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Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Osteopathic Medicine Enriches Worldwide Health

GOING GLOBAL
Osteopathic Medicine Enriches Worldwide Health
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Globally, there is increasing curiosity in and respect for the osteopathic philosophy. The Chinese central government and Ministry of Health, identifying the need for reform of their nation’s medical service system, has turned to the osteopathic profession for assistance with primary care education. They value our holistic model and position osteopathic medicine as the best of western medicine and traditional Chinese medicine combined. I am pleased to report that among a cooperative of osteopathic educators working with Chengdu physicians is PCOM’s Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean. You will learn about Dr. Veit’s work in the Digest cover article. Likewise, I know that you will be inspired by the efforts of alumnus Paul Zeitz, DO ’88, MPH, a public health specialist, who is a catalyst for vigorous advancement in the fight against AIDS in the developing nations of Africa. Dr. Zeitz and his wife, Mindi Cohen, DO ’90, advocate for a holistic response to the epidemic to include the full spectrum of medical, nutritional and psychosocial needs as well as development goals.

Also of human interest in this issue is the experience of Joseph Stegmuller, DO ’92, who was diagnosed with head and neck cancer during his first year of medical school. Dr. Stegmuller’s encounter with a life-threatening illness changed his view of medicine and the health care system, bringing a deepened sense of humility, compassion and involvement to his practice today.

A greatly debated issue of late has been the growth of retail health clinics. Launched by business entrepreneurs and backed by significant capital, retail health clinics provide walk-in access to a defined range of health care services. What are the concerns, cautions and potential collaborations that these clinics create? What impact do retail health clinics have upon the traditional family physician—and especially, the osteopathic physician? Several PCOM alumni in clinical practice share their perspectives.

On a final note, the PCOM family acknowledges with great sorrow the passing of two former trustees and benefactors, Leonard Johnson, DO ’64, and William M. King, DO ’62, who played notable roles in the life of the College and its students. We remember their fidelity and dedication to the osteopathic profession and to PCOM.

I thank you for your continued interest in and support of the College.

With warmest regards,

Matthew Schure, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer
GOING GLOBAL: OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE ENRICHES WORLD-WIDE HEALTH
The efforts of PCOM physicians are improving health care for the masses while building global recognition and prestige for the osteopathic profession. In rural China, where nearly 600 million people do not have access to health care, Kenneth J. Veit, DO '76, MBA, is a partner in an osteopathic initiative to help the Chinese government train a primary care base for its health system. And in the developing nations of Africa, Paul Zeitz, DO '88, and wife Mindi Cohen, DO '90, are unrelenting advocates for a holistic response to the AIDS crisis.

A PCOM GRADUATE THINKS BACK TO ACTS OF KINDNESS THAT HELPED TO PULL HIM THROUGH THE MOST DIFFICULT TIME OF HIS LIFE
Joseph Stegmuller, DO '92, was diagnosed with head and neck cancer while he was a first-year student at PCOM. His experience changed his view of himself, and moreover, his view of medical care, leading to greater compassion and greater involvement.

RETAIL HEALTH CLINICS: COMPETITORS OR COLLABORATORS?
The growth of retail health clinics has been spurred by several factors including a trend toward consumerism in health care and health insurance plans that shift more cost responsibility to the patient. The entire business model rises and falls on market demand. What does this mean for the traditional family physician?

REMEMBERING LEONARD JOHNSON, DO ’64, AND WILLIAM M. KING, DO ’62
The College acknowledges the passing of two former trustees who played tremendous roles in the life of PCOM and its students.

ON THE COVER
Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA, is among a team of osteopathic educators who have begun the process of teaching Chengdu doctors patient-centered health care. The Chinese calligraphy behind Dr. Veit signifies appropriately, “health.”

PCOM UPDATES AND KUDOS
2007 Commencement ceremonies; campus parcel sold; Georgia Campus cited for architectural achievement; DO Day on the Hill; Student Osteopathic Surgery Association convention; Heilig Symposium; student doctor saves a life; Open Mic Night; development activities; and more.

CLASS NOTES
Current professional endeavors and achievements of PCOM alumni with profiles of Joshua Baron, DO ’03, Janet Cruz, MS/ODL ’07, and Sheila Davis, DO ’87.

ESSAY
Daniel Taylor, DO ’97, addresses the epidemic of youth violence in Philadelphia and how the medical family can help to diagnose not only the child, but the health of his/her environment—and encourage parental responsibility.
2007 Commencement Ceremonies

PCOM awarded 236 doctor of osteopathic medicine degrees, including one DO/MPH and five DO/MBA combined degrees, at its 116th Commencement ceremony held on June 3 at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

The Commencement speaker was Richard H. Jadick, DO, commander, Medical Corps, USNR, Active Duty, United States Navy. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Jadick has served as a battalion surgeon, regimental surgeon and marine expeditionary unit surgeon. He saw combat operations in Mosul, Iraq, as well as stabilization and anti-terrorism operations in Liberia, Djibouti and Kenya. For his courage, Dr. Jadick was presented with the Bronze Star with a Combat V for valor. Dr. Jadick’s story was told in a Newsweek cover story, and he has published his own account of his experiences in On Call in Hell: A Doctor’s Iraq War Story.

The title of Professor Emeritus was bestowed upon Daniel H. Belsky, M.Sc., DO ’57, and upon Henry W. Hitner, PhD.

On July 25, the College graduated 215 students from seven graduate programs at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

Gerald L. Zahorchak, EdD, secretary of education of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, gave the Commencement address.
Laura Molloy, MMS, PA-C, Receives Lindback Award

Laura Molloy, MMS, PA-C, assistant program director, physician assistant studies, has been awarded the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. The Lindback Award recognizes academic excellence and outstanding teaching and is one of the most prestigious awards conferred upon an instructor in higher education.

Ms. Molloy joined the department in 1999, bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and experience in family medicine and women’s health issues. She has been active in developing community health service projects and initiating the physician assistants club at both the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and PCOM.

She has a bachelor of science degree from Hahnemann University and a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish and sociology. She earned her master of medical science degree from Saint Francis College. Ms. Molloy is a member of the American Academy of Physician Assistants and the Pennsylvania Society of Physician Assistants; she maintains her clinical practice in family medicine.

PCOM Celebrates Milestone with Key Affiliate

Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean, was the keynote speaker at the Heart of Lancaster Regional Medical Center’s 65th anniversary celebration on June 16. PCOM and the medical center have a history dating from 1942 when the institution was known as Lancaster Osteopathic Hospital and was the only strictly osteopathic training site in the area. Dr. Veit noted that he completed a clerkship at the hospital during his days as a student. “We’ve been a member of OPTI since its inception in 1995,” notes Anne Rickert, administrative director of medical education. “We’ve had a fantastic relationship with PCOM over the years supporting one another’s educational and professional needs.”

Playing Ball for a Cause

PCOM first- and second-year students took to the diamond for a charity softball game in honor of John DePalma, DO ’75. A nephrologist and mentor to many PCOM students, Dr. DePalma passed away in March. Dr. DePalma’s legacy will live on not only through the students he taught, but through his children, Anthony, DO ’07, John, DO ’06, Laura (DO ’09) and Vincent. The event raised $1,200 for the National Kidney Foundation.
Camille DiLullo, PhD, professor, anatomy, was appointed to the Educational Affairs Committee of the American Association of Anatomists.

Paul Evans, DO ’79, vice dean and chief academic officer, GA-PCOM, had his article “Does the Medical College Admission Test Predict Global Academic Performance in Osteopathic Medical School?” published in the JAOA.

Larry Finkelstein, DO ’87, director, PCOM Healthcare Center – City Avenue Division, Family Practice, received the 2007 Frederick J. Solomon, DO Award of Merit from the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society in recognition of services both professional and educational.

Katherine Galluzzi, DO, professor and chair, geriatrics, had her article “Management Strategies for Herpes Zoster and Postherpetic Neuralgia” published in the Supplement of the JAOA. Dr. Galluzzi presented a clinical conversation on “Neuropathic Pain—Diagnosis & Treatment” at the California Academy of Family Physicians’ CME. She spoke on “Strategies for the Prevention and Management of Herpes Zoster Infection and Associated Pain in Older Adults” at two conferences hosted by Med Learning Group, and she spoke on “Herpes Zoster Vaccination: Reducing the Burden of Shingles and Postherpetic Neuralgia” at SciMed’s CME for Primary Care Network. In addition, she was named chair for the ACOFP Program Committee.

DO Day on the Hill

A record-setting number of PCOM students from both Pennsylvania and Georgia traveled to Washington, D.C. for DO Day on the Hill on April 26. Students took part in a political briefing in the morning with members of the American Osteopathic Association, and they spent the afternoon meeting with members of the 110th Congress and their staffs to discuss, among other things, the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act and changes to the Medicare Physician Payment System. Close to 700 DO students and physicians lobbied Congress at this year’s event, demonstrating the importance of osteopathic medicine to the health of the nation.

PCOM students took to the Hill to advocate for important health care legislation.
Granary Associates, the design firm that transformed an abandoned warehouse into the spectacular modern medical school that is Georgia Campus – PCOM, has received a Silver Citation Award from American School & University Magazine for the project.

“The creation of this wonderful space was truly a joint effort by Granary and PCOM,” states Jim Leigh, project executive, Granary Associates. “In particular I’d like to recognize Frank Windle, director of plant operations at PCOM, for his hard work and dedication to seeing this project through completion.”

**Campus Parcel Sold**

PCOM sold a one-and-a-half acre parcel of land to neighbor WPVI Channel 6. The property sits on the edge of land formerly occupied by City Avenue Hospital. The television station will use the site as part of its footprint for a state-of-the-art production facility. This beautiful glass and limestone structure will face the campus. PCOM’s remaining two-and-a-half acres can accommodate the construction of two additional College buildings. Investment income from the sale will be used for need-based student scholarships.
Outstanding PA Alum

Kristen Lehmann, PA-C ’00, was the first recipient of PCOM’s Physician Assistant Outstanding Alumnus Award. The award recognizes “outstanding achievement, innovative contribution, service and dedication to the physician assistant profession.” The award was presented at the PCOM PA alumni/student reception of the 2007 American Academy of Physician Assistants Conference. The recipient of this award is chosen by his or her peers.

PCOM-Sponsored Student Surgical Conference Largest Ever

More than 200 osteopathic medical students spent the weekend of April 13-15 at PCOM for the spring Student Osteopathic Surgery Association convention. The three-day conference included demonstrations, lectures and hands-on workshops.

Among the speakers at the event was Domingo Alvear, MD, president of the World Surgical Foundation Inc., which provides surgery and other medical care to people in developing or impoverished countries.

“This was the largest group of students ever at a SOSA conference,” says Jill Friedman (DO ’09), president of PCOM’s surgery club, “and it really speaks well for the school. Speakers covered topics ranging from neurosurgery and chest trauma to burn and plastic surgery. We ran a series of hands-on sessions to accommodate all the students who wanted to try their hand at laparoscopic surgery, intubation, suturing and OMM, just to name a few of the skills we worked on. Students came from all over the country, and left with a great impression of PCOM.”
Student Doctor Saves a Life

Tanner Long, DO ’07, was driving to Sullivan County Medical Center after a spring downpour when the motorcycle in front of him skidded on the wet pavement and slammed into the guardrail. Dr. Long, just two weeks shy of being awarded his medical degree, pulled over and jumped out of his car. Assisted by a Mennonite midwife who had also stopped her car, Dr. Long immediately completed a head to toe survey, finding severe lacerations and chest trauma. “My training kicked into automatic,” recalls Dr. Long, who worked to control the bleeding, stabilize the fractures and monitor the breathing of the unconscious motorcyclist.

When state police arrived, he told them to send for a Geisinger Life Flight helicopter. When EMT personnel got to the scene, Dr. Long convinced them to let him use their equipment to start an IV. “I knew we would lose him if we didn’t get fluids into him,” explains Dr. Long who continued assessing the patient’s condition until the paramedics arrived. “I used my hands as a diagnostic tool as I was taught,” he says, “and worked to stay ahead of the situation.” The patient was airlifted to Geisinger. Dr. Long later learned he was out of the ICU and was stable and improving.

Reflecting on the experience, Dr. Long has no second thoughts. “I did what I needed to do,” he says, “I wouldn’t have done anything differently.” Dr. Long, now a degreed physician, is at Geisinger doing his general surgery internship.

Neighbor Helping Neighbor

Four first-year medical students accompanied Kate Galluzzi, DO, professor and chair, and Nicol Joseph, DO, instructor, department of geriatrics, to the Ivy House in the Wynnewfield Heights section of Philadelphia to provide its residents with free blood pressure and blood sugar screening.

Spring Tradition

The great annual spring fundraiser, Open Mic Night, raised $1,200 for the J. D. Kearney Memorial Scholarship. Held at Manayunk’s Grape Street Pub, the evening offered entertainment by PCOM students and a special guest appearance by New York comedian Pete Kuempel.
ON THE ROAD TO CHINA:
SHARING OSTEOPATHIC EXPERTISE IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

A patient in China is suffering from stomach pain. Since primary care is virtually non-existent in this country of 1.3 billion people, the patient goes to a nearby 4,000-bed hospital for care. Upon entering the lobby of this massive facility, he picks out a specialist from a large promotion screen listing each physician’s name, photo and credentials. Since the patient has stomach pain, he chooses a gastroenterologist, whom he can expect to provide treatment with minimal follow-up care.

This patient is lucky. Even though he has no family physician to shepherd his care, he does have access to the health care system, highly fragmented as it is. Nearly half the population of China—about 600 million people—does not have access, either because they can’t afford it or
China is a land of contrasts. Since most of the rural poor reside in the remote and mountainous terrain of the central and western provinces, there are significant differences between these poor provinces and rich coastal provinces in both income poverty and human poverty.

Nearly half the population of China—about 600 million people—do not have access to health care.
because health care providers and facilities aren’t available in the areas where they live. The further you travel away from large international cities such as Beijing and Shanghai and out to remote rural areas, the less health care there is to be found.

It is this reality that prompted the Chinese central government and Ministry of Health to mandate sweeping changes in their health care system. Recognizing that their costly hospital-based specialty medical system is not providing adequate health care to their citizens, the Chinese government has initiated aggressive training programs in primary care/family practice that will result in the opening of a family practice clinic or community health center for every 50,000 people by 2010.

Nowhere is the need greater than in the remote Sichuan province located in western China near the mountains of Tibet where a population of 90 million people has little access to health care. The government has responded by issuing a directive that 8,400 specialty physicians be retrained as family physicians within the next three years to serve that region.

Osteopathic Expertise

To achieve such a monumental task, China’s Ministry of Health sought help from the United States medical community, where family practice is common. The ministry turned to Heart to Heart International, a non-profit U.S.-based organization that has been working with the Chinese government to improve health care in that country for 10 years.

Recognizing the expertise of the osteopathic profession in primary care and family medicine, Heart to Heart invited osteopathic physicians to join their humanitarian efforts through the American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF) and the ACOFP Foundation.

In May 2007, a team of osteopathic educators with particular expertise in family practice education was assembled by the AOF to accompany Heart to Heart to China. Their mission: evaluate the Chinese medical education system and make recommendations for training family physicians. Led by AOF board member Royce Keilers, DO, the team included Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA, PCOM’s senior vice president for academic affairs and dean, whose expertise in the use of community health centers in medical education was especially valuable to the team’s efforts. Other team members were Stephen Downey, AOF executive director; Ronald Martin, DO, dean, Rocky Mountain Vista College of Medicine, and chair, American College of Osteopathic Family Practitioners; William Burke, DO, professor of medicine, Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine; Teresa Hubka, DO; Meghan Graber, DO; and Sherri Martin, vice president of administration and finance, Rocky Mountain Vista College of Medicine.

After a 26-hour trip to Beijing, the team traveled another 1,000 miles to the industrial city of Chengdu in the Sichuan province where they began days of intensive evaluation of the
state of health care and medical education in China. They toured hospitals and community health centers and met with the highest-level physicians and officials of the Chinese health ministry, medical schools, teaching hospitals and reeducation program.

**Chinese Medical Education**

The AOF team found that physician training in China is very fragmented. Most traditional Chinese physicians have five years of medical school training, but some have as little as three years and some up to eight. The students begin right after high school and they are selected based solely on a test score; they are never interviewed.

Medical education in China is relatively passive, according to Dr. Veit. “There is a strong sense of hierarchy and respect for authority and titles, so the students would be reluctant to challenge an instructor by asking a tough question,” explains Dr. Veit. “It’s not like our give and take approach. They utilize a passive lecture style of teaching throughout their education.”

In addition, students rarely examine patients in China. “According to the Chinese medical educators, patients would not tolerate active student participation in their care,” says Dr. Veit. “It’s completely different than our Healthcare Center system at PCOM where students are the front-line people who see the patient first with the attending coming in second to verify information. In China, the students merely observe while the attending conducts the exam.”

**Training Strategy**

Taking into consideration these cultural differences, the AOF team is developing a dual training strategy that involves a program to retrain specialty physicians as family physicians and a residency in family medicine for new physicians. The team has begun planning a five-year program that includes retraining, curriculum assistance, physician and resident exchange, and ongoing family physician continuing medical education.

Beginning in fall 2007, AOF teaching teams will travel to China periodically to help implement the program and conduct “train the trainer” sessions for Chinese medical educators. “The Chinese want to learn about competency-based education so they can establish more consistent training standards,” notes Dr. Veit. “They’re
also interested in physician/patient communication skills. Neither of these has been a focus for them in the past.”

Dr. Martin observes, “Since Chinese medical education doesn’t provide practical experience, problem-solving experience or clinical correlations training, the specialty physicians who are being retrained will need to learn many skills for examining the patient and using their book knowledge to treat the patient.”

RESPECT FOR OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Dr. Keilers sees this initiative as “an unprecedented opportunity for the osteopathic profession to partner with the largest nation on earth. While the primary goal is humanitarian, ultimately the osteopathic profession will receive global recognition and prestige through this endeavor. We have the opportunity to become ambassadors of good will who will help to ensure a peaceful future in Chinese-American relations.”

The Chinese government has shown great interest in and respect for osteopathic medicine. “When we showed them osteopathic manipulation techniques, their response was that osteopathy is the best of western medicine and traditional Chinese medicine combined,” relates Dr. Veit. “Their main interest is in our approach to primary care education. This part of the osteopathic medical education system is uniquely valued.”

“The Chinese government is acutely aware of the importance of family medicine in meeting the needs of their citizens,” says Dr. Martin. “They have a combination of need, desire and enthusiasm for change that will enable us to really make a difference and help a lot of people. At the same time, this initiative has the potential to result in Chinese government acceptance of our license and degree, which may help to open up a lot more of the world to osteopathic medicine.”

RESPONDING TO THE AIDS CRISIS IN AFRICA

Ten years ago, Paul Zeitz, DO ’88, MPH, was sitting in a meeting in Zambia discussing the AIDS epidemic with his colleagues from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Suddenly, one of them stood up and announced that he had to leave early to attend the funeral of a friend who had died from AIDS. Sadly, this was a common occurrence.

“We were losing one or two colleagues a month to the AIDS epidemic,” recalls Dr. Zeitz, a public health specialist who has focused on Africa since 1994, living and working full-time in Zambia from 1996 to 2000. “It was like living in the middle of a holocaust.”

The experience of living in the midst of this cataclysm galvanized Dr. Zeitz’s resolve to become a catalyst for vigorous advancement in the fight against AIDS, particularly in the developing nations of Africa.

Now a decade later, Dr. Zeitz has just returned from one of his frequent trips to Africa as executive director and co-founder of the Global AIDS Alliance (GAA), a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C. that advocates for political change to accelerate the global response to HIV/AIDS. Founded in 2001, GAA has carved out a leadership role to raise awareness and inspire activism, working with international institutions such as the World Health Organization and UNAIDS, as well as advocates and governments in wealthy European nations. GAA’s board of directors is chaired by the Reverend Mpho Tutu, whose father, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, also serves as a very active honorary chair.

Since its founding, GAA has emerged as a powerful influence in bringing about a huge transformation in the U.S. response to the AIDS crisis. “Prior to our work, the U.S. government was designating only a few hundred million dollars each year for global AIDS response,” notes Dr. Zeitz. “This year, that number has increased exponentially to $6 billion. Last week when I visited Zambia, I saw the imprint of that transformation.

“When I left there in 2000,” he continues, “only a few people were receiving lifesaving AIDS medications. When I returned in 2003, a few thousand were on treatment. By last year, that number had risen to 50,000. Last week, I found 115,000 people on treatment, which means that over
50 percent of those in urgent need of medications are now getting them. We’re proud that GAA has played an important role in this phenomenal achievement.”

**Holistic Approach**

True to his osteopathic roots, Dr. Zeitz has always advocated for a holistic response to the global AIDS crisis. “While many medical people focus only on biomedical solutions, we advocate for a response to the full spectrum of needs, including medical care, nutritional care and psychosocial support,” he says.

While living in Zambia, he worked with UNAIDS, USAID and the Zambian government on a number of such initiatives. He led the design team for a five-year, $100 million Zambia Integrated Health Program that scaled up the delivery of cost-effective interventions for HIV/AIDS and other threatening health issues. “This was a groundbreaking program that integrated both preventive and curative services,” he notes. He and his wife, Mindi Cohen, DO ’90, also helped to start the first large-scale program for responding to the needs of 600,000 Zambian orphans left behind by parents who died from AIDS. On a very personal level, they also adopted an 11-year-old boy whose mother had died of AIDS, underscoring their deep, heartfelt commitment.

“When I was in Kenya last week, the UNICEF regional team briefed me on the orphan crisis which exists all over southern and east Africa where HIV/AIDS prevalence rates are the worst,” he relates. “In response, they have been working to scale up the first generation of social programs in Africa, currently in 15 countries. This is an extraordinary breakthrough that began with the expanded response we’ve been mobilizing from the U.S. and other governments over the past five years. It’s creating a historic transformation which I see as the beginning of the African renaissance.”

**Looking Ahead**

While much has been accomplished, much is left to do. The GAA is focused on catalyzing progress toward achievement of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals by 2015. This platform of eight goals includes halving poverty, providing basic universal education to all children, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, reducing child mortality by two-thirds, and empowering women. In response to the last, GAA has developed Zero Tolerance, a framework for taking faster and bolder action to combat violence against women and children. “Violence is a key driver of the AIDS epidemic,” notes Dr. Zeitz.

“It’s empowering and inspiring to be involved in these global transformations,” he reflects. “Osteopathic physicians have an approach to health that is particularly beneficial in this arena. I would like to see our osteopathic leadership become more aggressive in mobilizing the profession to become active in global health. Interacting with people around the world provides us with a unique opportunity to become better practitioners while helping to transform lives.”

The Zeitz family is resolute in their mission: “to heal the world by promoting justice, freedom, responsibility, caring for all life and the earth that sustains all life.”
The physician leans back against the metal chair and begins explaining a difficult case. There is no give in the rigid chair. There is plenty of give, though, in the physician, who has learned a lot about diagnosis and treatment—and about self—in more than a dozen years in family medicine.

He knows this case well: The patient, a man in his early 20s, was diagnosed with a squamous cell cancer on the anterior two thirds of his tongue. He would require a partial glossectomy and a modified neck dissection.

The patient lost part of his tongue in surgery, notes the physician, Joseph Stegmuller, DO ’92, the lone doctor at Runnemede Family Practice, which moved to Barrington, New Jersey, but retained the original name.

Dr. Stegmuller tells the patient’s story in a matter-of-fact tone, but this is a caring physician. As he gets deeper into the story, Dr. Stegmuller loosens his shirt collar, turns to his profile and pulls the collar down, almost to his collarbone, revealing a scar that runs along the jaw line and down the side of the neck. The family doctor with the easy bedside manner and open but dry sense of humor knows exactly what seriously ill patients endure.

He’s been one.

“I can show patients my scar and tell them, ‘I know how you feel,’” he says. “I tell people they should try to stay in the moment and deal with what is in front of them, not what they think might happen next Tuesday,” he adds. “It’s always worse in your head.”

As a kid growing up in Willingboro, New Jersey, Joe Stegmuller was a handful. He gravitated toward trouble, not textbooks. After high school, he attended Burlington County Community College (BCC), unsure of his future. A chemistry professor at BCC told Joe that he could do something in the sciences, that he had ability.

“I didn’t think so,” recalls Dr. Stegmuller.

He applied himself, did very well and was admitted to Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science (PCPS), where he also excelled.

After he graduated from PCPS, he was admitted to PCOM. “[Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management] Carol Fox was very instrumental,” recalls Dr. Stegmuller.

“I became interested in PCOM after attending an Open House and hearing a lecture by the late Dr. Heilig [David Heilig, DO ’44],” notes Dr. Stegmuller.
He was a first-year osteopathic medical student when the diagnosis was made. “I experienced shame and fear; I didn’t want anyone to know,” he says, intently. “My plan was not to let even my parents know.”

His plan unraveled quickly. “Things happened so fast that it all seemed like some bad dream,” recalls Dr. Stegmuller.

Ronald Reinhard, DO, a former associate professor of otorhinolaryngology and oro-facial plastic surgery at PCOM, performed a 10-hour operation on the first-year student. “Dr. Reinhard and the residents worked hard to spare my spinal accessory nerve; I am very thankful for that, for everything.”

Dr. Reinhard performed the surgery at City Avenue Hospital during the winter break from school. “I missed one final, that was it, and I made it up when we went back to school,” says Dr. Stegmuller.

“My friend, Howard Stein [DO ’92] found out, somehow, I was having surgery and he brought me a magazine and visited with me,” he recalls. A third- or fourth-year student gave Joe a Gumby figurine—a small token to make him smile. PCOM physicians and staff went out of their way to check in on the special patient. “Their acts were out of true compassion and meant more to me than anyone knew at the time.”

Now more than 18 years later, Dr. Stegmuller thinks about PCOM, about Dr. Reinhard, about the residents and about some of his mentors: Oliver Bullock, DO ’78; Paul DeJoseph, DO ’86; Zenia Chernyk, DO ’77; and others. Dr. Stegmuller is healthy and still going for follow-up exams. His medical practice has quite a following; his waiting room is always full. And he has an impressive number of patients who see him when he makes house calls. Once a month he makes house calls from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.; he also makes house calls during each week, as needed. “One thing I always liked about PCOM was that I was taught to look at the whole patient,” says Dr. Stegmuller, who uses osteopathic manipulative treatment (primarily muscle energy technique) about 10 times per week.

“I learned a lot from my cancer experience, too. I used to hate when the rounding team would have a conversation about me, in front of me, and I wasn’t invited to participate,” he says. “I try never to speak to my colleagues and students and ignore the patient.”

One other thing is at the top of Dr. Stegmuller’s list: never give sensitive or bad information to a patient over the phone. “Wait until you have everything, then talk with them in person,” he emphasizes.

Dr. Stegmuller is a tender guy who can be tough when he needs to be. As president of the medical staff at Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center in Camden, New Jersey, he needs a bit of each quality.

Dr. Stegmuller treats underserved patients who come to a free clinic at St. Anthony’s in Camden, and he volunteered for four years with Project Hope, which provides treatment for the homeless in Camden. “Medical care isn’t only for people who have insurance; it’s for everyone,” offers Dr. Stegmuller. He admits that he didn’t first attend PCOM with the idea treating the underserved. “It was so common at PCOM that I just thought that was what doctors did.”
Retail health clinics are coming to chain stores in your neighborhood like Wal-Mart, Target, CVS Pharmacy, Shop-Rite grocery stores and other retailers. If you haven’t seen them yet, you will soon. Since the first retail health clinic opened in 2000, this trend has grown nationwide in response to a trend toward consumerism in health care and health insurance plans that are shifting more cost responsibility to the patient.

More than two dozen clinic operators have partnered with large retailers to open hundreds of clinics in at least 40 states. With retailers planning for rapid expansion, the number of clinics is expected to approach 2,000 by the end of 2008, and Wal-Mart forecasts that more than 6,600 clinics will open in retail operations nationwide over the next five years.
A Rural Doctor's View

Dennis L. Eckels, DO ’75, practices in the rural Western Pennsylvania town of Seward, population 1,200. With few physicians or health care facilities in this underserved area, about half of the 10,000 people living in the surrounding region come to Dr. Eckels for care at Valley Ambulatory Health Center, which he established in 1980. With an 11-person staff that includes two physicians and three nurses, the center sees 125 to 150 patients from Monday through Friday each week.

“In a rural practice, you wear a lot of hats,” says Dr. Eckels. “In addition to being the local family doctor, we also function as a walk-in clinic and, at times, as a pseudo ER. On any given day, our challenges run the gamut from a child with a sore throat to a farm or industrial accident to a heart attack.”

Since the nearest Wal-Mart is about 20 miles away, he’s not concerned about the fact that they may open a retail health clinic soon. “I don’t think it will impact our office much,” he says. “It’s a long drive for my patients to get there and with the price of gas, they probably won’t be willing to go that far.”

Typically, retail health clinics are staffed by certified nurse practitioners or physician assistants with supervision by an off-site physician via phone. They offer convenient services that are limited in scope, treating simple problems such as sore throats, bronchitis and ear infections. Patients are seen without an appointment, and most clinics charge $45-75 per visit.

What does this mean for the traditional family physician? Retail health clinic operators say that they want to work in collaboration with traditional family physicians, not replace them. Some family doctors don’t view them as a threat. However, others fear that the clinics will compromise the patient/physician relationship.

Recently, PCOM alumni in a variety of practice models and locales nationwide weighed in on this trend.

Medical Association Policies on Retail Clinics

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the American Medical Association (AMA) have issued policy statements calling for retail clinics to adhere to certain principles and standards, including a well-defined and limited scope of clinical services, evidence-based practice guidelines and patient records that are shared with the family physician. The AOA’s policy also states that the clinics must encourage patients to establish or maintain care with a primary care physician.

The AMA tracks related state legislative activities. Following are highlights of some recent state laws:

- In California, retail health clinics are required to be part of a medical corporation owned by a physician, and the medical corporation is required to hire the medical staff for the clinic.
- In Florida, health care practitioners are required to wear a name tag or explain to patients which license they hold. Retail clinics must post a sign notifying patients whether or not a physician is on-site.
- In Missouri, retail health clinics must have a physician immediately available for consultation at all times. A nurse practitioner and a physician must work together for at least 30 days prior to the NP practicing separately.

Urgent Care Role

In Delaware, Ronald Ellis, DO ’73, has been practicing in a group of four urgent care centers for the past 15 years. Staffed by nearly 20 physicians and five physician assistants onsite, these centers are open every day of the year and see from 40 to 100 patients daily, many of whom view urgent care as a “back door to the ER.”

“Some patients come to us because they don’t want to wait for hours in the ER,” he relates. “They know we’ll see them more quickly. We do a lot of suturing and handle a lot of minor bone fractures, among other things. If they need to go to the hospital, we’ll call ahead to try to smooth the way for them.”

Dr. Ellis emphasizes that urgent care is positioned between the family physician and the ER on the continuum of care. “We see less urgent situations, too, like earaches and strep throat, but we always encourage patients to return to their family physicians,” he says. “Our goal is not to take their patients away, and local physicians know that. We see their patients when they need immediate care and the doctor doesn’t have time to see them.

“We live in a society where instant gratification simply isn’t fast enough,” reflects Dr. Ellis. “When people are sick, they want to see someone right away. Urgent care responds to this mindset.”

With retail health clinics scheduled to open soon in Delaware, he worries about the negative effect they will have on health care. “What retail clinics provide is not medical care, it’s a band-aid,” he says. “I’m concerned that they will give reputable urgent care centers like ours a black eye. We provide comprehensive care but people may still lump us in with retail clinics, which is convenience care. I don’t think the corporate retailers have the wellbeing of the patient in mind. If they did, they would make a reasonable investment and have their retail health centers staffed properly with onsite physicians.”
Helping the Uninsured

While Marcia Whalen, DO ’94, agrees that insurance companies have made practicing medicine difficult for family physicians, she doesn’t see retail health clinics as a threat. Board certified in family practice and sports medicine, Dr. Whalen is a partner in a concierge practice where patients pay an annual out-of-pocket fee for a high level of service that includes personal access to the physician 24 hours a day, same-day appointments and home visits when patients are too sick to come to the office. Located in Newport Beach, California, Dr. Whalen acknowledges that her affluent patients would have no reason to visit a retail health clinic. She views the clinics as a health care access point for the uninsured.

“Any idea that opens up accessible health care to people who are uninsured is a positive thing,” says Dr. Whalen. “I believe that retail health clinics can co-exist compatibly with family practices. Most patients want to have a consistent family physician who knows them really well. They don’t like popping in and out of clinics where they rarely see the same health care provider and never a physician.”

Dr. Whalen foresees situations where parents might find a retail clinic helpful in the middle of the night when their child has a fever or earache, or a business traveler might visit a clinic with an immediate need for care. “Retail clinics will fill certain niches,” she comments, “but I don’t believe that they’re going to overtake family practices.”

Mental Health Concerns

C. Christine Kremer, DO ’76, is a pediatric psychiatrist who works in community mental health centers in Detroit, Michigan, and the surrounding area as well as private practice. With a poor local economy, many cash-strapped patients with little or no insurance will go for care wherever they can pay the least. As retail health clinics begin opening in her locale, she worries that her patients may use them to get prescriptions of psychiatric medications instead of seeing her or even their family physician.

“I am very concerned about care being compromised for mental health patients,” says Dr. Kremer. “If they are given a new prescription for an antidepressant or antipsychotic drug and I don’t know about it, I won’t be in a position to give them proper care if they experience side effects or other problems. I don’t think this should be within the scope of care of a retail clinic. I hope that the American Osteopathic Association will take action to protect the practice rights of physicians.”

Compromising the Physician/Patient Relationship

Jean-Paul Bonnet, DO ’81, believes passionately that retail health clinics will compromise the sacred relationship between physician and patients that is core to the osteopathic philosophy. A family physician in a large, northwestern New Jersey practice, he has already seen retail clinics open in his area. Some of his patients have visited them, he says, even though his practice is open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. weekdays, and offers weekend hours and same-day appointments. His patients report that the care seems satisfactory, but they miss the personal touch that they receive from the physicians in his practice. So why did they go to the clinic?

“Today people want the cheapest, quickest and simplest way of doing everything,” says Dr. Bonnet. “Patients perceive advantages such as a shorter wait time, less insurance hassles and one-stop shopping.”

These advantages are far outweighed by the loss of continuity of care, according to Dr. Bonnet. “If patients go to retail clinics for quick things like colds and coughs, we lose the opportunity to discover other health concerns and cement the bond between physician and patient,” he emphasizes.

“The retail health clinic model presumes that medicine is just a science,” he adds, “but there’s an art of medicine that can only be provided by a physician who really knows the patient.”
Leonard Johnson, DO ’64

Dr. Johnson played a tremendous role in the life of PCOM and its students. In addition to serving on the Board of Trustees, Dr. Johnson was an active member of PCOM’s Minority Scholarship Committee. He took great pride in mentoring PCOM medical students in his clinic in West Philadelphia as well as mentoring high school students and helping them obtain the financial resources to attend college and medical school. “I try to help make life better for people, especially those who are less fortunate,” he said when he was awarded the O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal in 2003.

As a physician in West Philadelphia, Dr. Johnson was committed to improving his community. He regularly sponsored community health fairs and school programs, and he arranged for his medical practice to adopt the Alain Locke Elementary School. He instituted a Health Academy at the school to encourage young African-American students to consider careers in health care.

In addition to receiving the O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal, he was twice chosen by the Student National Medical Association as their Meta Christy Award recipient. He was an active member of Bright Hope Non-profit Corporation; served on the Board of Directors of the National Adoption Committee and as chairman of the Florida A&M Alumni Association Scholarship Committee; and was founder and chairman of Spruce Adolescent Counseling and Educational Center.

William M. King, DO ’62

Dr. King was, at his quintessence, a great philanthropist. Among his greatest beneficiaries were educational institutions—PCOM, where he served as a member of the Board of Trustees and was a founding member of the College’s Minority Scholarship program, and Central High School in Philadelphia, an institution with a library center that bears his name: The Dr. William M. King Communications, Media and Research Center at the Barnwell Library. In addition, through his charitable trust, Dr. King contributed to the NAACP, the Franklin Institute, Concerned Black Men, the Paul Robeson Center, the Philadelphia Art Museum and James Madison University.

In 2006, Dr. King received the President’s Leadership Award in recognition of his generous contributions to the scholarship program. Dr. King also served as a mentor to many PCOM students, and he was recognized for his contributions by the Student National Medical Association with the Meta Christy Award.

Following an early career as a biochemist and the completion of his medical studies, Dr. King became a house physician at City Avenue Hospital and served as a physician for the U.S. Public Health Service in Philadelphia. He started in private practice in Germantown and Mount Airy, and opened the Gemedco Family Medical Center in Germantown in 1986. He retired in 2005.
**Class of 1946**
Howard E. Barsky, DO, Atlantic City, NJ, was appointed to the Atlantic City, New Jersey Board of Ethics by Mayor Robert Levy, Sr.

**Class of 1954**
Class Agents: William G. McDowell, DO 724-347-4163
William C. Bryers, DO 215-491-4015
Patricia Smith Gilbert, RN, Kailua, HI, was honored by the University of Hawaii at Manoa for being one of their “Fabulous Fifty Nurses of 2006.”

**Class of 1957**
Class Agents: Richard D. Hockstein, DO 215-782-1020, rhockstein@comcast.net
Marvin Rosner, DO 215-465-2323, marvinrosner32028@msn.com
Daniel H. Belsky, DO, Boca Raton, FL, was honored by Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in June 2007 for his many years of dedicated service and in recognition of his exceptional career. The College bestowed the title of professor emeritus upon Dr. Belsky during its Commencement exercises.

**Class of 1962**
Class Agents: James H. Black, DO 757-489-5450, fltsurf@sprynet.com
Robert S. Maurer, DO 732-494-6688, bmaurer789@aol.com
Merritt G. Davis, DO, San Antonio, TX, was honored for his 11 years of service in the House of Delegates of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association.

**Class of 1965**
Class Agent: James F. Conroy, DO 610-292-0830, jfc3phdo@aol.com
Vincent Lobo, DO, Harrington, DE, was presented with a Certificate of Honor from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine during Alumni Weekend. Dr. Lobo has served as president of the Alumni Association of PCOM and as an alumni representative to the PCOM Board of Trustees. In 2007, he was elected to the PCOM Board of Trustees.

**Class of 1966**
Class Agent: H. Sprague Taveau, IV, DO 806-212-5750, glorysix1@cox.net
Jerry M. Littlefield, DO, Rome, GA, has joined Harbin Clinic as a nephrologist.

**Class of 1967**
Class Agent: Pat A. Lannutti, DO 215-871-6337
John Simelaro, DO 215-871-6337, johns@pcom.edu
Carol Fox, MM 215-871-6701, carolfox@pcom.edu
Samuel Strauss, DO, Houston, TX, works in astronaut training at Kelsey Seybold Clinic, a NASA contractor at the Johnson Space Center. Dr. Strauss was selected by NASA for the Spaceflight Award for the launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis STS-117.

**Class of 1971**
Class Agent: D. Wesley Minteer, Jr., DO 724-543-8711
Domenic Pisano, DO, Bryn Mawr, PA, was presented with the Affiliated Teacher of the Year award from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine during Alumni Weekend. Dr. Pisano practices cardiology as a partner with Cardiology Consultants of Philadelphia at the practice’s sites in Springfield and Drexel Hill.

**Class of 1972**
Class Agent: Lorraine M. Disipio, DO 610-623-7230, ldisipio@comcast.net
Ernest R. Gelb, DO, Wyoming, PA, was the recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Service Award presented by the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

**Class of 1973**
Class Agent: Herbert J. Rogove, DO 949-764-6058, hrogove@hotmail.com
Jerome M. Horwitz, DO, Cherry Hill, NJ, was elected chief of staff at Kennedy Memorial Hospital – University Medical Center.

**Class of 1974**
Class Agent: Theodore Eisenberg, DO, Philadelphia, PA, was invited to participate in the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery’s first World Congress on Liposuction Surgery and Advances in Cosmetic Surgery, which will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Dr. Eisenberg will present “Breast Augmentation: Minimizing Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting (PONV), Maximizing Patient Satisfaction” and “Results of My 3126 Bilateral Submuscular Breast Augmentations.”

**Class of 1975**
Class Agent: R. Michael Gallagher, DO 856-354-1403
Victor H. Kaylarian, DO, Des Moines, IA, joined Des Moines University – College of Osteopathic Medicine as the chairman of the department of internal medicine.

**Class of 1976**
Class Agent: John Simelaro, DO 215-871-6337, johns@pcom.edu
Francis P. Sutter, DO, Gladwyne, PA, was recognized by Main Line Today as one of the “Top Doctors in Cardiology.”

**Class of 1977**
Class Agent: H. Sprague Taveau, IV, DO 806-212-5750, glorysix1@cox.net
Jerry M. Littlefield, DO, Rome, GA, has joined Harbin Clinic as a nephrologist.

**Class of 1978**
Class Agent: Lorraine M. Disipio, DO 610-623-7230, ldisipio@comcast.net
Ernest R. Gelb, DO, Wyoming, PA, was the recipient of the 2007 Distinguished Service Award presented by the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.
Class of 1980
Class Agent: Steven J. Fagan, DO
843-743-7753, navya4@bellsouth.net
Roberta R. Ball, DO, Cheltenham, PA, is program chair and president-elect of the American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists. Dr. Ball serves as a primary investigator at CRI Worldwide specializing in clinical trials for psychiatric disorders.

Bernard S. Cieniawa, DO, Newtown, CT, obtained his recertification from the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

Class of 1981
Class Agent: Gerald E. Dworkin, DO
610-520-0690, ged@painfix.com
Robert I. Barsky, DO, Cherry Hill, NJ, was named vice chief of staff at Kennedy Memorial Hospital – University Medical Center.

Gerald E. Dworkin, DO, Bala Cynwyd, PA, was featured in an article, “Haven’t Got Time for the Pain,” published in Philadelphia Magazine.

Frank M. Tursi, DO, Erie, PA, was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.

Class of 1982
Class Agent: Anthony J. Silvagni, DO
954-262-1407, ajsilvagni@aol.com
Reid Gentile, DO, Wallingford, PA, was recognized by Main Line Today as one of the “Top Doctors in Family Practice.” He was also inducted into the 2007 Delco Hi-Q Hall of Honor for outstanding professional achievement and community leadership.

St. Catherine Labouré Medical Clinic, a private, non-profit health clinic that treats only the uninsured, was begun in 1999 by Sheila Davis, DO ’87, and physician assistant Michele Palos-Samsi. The clinic, with three exam rooms, is open four days a week, carries a 400-500 patient load from across the city, and receives no government funding. Foundation grants and donations “supplement” the $5 office visit fees collected.

‘People think there is a safety net for the uninsured, and that’s just not true anymore,” explains the clinic’s director, Dr. Davis. “Even physicians don’t realize the extent of the problem—they don’t see the people who fall through the cracks. The fact that people in this country don’t have access to health care is inhumane. Our mission is to provide dignified care to the uninsured, particularly those who are marginalized by poverty even though they are employed.”

In addition to Dr. Davis and Ms. Palos-Samsi, the clinic is staffed by only one other paid employee, Katarzyna Calderon, MSN, CRNP. The nurses, nurse manager, receptionists, another physician assistant and the patient assistance advocate are all volunteers. Students from area schools and universities round out the staff.

“We are able to control most patients’ chronic diseases with monthly visits and by providing medications,” Dr. Davis points out, “and their good health is the marker of our effectiveness.” Other than stethoscopes, oto/ophthalmoscopes, and lab testing, the clinic’s only piece of diagnostic equipment is an EKG machine and, Dr. Davis says, “our hands. I’m grateful every day that I’m a DO and for the training I received at PCOM. We were trained to use our hands, our heads, and the patient’s history to make most diagnoses.”

When patients do need tests or to be seen by a specialist, the clinic looks to a network of physicians and clinics they have built over the years who will see patients for free or on a sliding fee scale.

“Everyone who works here is passionate about what we do,” Dr. Davis emphasizes. “We are driven by the injustice in the system and our need to address it. These are people with lives that matter.”
Anthony J. Silvagni, DO, Fort Lauderdale, FL, received designation as a distinguished fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Marc A. Vengrove, DO, Allentown, PA, was appointed to the medical staff at Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network.

Class of 1983
Class Agent: Mary Ann DiBiagio, DO
724-758-7559, mdibiagio@hvhs.org

Carol L. Henwood, DO, Stowe, PA, was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Douglas E. Mazzucca, DO, Pennsville, NJ, had his article titled “Cataract Surgery and Its Improving Lens Implant Technology” published in the Gloucester County Times.

Pamela Tronetti, DO, Titusville, FL, had her essay titled “A Place in the Sun” published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Class of 1984
Class Agent: Paul V. Suhey, DO
814-231-2101, pvs@uoc.com

Charles J. DeNunzio, Jr., DO, Martins Ferry, OH, joined the medical staff at Wetzel County Hospital.

Carl G. Gutekunst, DO, Burton, MI, joined the medical staff at McLaren Regional Medical Center. Dr. Gutekunst is a board-certified general surgeon.

Class of 1985
Class Agent: Michael P. Meyer, DO
717-721-5700, mmeyer8700@aol.com

John J. Kelly, Jr., DO, Philadelphia, PA, was the recipient of the Albert Einstein Physician Leadership Award presented by Albert Einstein Medical Center. Dr. Kelly is vice-president of the medical staff and associate chair of emergency medicine at Albert Einstein Medical Center.

Class of 1986
Class Agent: John C. Sefter, DO
410-337-7900

Carol A. Unice, DO, Holland, OH, is proud of her son, Josh, who was drafted into the NHL by the Chicago Blackhawks.

Michael J. Zawisza, DO, Orwigsburg, PA, was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Class of 1987
Class Agents: Elliott J. Bilofsky, DO
814-623-6400, ebilofsky@aol.com

Katherine C. Erlichman, DO
814-623-1969, eyeoffice@earthlink.net

Katherine C. Erlichman, DO, Everett, PA, was the recipient of the Bedford County Chamber of Commerce Athena Award for her contributions to the community, for making a difference in the lives of many, and for being a role model for the women in the area.

Richard E. Johnson, DO, DuBois, PA, was elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Class of 1989
Class Agents: Judith Richmond Pryblick, DO
610-366-8445, gpjrp@aol.com

Coleen M. Smith, DO
423-722-9355, colsmithdo@pol.net

Kris M. Belland, DO, Goose Creek, SC, has been selected for promotion to Captain of the Medical Corps of the United States Navy. In 2006, Dr. Belland was elected as a fellow of aerospace medicine by the Aerospace Medical Association.

Beckie Michael, DO, Marlton, NJ, was a clinical associate professor of medicine and the director of dialysis services at Thomas Jefferson University before she founded Marlton Nephrology and Hypertension in 2006. She currently serves as co-medical director of DSI Marlton Dialysis Unit and is a clinical associate professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Mark A. Monaco, DO, Broomall, PA, was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Mary F. Pascucci, DO, Sugarloaf, PA, was featured in an article, “A Special Kind of Detective,” in the Citizens’ Voice.

Class of 1990
Class Agent: Jennifer Waxler, DO
jwaxler@sbcglobal.com

Robert J. Bugarelli, DO, Glen Mills, PA, was recognized by Main Line Today as one of the “Top Doctors in Cardiology.”

Christopher J. Droogan, DO, West Chester, PA, was recognized by Main Line Today as one of the “Top Doctors in Cardiology.”

Class of 1991
Class Agents: Luke Nelligan, DO
317-758-2080, luke_nelligan@ahni.com

Melissa Schwartz, DO
215-969-5650, sethmelissa@comcast.net

Laurence V. Cramer, DO, Blue Bell, PA, had his article “New, Sinus Balloon Catheters for Sinusitis Patients” published in the Phoenix.

Lisa F. Parvishkan, DO, Exton, PA, was recognized by Main Line Today as one of the “Top Doctors in Family Practice.”

Laura Czulewicz Reese, DO, Ashland, KY, is a clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at Pikesville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Class of 1992
Class Agent: Gene M. Battistella, DO
412-777-4319, dbattman@comcast.net

G. Roger Dunkelberger, DO, St. Petersburg, FL, has a solo private practice in Pinellas Park, Florida. Dr. Dunkelberger and his wife, Sherri, are the proud parents of two young boys and two dogs.
**Class of 1993**

Class Agents: Larissa Fernando-Dominy, DO  
610-409-8147, larissa@dominy.net  
Clara M. Higgins, DO  
302-644-9644, cmhdo5@aol.com  
Barbara A. Hoffer, DO  
Birdsboro, PA, joined Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital as a physiatrist at Rehabilitation Associates of the Main Line.  
Joseph D. Hope, DO  
Boothwyn, PA, was recognized by *Main Line Today* as one of the “Top Doctors in Internal Medicine.”

**Class of 1994**

Class Agent: Judith A. Gardner, DO  
215-428-9383, judygocats@verizon.net  
Robert S. Dolansky, Jr., DO  
Allentown, PA, was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.  
Teresa M. Joy, DO, Hagerstown, MD, opened a new practice, Joy Medical Aesthetics, in Hagerstown.

**Class of 1995**

Class Agent: Francis N. Ogbolu, DO  
606-833-9870  
Jeffery J. Dunkelberger, DO  
Mechanicsburg, PA, was re-elected to the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

**Class of 1996**

Class Agent: Joanne E. Hullings, DO  
215-781-0575, joannehullings@hotmail.com  
Jamie M. Broughton, DO, Iortin, VA, is presently stationed at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. Major Broughton, a physical standards policy chief, has served in the military for nine years and is with the Air Force Medical Operations Agency.  
Frank J. Colarusso, DO  
Morristown, NJ, joined Mercer-Bucks Orthopaedics, PC, as a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist.

**Class of 1997**

Kandace B. Farmer, DO  
Simpsonville, NC, will be managing Solis Women’s Health’s new breast care center in Denton, Texas.  
Laura Lee S. Picciano, DO, Philadelphia, PA, joined the medical staff at Hahnemann University Hospital.  
John R. Pickett, DO, Windsor, NC, opened a new family practice, the Medical Clinic of Sharpsburg.

**Class of 1998**

Adam C. Steinberg, DO  
West Hartford, CT, is an urogynecologist at Hartford Hospital - University of Connecticut. Dr. Steinberg has been appointed assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.

**Class of 1999**

Class Agent: Tabatha Jeffers, DO  
814-375-0460, froggytlj@hotmail.com  
Karen C. Brown, DO, Owings Mills, MD, was appointed medical director of the ACE Unit – Acute Care for the Elderly at Maryland General Hospital – University of Maryland Medical System.  
Edward K. Pavillard, DO, Collegeville, PA, was featured in an article titled “Advanced Technology to Treat Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms,” which was published in *Mercury*.  
Evan R. Restelli, DO, Oakmont, PA, completed a pulmonary fellowship at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh. He is a partner at South Hills Pulmonary Associates in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

**Class of 2000**

Class Agent: Edward Casey, DO  
casey.edward@mayo.edu  
Adrian C. Demidont, DO, Harrisburg, PA, joined the medical staff at Carlisle Regional Medical Center.  
Jamison S. Jaffe, DO, Chalfont, PA, was the lead author of a manuscript titled “Surgical Outcomes in Men Undergoing Laparoscopic Radical Prostatectomy After a Transurethral Resection of the Prostate,” which he presented at the Annual European Association of Urology Meeting in Germany. Dr. Jaffe also presented the above manuscript and a second manuscript titled “Laparoscopic Radical Prostatectomy: Five Year Oncologic Results” at the American Urological Association in May 2007.
Class of 2001
Class Agents: Connie Andrejko, DO, and Kenneth Andrejko, DO
215-873-8384
Scott I. Forman, DO, Voorhees, NJ, joined the internal medicine practice of Drs. Woldow, Kessel and Sureshkumar in Upper Roxborough, Pennsylvania.
Amy L. Hollihan, DO, Allison Park, PA, joined the medical staff at St. Luke’s Quakertown Hospital. Dr. Hollihan is on the medical staff at Tri-Valley Primary Care, Pennridge Office, Perkasie, Pennsylvania.
Quan T. Luong, DO, Chambersburg, PA, joined the medical staff at Franklin County Pediatrics.
Anuj Prashar, DO, Harrisburg, PA, completed his general surgical residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine in June 2007. Dr. Prashar has begun a fellowship at Community General Osteopathic Hospital.
Dominic J. Valentino, III, DO, Washington, DC, will be completing his pulmonary/critical care/sleep medicine fellowship at Georgetown University Hospital in July 2007. He will be joining Penn Jersey Pulmonary Associates. And he will care for patients and teach residents at Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadelphia and Underwood Memorial Hospital in Woodbury, New Jersey.
Scott A. Vota, DO, Glen Allen, VA, was appointed residency program director at Virginia Commonwealth University. Dr. Vota is assistant professor of neurology at the university.

Class of 2002
Class Agents: Edward J. Armbruster, DO 856-751-5103, ejarmbruster@yahoo.com
Steven Blasi, DO 610-252-2147, lsxcrunningdoc@msn.com
Steven R. Blasi, DO, Easton, PA, has taken a position with Lehigh Valley Physician Group of Lehigh Valley Hospital. He has also joined
Pleasant Valley Family Practice in Brodheadsville, PA, with fellow alumnus Jonathan Burke, DO ’00.
Brian C. Copeland, DO, Havertown, PA, is enrolled in a gastroenterology fellowship at Cooper University Hospital. He is board-certified in internal medicine.
Timothy A. Leone, DO, Mechanicsburg, PA, completed his general surgical residency at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine in June 2007. He has joined Susquehanna Surgeons, a member of Heritage Medical Group, LLP, as a general surgeon.

Joshua Baron, DO ’03
Ready for His Close-up

Joshua Baron, DO ’03, was nearing the completion of his residency in emergency medicine at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia when his childhood friend Brad called from Los Angeles. An aspiring director, Brad had gotten his big break and was directing his first feature film for Sony Pictures. The story revolves around the lead character, played by John Leguizamo, who has suffered head trauma. A great deal of the action takes place in a hospital. Brad asked Dr. Baron to review the scene that takes place in the ER for accuracy.

“The writers and producers liked my input so much that they asked me to read the entire script,” recalls Dr. Baron. “I spent two days reviewing the 110-page script. Then John Leguizamo called me from L.A. for more background about his character. We talked for an hour about how a patient with a right frontal lobe injury would behave,” recalls Dr. Baron somewhat incredulously. One thing led to another, and Brad asked him if he would come to L.A. for a week to serve as technical advisor. Two days later he received a round-trip, first-class ticket to L.A.

“It was incredible,” says Dr. Baron. “They were filming in a fully equipped hospital. I worked a lot with the set designers on how an E.R. would look. I was the assistant director helping to choreograph the medical scenes.” And just when he thought he had done it all, he was asked to write a speaking role for himself. “John’s character was using a memory notebook, but there was no introduction to how he started to use it,” explains Dr. Baron. “So they asked me to write a scene in which I would play a psychiatrist explaining the notebook.” The scene was filmed in just two takes.

“It was easy playing a doctor,” claims Dr. Baron, “and since John and I had had this conversation over the phone, it was pretty natural. I just had to pretend the cameras weren’t there.”

Now an attending at Bryn Mawr Hospital, Dr. Baron watches movies with a more critical eye and says he’s available for more film work if a director comes calling. Look for The Take in movie theaters this winter.
Joshua S. Coren, DO/MBA '02, and his wife, Jennifer B. Coren, DO '03, Hatboro, PA, are the proud parents of Julia Isabella, born on December 27, 2006. Julia joins her brother, Zachary, age four, and sister, Sarah-Grace, age 17 months.

Rosemary DeCicco, PA-C '02, Hammonton, NJ, and her husband, Steve, are the proud parents of Matthew Anthony, born on February 21, 2007.

Mark P. Doran, DO '02, York, PA, and his wife, Rebecca, are the proud parents of Abigail Reed born on February 20, 2007. Brother Jack Riley, age three, was happy to welcome his new sister.

Elizabeth Dos Santos, DO '99, and her husband, Howard H. Chen, DO '99, Sierra Madre, CA, are the proud parents of Howard Anthony, born on December 25, 2006.

Kristin S. Halsell, PA-C '02, Holt, MI, and her husband, Steve, are the proud parents of Brennan Alexander, born on February 1, 2007.

Bradley S. Hiles, DO '98, Wexford, PA, and his wife, Kelly, are the proud parents of Brooklynn Paige, born on March 7, 2007.

Jeannie L. Hilton, DO '00, Virginia Beach, VA, and her husband, Chris, are the proud parents of triplets, Mackenzie Grace (4 lb., 1 oz.), Kylie Elizabeth (3 lb., 7 oz.), and Addison Amelia (3 lb., 5 oz.), born on March 21, 2007.

Aaron Lenhart, DO '07, Philadelphia, PA, married Mindy Brogna on June 12, 2007. Dr. Lenhart is an intern at Mercy Suburban Hospital; his wife is a registered nurse at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

Marshall G. Miles, DO '02, Allentown, PA, and his wife, Nicole, are the proud parents of Kiera, born on March 9, 2007.

Tracy Larzelere Raffa, MS/ODL '05, Sewell, NJ, married Marc Raffa in Negril, Jamaica in November 2006. They are expecting their first child.

Evan R. Restelli, DO '99, Oakmont, PA, and his wife, Blythe, are the proud parents of twins, Sarah and Callie, born on June 26, 2006. The twins join their brother, Aidan, age five, in the growing Restelli family.

Tricia M. Slattery, DO '03, Broomall, PA, and her husband, Thomas, are the proud parents of Andrew Thomas, born on September 12, 2006.

Ryan Thomas Smith, DO '04, Bethlehem, PA, married Elizabeth Ann Rehrig on September 9, 2006. After a reception at the Best Western in Bethlehem, the couple honeymooned in Hawaii.

Katharine M. VanSlyke, DO '98, and J. Andrew VanSlyke, DO '98, Norfolk, VA, are the proud parents of John Blaise, born on September 6, 2006.

Kelli Yacono, DO '05, Springfield, PA, and her husband, Christian, are the proud parents of triplets, Ethan Michael (4 lb., 8 oz.), Gavin Marshall (3 lb., 14 oz.), and Elijah Scott (3 lb., 3 oz).
Janet Cruz, MS/ODL ’07

Putting Theory Behind Practice

Janet Cruz, ODL ’07, was already a leader when she entered the Organizational Development and Leadership program. She was an information services systems analyst at AstraZeneca, sat on the Board of Westside Health in Delaware and was an active member of Greater Philadelphia Cares. She presently chairs AstraZeneca’s United Way Day of Caring, and in 2003 she created the Hispanic Employee Network of AstraZeneca to connect the local Hispanic community to health and educational opportunities. With all these accomplishments and responsibilities, why did Ms. Cruz choose to take on the ODL program? “The title attracted me,” she says simply.

“My undergraduate degree is in business management and IT,” Ms. Cruz explains, “and I wanted to grow and be able to take my experience anywhere. The program validated my experience; it put the theory behind the work I’ve been doing.”

As first a volunteer and then a board member of Westside Health, Ms. Cruz is integrally involved in forming a partnership between the health care center and the international pharmaceutical company to provide health care to the uninsured. Ms. Cruz’s commitment to Westside Health led to her ODL capstone project, “Succession Planning for Board Members of Westside Health.” “The board did not have a completed succession plan in place, so I knew I could help Westside as well as complete my program requirements. My project was not theoretical; it will be used. The board members and the staff contributed to the success of this project.

“I learned through the ODL program that I had all the hands-on experience of organizational development, and the program gave me the theory to back up what I’ve been doing.”

Among her many extracurricular activities, Ms. Cruz has recently translated a coworker’s book, Hanging Out with Lab Coats, Hope, Humor, and Help for Cancer Patients and their Caregivers into Spanish. The book chronicles the coworker’s experiences as a breast cancer patient and was written to help others navigate their treatment and provide encouragement to anyone facing an extreme challenge. They are currently looking for a sponsor to publish the Spanish version of this book.

“I get satisfaction from helping other people,” Ms. Cruz says, “that’s what makes me feel good. It’s the things you don’t get paid for that get you out of bed.”

Class of 2004
Stacey Franz, DO, Manalapan, NJ, was elected 2007-2008 chief resident of the physical medicine and rehabilitation residency program at New York Presbyterian Hospital (The University Hospital of Columbia & Cornell).

Class of 2005
Nicholas Bower, DO, West Reading, PA, was featured in an article, “Former South Side Man Serves Others Through Medicine,” published in the Sun-Gazette.

Payton G. Fennell, DO, Richlands, VA, was selected as 2007 chief resident of the Cabarrus Family Residency Program.

Tracy Larzelere Raffa, MS/ODL, Sewell, NJ, serves as the finance department manager at Independence Blue Cross.

Class of 2006
Samuel W. Pressley, MS/ODL, Williamstown, NJ, successfully re-established his public relations firm, Sam W. Pressley Communications, LLC.
Certificates of Merit

Michael A. Becker, DO '87, Blue Bell, PA, received the designation Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

George O. Faerber, DO '61, Punta Gorda, FL, played a vital role in securing a $2 million endowment fund from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation to support osteopathic medical research at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine's Center for Chronic Disorders of Aging.

Samuel J. Garloff, DO '78, Exeter, PA, was elected president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Robert B. Goldberg, DO '77, Short Hills, NJ, was elected president of the Medical Society of the State of New York.

Kenneth A. Heiles, DO '84, Star City, AR, received the designation Distinguished Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Peter E. Johnston, DO '59, Dublin, OH, played a vital role in securing a $2 million endowment fund from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation to support osteopathic medical research at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine's Center for Chronic Disorders of Aging.

David C. Koronkiewicz, DO '85, Goshen, IN, was inducted as President of the Indiana Osteopathic Association.

Ruth E. Purdy, DO '50, Dublin, OH, played a vital role in securing a $2 million endowment fund from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation to support osteopathic medical research at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine's Center for Chronic Disorders of Aging.

David F. Scaccia, DO '80, Kittery, ME, received the Navy Meritorious Service Medal presented by the United States Navy Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve.

In Memoriam

Frederick H. Ferguson, DO '68, Broken Arrow, OK, April 11, 2007.

Albert E. Morgenthaler, DO '58, Atlanta, GA, June 6, 2007.

The College recently learned of the passing of the following alumni:

Melvin M. Glaser, DO '51, Massapequa, NY, August 4, 2005.

Harvey M. Spector, DO '63, Huntingdon Valley, PA, was the recipient of the 2007 Family Physician of the Year Award presented by the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society.

Greta J. Stewart, DO '96, Sicklerville, NJ, was the recipient of the Meta Christy Award presented by Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine's Chapter of the Student National Medical Association, Inc.
An inner-city pediatrician's life is filled with daily heartbreaks. We see children without health insurance hiding their symptoms for days until they are critically ill for fear that they would add to the stress of their impoverished households; children who live in food-insecure households and/or in inadequate housing filled with second-hand smoke and environmental mold; children whose entire bodies emanate poverty and neglect. Ringworm of the scalp, insects in ear canals, caries in baby teeth . . .

On a daily basis we interpret abnormal lab results that portray the effects of poor nutrition. Iron deficiency anemia, lead poisoning, and vitamin D rickets have become commonplace. BMIs exceed 85 percent in more than one-third of children over two years of age.

Most tragically, for me, are the daily effects we see of interpersonal violence. Fear, anger, resentment, stoicism, retaliation and hopelessness are etched on too many faces of children and parents. In one week, I had a five-year-old patient witness the double homicide of his father and his sister's boyfriend. I had another five-year-old whose mother wanted me to evaluate him after three kindergarten classmates "jumped" him in the hallway right outside of his classroom. I had an eight-year-old with chronic headaches who related to me that she was living in a household where her parents often fought verbally and physically. I see too many children who are "jumpy" when their parent makes a sudden move. I see too many children whose small bodies harbor recurrent tragedies at such a young age. They do not suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome because there is no "post"; there is only continuous stress.

"For these families, we must stop the heartbreak. We must take responsibility. We must stop the fear and return the hope."

The statistics are terrifying: 406 homicides last year in Philadelphia—five times as many gunshot victims, many who go back to the street with colostomy bags or wheelchairs, without safety nets to prevent the cycle from continuing. A 2006 University of Pennsylvania analysis found it more dangerous to be a young black male in Philadelphia than a soldier in Iraq. Heartbreak . . .


All of these and more contribute to one of the greatest epidemics the city of Philadelphia has ever known. The majority of families in Philadelphia—in the most concentrated areas of poverty in the most impoverished large city in America—are decent, hard working families struggling to survive economically while trying to cohabitate with those who have been so hardened by the "street" that a simple prolonged glance could mean the difference between life and death. For these families, for all of Philadelphia's children, we must stop the heartbreak. We must take responsibility. We must stop the fear and return the hope. "Otherwise," as Trauma Outreach Coordinator Scott P. Charles wrote in a Philadelphia Inquirer editorial, "in a short time now, we will be well past the point of no return, when the age old proverb about teaching a man to fish will be irrelevant, as young men from the city's most dangerous neighborhoods will lack the necessary appetite for fish or its benefits. Rather, they will hunger only for the hostile diet on which they've been raised. Homicide rates will continue to soar, incarceration rates will continue to swell, and Philadelphia will have no choice but to confront the shame of her neglect."

Readers: The staff of Digest welcomes your ideas for essays that would be of interest to the PCOM community. Please submit ideas in writing to Jennifer Schaffer Leone. E-mail jenniferleo@pcom.edu; fax 215-871-6307; or mail Marketing and Communications, 4180 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131-1695.
Last year, we raised more than a MILLION DOLLARS for the UNRESTRICTED ANNUAL FUND!

Your continued support of our million dollar goal each year will ensure that PCOM’s reputation for excellence endures and grows.

Welcome to our new leaders for 2007-2008

Ronald Blanck, DO ’67
Annual Fund Co-Chair

Carol Fox, MM
Annual Fund Co-Chair

Murray Zedeck, DO ’62
Leadership Gift Committee Chair
“The doctor of the future will give no medicine, but will interest his patients in the care of the human body, in diet, and in the cause and prevention of disease.”

— Thomas Edison

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<td>October 25</td>
<td>President’s Recognition</td>
<td>Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>November 10</td>
<td>Georgia Campus Open House</td>
<td>GA-PCOM Campus Suwanee, GA</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>Founders’ Day</td>
<td>PCOM Campus Philadelphia, PA</td>
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<td>February 21-24</td>
<td>FOMA 105th Annual Convention</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Pier 66 Fort Lauderdale, FL</td>
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<td>March 12-16</td>
<td>ACOFP 45th Annual Convention</td>
<td>Hyatt Regency Denver Denver, CO</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 26-30</td>
<td>AAO 2008 Annual Convention</td>
<td>InterContinental Hotel Dallas, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30-31</td>
<td>PCOM Alumni Weekend</td>
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