



**AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

### **AOA-Involved International Organizations**

The following list is a group of organizations, associations, and councils that the AOA has dealt with and continues to deal with, whether through the Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA), Bureau on International Osteopathic Medical Education and Affairs (BIOMEA), or the World Health Organization's Osteopathic Working Group.

#### **1. Australian Osteopathic Association (AOA-AU)**

The AOA-AUS is the national professional body representing Osteopaths in Australia. Originally founded in 1955 in Victoria, the Association became a federal body in 1991. Today, the AOA represents Osteopaths in all states, liaising with government and all other statutory bodies regarding professional, educational and legislation issues.

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#### **2. British Osteopathic Association (BOA)**

The BOA is...

- the largest professional association for osteopaths in the UK
- an independent representative body for osteopaths
- an independent body of democratically elected members
- a publishing resource for osteopaths
- an association with over sixty years experience

It is committed to...

- supporting, protecting, caring for its members
- promoting opportunities for individual and professional development in osteopathic practice
- promoting the highest standards of osteopathic education and research

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### **3. Centre Europeen d'Enseignement Superieur de l'Osteopathie (CEESO)**

CEESO is a Partner member of the OIA and is a French leading school of osteopathy, which trains future osteopaths. The teaching is provided by high-level specialist doctors and by osteopaths and is balanced with practical training periods in hospitals. It aims to train high level practitioners, specialized in the osteopathic clinical approach necessary for professional practice but who may also join interdisciplinary medical teams or even participate in scientific research programs. The training at C.E.E.S.O. prepares the student for the French national examinations and for the study of final year thesis, essential elements to pass the osteopathic diploma (D.O. - M.R.O.F.).

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Website: <http://www.ceeso.com/>

### **4. Costa Rican Osteopathic Medical Association (CROMA)**

Officially registered group of US-trained DOs practicing in Costa Rica, working in tandem with the Costa Rica Medical Association and Costa Rica Medical School.

Dr. Jerry Haman, DO (US), President

**Contact:** Dr. John Montgomery, DO (US), Executive Secretary

CROMA

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### **5. European Osteopathic Union (EOU)**

Union of non-physician osteopath schools working in Italy, France, Russia and Switzerland; their principal, Simon Duncan, worked on the WHO Osteopath Working Group

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### **6. European Register for Osteopathic Physicians (EROP)**

The EROP is a Partner member of the OIA. The purpose of the association is to promote and intensify interdisciplinary cooperation between associations of osteopathic physicians. Thereupon the Association promotes and supports: extensive research in the fields of Osteopathic Medicine; basic and advanced training in Osteopathic Medicine; extensive publications and scientific meetings including national or international congresses in the fields of Osteopathic Medicine and pain therapy; education of the public about the significance of Osteopathic Medicine; representation of the joint interests and responsibilities of associations of osteopathic physicians and corporate health care representatives affiliated with the Association towards administrative authorities, corporate bodies and institutions under public law (at state, national and European level), other scientific associations (at national and international level) and all federal or private health and nursing care insurances in the fields of Osteopathic Medicine.

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## 7. General Osteopathic Council of the UK (GOsC)

The Osteopaths Act 1993 establishes the General Osteopathic Council to 'provide for the regulation of the profession of osteopathy'

The GOsC's aims are:

- To protect patients
- To develop the osteopathic profession
- To promote an understanding of osteopathic care

The GOsC:

- Registers qualified professionals
- Sets standards of osteopathic practice and conduct
- Assures the quality of osteopathic education
- Ensures Continuing Professional Development
- Helps patients with complaints about an osteopath

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## 8. General Medical Council of the UK (GMC)

The AOA has secured recognition for US-trained DOs in the UK through the GMC.

The General Medical Council (GMC) was established under the Medical Act of 1858. GMC's vision is: 'to be recognised as delivering and safeguarding the highest standards of medical ethics, education and practice, in the interests of patients, public and the profession'.

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**Contact:** Tej Modi, International Verification Officer

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Website: <http://www.gmc-uk.org/>

## 9. German Association for Osteopathic Medicine (DGOM)

German group of MD physicians who practice osteopathy. Following MD degree, individuals take a minimum of 680 hours in OPP/OMT to attain the Diploma of Osteopathic Medicine (DOM) degree.

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Website: [www.dgom.info](http://www.dgom.info)

### 10. German-American Academy for Osteopathy (DAAO)

The DAAO is a Full member of the OIA. The DAAO is a German group of both US-trained DOs and MDs practicing osteopathic principles. Following MD degree, individuals take a minimum of 680 hours in OPP/OMT to attain the Diploma of Osteopathic Medicine (DO-DAAO)

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Website: [www.daaoinfo](http://www.daaoinfo)

### 11. German Osteopathic Association (VOD)

The VOD is an Associate member of the OIA. The VOD is a non-physician osteopath group currently working toward government recognition in Germany.

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Website: [www.osteopathie.de](http://www.osteopathie.de)

### 12. Global Health Council (GHC)

The AOA is a member of the GHC, paying \$3000 per year in dues.

Mission: The Council works to ensure that all who strive for improvement and equity in global health have the information and resources they need to succeed.

The Global Health Council is the world's largest membership alliance dedicated to saving lives by improving health throughout the world. Our diverse membership is comprised of health-care professionals and organizations that include NGOs, foundations, corporations, government agencies and academic institutions that work to ensure global health for all.

The GHC's prime issues are: Women's Health, Child Health, HIV/AIDS, Infectious Diseases, and Emerging Threats.

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### 13. International Academy of Osteopathy (IAO)

The IAO is a Partner member of the OIA and is an organization of schools of osteopathy in Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany and Austria.

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#### **14. International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)**

The AOA and NBOME are associate members of IAMRA. The American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE) is a full member.

**PURPOSE:** To support medical regulatory authorities worldwide in protecting the public interest by promoting high standards for physician education, licensure and regulation, and facilitating the ongoing exchange of information among medical regulatory authorities.

##### **ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS**

- Advocate and promote high standards for medical education, physician evaluation and assessment, licensure, medical practice and professional conduct;
- Facilitate international cooperation and collaboration among medical regulatory authorities, including a network for the regular exchange of medical licensing and disciplinary information;
- Provide a forum for the development and sharing of new concepts and new approaches in the regulation of medical practice;
- Encourage and support research, policy analysis and policy development related to medical licensure and regulation; and
- Serve as an information source to medical regulatory authorities, the public, and national and international organizations.

##### **CURRENT AREAS OF FOCUS**

- To enhance membership in the association, potentially utilizing monies in the support fund created by the founding members to assist financially disadvantaged organizations in becoming members.
- To secure funding for specific projects (currently, the international exchange of information on physicians, and development of international medical passports) and for assisting delegates of financially disadvantaged organizations in attending the association's Members General Meetings, held in conjunction with the International Conferences on Medical Regulation.
- To establish IAMRA as an organization actively working to fulfill its responsibilities in relation to the goals stated above.

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#### **15. International Federation of Manual Medicine (FIMM)**

The American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) is a member of FIMM.

FIMM is an International Medical Organization representing twenty-nine National Associations. Committee members are gathered from medical doctors and full-physician D.O.s (USA) representing a further 10 countries. FIMM was founded on the concepts of European based manual therapy. It has subsequently expanded to include musculoskeletal medicine and osteopathic medicine. Chronic pain management and injection techniques are now considered to be within the scope of manual/musculoskeletal medicine practitioners. Musculoskeletal medicine perhaps

defines the discipline of evidence-based medicine encompassed by FIMM most accurately. FIMM is a non-profit medical organization that is funded through levies placed on National Society membership. Dues generated are then utilized to fund the activities of the Scientific and Education Committees. It is the aim of FIMM to enhance the teaching of medical practitioners practicing manual/ musculoskeletal medicine and to advance the principle of evidence-based medicine. These achievements will ultimately benefit the patient.

**Contacts: PRESIDENT**

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**16. Japan Osteopathic Federation (JOF)**

The JOF is an Associate member of the OIA and is an umbrella organization covering the All Japan Osteopathic Association, Japan Osteopathic Academy and the Kansai Osteopathic Association.

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**17. Lombardy Regional Government of Italy**

Lombardy is a region in the northern-center of Italy, on the southern border of Switzerland. It accounts for 20.7% of Italy's total economy, making it one of the European Union's (EU) richest regions. Lombardy has 9 million people, or 15% of the total population of Italy. In 2003, the Lombardy Regional and Swedish governments co-funded the writing and publication of the "WHO Guidelines on Developing Consumer Information on Proper Use of Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine." These guidelines focused on "consumer protection" as the Lombardy government is interested in the safe regulation of alternative and complementary medicine. The Lombardy regional government has also financially supported the drafting of the WHO's osteopathic and chiropractic guidelines.

**18. New Zealand Osteopathic Council (NZOC)**

The Osteopathic Council was established by the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCA Act). The Act established a number of authorities that are responsible for the registration and oversight of those practicing one of the health professions regulated by the Act. The health professions include eleven that were already regulated by existing legislation and four additional health professions, including osteopathy. The Council's role is to regulate the non-physician osteopathic profession in order to protect consumers. It will do this by establishing a regulatory framework for registration that includes scope of practice, qualifications, competencies, and a system for complaints and discipline that will ensure the protection of members of the public. It will also maintain a public register of osteopaths, where members of the public will be able to check whether individual osteopaths are registered and hold a practicing certificate.

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### **19. Norwegian Association of Osteopathy (NAO)**

The NAO is an Associate member of the OIA and was established in 1993. The NAO has about 91 practicing members and 138 osteopathic student members, which make up about 90% of the osteopaths in Norway.

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### **20. Osteos de France**

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### **21. Prince of Wales's Foundation for Integrated Health**

The Foundation aims to facilitate the development of safe, effective and efficient forms of healthcare to patients and their families by supporting the development and delivery of integrated healthcare. This means encouraging conventional and complementary practitioners to work together to integrate their approaches. The Foundation acts as a forum to promote and support discussion and as a center for driving forward the integrated healthcare agenda.

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### **22. Registre des Osteopathes de France**

Contributed to the WHO osteopathic guidelines

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Website: <http://www.osteopathie.org/>

### **23. Swiss Society of Osteopathic Medicine (SAGOM)**

The SAGOM is represented in the OIA by the EROP. Swiss group of MDs who are specially trained in and practice osteopathy, members of the EROP.

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### **24. Unitec School of New Zealand**

Unitec is a Partner member of the OIA and is the only school in New Zealand that offers a Masters in Osteopathy. The Master of Osteopathy develops the capabilities, skills and attributes of osteopathic practitioners, and has been designed with professional and regulatory osteopathic requirements in mind. There is a strong emphasis on clinical practice and research, and you are encouraged to contribute to the growing body of knowledge in the osteopathy field. On successful completion of the program you are eligible to apply for a practicing certificate from the Osteopathic Council of New Zealand. The program includes lectures, tutorials, practical work and seminar presentations, integrated with clinical experience gained in Unitec's on-campus clinic.

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### **25. World Health Organization (WHO)**

The AOA is working with the WHO to develop the *WHO Guidelines on Basic Training and Safety in Osteopathic Medicine and Osteopathy* and the *WHO Legal Report on Manual Therapies*. The AOA was also consulted on the WHO Guidelines on the Chiropractic.

**Contact:** Dr Xiaorui Zhang, Coordinator, Traditional Medicine (TRM)

Department of Essential Drugs and Medicines Policy (EDM)

World Health Organization

Websites: [www.who.int/medicines/organization/trm/orgtrmstrat.htm](http://www.who.int/medicines/organization/trm/orgtrmstrat.htm)

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## **26. World Osteopathic Health Organization (WOHO)**

Mission statement: To promote, develop, protect and establish throughout the world, the study, knowledge, philosophy and practice of osteopathy its application and research for the benefit of the peoples of all nations; To ensure the worldwide availability of the practice of osteopathy at the highest possible standards; To promote the integration of osteopathic philosophy and practice with related clinical and healthcare subjects.

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## **International AOA-Affiliate Organizations**

### **1. Canadian Osteopathic Association (COA)**

The COA is a Full member of the OIA. Association of US-trained DOs who have moved or returned to Canada. The AOA has worked closely with the COA over the past several years to expand the acceptance of osteopathic physicians in Canada. The President of the COA currently sits on both the AOA's Council on International Osteopathic Medical Education and Affairs (CIOMEA) and Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA) Steering Committee.

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### **2. British Columbia Osteopathic Association of Canada (BCOA)**

Association of US-trained osteopathic physicians practicing in British Columbia and are affiliated with the Canadian Osteopathic Association

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### **3. Ontario Osteopathic Association**

Association of US-trained osteopathic physicians practicing in Ontario and are affiliated with the Canadian Osteopathic Association

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CANADA