Visit In The News on AOCD.ORG

Visit the AOCD Dermatology Disease Database for valuable patient resources.

Download the Dermatology Disease Database app for iPhone

Let the AOCD track your CME!
Hello Everyone,

Here's to a Happy and Healthy 2022!

Who knew that after February 23, 2020 when our meeting at West Palm Beach concluded, our world would have been turned upside down? Two years without a live meeting! We miss you and our luggage has been collecting dust. One month prior, the Board of Trustees met for a planning retreat, and I recall Dr. Fiore discussing this “thing” called COVID over breakfast.

November of 2010, I began my journey as AOCD’s Executive Director. These past ten years for the AOCD have been filled with changes, both good and not so good. In 2011 our membership count was at 679, by 2018 we hit an all-time high of 1012, and currently we are on the decline. Our residency training programs moved to the ACGME creating a huge void in our service to membership. We updated and improved our website with options such as the Learning Management system which houses our on-demand webinars. We applied for and received ACCME accreditation which gives the AOCD the ability to provide CME to any physician in the world, not just DOs. We created an online CME reporting system where members can track CME for their licensing needs. We continue to work to improve the production abilities at our live meetings, recording presentations as they happen for our on-demand offerings. We have digitized many of our forms and have reduced the amount of paperwork in this office greatly! In 2018 we celebrated our 60th year as an organization and prepared a commemorative yearbook.

What will the future hold for the AOCD? This will be up to the Board, Staff, and Membership. Now more than ever the AOCD needs all of our support! We hope everyone will continue to support the AOCD by renewing dues. The AOCD would not exist otherwise.

My Staff and I wish everyone the very best of the Holiday Season and we can’t wait to see you in Orlando! Please bring your families as we are planning outdoor activities for the evening receptions.

As always, please email the AOCD office at dermatology@aocd.org if you need assistance.
November 30, 2021

Board of Directors
American Board of Dermatology
2 Wells Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Attention: Hensin Tsao, MD, President
Attention: Edward Cowen, MD, Vice President

Dear Members of the Board:

In 2018, the American Board of Dermatology (ABD), a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), approved subspecialty board certification in Micrographic Dermatologic Surgery (MDS).

Despite including a “license to practice medicine or osteopathy” as a prerequisite for taking the exam, Mohs surgeons primarily certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology (AOBD) are currently ineligible to sit for the MDS exam, even if they completed an ACGME-accredited fellowship in Mohs surgery and dermatologic oncology.

Yet, the very same criteria allow any ABD-certified physician practicing Mohs – even those who are not fellowship trained – to sit for the MDS exam during its first 5 years. The criteria also allow members of the American Board of Plastic Surgery (ABPS) and the American Board of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery (ABOHN) to sit for the MDS exam. These are boards outside of dermatology; yet DOs within the house of dermatology – those initially certified by the AOBD – are excluded. This defies logic and is discriminatory against fellowship-trained Mohs surgeons as well as non-fellowship-trained dermatologists who are DOs.

According to the ABD website¹, candidates for the MDS subspecialty certification must:

1. Possess a current, valid, full and unrestricted license to practice medicine or osteopathy in at least one state or province within the United States or Canada;
2. Hold primary certification in general dermatology from ABD;
3. Be up to date in Maintenance of Certification (MOC) if certification by ABD is time-limited;
4. Demonstrate experience in the subspecialty by:
   a. successfully completing the ACGME-accredited MSDO fellowship, OR
   b. during an initial 5-year practice pathway eligibility period only, attesting to practicing micrographic surgery, and
5. Pass the MDS certification examination.

¹American Osteopathic College of Dermatology
These eligibility criteria ignore profound changes in graduate medical education and accreditation that have occurred over the past 5 years.

1. As of 2020, the ACGME and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) completed their transition to the Single Accreditation System (SAS), under which 100% of residency and fellowship programs in the United States are accredited by ACGME. This means there are no longer osteopathic or AOA-accredited residencies or fellowships in the US; all programs are now accredited by the ACGME.

2. During the SAS transition period between 2015 and 2020, many residents graduated from AOA-accredited residencies that are now ACGME-accredited. The change in program accreditation occurs on paper alone at the beginning of each academic year, but now prevents DOs who graduated before their program achieved ACGME accreditation from sitting for ABD subspecialty exams, such as dermatopathology or MDS.

3. During the transition to the single ACGME accreditation system, other ABMS boards, including the massive ABIM, have instituted special criteria to allow DOs with AOA residency training, but ACGME fellowship training, to sit for ABIM board exams. The ABEM (Emergency Medicine) will allow candidates with an initial AOA certification in EM to sit for the ABEM subspecialty exam in Emergency Medical Services; and the ABPM (Preventive Medicine) will allow AOA-certified physicians to sit for the ABPM certifications in Addiction Medicine or Clinical Informatics.

4. Starting in 2019 (prior to the approval of the ABMS MDS subspecialty and exam), the ACGME enacted new Common Program Requirements (CPR) for all ACGME residency and fellowship programs. These new requirements state that completing either an AOA or ACGME-accredited residency is acceptable primary training for entry into all ACGME fellowships.

5. Starting in 2019, the ACGME Dermatology Review Committee also changed their requirements to state that AOA residency training is adequate primary certification for any and all ACGME dermatology fellowships.

The recent changes in US graduate medical education have created a terrible mismatch between training and certification requirements. For example, as of today, the DO program director of an ACGME-accredited Mohs fellowship isn’t eligible to take the ABD MDS exam, but the Mohs fellow that he/she trained is eligible for that exam. DOs who graduated from a former AOA program cannot sit for the ABD MDS, dermatopathology, or pediatric dermatology exams, even if they completed ACGME fellowships in these subspecialty areas, and even though the osteopathic residency they graduated from is now ACGME-accredited.

The ACGME and its dermatology RC have stated that AOA residency training fully qualifies a candidate to complete any and all ACGME dermatology fellowships. We ask that the ABMS stop excluding AOA-certified DO dermatologists who have completed ACGME fellowships from taking the corresponding board exams.

From this point forward, there exist only ACGME training programs in the United States. This means that all DO dermatologists will graduate from ACGME training programs, just like their MD dermatologist colleagues. Why should the ABD exclude competent DOs practicing in all subspecialties of dermatology based on an artificial training distinction that no longer exists?
The field of dermatology is a small, close-knit community of MDs and DOs who have spent decades developing the medical field that we love. Yet today, our specialty is constantly being encroached upon by non-dermatologists and even non-physicians. To protect our specialty and those of us who have attained the highest standards of dermatologic training, we must standardize dermatology certification, just as we have standardized US dermatology training.

We request that the ABD recognize AOBD-certified dermatologists as qualified and eligible to take all ABD subspecialty exams, as well as relevant ABD maintenance of certification exams and/or CertLink.

This allows all dermatologists to participate in ABD certifying exams regardless of primary certification from ABD or AOBD. Allowing both MDs and DOs to take ABD certifying exams aligns certification with the recent unification of graduate medical training under ACGME.

It is time for US dermatologists to present ourselves as one united group, to both regulatory agencies and the public. We must hold ourselves to a single standard, presenting a unified front to the public and to those who would try to usurp our specialty. Our patients deserve this, and so does the future of dermatology.

On behalf of the American Osteopathic Board of Trustees and membership, thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Fraternally,

David W. Cleaver, DO, FAOCD
President, 2021-2022
American Osteopathic College of Dermatology

DWC/maw

Cc: American Osteopathic College of Dermatology Board of Trustees
    Michael Scott, III, DO, President, American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology
    Kevin Klauser, DO, CFO, American Osteopathic Association
    Andrea Giccone, Senior Vice President, Certifying Board Services, American Osteopathic Association

3. ABIM Candidates for Special Consideration – Graduates of AOA-accredited training programs who have completed ACGME-accredited fellowship training: [https://www.abim.org/certification/policies/candidates-for-special-consideration.aspx](https://www.abim.org/certification/policies/candidates-for-special-consideration.aspx)
4. Personal communication with Joshua L. Prober, JD, Senior Vice President & General Counsel, American Osteopathic Association
6. ACGME Program Requirements for Graduate Medical Education in Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Oncology: [https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PAAssets/ProgramRequirements/081_MSDO_2020_July.pdf#ver=2020-06-30-092040-887](https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PAAssets/ProgramRequirements/081_MSDO_2020_July.pdf#ver=2020-06-30-092040-887)
Holiday Greetings to Everyone!!

2021 has been another eventful year in the world. It has presented challenges to dermatologists and patients that have never been faced before. We are very thankful to have great members who have persevered through all the difficulties. Thank you for providing great dermatologic care to all of your patients and figuring out innovative ways to navigate these hardships. Diseases of the skin have not stopped because of the pandemic and neither has our responsibility to take care of patients who need help.

The AOCD has been working for the membership. We successfully completed 2 virtual meetings with a variety of great educational topics and speakers. We are excited about a LIVE meeting in March in Orlando. Please consider attending. Bring your families because it is a great family resort with lots to do. Plus, we want to see everybody. The past couple of years have taught us the value of direct person to person interactions.

The AOCD Board of Trustees unanimously approved a letter to the American Board of Dermatology (ABD). We requested the ABD recognize our American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology (AOBD) board certification as a qualification to take both subspecialty exams and recertification exams offered by the ABD. Currently, those of us certified by the AOBD can take the subspecialty exams and recertification exams offered by the AOBD, but not by the ABD. The more recent DO graduates of ACGME programs (that once were AOA programs) can take both AOBD exams and ABD exams. The AOCD wants to ensure that we have all opportunities available to us. If there are any questions about this, please let us know.

The AOCD needs YOUR help. We want and need to have a continued voice for osteopathic dermatology. The current DO graduates of ACGME residency programs would not have the opportunities they have without the work of generations of DO dermatologists. Many of the current graduates are not becoming members of the AOCD. Your participation is need. We need to be innovative and continue to advocate for osteopathic dermatology. We need your ideas and we need to know what YOU want out of the AOCD. Please consider becoming involved in a committee or as a Board of Trustee. We always need new input and ideas - we welcome it. If you have any questions about any way to participate, I am happy to answer them.

We wish you a happy holiday season and a wonderful 2022.

David Cleaver DO FAOCD
Interested in becoming a D.O. speaker? D.O. dermatology speakers are lately becoming hard to find, and we need to build our numbers back up. If you are interested in joining our D.O. speaking team. Contact Marsha & Shelley at the national office.
Hello Everyone!

We are closing in on the end of the AOA cycle, which is December 31st. All CME hours will need to be sent into the AOA. As of December 21st all AOCD hours will have been uploaded to the AOA CME Portal. If you have hours that you would like to me to put into your CETracker account, you can send those certificates to me at swood@aocd.org, shelleyaocd@gmail.com, or fax them to 660-627-2623.

Not much has been going on in the CME world. We are still awaiting the ACCME decision for re-accreditation. We are still entering activities into the PARS system. We will soon be working on AOA re-accreditation. Cross your fingers that we receive these re-accreditations. When we have our final notice, we will make sure the membership knows.

I will be out of the office beginning December 22nd – January 3rd. I will have limited access to email, but will try to get everything checked and answered as soon as possible.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Shelley
Dermatology Residents
News

events.aocd.org

Click on the tab

INFORMATION:

aocd.org or
AOCD
P.O. Box 7525
Kirkville, Mo 63501
(660) 665-2184
Friends,

While 2020 was unprecedented with regard to navigating new challenges in everyday life, 2021 has not been without its share of struggles and complications. Throughout all of this, you have stood by the AOCD for another year, continuing to support the College and our events.

At the AOCD, we have done our best to make lemonade from the many lemons dealt in the past year, including the unfortunate, but necessary, cancellation of two conferences. We were able to transition both to successful virtual conferences, and we couldn’t have done it without our membership showing up (figuratively). I thank you for that support. I also would like to thank our excellent lineups of meeting faculty for their flexibility and informative lectures. Many thanks also to the Board of Trustees for their work, help, and support as we transitioned from live to virtual.

In spite of a new COVID-19 variant, I have hope that 2022 will be a better year, and we will finally be able to assemble again in person in Orlando. We look forward to another great lineup of lectures and a second track of programming specifically geared to helping residents and students succeed. In addition, the meeting will feature an electronic poster gallery displaying approximately 30 new research posters submitted by residents and students. We hope to see you there.

I wish each of you all the best this holiday season. I hope you are able to enjoy safe and happy holidays with your family and friends. Here’s to a better year in 2022!
AbbVie has been a long time sponsor of the AOCD. For over 10 years they have been a dedicated Gold level sponsor. Even in the pandemic times when other corporations dropped their sponsorship, AbbVie remained dedicated to the AOCD and kept their Gold level sponsorship.

This year AbbVie stepped up their commitment to our organization. Back in September they were the first to become a 2022 annual sponsor. Not only did they once again pledge to become a sponsor, but they increased to the top level we offer. AbbVie was our first Diamond level sponsor. AbbVie has also purchased a product theater at our spring meeting in Orlando.

This is a great way to start off the 2022 drive for sponsorship. It is this kind of commitment to our organization that makes it possible for us to keep our extremely high quality meetings happening.

As members, when you see an AbbVie rep say thank you for your continued support of the AOCD. If you attend our meeting in Orlando, stop by their booth and shake their hands.
Season’s Greetings to all,

For our family it is a very special time of year. As I look back at the past couple years I continue to wish we could just get back to the good old normal.

As I wrap up things for this year our Orlando meeting in March is looking to be a major meeting for the AOCD. There is much interest from vendors. Some are new and several are old friends looking to see people in person. Starting in September I started to see our annual sponsors asking for information. After a lot of digging we were able to locate some new, or new to recent years sponsors. They were pledging to be top level sponsorships. After the past two years this is great news. We have 6 product theaters set for Orlando, and all at meal times. Who says there are no free meals? We had been planning an event for dermatology residents and students, but as of this date interest is being limited. We will keep you posted.

A first for this meeting we have decided to combine the business meeting with the reception. So come enjoy a much more relaxed meeting environment. We will still be handing out awards and swearing in new officers and remarks from our out-going president. Lots of food and fun, oh and the bar will be open!

As I write this note we have less than 80 days until we meet. We are brushing off the cobwebs from our last live in-person meeting, making sure all details are covered.

So in closing as you meet with friends and family this holiday season remember all we have to be thankful for. Also remember those we have lost and pray we all stay safe.
Happy Holidays from our Families to yours.

Pieper Wood daughter of Shelley Wood signed her National letter of intent to continue her softball career at MACC. Pieper ended her high school career with First team All District, All Conference, All Region, All Express Team and All State accolades all four years. She was a major contributor to three district titles and two Final Four appearances. She is the softball program all-time doubles leader and hit by pitch leader.

3 Wise Men

Great Grandma and her Squad

Father’s Day 2021 at the “K”

The newest “Wise Child”
Halloween 2021 Gillian dressed as a ringmaster & Adam as a Power Ranger.

Gillian & Adam helping with the Grogan garden expansion.

Adam graduates from preschool.

Gillian after her performance in the middle school holiday musical.
Who wore out who?  Champs!  Dog cousins visit, this is my house!

New roof  New grandson  Brothers feeding the goats

Lily  Travis  Matt  Jack  Jason  Brian Jr.

The Wood family in LaPlata Red, imagine that!  The softball team
We were invited to meet with the President, but we were locked out.

“Life” on the Road, Never a dull moment!

That’s a Wrap!
When I'm done this year, I'm heading to Orlando

Details at: aocd.org or events.aocd.org

Current Concepts in Dermatology
March 10-13, 2022  JW Marriott Orlando Grande Lakes
4040 Central Florida Pkwy  Orlando, FL 32837

Details at: aocd.org or events.aocd.org
SAVE the DATE

JW Marriott
Orlando Grande Lakes
MARCH 10-13, 2022

AOCD
AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGY
FOUNDED 1958

Westin
Downtown Denver, CO
SEPT 22-25, 2022

The Hilton
West Palm Beach, FL
FEB 20-26, 2023

AOCD CME MEETINGS

The Westin
Kierland Scottsdale, AZ
APRIL 9-15, 2024

The Hilton
West Palm Beach, FL
FEB 17-23, 2025
Office Update

Normal office hours. Monday - Friday 8:00 am till 5:00 pm cst.

We have updated our office computer system. All laptops and desktops are networked together with our servers and keep current updates. Our cell phones are integrated into our computers and phone system. We can always be reached, and will get back to you as soon as possible.

Note our phone system uses an auto attendant so you can move directly to the person you request.

As always, you can reach us by email here:

Marsha Wise - Executive Director  mwise@aocd.org
John Grogan - Member services  grogan@aocd.org
Shelley Wood - Education / CME  swood@aocd.org
John Wise - Events / Vendor  jwise@aocd.org

Contact US
AOCD
PO Box 7525
Kirksville, MO 63501
660-627-2623 (fax)
dermatology@aocd.org

Visit us on the web at www.aocd.org