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**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS
FEBRUARY 2022 REPORT TO THE AOA BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE), which is comprised of osteopathic physicians serving on state osteopathic and composite medical licensing boards (AAOE Fellows), serves as the unified authority in matters affecting osteopathic medical licensure and discipline. Strategically, the AAOE acts as the voice of osteopathic medicine within the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and collaborates to understand and respond to state regulatory and licensing issues that impact osteopathic medicine.

We currently have representatives on 47 out of the 51 possible regulatory boards (only Alaska, DC, Louisiana and Massachusetts lack osteopathic representation). The AAOE typically meets three times a year, once in the winter, once at the Annual Meeting of the FSMB in the spring and once at the American Osteopathic Association’s (AOA) House of Delegates in the summer.

Keeping AAOE Fellows Updated on Important Health Policy Trends

The AAOE held its most recent (virtual) Educational Summit meeting on January 20th. During the meeting, AOA CEO Kevin Klauer, DO, EJD provided an update to the group on:

- Enhancing AOA membership
- Expanding accreditation availability to include ACCME in addition to AOA
- Retirement of the AOA CME cycle
- Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation nomination process
- AOA Board Certification
- COMLEX equivalency
- Applauding the FSMB on its work with state medical boards on COVID misinformation

The National Board of Osteopathic Examiners’ (NBOME) President and CEO John Gimpel, DO, Board Chair Richard LaBaere, DO, MPH and General Counsel Doug Murray presented an update on the NBOME and its mission to protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions:

- NBOME awards – AAOE Immediate Past President Michael Wieting, DO received the Clark Award for Patient Advocacy
- Special Commission on Osteopathic Medical Licensure Assessment Progress
- Coalition for Physician Accountability Update
- Anticipated Single Licensure Exam Resolution at the 2022 American Medical Association Annual Meeting

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- November 2021 focus session in preparation for the development of a new strategic plan in early 2022 – AAOE Immediate Past President Michael Wieting, DO represented the AAOE

The FSMB President and CEO Humayun Chaudhry, DO provided an update to the group on:

- COVID misinformation and disinformation
- Telemedicine workgroup & draft report
- Coalition for Physician Accountability Update
- Audience Q & A:
 - Reminder that COMLEX and USMLE are licensing exams and are not meant to select candidates for residency programs
 - Regulatory response to use of medications off-label for COVID treatment

The AOA's Director of State Government Affairs and AAOE Staff Liaison, Raine Richards, JD, and Oklahoma State Board of Osteopathic Examiners President Katie Templeton, JD presented on:

- Overview of state legislative and regulatory actions on COVID misinformation and disinformation
- Definition of the terms 'misinformation' and 'disinformation'
- Responsibilities of physicians to their patients and in public settings
- FSMB response
- Suggested considerations and next steps for regulators

Raine Richards then presented an AOA update on 2022 state legislative activity and AOA advocacy:

- 38 states are currently convened in regular legislative session
- Eight letters and four grassroots alerts have been submitted so far on:
 - Scope of practice expansion attempts
 - Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
 - Health Professional Loan Forgiveness
- Other 2022 trends include:
 - Access & Affordability
 - Telehealth
 - COVID-19

AAOE Quarterly Newsletter

In order to strengthen the AAOE's effectiveness and enhance communication among state boards, the AAOE launched a quarterly newsletter in August of 2021. Fellows have submitted articles regarding:

- Creation of a Graduate Transitional Training Permit for unmatched DOs/MDs in Arizona
- Combination of New Mexico's two medical boards
- Strengthening oversight of sensitive exams and medical procedures in Florida and Wisconsin

- Clarification of postgraduate trainee license requirements as a result of COVID-related licensing exam suspensions

AAOE Internationally

On October 12 – 14, the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) held a virtual conference attended by AAOE President Alexios Carayannopoulos, DO, MPH. The theme of the conference was “Supporting a workforce under pressure – the regulator’s role,” and it featured speakers from the World Health Organization, the FSMB, the NBOME, and other leaders in the international medical regulatory space.

The opening keynote covered the challenges of COVID-19, including misinformation and backlash against medical recommendations such as vaccines and mask wearing, as well as positive changes, such as the increased use of telemedicine and the creation of new guidelines in countries that did not previously have them. Breakout session speakers took a deeper dive into issues like the regulatory response to COVID misinformation, the prevention of physician recidivism, and the evolution of physician competency assessment.

On behalf of the AAOE, I would like to thank the AOA for its ongoing support for our mission and activities, about which additional information is available on our website: www.aaoe-net.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexios Carayannopoulos, DO, MPH
President, AAOE