



**American Association  
of Osteopathic Examiners**

## **Welcome to the AAOE Quarterly Newsletter!**

Welcome to the first edition of our American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE) quarterly newsletter! The AAOE is a group comprised of all osteopathic physicians (DOs) serving on state medical boards, and we hope that this will serve to keep you connected and informed about recent trends and updates in osteopathic medical regulation, licensure and discipline across the United States.

If you have any information that you would like included in an upcoming edition, please send to Raine Richards, JD, AOA Senior Director of State Government Affairs and AAOE staff liaison, at [rrichards@osteopathic.org](mailto:rrichards@osteopathic.org). A request for submissions will also go out approximately two weeks in advance of upcoming publication dates. Past editions of the newsletter will be posted to our website: <https://aaoe-net.org/>.

## **AAOE Officers Elected for 2021 – 2023 Term**

Congratulations to our new 2021 – 2023 AAOE officers, who were elected during our virtual meeting on April 29th:

- **President:** Alexios Carayannopoulos, DO, MPH (Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure & Discipline)
- **Vice President:** Ryan Smith, DO, MEd, PhD (formerly of the Maine Board of Osteopathic Licensure)
- **Secretary-Treasurer:** Jan Zieren, DO, MPH (Tennessee Board of Osteopathic Examiners)
- **Immediate Past President:** Michael Wieting, DO (Tennessee Board of Osteopathic Examiners)

## **Arizona Creates a Medical Graduate Transitional Training Permit for Unmatched DOs and MDs**

In May, Arizona passed [legislation](#) to establish a “Medical Graduate Transitional Training Permit” for DOs and medical doctors (MDs) who successfully completed Levels or Steps 1 and 2 of the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX) or the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) and within the preceding two years applied for, but were not selected for or did not complete, residency training. The permit allows these individuals to practice under the supervision of a fully licensed physician within a qualified facility for a maximum of three years, provided that they apply to at least three primary care residency programs each year.

## **New Mexico Eliminates Board of Osteopathic Medicine; DOs Now Regulated Under Medical Board**

During the 2021 legislative session, New Mexico passed a [law](#) repealing the Osteopathic Medicine Act, eliminating the New Mexico Board of Osteopathic Medicine, and moving the regulation of DOs under the New Mexico Medical Board, effective July 1, 2021. The law also specifies that the Medical Board shall be comprised of eleven members – two public members, one physician assistant and eight physicians, at least two of whom must be DOs and at least two of whom must be “medical” physicians.

## **In Florida News...**

In June, Florida passed [legislation](#) to clarify the scope of a 2020 [law](#) that was designed to increase regulation of fertility clinics and prevent unwanted pelvic exams. The 2020 measure was created in response to reports of fertility clinic physicians utilizing their own genetic material to inseminate patients without their knowledge or consent, and of medical students performing pelvic examinations on anesthetized patients who consented to a general exam but did not specifically consent to a more invasive procedure. The 2020 law created confusion, however, as to whether its heightened consent requirements also applied to prostate exams on male patients or examinations of diaper rash on infants, and this year's bill clarifies that the requirements only apply to pelvic examinations on biological females who are anesthetized or unconscious, and only when the exam is not "in the standard of care for a procedure to which the patient has consented." – *courtesy of Anna Hayden, DO*

Florida also recently [implemented](#) a regulation regarding practice standards and informed consent requirements for physicians who certify patients to smoke medical marijuana. The state legalized medical marijuana in 2016, and in 2019 passed a law requiring the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine to draft rules for physicians who order smokeable medical marijuana for patients by July 1, 2021. The new rules require physicians to conduct and document a full, in-person assessment of the patient that includes certain information, and document that they checked the patient's history in the prescription drug database before ordering smokeable medical marijuana. Patients must also sign a new standardized consent form that includes information about the dangers of smoking near oxygen tanks and advises them to inspect marijuana supplies for mold contaminants before use. – *courtesy of Joel Rose, DO*

## **AAOE Advocacy**

The AAOE recently signed on to an AOA [letter](#) expressing strong concerns regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Federal Supremacy Project and the new regulation "Health Care Professionals' Practice in VA." As part of the Federal Supremacy Project, the VA plans to develop National Standards of Practice for all physicians and non-physician clinicians that would supersede state-based licensure and scope of practice laws, and the AAOE shares the AOA's concerns that this project could exacerbate health care silos and create a two-tier healthcare system wherein only some of our nation's veterans are able to access physician-led care.

The AAOE also recently sent letters to medical boards in Louisiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Vermont requesting clarification and/or changes to their postgraduate trainee licensure requirements in light of the recent indefinite suspension of the COMLEX Level 2 Performance Evaluation and the discontinuation of the equivalent USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills examination, in order to ensure that DOs are able to enroll – and continue in – residency training in these states without undue burden or delay.

## **Osteopathic International Alliance Letter Regarding Online Osteopathic Degrees**

The Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA) recently circulated a [letter](#) to raise awareness about the existence of the National University of Medical Sciences USA (NUMSS), which offers an online degree in "osteopathic manual practice" and claims to be registered with the "Department of States in the United States." However, NUMSS is not an accredited school by any recognized authority in the US, and several OIA member organizations have had to inform graduates of NUMSS programs that they are not, in fact, eligible for licensure in any capacity related to osteopathy or osteopathic medicine.

## **Federation of State Medical Boards' Journal of Medical Regulation Seeks Manuscripts**

The Journal of Medical Regulation (JMR), a quarterly publication of the Federation of State Medical Boards, is seeking manuscript submissions. The JMR publishes scholarly articles supporting evidence-based regulation in the United States and international medical regulatory communities, with the goal of promoting best practices, critical thinking and collaboration among medical boards. Contributions that enhance the understanding and advancement of medical regulation are welcome. For more information about submitting a manuscript, visit the JMR online at: <https://meridian.allenpress.com/jmr>

## **Upcoming AAOE Meetings**

Stay tuned for information about upcoming AAOE meetings!

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