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Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Community Service
The Osteopathic Way

Being a DO means caring about
the community
Students, faculty and alumni juggle hectic
schedules to volunteer in the community,
helping others while living the ideology of
osteopathic medicine — commitment to
family, community and preventive medicine.

Weaving community issues
with medical practice
For PCOM's new health care center director,
Oliver C. Bullock, DO, '78, serving as a
community leader in the North Philadelphia
neighborhood where he works helps him
better serve his patients.

Special events fundraising
begins at PCOM
Launched by a successful ad book and
plans for a fall golf tournament, special
events fundraising is taking off at PCOM.
The authors of an article in the April 1993 issue of the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association issue a "call for reform," claiming that osteopathic medicine should become exclusively a primary care profession. As part of their argument, the authors recommend the elimination of all subspecialty residency programs that do not directly support primary care. As an alternative, subspecialty residencies would be open only to those DOs who had completed a primary care residency.

In addition, the authors propose, only students who intend to go into primary care practice should be accepted by the osteopathic medical colleges. Others should be told to "apply elsewhere."

While some of the authors' points are valid, their recommendations are troubling. While I agree that osteopathic medicine has its roots and its strengths in primary care, it is rather naive to suggest that the osteopathic colleges accept only students who are committed to primary care. To do so means closing the door to potentially fine future osteopathic physicians just because these young students have not yet decided on a postgraduate career path.

In reality, how many students are certain when first applying to medical school of the career path they will choose in four or more years? How many change their minds once exposed to a variety of influences throughout the educational process?

**Recruit well-rounded students**

A far better procedure is to recruit students who have both the academic qualifications for success and the interests and personalities that through experience make good osteopathic physicians. Our job as educators is to expose these students to primary care models and values throughout the curriculum, so they see the benefits and challenges of primary care as much as they do the "glamour" of the subspecialties.

This is the direction we have taken at PCOM. Working through a college-wide Primary Care Task Force, our goal is to integrate primary care into every aspect of the curriculum, both didactic and clinical. We ultimately seek a student body where 70 percent choose primary care and 30 percent choose the subspecialties. We are well on our way; consistently close to 60 percent of our graduates are in primary care practices.

**Ensure quality graduate medical education**

I disagree with the authors' recommendation to eliminate all osteopathic residency programs that do not directly support primary care or to require a primary care residency before pursuing subspecialty training.

While most osteopathic hospitals are small institutions lacking the faculty and patient base to support a specialized residency, that is not necessarily true of the larger hospitals and osteopathic medical colleges. In fact, these small, community-hospital specialty programs are the ones that osteopathic graduates are shunning, turning instead to the allopathic profession for quality training.

The authors contend that the osteopathic profession should rethink its "separate but equal" position. Again I disagree. To give up the specialties and concentrate on primary care is equivalent to asking the allopathic profession to abandon its primary care programs and concentrate on the subspecialties. Neither is a win-win situation. Instead, we should be working together to learn from each other and to benefit from the strengths of each, without giving up those programs that we do successfully.

**Combine the best of DO and MD training**

Those colleges and hospitals that can support quality residency programs across the board should be allowed to do so. At PCOM we have established a college-run model that merges the best of osteopathic and allopathic postgraduate training and permits us to offer programs that are entirely osteopathic where we have the depth and strength, and joint osteopathic-allopathic in those specialties where our residents can benefit from allopathic experiences. Examples are our emergency medicine and urology programs, in conjunction with Albert Einstein Medical Center, and our surgery and OB/GYN programs with Germantown and St. Agnes Medical Centers. Our affiliation with Graduate Health System promises to strengthen our resources for quality graduate medical education.

The authors and I agree on the need to establish better communication with the allopathic profession. In the areas of subspecialization there should be routine communication. The measure of success of our postgraduate training programs should not be that they are strictly osteopathic primary care programs. They should be of high enough quality to meet both AOA and ACGME accreditation standards, and our residents should be able to receive dual licensing.

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Community service and involvement

Community service and involvement. For many professionals volunteer work means adding hours to an already hectic schedule. But to the osteopathic physician, serving the community is an essential part of the ideology of osteopathic medicine — having a strong commitment to family, community and preventive medicine.

The emphasis the profession places on community service is found in the Osteopathic Oath and in the manner that osteopathic medical students are trained. “The philosophy of osteopathic medicine says that to treat a patient you have to know all you can, not only about the patient, but also his or her family and environment. It has to go beyond the one-to-one patient encounter,” said Kenneth J. Veit, DO, ’76, PCOM dean.

Clinical training at PCOM follows the DO tradition. Training is strongly community-based with students being placed in community hospitals and clinics and physicians’ offices. Veit says PCOM adds another component to reinforce an orientation toward community involvement. “Our curriculum exposes our students to role models who are driven and directed toward community involvement. By working alongside one of these professors or preceptors, students see firsthand the role osteopathic medicine plays in the community.”

Pursuing the tradition of osteopathic medicine

Helping the community while learning

“There certainly seems to be a great interest at our school in getting involved,” said Jeff Fraser, PCOM ’95, a member of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association. Youthful idealism is put to good use at PCOM because there are so many opportunities to help people.

“I’m blown away by all the people I meet at PCOM. They are going into medicine for all the right reasons,” said Fraser. “The profession is not the gold mine it once was. I think students are going in with more altruistic desires. The desire to help people doesn’t always involve the exchange of money.”

Fraser accompanied his father, Donald Fraser, an osteopathic physician in Michigan, on a medical excursion to a poor rural community outside the resort town of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. “I will never forget the warm and fuzzy feeling I got after helping people who were really in need,” said Fraser. “Some of them hadn’t seen a doctor in 10 years.”

He was also one of many SOMA members who staffed the AOA Care-A-Van last fall as it visited Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. “One day in Washington about 1,700 public school children were given health screenings. It was a fantastic experience,” Fraser recalled.

Lisa Gray, PCOM ’96, and Lori Spoor, PCOM ’95, are members of SOMA’s community service committee. For them community service helps put studying in perspective. “You get so isolated in studies that working in the community helps you to refocus on your medical school mission,” Gray said. “The foundation of osteopathic medicine is listening to and communicating with patients. The more we interact with the community, the more they get to know us and know about osteopathic medicine.”

Every year members of the Special Olympics committee of SOMA raise money for the Special Olympics with a city-wide volleyball tournament. Past SOMA community service activities include helping build a house with Habitat for Humanity volunteers and volunteering at a soup kitchen in Philadelphia.

Last year Spoor spearheaded a blanket and clothing drive for the Salvation Army and the Allied Jewish Appeal which netted enough donations to fill four pick-up trucks.

“Community service actually helps us with personal relating skills — even if we’re not doing a health screening,” said Spoor. “Instead of dealing with books all the time, it gives us a chance to get out and work with people and keep things in perspective.”

Students, like Cecelia Johnson, PCOM ’95, are drawn to community service in gratitude for the assistance others gave them. “I wouldn’t be where I am today without a lot of help,” she said. “If I don’t give some of it back, there would be some other student who wouldn’t make it to professional school or college or maybe even high school. I want to be able to help, to give back the knowledge I’ve been fortunate enough to have gained.”

Johnson is a member of PCOM’s chapter of the Student National Medical Association, a national group of minority
"You get so isolated in studies that working in the community helps you to refocus on your medical school mission."

— Lisa Gray, PCOM '96

medical students. She and other SNMA volunteers provide a wide range of community services from free screenings and awareness programs on illnesses affecting minority communities to taking up a collection for supplies for Hale House in New York, a home for babies born addicted to cocaine.

The SNMA chapter also works with disadvantaged youths at Bartram High School, offering CPR and basic life support training and helping students prepare for the college Scholastic Aptitude Test.

Harry Bramley, PCOM '95, is also committed to community service. He started PCOM's Big Brother/Big Sister program, now in its second year. Through this program, 30 first- and second-year students work with boys from the Northern Home for Children in Roxborough, serving as friend, role model and counselor to the boys, who mostly come from broken homes. “I think the program has made a difference in these kids’ lives,” said Bramley. “And it makes me feel good, too. I have a blast.”

Bramley said the program gives the boys an opportunity to have experiences they would not otherwise have, such as going to a 76ers basketball game. “But having someone to listen to them — to be a friend — may be the biggest benefit. If they have problems and they want to talk about it, we’re there,” he said.

PCOM Big Brothers and Big Sisters also help out at the Northern Home’s annual carnival and do fundraising for the home. In March the students arranged for the little brothers’ art work to be shown at a special exhibition at Jefferson Medical College.

Health care centers do their part

Probably nowhere is the osteopathic tradition of community involvement more apparent than in PCOM’s clinics.

“The health care centers were not just plopped down in the community with a sign that said ‘Here we are; come to us,’” said Oliver Bullock, DO, ’78, director of PCOM’s six health care centers and medical director of the Cambria Health Care Center. “The health care centers have a real commitment to the communities they’re in. It’s a two-way thing.”

According to Bullock, about 25 years ago PCOM was the first college to bring subspecialists into the community so people didn’t have to travel from place to place to get primary and specialty care. “PCOM was also the first to bring social workers into the health care centers,” he said. “They helped senior citizens fill out forms and visited families in their homes.”

The Cambria Health Care Center is so intertwined in that North Philadelphia community that there are few facets of life left...
untouched by the clinic. From after school tutoring, to physicals for the Sonny Hill basketball league, to safe sex counseling, the health care professionals at Cambria play an important role in the neighborhood.

Calvin Vermeire, DO, '76, works in an economically depressed rural area of northern Pennsylvania as co-medical director of PCOM’s Sullivan County Medical Center in Laporte. “Just being here is a public service,” said Vermeire, who notes that the clinic is the only freestanding medical center in Sullivan County open 24 hours a day.

The Laporte clinic regularly sponsors health fairs and offers low-cost immunizations every October.

Vermeire decided he wanted to work in public health in a rural environment while still a student at PCOM. He said the commitment to public service is something alumni take with them when they leave the school. But the full impact of that commitment comes over time.

A cardiologist with a big heart

Louis Papa, DO, '70, checks Louise White’s blood pressure at the free clinic he set up in South Camden.

Louis Papa, DO, '70, a cardiologist in private practice, is just one of many such alumni. Every Thursday he takes the tradition of caring to one of the poorest sections of South Camden. There, at a clinic he set up in the parish hall of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, he treats patients for a variety of minor illnesses — free of charge. He also provides free screenings for high blood pressure and diabetes.

“Typical patients who come to the clinic have some ability to get medical care when they are seriously ill,” said Papa. “But when they are sick with less severe problems such as bronchitis or the flu, there’s not much available to them. We write prescriptions and check them for high blood pressure. We try to fill in the cracks.”

Papa has recently enlisted the help of Richard Simmers, DO, '69, a Laurel Springs, N.J., pediatrician. With free vaccines supplied by the Camden County Health Department, Simmers gives immunizations to children every other Thursday free of charge. Many of his patients are children of the working poor who otherwise could not afford immunizations.

Simmers got involved with the Camden clinic project to give something back to the community. “Let’s face it, when you are in practice you make a nice living. When I volunteer, I feel as though I’m giving something back. It’s also nice not to have to worry about finances and insurance forms,” he said jokingly. “And it makes you feel as though you are counteracting the image that the news media tries to portray of doctors only being interested in making money.”

Alumni Frank Banks, DO, '75, and Bruce Bayles, DO, '75, both general practitioners, also volunteer their time to see the 20 to 25 people who seek medical care at the Camden clinic.

For Papa and Banks volunteer work doesn’t stop at the Camden clinic. Both also provide free medical care at a homeless shelter at Lakeland State Hospital in Clementon, N.J., every other week; they have also volunteered in Haiti, Honduras and the Dominican Republican.

“It’s a unique experience to treat people who have significant diseases who would not otherwise get treatment,” said Papa. “We don’t often get that feeling as doctors. Most patients could go to somebody else if we didn’t treat them.”

“Volunteering gives doctors a chance to generally do something for society that becomes more and more important as care becomes more expensive and difficult to get,” he said. “I felt lucky to get into medicine, to be educated. A couple of hours a week is not such a big thing. There are people who give their whole lives to helping others and don’t make a penny.”

Simmers considers Papa a modern day hero. “For the love of people, he has gone out of his way to give back in a much greater fashion than any physician I know. He is very important to the Sacred Heart Parish’s role in being responsible for the community and helping with some of the social problems that exist in the inner city.”
"You don’t treat a body part, you treat a whole person; you don’t treat a person, you treat a whole family and the community they live in."

— John Weis, DO, ’76

Teaching future leaders

"Because of the primary care-family doctor orientation, a person must be well-rounded and active in the community to be a successful osteopathic physician," said Clarence Scott, DO, '81, the newly-inaugurated president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association and assistant scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 47, led by John Weis, DO, '76.

"We’re interested in teaching, period — whether it’s adults or children and whether we’re teaching medicine or other subjects. It is a natural extension of our osteopathic heritage," said Scott, a family physician in his hometown of Troy.

Scott served as a scoutmaster for Troop 47 for two years while he was a college undergraduate student at nearby Mansfield State University. "The current troop has children of those children I was leading at the time," he said.

Weis’ commitment to scouting began seven years ago when the eldest of his three sons joined the Cub Scouts. For the past three years, he has pulled what he calls "double duty" as both a Cub Scout den leader and Boy Scout Troop 47’s scoutmaster.

"With a busy schedule, you have to make time for it," said Weis. "But I do it because I believe that the Boy Scout program is one of the last bastions of preservation of community values. It teaches service to country and self and it holds the family in high esteem — much like osteopathic medicine."

During the school year, he conducts weekly troop meetings and weekend camping trips. In addition to the troop’s week-long summer camp in Sullivan County, Weis is also leading a group of 72 Pennsylvania-New York scouts to the Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia this summer.

Weis is apparently having an impact on the troop. In the past three years he has guided five youths to the coveted rank of Eagle Scout, an impressive record for a troop which has grown from just 10 boys to 37 during Weis’ tenure.

To complete his work for Eagle Scout, one of Weis’ youths this year organized the maintenance of five miles of trails through Mt. Pisgah State Park. Another fixed up a pavilion at a county nursing home and organized the residents’ summer activity program. A third boy repaired and painted a home the local Baptist Church now uses for its Sunday School program.

Even though the boys completed the projects themselves, Weis felt as though he was working right along with them. "By my serving as a role model of a person willing to give his time, I am, by example, actually teaching the importance of community service. It’s contagious. The kids, in turn, want to volunteer their time to the community, and my simple contribution multiplies many times over. It’s gratifying.

“Community service is the comprehensive approach that I learned at PCOM," said Weis. "You don’t treat a body part, you treat a whole person; you don’t treat a person, you treat a family and the community they live in."
Oliver C. Bullock, DO, '78

Keeping in touch with the needs of the community

His manner kindly, his voice reassuring, Oliver C. Bullock, DO, '78, is a man whose practice of medicine is intimately intertwined with the well-being of the North Philadelphia community he serves — the very community in which he was raised. At Cambria Health Care Center, just five blocks from the house where he grew up, Bullock serves as medical director. He not only provides a full range of medical services along with associate director Paul DeJoseph, DO, '86, and PCOM students, but also pays careful attention to the socio-economic needs of the community.

"We meet with various organizations and talk about what is happening in the community and what they would like to see happen," said Bullock. From these meetings with neighborhood organizations, business groups and corporate leaders, doctors at the medical center have been able to respond to the needs and concerns of people living in the community.

For Bullock, who was recently promoted to director of PCOM's six health care centers, community service and community involvement are an extremely important part of any doctor's practice. And the reasons aren't simply humanitarian.

"There are a lot of things that go on in the community that directly affect your ability to treat patients," Bullock said. Some of those include shifting employment patterns and the increasing numbers of patients who belong to health maintenance organizations. "Adding new services or expanding your practice may be folly if you do not know what is needed in the community. The days when you could be isolated from the community are gone."

During a recent meeting with community groups, concern about the mental and physical development of babies affected by crack cocaine was brought to the doctors' attention. "They wanted to know what could be done for these kids," said Bullock.

"These babies are a new phenomenon — like nothing we've ever seen before. Their bodies react differently to diseases and immunization shots, and it seems to be a lifelong problem — one that we're just beginning to find out about now," he explained.

In addition to having an awareness and concern for the special problems associated with these children, Bullock is looking into the development of a program for them based on the successful Hale House program in New York. "I am in touch with a local community activist who is interested in setting up a program called Mommies House. The program would be geared toward the care of children born addicted to drugs whose mothers are being rehabilitated. What my role will be is yet undetermined, but I think it's an important issue to tackle."

With Bullock's focus strongly fixed on the community, there seems to be no facet of well-being — both medical and non-medical — that is not touched by the staff at Cambria Medical Center. Projects range from after-school tutoring programs to safe sex counseling and summer HIV/AIDS education lectures.

Last June, Bullock and four fourth-year PCOM students provided free physicals to 65 children from the Sonny Hill basketball league, an organization that coordinates athletic and other activities for underprivileged youth from Philadelphia's Public Housing Authority. As a result of the physicals, three children were referred for follow-up for heart problems which were previously undetected.

For preschoolers and early elementary school age children, Bullock has written a puppet show to familiarize them with instruments and examination procedures in the doctor's office. "The main thrust of the show is that every instrument a doctor uses will not hurt them," said Bullock, who takes the show to children all over the city. "It helps them develop a vocabulary to ask what is going to happen when they are in the doctor's office."

Puppets — Bart Simpson, a dragon, a mouse, and a penguin — some large enough to hold medical instruments, examine little puppet ears and give injections on a stage that resembles a doctor's office. Posters on the wall show how the instruments work.

Another link to children in the community is through an informal adopt-a-school program at the Whittier School, an elementary school at 29th Street and Allegheny Avenue. Activities at the school help children understand what a doctor does and ways to keep healthy. Plans are currently underway for Bullock and his staff to provide on-site immunizations at the school this September and for other preventive programs.

With Bullock at the helm of these projects two things are certain — the possibilities for the future are unlimited, and Bullock is making a lasting imprint on the community. "For me it would be difficult to practice medicine without truly caring about my patients, their families and the community they live in," he said.
College to benefit from new fundraising special events

A highly successful ad book and a fall PCOM Golf Classic are two major projects which will benefit PCOM's primary care education and community outreach programs.

"Fundraising is a major objective here at PCOM. Through more intensive efforts, we will be able to provide an ongoing source of funds to help achieve our educational mission," said Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, '59, PCOM president.

Golfing enthusiasts and PCOM supporters will unite on Monday, Sept. 20 at Torresdale-Frankford Country Club, Philadelphia, for the first-ever PCOM golf tournament, with the proceeds to benefit educational programs at the college and the hospitals.

The golf classic will include brunch, on-course refreshments, post-round cocktails, dinner and an awards ceremony. All golfers will receive a welcoming package of golf gifts. The lucky golfer whose tee shot drops in the special "hole in one" hole will drive home in a new car. Additional prizes will be awarded throughout the day for putting, long drives and other skill contests.

Non-golfers can also support the event through special sponsorship. Alumni interested in putting together a foursome or becoming a sponsor should call Louise Steerman, special events coordinator, at (215) 871-2107.

PCOM '93 Golf Classic is spearheaded by chairman Albert F. D'Alonzo, DO, '56, professor and chairman of cardiology, and vice-chairmen Robert Cuzzolino, EdD, associate dean for academic administration, and David M. Spratt, DO, '75, professor and chairman of occupational and preventive medicine. Rounding out the steering committee are Dr. Smith, Joel Dalva, vice president of the hospitals and chief financial officer, and Susan Soiferman. A major sponsor of the event is ARA Services; additional corporate sponsorship is being solicited.

Richard DiMonte, Jr., PCOM '94, receives award check for his efforts on the ad book from Leonard H. Finkelstein, DO, '59, PCOM president.

Medical Staff Dinner Dance Ad Book

Through the efforts of an eight-person steering committee and countless other supporters, this year's medical staff dinner dance featured an 84-page ad book which grossed over $83,000 for the college.

An all-out effort by all constituencies, the ad book was comprised of 285 ads, ranging from names listings to special gold full pages. Many staff, students and employees participated in an incentive contest to solicit ads. The contest winners, four employees and student Richard DiMonte Jr., PCOM '94, with support from his father, Richard M. DiMonte, DO, '66, raised a total of $5,210.

The ad book was co-chaired by Melvyn E. Smith, DO, '63, president of the City Avenue hospital, and Susan Soiferman, executive director for public relations and marketing. Steering committee members were Lewis H. Abel, vice president, treasurer and secretary, Carol A. Fox, PCOM director of admissions/registrar, Barbara Gordesky, vice president of the City Avenue hospital, Frank H. Quinn, DO, '76, medical staff chairman, Pat A. Lannutti, DO, '71, co-chairman of internal medicine, and Ernest Perilli, vice president of the Parkview hospital. Additional support was provided by Harriet Stein, ad book coordinator, Louise Steerman, special events coordinator, Debbie Dziena, administrative assistant, Ted Lamoreaux, design director, and Wendy Romano, graphic designer.
John D. Angeloni, DO, '75, professor and chairman of general practice, has been elected a POMA trustee-at-large as well as a POMA delegate to the AOA.

John W. Becher, Jr., DO, '70, professor and chairman of emergency medicine, received an award for service and dedication from the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine. Becher has also been elected POMA delegate to the AOA.

Carol A. Bortner, PhD, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology, has been awarded a grant to develop a model to study cardiac legionellosis in the laboratory. The grant was provided by the Young Investigator Matching Grant program, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases and supported by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.

Ted Eisenberg, DO, '76, associate professor of surgery, has been named plastic surgery consultant to the AOA and plastic surgery representative to the Residency/Fellowship Evaluation Committee of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

Bruce Kornberg, DO, '78, professor and vice-chairman of internal medicine, has become a fellow of the American College of Cardiology.

Sherman N. Leis, DO, '67, professor and chairman of plastic/reconstructive surgery, has been elected chairman of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons Discipline of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery for a fourth term.

Theodore P. Mauer, DO, '62, professor and chairman of otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery, has been elected to a second term as president of the Philadelphia Laryngological Society.

Robert S. Ravetz, DO, '57, professor and chairman of psychiatry, has been given additional credentialing in geriatric psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Arthur J. Sesso, DO, '81, professor and chairman of general surgery, has been board certified in general surgery.

Michael F. Shank, DO, '80, director of medical education and associate professor of general practice and anatomy, has been elected president-elect of the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Medical Directors Association.

Herbert G. Wendelken, DO, '65, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, has been selected to be the obstetrics and gynecologic consultant for the International Institute of Forensic Science.

Microbiology professors receive awards

Benjamin A. Rubin, PhD, professor of microbiology and public health, received the Philadelphia Drug Exchange’s Proctor Award on Feb. 18. Given only 14 times since its founding in 1861, the award recognizes improvements to public health and advancements of medical professionals in the pharmaceutical industry in Pennsylvania. Rubin was honored for his many contributions in research and medical education as well as his dedication to public health for five decades. Specific achievements include the invention of the "bifurcated vaccination needle," which played a crucial role in the eradication of smallpox throughout the world and his work on the oral polio vaccine.

Last year Rubin joined the likes of Thomas Edison and the Wright brothers when he was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Although the honor that the invention has brought him is unique, the role of inventor is not new to Rubin. Along with the bifurcated needle, he holds patents in several areas including radiation devices and vaccines.

Joseph Uri, MD, PhD

Joseph V. Uri, MD, PhD, professor of microbiology, was selected International Man of the Year by the International Biographical Centre of Cambridge, England. The designation recognizes Uri’s life-long commitment to new drug research and to the education of medical students.

After retiring from Smith Kline Beecham’s medical department in 1986, Uri’s passion for testing new drugs to combat infectious diseases brought him to PCOM. Currently, he is experimenting with drugs to fight tuberculosis and fungal infections.

Also, Uri has been recommended for inclusion in the second edition of Two Thousand Notable American Men for his leadership, vision and life-long achievement in medical research.
Commitment to medicine and education take

George K. Kamajian II, DO, ‘76, travels to Brazil to teach AIDS awareness

Last November, George K. Kamajian II, DO, ’76, traveled to the tropics of Brazil to educate medical personnel about AIDS and emergency medicine. As it turned out, he learned more than he taught and came away with a renewed appreciation of medicine in the United States.

Kamajian spent two weeks in the city of Arachu educating Brazilian physicians and nurses about AIDS through a voluntary, Washington, D.C.-based organization called Partners of the Americas, which promotes economic and social development throughout the Western Hemisphere. AIDS is prevalent throughout South America, but Kamajian said the impoverished nature of the country prevents many physicians and citizens from taking necessary precautions against the disease.

“It’s difficult talking about wearing two gloves when their doctors don’t have any [gloves],” said Kamajian, a board-certified emergency medicine physician at Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River, Mass.

Kamajian learned of many other medical frustrations in the country, including a two-tiered universal health care system in which a select affluent population has unlimited access to modern hospital facilities while the majority poor must make do with lengthy waits for care in substandard clinics.

Physicians’ salaries, too, differ drastically according to whether they work for the state or privately, Kamajian said.

“There are emergency rooms without any cardiac monitors where chickens and pigs run freely – right next door to marble, tiled hospitals as good as ours providing heart transplants,” he recalled. “The physicians are extremely talented, but they work with very limited resources.”

Nonetheless, Kamajian was touched by the natives’ loyalty to their country, the physical beauty of the land and the uncomplicated form of medicine practiced by the Brazilian physicians.

Kamajian’s participation in the project was initiated by a chance meeting with the president of Partners of the Americas last spring and by his desire to provide care to those in need. “I had never done anything like this before. It was a real eye-opening experience,” he said.

Kamajian, who in his off-duty time teaches paramedics and EMTs on a volunteer basis, said that community service is a crucial part of his life. “To me it’s very important to give back to the community as well as to take from it.”

Inspired by the trip, Kamajian has since included his name on waiting lists for similar volunteer programs. In the meantime, he is coordinating a reciprocal exchange program for the Brazilian physicians in the United States and continues to send educational materials and other supplies to his new-found colleagues. “I wish there were more I could do. Unfortunately, the best intentions won’t change much until these people get basic resources,” he said.

Walter J. Boris, DO, ’85, becomes one of the first DOs to operate in Lithuania

Walter J. Boris, DO, ’85, recently experienced firsthand the new-found freedoms of the former Soviet Union while also becoming one of the first osteopathic physicians to perform open-heart surgery in Lithuania.

Last September, Boris, a cardiothoracic surgical resident at Deborah Heart and Lung Center in Brown Mills, N.J., was part of a six-member surgical team that operated on children with complex congenital heart defects at the Vilnius University Clinic of Cardiac Surgery in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Boris was selected to participate in the eight-day mission by the hospital’s chairman of surgery and was part of a larger, medical/surgical team consisting of 10 doctors, 22 nurses, four perfusionists, two nurse anesthetists, two respiratory therapists and one biomedical engineer. Equipped with $1.5 million worth of cardiac monitors and other medical instruments and supplies, which were later donated to the facility, the Deborah team set up two operating rooms, an intensive care unit and a special care unit at the Vilnius Clinic.

With a miniature hospital now in place, Boris and his associates performed open-heart surgery to correct complex congenital heart anomalies on 19 Lithuanian children with native cardiac surgeons carefully observing the procedures. “They watched every move we made, but at the same time they respected our privacy,” he said. “It wasn’t that the physicians didn’t have the knowledge, they just needed to be more experienced with the techniques.”

The Lithuanian surgeons weren’t the only ones interested in the surgical procedures, as medical and nursing students and attending physicians at the University of Vilnius were eager to learn. “Every now and then I’d glance up and see all these faces studying us from the observation decks,” Boris recalled.

Boris found the hospital in Lithuania to
be modern in most regards, with a few noticeable exceptions. "Lithuania's Russian parents are begrudgingly giving them heating oil, so the operating rooms and intensive care units were extremely cold. We had to use portable space heaters in the ICU to keep the children warm," he said. "Also, I was surprised to see large windows in the operating rooms which looked out onto a meadow, and much of their equipment was quite antiquated. Some of our personnel had only seen this type of equipment in books."

In the end, this medical mission was quite successful — all the children survived their operations without serious complications. "If left untreated, which is unfortunately the case in Lithuania for children with complex heart defects, many of the children would have experienced a shortened lifespan," Boris said. "Ordinarily Lithuanian physicians perform pediatric cardiac surgery on more simple congenital heart defects." The Lithuanian physicians currently spend several months at Deborah observing other techniques in a program designed to encourage their professional development.

Because the trip was relatively brief and work-intensive, Boris had little time for sightseeing except during his early-morning jogs through downtown Vilnius. "I met a lot of interesting people. The country as a whole was extremely laid back, but still fairly rural for such a large, metropolitan area. "Overall it was rewarding professionally and emotionally as well as being a physical challenge to perform at a continued high level away from home. It was a pleasure to be a part of such a worthy project."

### ‘The Sky's the Limit’

**Perry S. Bechtle, DO, ’89, appointed Blue Angels flight surgeon**

Training as an osteopathic physician can lead to unlimited opportunities. "The sky's the limit" — literally — for Perry Bechtle, DO, ’89, recently appointed to the Blue Angels, the Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron.

In his new command as flight surgeon for the squadron, Bechtle directs its Aeromedical Safety and Industrial Hygiene programs, as well as provides medical care for squadron members. "Almost all of what a flight surgeon does is in the area of preventive medicine, which works perfectly with my osteopathic training," said Bechtle. "My other medical responsibilities require a strong background in physical medicine, which again is a perfect fit for an osteopathic physician." In addition to his medical duties, Bechtle also critiques the airshows for the Blue Angels, who are scheduled to fly 68 shows in 35 cities throughout the United States this year.

Said Bechtle, "I like the mix of responsibilities of my current command. I can't say enough about aerospace medicine. It's a cutting-edge field that involves a relatively small community, so you learn a lot very quickly. I work with top people in both flying and ground support positions. We keep very high standards and that's something you can take pride in."

Bechtle's interest in aerospace began while still a student at PCOM. "I responded to a classified ad NASA placed in one of the medical journals and was accepted into an aerospace medicine clerkship program at Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center in Houston. I completed the program as my elective rotation," Bechtle said.

After graduating from PCOM, he moved to Florida to do his internship at Sun Coast Hospital in Largo, Fla. He then joined the Navy in 1990 as a student naval flight surgeon at the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla., the location of his present command.

After completing flight training, Bechtle was assigned to his first command as flight surgeon at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina, in February 1992. After his first year in this position, he was named 1992 Flight Surgeon of the Year for his region, Fleet Marine Force Atlantic. Bechtle has also received the Navy Commendation Medal and the National Defense Medal.

During his Cherry Point command he also began providing launch support for NASA's Space Shuttle Program, a service he still provides for NASA. "So far I've been activated for two shuttle launches. I am one of a handful of East Coast physicians that are brought to the launch site to serve as search and rescue physicians if an emergency arises," said Bechtle.

What's next for Bechtle? Perhaps a residency in anesthesiology. "I still have a couple years at my assignment and I do enjoy it. Everywhere I go in the Navy I meet PCOMers, from the top on down, but I think I want to pursue a clinical specialty next."
PCOM alumni inducted into ACOS

The following physicians have been inducted into the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons:


- Fellows Robert I. Barsky, DO, '81; Joseph Gallacher, DO, '70; Bernard C. McDonnell, DO, '72; and Edwin J. Sullivan, DO, '70.

- Inductees Alexander B. Cherny, DO, '65; Hasco Craver, III, DO, '87; Richard Kimmel, DO, '84; William Kramer, DO, '86; George J. Mack, DO, '84; Mitchell F. Matez, DO, '86; David Meir-Levi, DO, '83; Mark Osevala, DO, '85; Carey Penrod, DO, '85; and Walter C. Peppelman, DO, '85.

ACOOG elects new officers

The American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists has elected Ronald J. Librizzi, DO, '73, president and Richard G. Tucker, DO, '74, to the board of trustees. Also, David H. Belesky, DO, '57, has received the distinguished service award. In addition, the following have received board certification in obstetrics and gynecology: Joseph M. Kaczmarszyc, DO, '82; Michael Messina, DO, '82; George W. Russian, DO, '74; Allan H. Slavsky, DO, '79; and Laura Souders-Dalton, DO, '80.

ACOI re-elects John P. Simelaro, DO, '71; announces new fellows

John P. Simelaro, DO, '71, has been re-elected to the board of directors of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

The following PCOM alumni have become fellows of the American College of Osteopathic Internists: Andrew M. Alory, DO, '78; R. William Bradway, DO, '56; H. Timothy Dombrowski, DO, '81; Howard Glass, DO, '75; James E. McHugh, DO, '68; J. Phillip Reese, DO, '75; John J. Santoro, DO, '78; and Silvio Zappasodi, DO, '79.

PCOM wants to know...

Are you active in community theatre?

We are looking for alumni who are active in community theatre to feature in an upcoming article in Digest. If you currently participate in this activity on a consistent basis, let us know.

Do you make housecalls?

Are housecalls still a part of your practice? We may be interested in featuring you in an upcoming story in Digest. If you are involved in community theatre or do housecalls, please send a letter describing your activities along with a current CV to: Carol Harris, Editor, Osteopathic Digest, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, 4180 City Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. 19131 or fax to (215) 871-2163.

Remember to keep us informed on your professional activities, as well as any interesting hobbies, by filling out and returning the clip-out form on page 15.

Class Acts

1944
Morris A. Fishman, DO, Wynnewood, Pa., has been elected chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

1947
J. Weston Abar, DO, and Joan Abar, DO, '63, North Kingston, R.I., have been awarded the 1992 American Osteopathic Hospital Association Award of Merit. It is the first time the award has been given to a husband and wife team.

Robert R. Rosenbaum, DO, Philadelphia, Pa., has received the Distinguished Service Award presented by the American Osteopathic College of Radiology.

1954
Duane H. Tucker, DO, Kenmore, N.Y., has been named a life member of the American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists.

1961
Ferdinand L. Manlio, DO, Hudson, Fla., has been appointed president-elect of the American College of Radiology.

1963
Richard H. Feeck, DO, Farmington Hills, Mich., has been appointed to the Health, Human Values and Medical Ethics Task Force at Episcopalian Diocese of Ohio.

1964
Michael Podolsky, DO, Dallas, Texas, has been honored by the American Osteopathic College of Radiology by giving the AOOCR 1992 Treney Memorial Lecture on musculoskeletal MRI.

1967
Roy DeBeer, DO, Long Beach, N.Y., has become a fellow of the American College of Physicians.

1968
C. Samuel Grove, DO, Rochester, N.Y., has been elected president of the medical and dental staff at Rochester General Hospital.

1969
Steven L. Edell, DO, Wilmington, Del., has been appointed president of the Greater Wilmington Chapter of the American Cancer Society.

John Guiliano, DO, Boothwyn, Pa., has been board certified in family practice.

1970
Joseph Gallacher, DO, Norristown, Pa., has become a fellow of the American Association of Osteopathic Specialists.

1973
W. William Shay, DO, Boyertown, Pa., has been elected president of the Acupuncture Society of Pennsylvania.

1974
Donald A. Barone, DO, Medford, N.J., has been elected to the board of Kennedy Health Care Foundation.

Jerry Cohen, DO, Bala Cynwyd, Pa., has joined the medical staff at Osteopathic Medical Center of Philadelphia. He has also joined the practice of Ronald T. Meltzer, DO, '67 and Robert A. Weisberg, DO, '66 in Narberth.

Albert A. DePolo, Jr., DO, Livonia, Mich., has been elected chief of urology at Oakland General Hospital, Detroit. In addition, DePolo has been appointed trainer for the hospital's urology residency program.

1975
Jerry F. Gurnkoff, DO, Grand Prairie, Texas, has become a fellow of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics.
Class Acts

Michael L. Mansi, DO, Havertown, Pa., has opened a gynecology practice in Philadelphia with Patrick J. Becher, DO, '77.

1976

Charles Feicht, DO, Zanesville, Ohio, has been named medical director for the emergency department at Bethesda Hospital, Zanesville.

R. Michael Gallagher, DO, received the 1992 Fellow Award presented by the

addition, he has been elected a member of the Group for Advancement of Psychiatry.

Roddy Canosa, DO, Lancaster, Pa., has joined the medical staff at St. Joseph Hospital, Reading.

George Homa, DO, North Wales, Pa., has been named medical director at Meadowood Retirement Community, Worcester.

Harry Morris, DO, Orlando, Fla., has been appointed

Francis J. Kane, DO, Schuykill Haven, Pa., has joined the medical staff at Ashland Regional Medical Center.

1982

Margery Gordon, DO, Clay, N.Y., has joined the medical staff at Central Square Health Center.

Daniel M. Finelli, DO, Ambler, Pa., has been appointed medical director at Workability, an affiliate of Reading Rehabilitation Hospital.

James Lewis, DO, Chester, Pa., has been appointed medical examiner for Gloucester County, N.J.

Marc A. Vengrove, DO, Allentown, Pa., has been named to the Endocrine Society.

Mark Williams, DO, Scottsdale, Ariz., has been elected president-elect of the medical staff at Frick Hospital and Community Health Center.

Denise M. Wilson, DO, Bryant Pond, Maine, has joined the medical staff at Central Maine Medical Center, Lewiston.

1983

Patrick J. Carey, DO, Williamsport, Pa., has been board certified in orthopedics.

Jeffrey Crawford, DO, Cherry Hill, N.J., has joined the medical staff at Deborah Heart and Lung Center, Browns Mills.


Robert A. Kimelheim, DO, Maple Glen, Pa., has joined the medical staff at Montgomery Hospital, Norristown.

James McLaughlin, DO, Franklin, Pa., has been board certified in neurology.

Timothy L. Speciale, DO, Rochester, N.Y., has opened an orthopedics practice in Tonawanda.

Kenneth F. Wood, DO, Madison, Wis., has been appointed assistant professor of medicine at the University of Wisconsin Medical School.

1984

Robert A. Boyer, DO, Langhorne, Pa., has become a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

Maria F. Daly, DO, Salinas, Calif., is the first osteopathic physician to be accepted for an obstetrics fellowship at the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.

Eugene DiMarco, DO, Philadelphia, Pa., has opened an ophthalmology practice in Brigantine, N.J.

Gregory R. Frailey, DO, Sayre, Pa., has been appointed medical director of ambulatory care services at Williamsport Hospital and Medical Center.

John C. Green, DO, Mountain Lake Park, Md., has joined the medical staff at Garrett County Memorial Hospital, Oakland.

1985

Jeffrey M. Bishop, DO, West Palm Beach, Fla., has been named chief of the medical staff at Wellington Regional Medical Center.

Mary L. D'Auria, DO, has been board certified in family practice.

Charles N. Jeck, DO, Holland, Pa., has been appointed president of the Mercer County Medical Society. In addition, Jeck has been named medical director at King James Nursing Home.

Michael A. Panariello, DO, Wycoff, N.J., has joined the medical staff at Shenango Valley Medical Center, Farrell.

Silvia Ferretti, DO, Erie, Pa., has been elected secretary of the Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

Frank C. Yartz, DO, Bloomsburg, Pa., has joined the practice of Lycoming Obstetrics and Gynecology Associates.

Sol Lizerbaum, DO, San Diego, Calif., has been awarded the 1992 Humanitarian Award from the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific.

David A. Baron, DO, has been awarded the Roeke Recognition for Excellence in Medical Student Education presented by the American Psychiatric Association. In

1978

1981

Lee W. Davis, DO, Clarks Summit, Pa., has opened a group practice called Northeast Ob-Gyn Associates in Scranton.

Gerald E. Dworkin, DO, Wynnewood, Pa., has been appointed president of the Greater Philadelphia Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

James J. Glah, DO, Everett, Pa., has been elected president of the medical staff at Memorial Hospital of Bedford County.

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R. Michael Gallagher, DO, received the 1982 Fellow Award presented by the American College of General Practitioners.

William M. Silverman, DO, Maitland, Fla., has received the Fellowship Award from the American College of General Practitioners in Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery and has been named General Practitioner of the Year by the Florida Society of the American College of General Practitioners in Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery.

1977
Louis D. Bierman, DO, Langhorne, Pa., has been elected for a second term as chairman of the department of family practice at St. Mary's Hospital.

Silvia Ferretti, DO, Erie, Pa., has been elected secretary of the Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

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Harry Morris, DO, Orlando, Fla., has been appointed director of medical education at Florida Hospital East Orlando.

1979
Dennis M. Guest, DO, Yardley, Pa., has been elected vice-chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

Glenn Miller, DO, Conshohocken, Pa., has been board certified in geriatrics.

David M. Petro, DO, Levittown, Pa., has earned a master's of public health degree in occupational medicine from Medical College of Wisconsin.

1980
John J. Kryston, Jr., DO, Shavertown, Pa., has been board certified in the subspecialty of cytopathology.

Laura Souders-Dalton, DO, has been board certified in obstetrics and gynecology.

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Class Acts

Walter C. Peppelman, DO, Harrisburg, Pa., has opened a practice called Central Pennsylvania Orthopedic and Spinal Associates in Lower Paxton Township.

Robert J. Sinnott, DO, Doylestown, Pa., has been board certified in general surgery. He has completed a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at Lehigh Valley Hospital, Allentown, and has joined the medical staff at Doylestown Hospital.

Steve Young, DO, Dallas, Pa., has been board certified in internal medicine.

Keith L. Zeliger, DO, Hidden Valley, Pa., has joined the practice of Clinch Valley Physicians, Inc.

1986

Denise DiPrimio-Kalman, DO, Sewell, N.J., has joined the medical staff at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia.

Mark E. Folk, DO, Myerstown, Pa., has joined the medical staff at Welsh Mountain Medical and Dental Center and Ephrata Community Hospital.

David L. Lohin, DO, Scranton, Pa., has opened a cardiology practice in Carbondale.

Suzanne M. Piccinich, DO, Amherst, N.Y., has been board certified in general practice.

George E. Stefeneelli, DO, Williamstown, N.J., has joined the medical staff at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey - School of Osteopathic Medicine. He will practice at UMDNJ's obstetrics and gynecology office in Hammonton.

1987

David R. Baker, DO, Lewiston, Maine, has been board certified in pediatrics.

Richard E. Johnson, DO, DuBois, Pa., has been board certified in dermatology.

Wonsuck Kim, DO, Florence, Ala., has joined the medical staff at Humana Hospital and practice of Dr. G. Michael Taft at South Central Ophthalmology.

Bradley N. Libenson, DO, Portland, Ore., has been appointed director at East Portland Family Medical Clinic.


Edward Mea, DO, Zieglerville, Pa., has been appointed medical director of the New Direction Program for Phoenixville Hospital’s Nutritional Resource Center.

Paul Saloky, DO, Bloomsburg, Pa., has joined the Geisinger Clinic as an associate at Geisinger Medical Group-Bloomsburg.

Robert J. Sass, DO, Ogdensburg, N.Y., has joined the medical staff at Hepburn Hospital.

New PCOM alumni directory to be published

Finding a former classmate can be just like looking for the proverbial “needle in a haystack.” But not anymore. Soon a new issue of the PCOM alumni directory will be available.

The new PCOM alumni directory is scheduled for release by April 1994. It will include standard contact information such as name, address and telephone number as well as academic data and practice and specialty information — all bound in a library-quality edition.

If you prefer not to be listed in the directory, contact the office of alumni relations in writing as soon as possible. Write to: Office of Alumni Relations, PCOM, 4180 City Avenue, Philadelphia, Pa. 19131. Mark the envelope: Alumni Directory.

The directory will sell for $46.95 for the regular bound edition and $49.95 for deluxe-bound. Look for more details on this project in future issues of Digest.

Evangelo Arvanetes, DO, ’58, GP, Jensen Beach, Fla.

Mervyn E. Barrows, DO, ’39, GP, Hallandale, Fla, Jan. 1.


Samuel J. Brint, DO, ’42, OBG, Atlantic City, N.J.

Tarcisio Campo, DO, ’82, ANES, Bethlehem, Pa.

Edwin Carlin, DO, ’52, IND, Easton, Pa., April 2.


James M. DeBolt, DO, ’91, Brussels, Belgium, Feb. 28.

Richard P. De Nise, DO, ’42, IM, Cleveland, Ohio.

Ruth C. Duncombe, DO, ’57, IM, Albany, N.Y.

C.W. Eddy, DO, ’35, GP, Upper Montclair, N.J.

David Green, DO, ’37, GP, Philadelphia, Pa.


Mary E. Stearns Jones, DO, ’33, MT, Hoosick, N.Y., April 5.

Chester E. Kirk, DO, ’42, Landisburg, Pa., March 1.


**Class Acts**

Susan L. Wessner-Dunlap, DO, West Middlesex, Pa., has joined the medical staff at Shenango Valley Medical Center, Farrell.

1988

John J. Dunlop, DO, has been board certified in internal medicine.

Gregory A. Kimble, DO, Hollidaysburg, Pa., has joined the medical staff at Mercy Regional Health System.

Michelle Misler-Harris, DO, Newtown Square, Pa., has completed an anesthesiology residency at Hahnemann University Hospital and has joined Anesthesia Associates of Chester County.

John Ruskey, Burlington, N.J., has joined the medical staff at Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital, Cape May Court House.

Stephen Smaldore, DO, has been appointed medical director at the Tri-Home Hospice Program in Hartford County.

**In Memoriam**

Evangelo Arvanetes, DO, ’58, GP, Jensen Beach, Fla.

Mervyn E. Barrows, DO, ’39, GP, Hallandale, Fla, Jan. 1.


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**Tell Us Your News for Digest**

Professional News (board certifications, etc.) ______________________________________________

Research Topics/Grants Received ____________________________________________________________

Professional/Community Awards Received ______________________________________________________

Journal articles published (please include name of article, name of publication, vol., no., month, year, pp.) __________________________________________________________

Interesting Hobbies ____________________________________________________________

Other __________________________________________________

Name __________________________ Class Year ____________

Title (Faculty/Staff only) ____________________________

Phone ____________________________ Date __________________________

Send your news to Carol A. Harris, Public Relations, PCOM, 4180 City Avenue, Phila, PA 19131-1695, or Fax (215) 871-2163.
### Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 30, 1993</td>
<td>OMCP Board of Trustees Meeting</td>
<td>PCOM</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23, 1993</td>
<td>Classes Begin</td>
<td>PCOM</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20, 1993</td>
<td>PCOM '93 Golf Classic</td>
<td>Torresdale-Frankford Country Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10-16, 1993</td>
<td>National Osteopathic Medicine Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 30 - November 2, 1993</td>
<td>ACOS (Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Specialists)</td>
<td>San Francisco, Calif.</td>
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