October 29, 2019

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AOMA 39th Annual Fall Seminar is This Weekend! Pre-Register and Save $30.

The Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association 39th Annual Fall Seminar will be held November 2 & 3, 2019 at the El Conquistador Resort in Tucson, Arizona. The theme of this year's event is *Honoring Our Heritage, Shaping Our Future*. Specialty credits planned for the Seminar include OMM, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, Gastroenterology, and Psychiatry.

AOMA designates this conference for a maximum of 13.25 hours of AOA Category 1-A CME credits. TUNCOM designates this live activity for a maximum of 13.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. AAFP prescribed credits are available.

Full agenda and registration are available at [www.az-osteo.org/FallSeminar](http://www.az-osteo.org/FallSeminar)

Dr. Karen Nichols is New Chair-Elect of ACGME

The board of directors for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) announced American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Past President Karen J. Nichols, DO, is its new chair-elect.

Dr. Nichols will continue to serve on the ACGME's executive committee, remain the chair of the governance committee, and serve as a member of the standing committees for education, policy, and monitoring. She was the ACGME board’s vice chair last year.

Dr. Nichols was the first woman to serve as president of the AOA, president of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association, and
Congratulations, Dr. Nichols.

**Dinner with Doctors IV**
More than 50 students and 20 physicians enjoyed an evening of socializing and networking at the fourth annual Dinner with Doctors on Friday, October 18, 2019. The Maricopa County Medical Society (MCMS) Courtyard was a beautiful venue on a warm, fall night. Good food and great conversation created a casual, comfortable atmosphere that allowed students to ask questions of the physicians and learn how to get involved with AOMA. Thank you to Mutual Insurance Company of Arizona (MICA) and MCMS for your support of this event. We are sorry if you missed this great evening. Plan on joining us next year!

![Dinner with Doctors IV](image)

**View the rest of the photos from Dinner with Doctors** [here](#).

**Congratulations Arizona Omega Beta Iota Inductees!**
Last Friday Omega Beta Iota (OBI), the National Political Advocacy Honor Society, inducted four outstanding Arizona student advocates and AOMA Executive Director Pete Wertheim as an honorary member. Congratulations Student Doctors Jacob Berg, SOMA OMS III, Aubrey Ingram AZCOM OMS II, Avrohom Levy AZCOM OMS II, and Chelsea Nagayama, SOMA OMS I for making a difference through advocacy. Thank you OBI Board Member Kasie Dorr, SOMA OMS III for her leadership on the national stage working with OBI and promoting AACO’s [EdtoMed.com](#) initiative and other programs in support of medical students.

**2020 AOMA DO Day at the State Legislature**
Advocate for your profession and plan to attend DO Day at the State Legislature on Tuesday, February 18, 2020. The DO Day at the State Legislature provides a great opportunity to get an up close view of the legislative process and to meet your legislators. The day begins with an orientation followed by presentations from key legislators on healthcare issues. AOMA will help you arrange individual meetings with your legislators and you will have the opportunity to attend House or Senate hearings throughout the day.

Go to [www.az-osteo.org/DODayRSVP](http://www.az-osteo.org/DODayRSVP).

**AOMA 98th Annual Convention - Save the Date!**
Plan to attend the AOMA 98th Annual Convention - the largest annual medical conference in Arizona - April 1 - 5, 2020 at our NEW LOCATION Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale Resort. The theme of the 2020 Convention is Finding Health. The five-day CME event is anticipated to offer more than 35.0 hours of AOA Category 1-A credit and has been approved for AMA PRA Category 1 credits™.

Registration is open at www.az-osteo.org/2020Conv

Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)

It is important for all prescribers to understand and comply with Arizona’s legal requirements for prescribers to utilize the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). Arizona Revised Statutes 36-2606 requires that before prescribing an opioid analgesic or benzodiazepine controlled substance listed in Schedule II, III, or IV to a patient that prescribers shall obtain a utilization report from the PMP regarding the patient for the preceding twelve months at the beginning of each new course of treatment and at least quarterly while that prescription remains a part of the treatment. There are some exceptions, e.g. prescriptions for hospice patients, etc., so please refer to the statute for more information.

This law has been in effect since October 16, 2017. There is escalating attention by policymakers and regulators on the low utilization rates of the PMP as required by law. According to the Arizona Board of Pharmacy, more than half of prescribers who prescribed an opioid analgesic or a benzodiazepine in the prior month did not check the PMP. If you have not done so already, we strongly urge you to integrate routine checking of the PMP into your clinical practice.

Here are resources to help you use the PMP and understand your prescribing requirements under Arizona law:

- Arizona Board of Pharmacy website https://pharmacypmp.az.gov for informative videos on PMP registration and usage.
- For information about Arizona’s opioid prescribing laws, visit www.AzRxEd.org to view a free continuing medical education (CME) program for healthcare professionals that provides the latest information about Arizona’s opioid laws and regulations, prescribing guidelines, and treatment options for opioid use disorder.
2019 Health Current Summit and Trade Show - November 13 & 14

Arizona’s position as a national leader in healthcare information technology collaboration will be on full display at the 2019 Health Current Summit & Trade Show in Glendale, Arizona. Health Current, Arizona’s health information exchange (HIE), welcomes visionary healthcare professionals from across the industry to its 12th annual Summit. The two-day event is designed to provide national, regional, and local updates in the interoperability space, and to share HIE best practices. Historically, the event draws a broad audience of attendees, including hospital and health plan leaders, health IT staff, providers, practice managers, and vendors. To learn more and register, visit www.healthcurrent.org.

Attention VFC and CHIP Providers: Order Your Flu Vaccine Now
Flu season is upon us. The Arizona Immunization Program Office (AIPO) has ample amount of flu vaccine available to order by VFC and CHIP providers. If you haven't ordered yet, or need to reorder, please contact the AIPO at ArizonaVFC@azdhs.gov or 602-364-3642.

We Want Your Two Cents - Literally!
You can make Arizona Osteopathic Charities a big bucks winner by making a pledge in the Birdies for Charity competition at the 2020 Waste Management Phoenix Open. Arizona Osteopathic Charities will receive every penny of collected pledges. To make a pledge online go to birdiesforcharityaz.com.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in Arizona
Arizona has experienced an increase in the number of severe cases of Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF), including two deaths. RMSF is a serious illness that can be fatal if not treated promptly and with appropriate antibiotic therapy, even in previously healthy people.

- Consider RMSF in adults and children, especially coming from tribal communities, presenting with acute onset of fever, headache, stomach pain, and myalgia; A macular or maculopapular rash might appear 2-4 days following illness onset; Late signs of disease can be altered mental status, respiratory compromise, multiorgan system damage, and full body petechial or purpuric rash.
- If RMSF is suspected, treat with doxycycline immediately! Do not delay initiation of treatment waiting for the appearance of rash or test results. Treatment is most effective at preventing death if doxycycline is started in the first 5 days from onset. There is no contraindication to using doxycycline in children (see https://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/doxycycline/index.html)
- Test your patient: Submit whole blood samples for PCR testing through the Arizona State Public Health Laboratory, for approval please contact your local health department or vbzd@azdhs.gov.  
- Report suspected RMSF cases to your local health department.
For more information:

New clinical training modules are available for healthcare providers (Free Continuing Education): [https://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/resources/module.html](https://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/resources/module.html)

Rocky Mountain spotted fever, ADHS: [https://www.azdhs.gov/rmsf](https://www.azdhs.gov/rmsf)

Rocky Mountain spotted fever, CDC: [https://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/rmsf/index.html)


Diagnosis and Management of Tickborne Rickettsial Diseases: Rocky Mountain spotted fever and other Spotted Fever Group Rickettsioses, Ehrlichioses and Anaplasmosis – United States ([https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/pdfs/rr6502.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/pdfs/rr6502.pdf)).

**And the Winner is.......**

Congratulations to Darren Deering, DO, of Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Deering updated his member profile on the AOMA website and was entered into the member drawing for a $100 VISA gift card.

Update your profile by January 31, 2020 for a chance to win! You could be our next winner.

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**Patients are Looking for YOU!**

**Update Your Profile!**

One of the benefits of AOMA membership is the Find a Physician public directory

**Arizona Vaccine News**

**Not an AOMA Member?**

Join today and be a part of the 98-year tradition of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association!

Membership in AOMA is an affordable vehicle to keep abreast of national and local issues, protect
search. Make sure your practice information is up to date by logging in to your member profile on the AOMA website. When you do, prospective patients and potential referring physicians will be able to find you.

your professional practice, enhance your specialized skills, further your career, and be a part of the future of osteopathic medicine in Arizona.

Refer a new AOMA member and receive at $100 credit. Go to www.az-osteo.org/Recruit

AOMA Calendar of Events- www.az-osteo.org

AOMA Board of Trustees Meeting - November 1, 2019
AOMA 39th Annual Fall Seminar - November 2 & 3, 2019
AOMA House of Delegates - November 2, 2019
AOMA Board of Trustees Meeting - February 8, 2020
AOMA DO Day at the Legislature - February 18, 2020

The AOMA Dispatch is published monthly. Direct your questions and comments to AOMA at communications@az-osteo.org

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