

February 15, 2017 MOMA Newsletter

Greetings to all Montana DO's from MOMA!

Out of respect of the fact that many of you actually read our newsletters, and my time constraints, I do try to limit these newsletters to one a year, or more for pressing issues that sometimes occur.

So, with that in mind: Our August/2016 CME continued to be a successful yearly event. We had about 40 attendees, changed our location to Buck's T-4, on the highway at Big Sky, MT. This venue turned out to be a positive: the meeting and exhibit rooms were very pleasant and the outdoors is hard not to enjoy in Big Sky, MT. We are returning to this facility on Aug 3-6, 2017. Again, this will be a 25+ hour CME with AOA category 1-A, and AAFP prescribed credits applied for. You can contact the Billings Clinic CME department on their website for details as they are completed, and should be receiving info from them in the next few months (if you are not on our mailing list/or CME attendee list and somehow are seeing this newsletter, please contact us at email addresses listed in this newsletter). We continue to have a win-win situation with the Billings Clinic CME department, who we contract with to co-sponsor this event. As all of you know who have attended before, the Billings Clinic CME staff is of the highest quality, and seem to enjoy their time with us. We continue to thank them for their time and resources. We are planning on arranging a fishing outfitter to provide a discount on guided fishing trips,



either before or after the conference. As all of you know who attend, we pack hours into these 4 days, from noon on Thursday, to noon on Sunday; so there is little time to play during the conference. But you are right in the middle of some of the best Big Sky Country, and may want to come early or stay late to take advantage of this area for its many recreational opportunities.

For those of you who have not been involved/informed about our profession nationally, we continue to adjust to the single accreditation process for graduate medical education (GME). Most Osteopathic specialties/programs are involved in an application for ACGME accreditation (the allopathic accrediting body), and, in turn, many are applying for Osteopathic recognition thru the ACGME for their program. There are also allopathic (MD, ACGME accredited) programs who have applied for and/or been approved for the Osteopathic recognition pathway, including the Family Medicine programs in Missoula and Billings. There are now Osteopathic physicians in the leadership structure of the ACGME, including a VP, who are there for this purpose. This pathway was established to maintain our professions' distinctiveness and allow us to continue to influence in a positive way the practice of medicine in the US. No one argues with Osteopathic principles as the best approach to the patient, and most physicians strive to practice with this approach in mind. Making this a structured part of training, including OMT in appropriate specialties, is our challenge. This process, I think, has made many of us more aware of what it means to be an Osteopathic physician. Defining what this means and how education can be structured to focus some on this philosophy will continue to be our challenge. To those who have heard the comment that the two professions are merging, you have not received good information. There certainly may be more common ground in the future, with resident matching, board testing as 2 possible examples. But we owe it to the practice of medicine not to lose sight of what has made our profession successful for so many years, and continue to make it a part of medical education at all levels: medical school, residency, and CME.

Attached [here](#) is a letter from the pre-med director at MSU, Dr. Nielsen, in Bozeman concerning pre-med students and the need for shadowing us in our practices. If you are receiving only a snail mail copy of this newsletter, you can go to our website in the near future for this attachment to this current newsletter. We certainly want to do our best to promote medicine as a profession in Montana's youth, we all need to be replaced and added to in the future. Please consider helping MSU in this process. We had MSU students come to last year's CME, and attend the Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation's gala event in

Oregon last March, a rewarding experience for all of us. (As a U of M (grizzly) graduate myself or Montana's other undergraduate schools, I certainly don't want to ignore them, but we have had no formal contact with them about this issue.)

On the topic of the Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation, this non-profit foundation continues to support MOMA and the 4 other NW state associations financially and otherwise. The foundation has a strong scholarship program, and one scholarship (Shirley Carpenter endowment) gives preference to Osteopathic medical students from Montana. You can go to their website:

www.nwosteo.org for more info, and we thank them for the many years they have supported us.

MOMA, and our CME, has been focused on primary care (our CME title has primary care in it). But we have always appreciated our non-primary care DO's who attend our CME, and also as many of our educators. I strive to find ways to involve all DO's more in MOMA, and want you to understand that any support you give to us is appreciated. To have an association to come to with questions/issues, so that we can have a thoughtful, collective approach to any subject is so important, and most physicians, both MD and DO are busy enough to not appreciate the need for this. There are about 200 practicing DO's in Montana, and this certainly means we are a smaller group to start with. But with 1 in 4 current medical students attending Osteopathic medical schools, this number is bound to increase. Again, MOMA appreciates all of you, and your contributions to the practice of medicine. Please contact me with any questions/suggestions on our website: Montana Osteopathic Medical Association (www.mtoma.org), where you will also find updates on our activities. Our dues year is July 1-June 30, so any of you who would still like to pay your dues this year-if you go to our website and look under membership tab, there is a link to our membership form. Dues continue to be \$200.00 a year. You should also receive a dues statement for next year (beginning July 1st) late this spring. We look forward to seeing any of you at our CME, and will do our best to inform you and support you in any way we can.



I hope you enjoyed this update!

Handwritten signature of Don Grewell in blue ink.

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PS - Thanks to the **Northwest Osteopathic Medical Foundation** for the assistance with this e-newsletter!