

DEPARTMENT OF QUALITY, RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HEALTH
Karen J. Nichols, DO

Attached are the reports of the bureaus, councils, committees and their task forces that comprise the Department of Quality, Research and Public Health. This report covers the activities from July 2008 to January 2009.

BUREAU OF OSTEOPATHIC CLINICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH – James J. Dearing, DO, Chair

- The Bureau of Osteopathic Clinical Education and Research (BOCER) held a conference call on October 7, 2008. In discussion on the status of the Clinical Assessment Program, the BOCER recommended the addition of a measurement on screening for depression to all of the chronic disease modules in CAP and discussed issues related to CAP and continuous certification, focusing on the measurement of core competencies, practice based learning and system based care. The Bureau also discussed the ongoing development of low back pain clinical practice guidelines and the need for wide dissemination and review of the guidelines by the osteopathic specialty colleges before finalizing the document for posting to the National Guideline Clearinghouse.
- The AOA's Clinical Assessment Program (CAP) was chosen as a qualifying registry by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for participation in its Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) registry for payment program. The AOA-CAP has chosen five Diabetes Mellitus indicators for PQRI reporting. Osteopathic physicians participating in CAP are eligible for up to a 1.5% bonus payment based on either 6 months or 12 months of Medicare Payments. Physicians have until the end of February to submit data on patient visits for 2008.
- In November 2007, the AOA was awarded a grant from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation in the amount of \$45,010 to prepare and publish five manuscripts using Clinical Assessment Program (CAP) data from the residency training programs. This project is nearing completion. It is anticipated that the five manuscripts will be published in 2009 and will be an important step forward in demonstrating the value of the CAP data.

COUNCIL ON RESEARCH – Boyd W. Bowden, II, DO, Chair

- The Council on Research (COR) met via conference call on November 12, 2008 to review four proposals for the 2009 Research Conference held in New Orleans. The COR selected John C. Licciardone, DO, MBA, and Steven Berley, DO, as co-chairs for their proposal entitled "Osteopathic Medicine in the Genomic Era."
- Staff submitted a grant to the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation (OHF) to provide matching funds up to \$300,000 per year to support research grant applications. Rick Vincent, OHF Executive Director, informed the AOA that the OHF has approved the grant for a three year period. As previously reported, the COR has received 29 grant applications which is double the 14 applications received last year. The funds from the OHF will help to support some of these additional grants.

BUREAU ON SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC HEALTH – Geraldine T. O’Shea, DO, Chair

- The Bureau on Scientific Affairs and Public Health (BSAPH) held a fall cluster meeting on September 6, 2008 at the O’Hare Hilton. The meeting was well attended and included a variety of agenda items. The BSAPH discussed HOD resolutions on disaster preparedness planning, recommendations for electronic prescribing, newborn HIV testing, raw milk consumption, benefits of video games that promote physical activity, and gender identity disorders discrimination. The BSAPH agreed to pursue the development of a focused research forum on epidemic and pandemic influenza by requesting funding from the AOA Finance Committee for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The BSAPH conducted a teleconference meeting on January 15, 2009 at which time the members continued their discussion of resolutions to submit to the 2009 HOD, including a new resolution on brain injury prevention. The BSAPH approved the reaffirmation of a resolution addressing Breastfeeding while on Methadone Maintenance. The BSAPH discussed the legislative issues surrounding follow-on biologics and agreed to prepare a statement from the AOA advocating for FDA approval of follow-on biologic products prior to their release for widespread use.

COUNCIL ON MINORITY HEALTH ISSUES – Hector Lopez, DO, Chair

- The Council on Minority Health Issues (CMHI) held a fall cluster meeting on August 9, 2008 at the O’Hare Hilton. Chaired by Hector Lopez, DO, the CMHI discussed a resolution addressing the need for more involvement of minorities in AOA leadership and the design of a new Education on Palliative and End-of-life-care (EPEC) module on Cultural Diversity and End of Life Care in collaboration with the Council on Palliative Care Issues. The CMHI conducted a successful seminar on **“Cultural Competency”** on October 26, 2008 at the AOA National Convention in Las Vegas. The updated minority health brochure was distributed to seminar participants. Margaret Aguwa, DO, was the AOA representative to the winter meeting of the National Commission to End Health Care Disparities held on October 21 & 22 in Detroit, Michigan.

COUNCIL ON WOMEN’S HEALTH ISSUES – Theresa A. Hubka, DO, Chair

- The Council on Women’s Health Issues (CWHI) held a fall cluster meeting on August 9, 2008 at the O’Hare Hilton. Chair, Teresa Hubka, DO, led the CWHI in a discussion of House of Delegates resolutions on Disaster Preparedness Planning for Maternal and Child Health and Breastfeeding While on Methadone Maintenance. The CWHI conducted a very successful seminar on **“Fitness Through the Female Life Spectrum”** on October 26, 2008 at the AOA National Convention in Las Vegas. The CWHI will be holding a teleconference meeting to begin planning for the 2009 seminar in New Orleans.

COUNCIL ON PALLIATIVE CARE ISSUES – Karen J. Nichols, DO, Chair

- The Council on Palliative Care Issues (CPCI) held a fall cluster meeting on August 10, 2008 at the O’Hare Hilton and teleconference meeting on January 7, 2009. At the January meeting Vice-Chair, Katherine Galluzzi, DO, led the CPCI in a discussion of topics that included the Certificate of

Added Qualifications in hospice and palliative medicine, a position paper on ethical guidelines for physician relationships with hospice patient and their caregivers and inpatient hospice care. The CPCI conducted a successful CME program on palliative medicine entitled **“Chronicles of the Dark Knight... DOs Illuminate the Way”** on October 26, 2008 at the AOA National Convention in Las Vegas and has begun planning for the 2009 palliative care seminar in New Orleans.