

Julie Caffrey, DO, FACOS, FABA
Chair, General Surgery Discipline
c/o General Surgery Discipline Nominating Committee
American College of Osteopathic Surgeons

June 1, 2026

Letter of Interest – Governor of the Board of Governors of the ACOS

To The General Surgery Discipline Nominating Committee:

I respectfully submit this letter to express my interest in serving as a Governor of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons. Throughout my career, I have been dedicated to advancing osteopathic surgical practice, promoting excellence in education, and fostering the professional development of future surgeons. It would be a privilege to contribute my experience and perspective to the governance of an organization that has profoundly shaped my professional life.

My commitment to the osteopathic profession has extended beyond clinical practice to include education, advocacy, and organizational leadership. I have had the honor of training hundreds of osteopathic medical students, interns, residents, and fellows; authoring board review questions; judging osteopathic surgical oral board examinations; and serving as President of the New York State Osteopathic Medical Society. These experiences have provided me with a broad understanding of both the opportunities and challenges facing osteopathic surgeons and the profession as a whole.

As an active member of the College, I have participated in and led committees, conferences, and educational initiatives. I have presented scholarly work at Annual Clinical Assemblies and other national meetings while helping cultivate the next generation of leaders within the ACOS. Among my contributions, I have helped develop interdisciplinary continuing medical education programs, organized upcoming hands-on Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment courses, and served as a founding member of the College's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. I am particularly proud that many students,

residents, and junior attendings whom I have mentored are now assuming leadership roles within our profession and our College.

At a time when physicians and patients are increasingly seeking more holistic, relationship-centered care, osteopathic surgeons have a unique opportunity to demonstrate the enduring value of osteopathic principles within contemporary healthcare. I believe the future of osteopathic surgery depends upon maintaining our commitment to clinical excellence while embracing innovation, strengthening mentorship, expanding educational opportunities, and ensuring that osteopathic principles remain visible and relevant for future generations. As a triple board-certified osteopathic surgeon, including certification in Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment, I bring a perspective that bridges traditional osteopathic principles with modern surgical practice. As a Governor, I would work collaboratively to represent the interests of the General Surgery Discipline, support the professional growth of our members, and help guide initiatives that improve patient care while advancing the mission of the College.

My approach to leadership is grounded in service, transparency, inclusivity, and thoughtful stewardship. I would be honored to bring these principles to the Board of Governors and to help ensure the continued strength and relevance of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

Thank you for your consideration. I have enclosed my curriculum vitae for your review and would welcome the opportunity to further discuss how my experience, perspective, and commitment to osteopathic surgery may serve the College and its members.

Respectfully and with Sincere Admiration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerard A. Baltazar", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gerard A. Baltazar DO FACOS FACS FCCM OMT
Associate Professor of Surgery