

# **Annual Report 2020**



**American Osteopathic  
College of Anesthesiologists**



## Mission/Vision

The mission of the AOCA is to promote the osteopathic concept of disease, advance the standards of practice, and provide the opportunity for study and training in the art and science of anesthesiology. Additionally, it is the mission of the AOCA to act as an advocate on behalf of osteopathic physicians who practice anesthesiology.



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## What is the AOCA?

The American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologists (**AOCA**) is a national membership organization that promotes the interests of osteopathic anesthesiologists by improving the quality of training, education, and patient care as it relates to anesthesia and pain management.

Osteopathic medicine emphasizes the "whole person" approach to patient care. Osteopathic physicians (DO's) receive extra training in the musculoskeletal system and embrace a philosophy of health rather than simply treating disease.

The American College of Osteopathic Anesthesiologists exists to:

- Support quality anesthesia and pain management medical care
- Promote the interests of osteopathic anesthesiologists
- Support development and implementation of osteopathic anesthesia and pain management medical education
- Advance the philosophy and practice of osteopathic medicine through a system of quality and cost-effective healthcare in a distinct, unified profession

# President's MESSAGE



**Robert Vandergraaf, DO, FAOCA**

I started writing this article in November of 2020, with just about 40 business days into my Presidency. In that time, I have sat on numerous Zoom meetings with the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors, and the Finance & Budget Committee. Ms. Kahlfeldt and I speak weekly (and many times more than that) and she has this knack for filling my email box with all the very important business of the College that gets accomplished behind the scenes. My respect for AOCA's presidents, and leaders overall, has always been strong...and now that I am in the thick of it...well let's say that I truly understand the magnitude of this position.

2020 was quite a year! Your College met the challenges head on with integrity. Leaders were pushed like never before and difficult decisions were not taken lightly. As I look toward 2021, I am hopeful for our College, our members, and our world. We will survive, and while things may look and feel differently, our College will Thrive!

As President, Dr. Kyff began to explore opportunities for collaboration with the American Osteopathic Association as well as the American Society for Anesthesiologists. Those of you who attended VAPOR, heard messages from Dr. Klauer and Dr. Elmassian about the efforts to keep the house of anesthesiology working together toward a bright and safe future. I plan to continue these efforts and expand where I can do so, as I believe together, we are stronger. The Board of Governors is ready for change and improvement. We are looking at the strategic plan, making sure it reflects the ever-changing environment of osteopathic medicine, anesthesiology, and the dare-I-say-it "new normal." Last year we took great strides to update the Bylaws. In 2021, we will be reviewing our standard operating policies and the strategic plan. These are HUGE projects that take hours of your leaders' time and energy. I am so thankful that I have wonderful and engaged colleagues on the Board of Governors who are ready to tackle these projects.

I will continue to build upon the momentum that Dr. Kyff began with the ASA leadership. I look forward to meeting with them and collaborating where it makes sense. From their strong legislative initiatives on behalf of anesthesiologist to their willingness to share information for the College, I am ready to continue to be the voice of the DO on your behalf.

This year the AOCA needs YOU. I encourage all members to consider volunteering and sharing their time and talent with one another. An open call for volunteers was made shortly after my inauguration. This is very important to me and I would like to personally invite each of you to thoughtfully consider how you can give back to the College. As Winston Churchill said, "You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."

I hope you will feel inspired to help and volunteer. I wish you will feel encouraged and earn your Fellow designation. I urge you to recognize others when you see nominations for the Distinguished Service Award, the Timothy Ernst Scholarship, the Arnold Gold Humanism Award. I invite you to help take the College forward.

I leave you with the objectives from the original charter of the College and encourage you to help me meet and exceed the expectations set by our founding fathers:

1. Advance the standards of practice and quality of service in the field of anesthesiology
2. To aid in improving the educational opportunities for training in anesthesiology
3. To promote the concept of disease as related to anesthesiology
4. To establish standards for membership
5. To maintain and promote the highest moral and ethical standards in the practice anesthesiology
6. To assist the functions of component regional osteopathic societies of anesthesiology

# Past President's MESSAGE



Jeffrey Kyff, DO, FAOCA

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in the moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy – Martin Luther King, Jr.

As I look at this last year, this quote makes sense for AOCA, IF it is changed just a bit:

The ultimate measure of an **ORGANIZATION** is not where **It** stands in the moments of comfort, but where **It** stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Challenge and controversy?! 2020 was tough for all of us! There was no case study to base our “next moves”; we did all with the knowledge that it could implode at any minute. Our members were called to tremendous acts of heroism during a global pandemic. Many of us were furloughed, facing very uncertain futures. We saw our favorite local “joints” close, stood in line to buy groceries, and did it all wearing masks.

Yet here we are surviving. We continue to serve our patients with care. We learned how to ZOOM from home, from the office, and sometimes from the hospital. We have found unique ways to stay connected and we all look to a time when we can be together in person.

I am so very proud to serve with a tremendous board of caring leaders. So much happened behind the scenes, things you would not believe, and your College’s Board of Governors stood resilient. We made a difficult decision to move forward with an in-person meeting as the country was literally shutting down. We pivoted to a virtual conference that was our best attended conference ever! We adapted and grew to better serve the immediate and long-term needs of our members.

Thank you for your trust with our decisions this past year. None of them were made lightly or without substantial thought and consideration for our fellow College peers. I look forward to serving with Dr. Vandergraaf in the pilot’s seat. The succession of board members, presidents to come, is truly impressive. We are in very good hands in the coming years. Please consider joining our leadership team. We are nothing without you, our members.

# Membership



Ursula N. Landman,  
DO, FAOCA,  
Membership  
Committee Chair

The membership committee is committed to supply members with information, access, and the educational resources necessary to build a strong professional career. Our goal is to provide a lifelong membership experience that begins the first day of medical school all the way through retirement.

We are excited to head into a new year with several member-focused projects designed to encourage engagement especially, from our student, resident and

early career physicians. The new year will focus on enhancing member benefits, creating micro-communities within the College for members to network within shared interests, while providing first class education in various ways.

Although COVID-19 has brought endless stress and challenges, it pushed AOCA into a special opportunity during the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. AOCA hosted a breakout session where students had virtual face-to-face time with program

## Watch a highlight of the Residency Q&A Student Breakout Session from VAPOR



directors and associated program delegates from residency programs. Students were introduced to a handful of traditional DO programs and participated in a Q&A about case type/load, features of programs. Our members are stewards of the College's mission; combined we

are a force that continues to advocate on behalf of our osteopathic physician colleagues who practice anesthesiology.

# Testimonials



"As is the case for many DO students, my core rotation site offered very little exposure to the field of anesthesiology, and I felt fortunate to land one of the few rotations that were available. When it was over, I wanted more. Fortunately, I found AOCA. As a student member, I gained access to anesthesia-specific knowledge and career advice. Most importantly, I was able to meet many amazing DO anesthesiologists through networking events which helped me to feel comfortable and accepted as a member of this wonderful community."

– Micah Shook, OMS-IV, Student Member



"I joined the AOCA when I was a resident and it was one of the best professional decisions I ever made. Not only did my career long membership enhance my career, I made lifelong friends and contacts all over the United States. After training many residents over my 36-year career, my goal was to mentor them into positions of leadership and service. It gave me a great deal of pride to witness them get involved and enjoy serving our great organization. This year, following retirement, I transitioned into life membership, but I still plan to attend meetings to keep up with advances and to spend time with dear friends!"

– Toni R. Patterson, DO, FAOCA, Life Member,  
2012 – 2013 AOCA President

# BY THE Numbers

AOCA represents a diverse community of practicing, early career, retired anesthesiologists, residents in training and student members representing practices in academia, hospitals, private practice and more.

81

Retired Members



477

Active Members  
(including Military  
and Associate  
Members)

54

1st, 2nd and 3rd  
Year Practicing  
Members

174

Resident  
Members



378

Student Members

\*As of December 9, 2020

94

Life Members



# Professional EDUCATION



**Jennifer Hargrave, DO, FAOCA**  
**Professional Education Committee Chair**

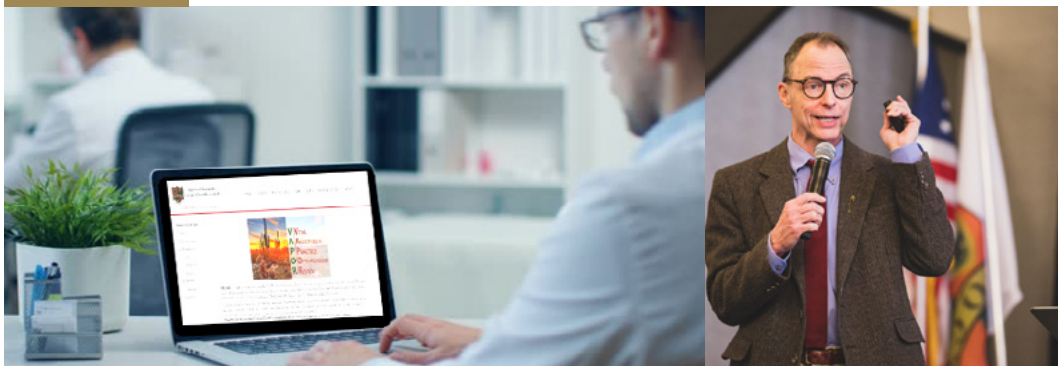
As a new year begins, I am pleased to announce that the Pro Ed Committee will be Co-chaired during the upcoming year. Dr. Jessica Goeller has accepted, and we look forward to her contributions towards education within the AOCA.

**“Having a record year!”** Despite a challenging year, I am pleased to announce that 2020 was a record year for interest and attendance of AOCA educational offerings. The impact of COVID 19 has been felt throughout the College, and by “taking lemons, and making lemonade,” the AOCA entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century and pivoted to a virtual meeting. Transitioning to virtual format, certainly limited the time together, conversing and relationship building, one of my favor aspects of AOCA events, but we still found ways.

A strategic goal has been to reach out to the osteopathic anesthesiologists, who may not be aware of the AOCA. With the impressive content recruited by the Pro Ed Committee and the 2020 Annual Conference Chairperson, Dr. Jessica Goeller, and the new virtual format, we were highly successful. Traditionally, 25 percent of our attendees are allopathically trained, but this year, we saw that almost 40 percent of our 2020 Annual Conference attendees fall into this category. This is an exciting statistic as the AOCA welcomes a new community into our family.

The future is unknown. Certainly, a virtual component of our meetings will be present in the future. The 2021 Midyear Seminar will remain completely virtual, but if conditions allow, we look forward to meeting in-person (with a virtual attendance option) at the 2021 Annual Conference at the Breakers.

To the members, thank you for your input and support of the Pro Ed Committee. The Pro Ed Committee unites to produce these conferences and meet the needs of the AOCA community. If you have ideas or suggestions, please reach out to Dr. Goeller or myself.



# 47th Annual Mid-Year Seminar

CHICAGO, IL  
March 13-15 2020

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## What Participants Had To Say...

"This AOCA conference was perfect in all aspects. I gained useful clinical information that I could use in my medical practice."

"In a trying time I thought everything was well managed and great early updates on COVID situation."

"Very well organized and adaptable to the situation. The lectures presented from "afar" were well done on short notice."



230+  
Registrations

20+  
Speakers



22  
AMA PRA  
Category 1  
Credit™



22  
AOA  
Category 1-A  
Credit

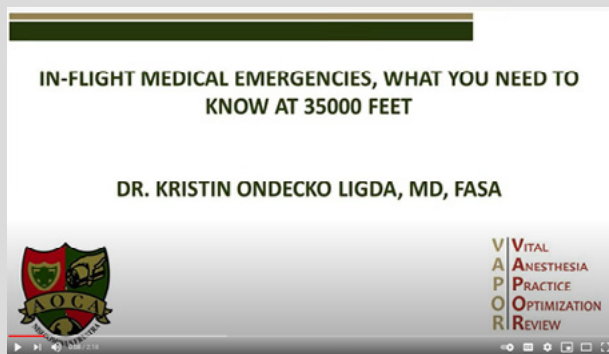


# 68<sup>TH</sup> Annual Conference

## Vital Anesthesia Practice Optimization Review

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, AOCA pivoted from planning a in person event and embarked on our first-ever virtual conference during September 19 – 22, 2020. Participants joined the College for a 4-day comprehensive clinical review and professional development symposium.

Watch VAPOR's nationally recognized speakers in action!



### What Participants Had To Say...

“It is unfortunate that we were unable to attend this conference in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, this virtual conference has been very well put together. I appreciate the comments and question and answer time spent after each lecture. This has been a very pleasant experience. Thank you for all your hard work and countless hours, they have paid off and all the rest of us have benefitted greatly from your commitment to this specialty. Thank you!!”

“Great session, convenient, comfortable, less distractions and financially provides updates in CME at a fraction of the cost.”

“This is the best AOCA conference with outstanding topics and speakers. Thanks for the hard work in putting this conference together.”

Record Breaking  
400+  
Registrations

30+  
Speakers

30.5  
AMA PRA  
Category 1  
Credit<sup>TM</sup>

*Innovative  
Corporate  
Support  
Partners*

30.5  
AOA  
Category  
1-A Credit

Flexible  
Virtual  
Participation

# Awards & HONORS



**Suzanne Huffnagle, DO, FAOCA**  
Awards Honors Committee Chair

AOCA has a rich and diverse series of honors, awards, and scholarships that it bestows on members.

We are extremely proud of our members who do so much for the industry, their patients, and the specialty. We look forward to when we can safely meet again

in person and formally induct and recognize these outstanding physicians during the special conclave ceremony during the Annual Convention.

AOCA encourages all members to consider nominating those in our field who display compassion for anesthesia, patients, and humanity.



## **2020 Timothy D. Ernst Scholarship Recipient**

Chelsea Cambria, DO

“My mentors have instilled a drive in me to continue to be not only a great physician but a kind, humble person and leader. They’ve inspired me to use the knowledge that has been handed down and continue my journey of practicing medicine keeping the value of osteopathy alive in anesthesia. It is an honor for me to continue this great legacy of osteopathic education in anesthesia and to contribute to the future of our field.”

## **Watch the CM Esterline Lecture**

Watch Dr. Davidson’s story from the night of the 2017 Las Vegas Mass Shooting as she shares her lessons learned that has changed her practice forever.



2020 Awardees & Honorees were recognized during our virtual 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference – Vital Anesthesia Practice Optimization Review. Preview the special video below.



## **2020 Fellows**

Marvina Amerson  
DO, FAOCA

Farys Chowdhury  
DO, FAOCA

Jessica Goeller  
DO, FAOCA

Steven Insler  
DO, FAOCA

David Paul  
DO, FAOCA

Timothy Gleason  
DO, FAOCA

Richard Hughes  
DO, FAOCA

William McCord  
DO, FAOCA

## **Distinguished Service Award**

Kenneth Elmassian  
DO, FASA, FAOCA

Raymond Depa  
DO, FAOCA

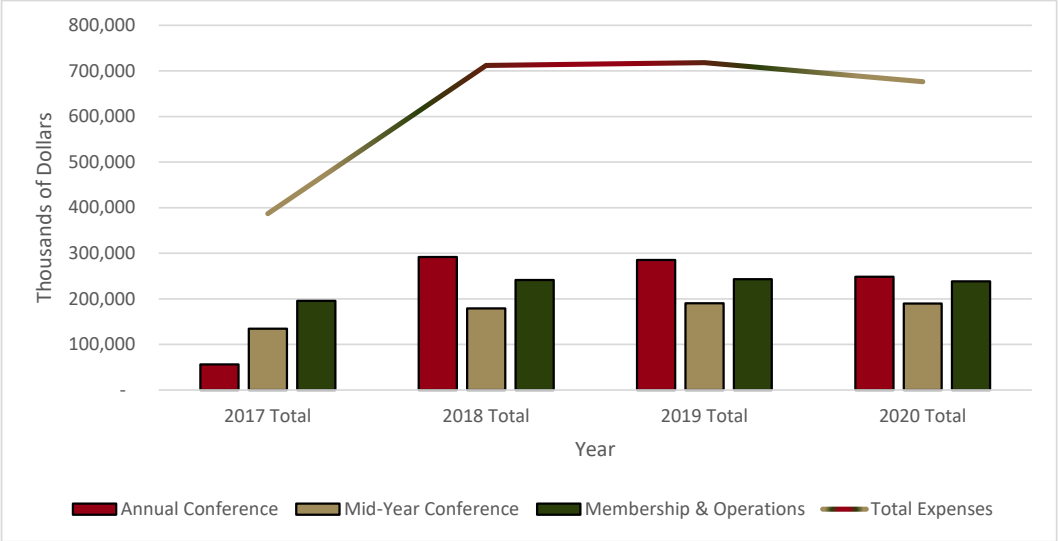
## **CM Esterline Lecturer**

Stephanie Davidson  
DO, FASA

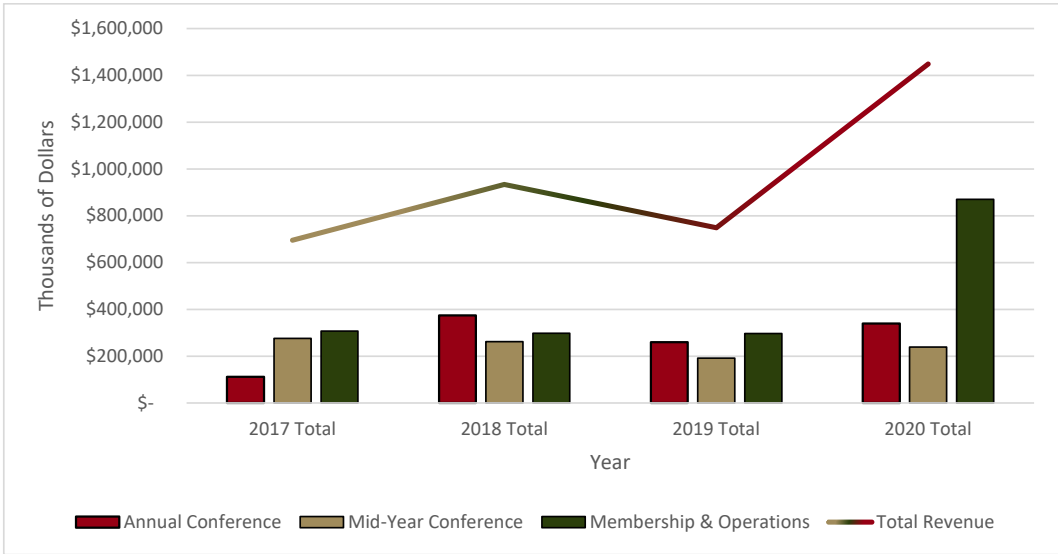
# Finance

## REPORT

### EXPENSES FOR FY2020



### REVENUE FOR FY2020





#### CONTACT

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## 2020 Board of Governors

### OFFICERS

#### President

Jeffrey V. Kyff, DO, FAOCA

#### President-Elect

Robert C. Vandergraaf, DO,  
FAOCA

#### Vice President

David J. Ninan, DO, FAOCA

#### Immediate Past President/ Treasurer

Thomas P. Costello, DO,  
FAOCA

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### GOVERNORS

James Griffin, DO, FAOCA

Gerald Hale, DO, FAOCA

Jennifer Hargrave, DO,  
FAOCA

Suzanne Huffnagle, DO,  
FAOCA

Ursula Landman, DO, FAOCA

Martin Laskey, DO, FAOCA

Theresa Rickelman, DO,  
FAOCA