of a possible 100 points, the AOA’s Council on Continuing Medical Education reviewed our renewal status and audit results and awarded the ACOS a five-year accreditation renewal—the longest possible.

## Mentor Match

More than 262 students, residents, and new surgeons-in-practice have registered in the “Mentor Match” program. This valuable resource allows mentees to receive guidance from a mentor throughout the year.

## Educational Webinars

Webinars continue to be a popular and well-attended educational activity. In 2018, ACOS will begin offering monthly webinars, educating SOSA, residents, fellows, surgeons in practice and Surgeons after retirement on various topics and CME eligible presentations. Sessions will be available both live and on-demand.



AMERICAN  
COLLEGE OF  
OSTEOPATHIC  
SURGEONS

Since 1927, ACOS has been working to ensure delivery of the highest quality patient care through rigorous graduate medical education standards and continuing medical education. By giving osteopathic surgeons a respected voice in the greater medical community and in our nation's capital, ACOS advances crucial healthcare issues. ACOS is the professional home for all osteopathic surgeons and those who embrace the osteopathic philosophy of patient-centered care.

1680 Duke Street, Suite 500  
Alexandria, VA 22314

[www.facos.org](http://www.facos.org) | P: 800-888-1312 | F: 703-684-3280