



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Marvina
Amerson
DO, FAOCA**

**Board of Governor, Chair
Governance Committee**

**Current Employer: Central Alabama Veterans Health
Care System**

**Current Professional Position: Anesthesiology Service
Chief**

COM: Georgia Health Science University

**Residency Program: Oklahoma State University
College of Osteopathic Medicine**

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What is the biggest challenge facing the field of anesthesia?
The loss of Osteopathic Residencies with the union of the ACGME

What is most rewarding about serving as a volunteer leader in the AOCA?

Being a mentor to the younger members and sharing our history of where we have been and where we are headed.

What advice would you give to someone who is interested in leadership?

Make the time to make a difference. Change can be made in the positive with leaders that have heart.

The AOCA is committed to Community. How has your interaction with the College fostered your community?

I have made strong friendships through the AOCA for the last 38 years. We come together to discuss anesthesia, family, and life events.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Suzanne
Huffnagle DO,
FAOCA, FASA**

**Board of Governor, DSA
Recipient,
Chair Awards & Honors &
Scholarly Activities
Committees**



**Current Employer: Thomas Jefferson University
Hospital**

**Current Professional Position: Clinical Professor of
Anesthesiology & Obstetrics & Gynecology**

COM: PCOM

**Residency Program: Thomas Jefferson University
Hospital (Sidney Kimmel Medical College)**

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What is the biggest challenge facing the field of anesthesia?

I think that we, as anesthesia providers, face many challenges today and one of them is not to lose our identity in the medical field. I work at an allopathic institution and our best clinicians are the osteopaths in our department, hands down.

What is most rewarding about serving as a volunteer leader in the AOCA?

Serving on committees and on the BOG is so rewarding because my efforts help to better our college and continue to make it stand out among other anesthesia organizations. I have seen the AOCA grow and become a very professional organization that has much to give to its members and the anesthesia community. For instance, when the Scholarly Activities Committee started out, we just chose the best article sent in by our residents and gave that author an award. We have come so far that we now rival our larger counterparts with medical student and resident presentations that promote their hard work and teach us all vital medical research and difficult anesthesia case management.

What advice would you give to someone who is interested in leadership?

Please make your interest known. You will not regret it. This organization is welcoming and very willing to promote your efforts at every turn. You will grow professionally and personally through that volunteering. You will learn leadership skills and you will truly make a change for the better.

The AOCA is committed to Community. How has your interaction with the College fostered your community?

I have learned so much being a member of the AOCA and the BOG. I have developed leadership skills, and I feel that in my retirement years, I will be able to serve my community and my church community better. I was asked a long time ago to be on the board of directors of my church and I turned them down as I lacked the knowledge and skills to be a good representative of our congregation, but now I feel that I can serve in that capacity if I am asked again. I have also learned how to ask people to help me with projects without being overly intimidated and shy. I have gained confidence and communication skills that have made me a better, more well-rounded person.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

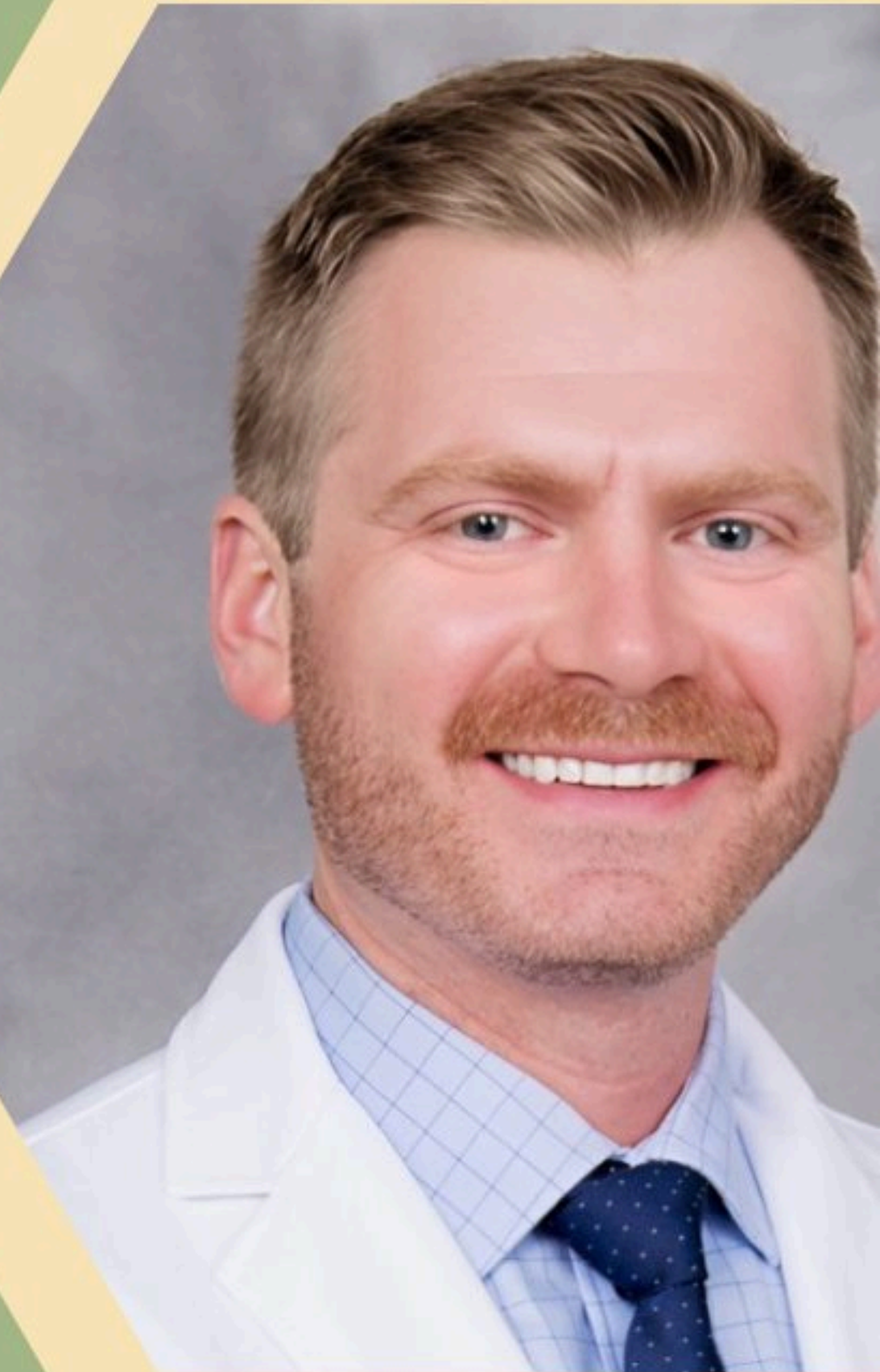
**Bradley Barnett,
DO, MHA**

**AOCA/AOF Resident of
the Year**

Staff Anesthesiologist at
Seven Hills Anesthesia, LLC

COM: University of Pikeville
Kentucky

Residency Program:
OhioHealth Doctors
Hospital



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Can you share a specific experience or moment that inspired your interest in medicine?

Growing up with a pediatrician as my mother instilled in me a deep appreciation for the ways in which physicians touch the lives of their patients by providing both physical and emotional healing and comfort. Rounding with her in the hospital on the weekends fostered a sense of compassion and dedication that ultimately led me to pursue my career as an anesthesiologist.

What courses or subjects have you found most interesting and relevant to your medical studies?

My interest in pharmacology and pathophysiology in medical school really inspired me to pursue anesthesia as a speciality. I enjoy understanding the intricate mechanisms of disease and how pharmacological intervention can be applied to ensure safe and effective patient care.

Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?

In ten years, my greatest hope is to be happy and content with my life. I have professional and personal goals for growth and development, but I also hope to find more time to enjoy life with my family and friends.

How do you stay updated with the latest developments and advancements in the medical field?

Though I have mixed feelings about social media, I believe it to be a powerful tool in remaining up to date with new recommendations and guidelines. It provides brief and digestible content, as well as newer technical skills, tips, and tricks that can be applied in my practice. It is an easy way to be guided to peer-reviewed articles and journals. I also really enjoy listening to the "Anesthesia and Critical Care Reviews and Commentary (ACCRAC)" podcast with Dr. Jed Wolpaw from Johns Hopkins.

How do you plan to continue your education and professional development throughout your career in medicine?

I really enjoy being involved with teaching medical students and residents, and it provides me with a motivation to pursue educational opportunities to remain current with evidence-based practices and new techniques that help me provide better care to patients. In addition to MOCA/CME courses, I hope to continue to learn from my colleagues and continue to read current, peer-reviewed literature.

What does it mean to you to have earned the AOCA/AOF Resident of the Year Award?

My full statement can be read on the AOCA website, but I feel very honored and humbled to have received this honor. I owe most of my growth and success in this profession to my family, teachers, mentors, colleagues, and patients. It is inspiring to be a part of a community of anesthesiologists like this one, and I hope to continue to inspire others in the same way. The monetary award was really helpful to me between the end of residency, taking boards, and starting my first attending job, so for that I am very grateful.

How do you plan to stay involved with the AOCA as you move forward on your career path?

As I get more settled into life after residency, I hope to be more involved with the AOCA. This year, I hope to be able to attend the annual Convention and Conclave in Palm Springs, and I hope to meet more people there!



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Matthias
Franzen, DO,
MHA

Member of the Future of the
Field Committee

Program Director & Director of
Osteopathic Education at
OhioHealth

COM: Des Moines University

Residency Program: OhioHealth
Doctor's Hospital



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What steps would you take to foster a positive and inclusive learning environment within the academic programs you oversee?

Creating a positive learning environment is one where residents and learners can feel free to voice their opinions and concerns. This is done through open communication and giving each of them time to meet individually in a manner where they are both heard and respected. When done so in a productive manner, this has assisted the program with developing and creating new curriculum ideas from not only content but how it is delivered. Often a mutually beneficial decision can be made when all parties are able to discuss their goals, objectives, and challenges.

Can you provide an overview of your experience in academic leadership?

I started in medical education in 2019 when I first became an attending. I was an assistant program director in charge of creating a simulation curriculum that started as something we would do quarterly and evolved into a monthly didactic session. About a year later I became an associate program director and was in charge of creating the curriculum as well. We added monthly mock oral board sessions along with quarterly journal clubs. In November of 2021 I became the program director and have been in that role ever since.

How did membership in the College impact your professional growth?

AOCA membership has provided resources for myself and my residents to advocate for the osteopathic profession and especially within the realms of anesthesia. Attending the yearly meetings has also been a wonderful way to get residents involved initially in the AOCA as well as create networking opportunities with people from around the country and from past graduates of our program.

Fun Fact

I'm an avid Iowa Hawkeyes fan. One of my guilty pleasures in life is professional wrestling.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Melissa Byrne,
DO, MPH, FASA**

**Co-Chair Future of the
Field Committee**

Clinical Assistant Professor,
Associate Program Director, &
Director of POCUS at
University of Michigan

COM: Michigan State University
Residency Program: University
of Michigan Anesthesiology



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Could you tell us about your journey within the College and what led you to your current role?

I have been seeking opportunities to engage with the osteopathic community of anesthesiologists and obtain CME for my state medical license that was relevant to my interests and high-quality. I was asked to present at the annual conference and have since taken on more roles to increase our outreach to future members.

How do you stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices in anesthesia?

I regularly read journals and engage in resident and fellow education. Additionally, I am an avid user of X (formerly Twitter). I love attending the Annual Conclave to gain broader perspective on other hot topics that are outside my subspecialty that I might not be as familiar with but are relevant to my practice.

What motivates and inspires you in your day-to-day work life, and how do you maintain enthusiasm and passion for your work as an anesthesiologist?

In the past few years, I have been focused on finding wellness and satisfaction at work; I find that I am much more connected to patients, trainees and colleagues by sharing my passion for education with others. Bedside ultrasound (whether regional or point-of-care ultrasound) is a unique opportunity to demonstrate value with our patients and our procedural colleagues while affording me the avenue to teach a procedural skill to trainees at all levels that I find most rewarding.

Fun Fact

Most people are surprised to learn that I once got the chance to cheer for NFL Monday Night Football while in high school!



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Michael
Fabbro, DO,
FAOCA

Committee Member, Past
Program Chair



Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology
University of Miami

Current Role in the AOCA:

Committee Chair, Strategic Support

Residency Program: University of
Pennsylvania

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What is the biggest challenge facing the field of anesthesia?

Rising salaries, diminishing reimbursements.

What is most rewarding about serving as a volunteer leader in the AOCA?

Networking with like-minded individuals.

What advice would you give to someone who is interested in leadership?

Ask for opportunities and when you get them, put in 100%.

The AOCA is committed to Community. How has your interaction with the College fostered your community?

I have met so many people from medical students to deans, who I consider friends and colleagues for my career and beyond.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Nicole Henry,
DO, MBA, MPH**

**AOCA/AOF Resident of the
Year, 1st Resident Member
of BOG**



Pediatric Anesthesia Fellow
Boston Children's Hospital

COM: William Carey COM
Residency Program: Mayo Clinic

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What is the biggest challenge facing the field of anesthesia?

I believe the biggest challenge facing the field of anesthesia is the overall shortage of anesthesiologists and anesthesia providers. Though the field has gained great popularity, there are still not enough of us to keep up with the post COVID surgical demand, overwhelming expansion of health care systems and hospitals, alongside the retirement of those that have practiced for years. Additionally, I fear the shortage of fellowship trained anesthesiologists will continue to dwindle in light of residents avoiding fellowship training secondary to a lucrative general market

What is most rewarding about serving as a volunteer leader in the AOCA?

Learning about how important AOCA is to the DO community and anesthesia community. I remember, helping at the booth during the MARC conference this past year and it was great to hear about other DO anesthesia residents experiences and hear of their career goals alongside networking. It was a great opportunity to educate our allopathic colleagues about AOCA, for which many made sure to pass along our information to their DO colleagues for involvement. Similarly, another meaningful experience included speaking with medical students about how exciting the field of anesthesia is and what it means to be a DO in anesthesia, given I believe that representation matters.

What advice would you give to someone who is interested in leadership?

Do not be afraid to reach out, ask questions and get involved. There are so many opportunities available that need committed people. We are always happy to figure out how best to support someone

The AOCA is committed to Community. How has your interaction with the College fostered your community?

Interaction with the College has strengthened my sense of community among DO anesthesiologists. Upon attending the VAPOR conference and meeting fellow BOG members, I have learned a great deal about the field, the importance of our presence in the anesthesia community, and the importance of presence and support among fellow DOs, DO trainees and medical students.

What does it mean to you to have earned the AOCA/AOF Resident of the Year Award?

This was one of the most meaningful awards I have ever received as I came to learn it reflected what others can accomplish as a minority, as a DO and while in training.

How do you plan to stay involved with the AOCA as you move forward on your career path?

Upon graduating from fellowship, I plan to join the BOG as a full member given I want to still be apart of ensuring AOCA meets the needs of the DO community, anesthesiologists, trainees and those interested in anesthesia.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Raymond Depa,
DO, FAOCA**

**Nominating Committee
Chair**

Physician Anesthesiologist and
Managing Member of Kentucky
Anesthesia Group, PSC

COM: Des Moines University

Residency Program: University
of Arizona, College of Medicine,
Department of Anesthesiology



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What is the biggest challenge facing the field of anesthesia?

Recruiting additional staff to meet the increased surgical demands at the hospitals we are contracted with has become very difficult. The supply for anesthesia professionals in our area is very tight and the demand is incredibly high. Second, we continue to see a precipitous decline in reimbursement for our professional services. These two issues combined have created a very difficult private practice environment from a business perspective.

What is most rewarding about serving as a volunteer leader in the AOCA?

I have been a proud AOCA member for 20 years. It has always been a part of my career and it is an honor to serve in an organization that has provided so much to my family and to me.

What advice would you give to someone who is interested in leadership?

Jump In! The entire organization is very welcoming and every member of the AOCA has something to offer to help ensure the long-term success of our College. Whether you want to serve on a committee or on the Board of Governors, you have talents that the organization needs to continue to be successful. It is very fulfilling, professionally, knowing that your service to the College will make a difference for the next generation of physician anesthesiologists.

The AOCA is committed to Community. How has your interaction with the College fostered your community?

I truly value the family atmosphere that exists at every College function. I always feel welcomed when I attend the in-person events. I genuinely feel like I belong. Many of my professional friends that I have, I have met through AOCA in-person events over the past two decades. There is no other national organization that I belong to that has created the type of long-lasting friendships that I have created by attending AOCA in-person events. I am truly grateful to be part of this community.

Can you please give us a little more insight into your DSA Award?

I never imagined receiving the AOCA Distinguished Service Award. It has been one of the greatest honors in my professional career. I believe I received the award because of my work serving on the American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiologists and as the Chair of the American Osteopathic Association Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS).

The BOS serves as the certifying body for all AOA specialties and subspecialties. It has been in existence for over 80 years. The bureau establishes and maintains the high standards for board certification, ensuring that AOA board-certified physicians demonstrate expertise and competence in their area of specialization. We certify nearly 100,000 board certified osteopathic physicians.

Along with the hard work and determination of many people and during my time as Chair, the BOS modernized the board certification process by transitioning all high-stakes exams to remote proctored platforms without disrupting the validity of the exam. This eliminated travel costs, time away from work, and made the certification process more efficient for the candidate.

In addition, we changed the specialty re-certification process by enhancing and simplifying the physician user experience. For specialty re-certification, we eliminated the high stakes 10 year re-certification exams and transitioned this process to a more user friendly and relevant longitudinal assessment system that can be completed on your mobile device.

We are now working on enhancing the subspecialty exams. We developed a separate Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment certification for any AOA certified physician who wants to add this unique level of distinction to their primary specialty certificate. Finally, we developed a reciprocity program, where any ABMS certified DO in good standing can transition their ABMS board certification to an AOA board certification. This has been met with great success as we welcome back home our colleagues who choose to now distinguish themselves through osteopathic board certification.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Samantha
Bunk, OMS-III**

**Future of the Field
Committee Member**

Medical School:

Kansas City University -
Kansas City

Hometown: Macomb,
Michigan



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Can you share a specific experience or moment that inspired your interest in medicine?

When I was 14 years old, I sustained a sports-related injury that required emergent surgery. That was the first time I had ever been exposed to a hospital setting. I was amazed by all the medical professionals that knew exactly what to do during such an urgent situation. The anesthesiologist on my medical team was extremely smart, empathetic, and made my entire surgical experience a positive one. That event sparked my interest in medicine and the field of anesthesia.

What courses or subjects have you found most interesting and relevant to your medical studies?

Pharmacology has been my favorite medical school subject. It is so incredible to me that we have access to such a wide variety of medications to meet various treatment goals. Memorizing and understanding the countless drug mechanisms and interactions was daunting at first but I love being able to use the knowledge base I've built to contribute to treatment plans while on clerkships.

Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?

In 10 years, I see myself working as a general anesthesiologist with involvement in the education of medical students and residents.

How do you plan to stay involved with the AOCA as you move forward on your career path?

I plan to continue volunteering my time on committees and attending conferences as I enter my last year of medical school and transition to residency. As an attending, I plan to continue participating in AOCA events in the hope that I can support medical students and residents in the same way I have been supported while part of this organization.

Fun Fact

One of my favorite hobbies is hiking and I plan to complete an Advanced Wilderness Life Support course as part of my fourth-year medical school education.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Tamara Stojilkovic

Student Member, AOCA
Board of Governors

Medical School:

Kansas City University

Year in Medical School:

Fourth year

Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona



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Can you share a specific experience or moment that inspired your interest in medicine?

My dad was a nurse, and always would share his stories at dinner time. This sparked my interest to seek out a career in medicine.

What courses or subjects have you found most interesting and relevant to your medical studies?

Pharmacology and physiology

Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?

I hope to be a cardiothoracic anesthesiologist, who continues to be involved in education

Fun fact:

I have been ice climbing in Iceland!



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Katie Dillon, DO

AOCA/AOF Resident of the Year



Chief Resident
Thomas Jefferson University
Hospital

COM: Philadelphia College of
Osteopathic Medicine
Residency Program: Thomas
Jefferson University Hospital

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Can you share a specific experience or moment that inspired your interest in medicine? In college I was part of a volunteer group that visited elderly people in the community, Lori's Hands. I got groceries and hung out with a couple in their 90s. They talked a lot about the struggles of finding a doctor they liked and felt safe with, but it was hard to get out of the house to do. I wanted to be one they trusted.

What courses or subjects have you found most interesting and relevant to your medical studies? I loved physics and wrote my senior thesis in it. Applicable math is very useful in anesthesia!

Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years? In Philadelphia, with a house and my corgi, enjoying my job as a general anesthesiologist.

How do you stay updated with the latest developments and advancements in the medical field? Going to conferences and bouncing ideas off of colleagues! How do you plan to continue your education and professional development throughout your career in medicine? Reading a lot and constant collaboration.

How do you plan to stay involved with the AOCA as you move forward on your career path? The conferences were a great experience for me and I used the grant to experience the place where the conference was! A lot of docs/residents trained with are DOs. Most of my mentors and revered physicians at my institution are DOs. Collaborating and learning with them has made me a better anesthesiologist, I plan to continue to do that!



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Rafał Kopańczyk, DO,
FAOCA, FASA**

AOCA ProEd Committee Co-Chair



Medical Director
The Ohio State University

COM: West Virginia School of
Osteopathic Medicine

Residency Program: Medical
College of Wisconsin

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Could you tell us about your journey within the College and what led you to your current role?

I have been a member of AOCA since 2021. Initially, I was a speaker at Vapor, which quickly turned into membership and joined the ProEd Committee. Soon thereafter I co-chaired the Mid-Year meeting and became a member of the Finance Committee. Since I was elected as a co-chair to the ProEd Committee, I have been working closely on developing CME opportunities for the College.

How do you stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices in anesthesia?

I attend state of the art CME programming such as VAPOR, Mid-Year, and second Sunday Webinars through AOCA.

What motivates and inspires you in your day-to-day work life, and how do you maintain enthusiasm and passion for your work as an anesthesiologist?

The people I work with and patients that I care for keep me passionate even on a hard and long day.

Fun Fact – share a fun fact about yourself.

I enjoy eating and exercising, or to be concise, I exercise to eat.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Jeffrey Kyff, DO,
FAOCA**

AOCA Past President
AOBA Past President

Anesthesiologist
Munson Medical Center

COM: Michigan State University
Residency Program: Botsford
General Hospital



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Could you tell us about your journey within the College and what led you to your current role?

My goal was to practice Critical Care Medicine. When I was a medical student, but there were no osteopathic fellowships or certifications in critical care medicine, either Osteopathic or Allopathic, in Critical Care Medicine. In order for me to get recognition of an allopathic critical care fellowship I would have to do an allopathic residency and fellowship. I wanted to maintain my osteopathic identity and therefore asked AOA to recognize my allopathic training, which they did, but required I do an internship and one year of osteopathic anesthesiology training first. That year of osteopathic residency was not recognized by my allopathic trainers.

After training, I took ABA and AOBA boards in anesthesiology and critical care medicine. My first job was at the University of Michigan. I was contacted by Dr. Al Mannerelli, the Secretary Treasurer of the AOCA, to help create a training standards document for Osteopathic training in critical care medicine and requirements for "certificate of special qualification in critical care medicine" for the committee on post-doctoral training. I took the anesthesiology residency training standards for formatting and reworked and tweaked them for critical care and in about a week I submitted the first draft of what would become the standards for critical care medicine. Myself, Phil Sloan, and Jeremy Krock were all consultants to the committee on post-doctoral training and eventually became the first osteopathic certified critical care specialists. I spent roughly 10 years on the committee and worked my way up to the president and then moved to the AOBA for another 10 years and eventually becoming its president. I then joined the board of governors and spent another 10 years there eventually serving as its president.

How do you stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices in anesthesia?

I stay updated by networking with colleagues and my partners. I really enjoy the practice of medicine and anesthesiology in particular. I love having a patient wake up promptly in PACU with minimal discomfort. I love working with my fellow health care workers and I admire their commitment to providing the safest and best care possible. My tolerance for the frustrations of dealing with administrators and regulatory agency's increased significantly when I reached my retirement goals and I realized there was no longer anything forcing me to tolerate anything. Studying Zen and no longer taking calls was also helpful.

Fun Fact – share a fun fact about yourself.

Fun facts about me I fly a twin engine airplane and hold the Airline Transport pilot rating as well as flight instructor ratings. I am an aircraft commander and instructor pilot/pilot examiner for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. I am an FAA designated Aviation Medical Examiner and the recipient of the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot award. I've been a competitive swimmer since age 5 and work part time at the YMCA as a lifeguard.

I've played guitar since age 6 (off and on), played in a few bands over the years and recently started singing. I plan to start "busking" this summer.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

David Cooper, OMS IV

**AOCA Member Engagement
Committee Member**



COM: Alabama College of
Osteopathic Medicine
Residency Program: Preliminary
year at Johns Hopkins

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Can you share a specific experience or moment that inspired your interest in medicine?

Around the age of 15, I really started thinking about medicine. It all started when I met my half-brother for the first time. He had a lot of medical issues, and it became clear that he would always need a caretaker by his side. That encounter made me reflect on my own life and I realized how I'd taken for granted my own health, untouched by serious ailments, affording me the liberty to pursue any aspiration.

At that time, I was passionate about tennis and wanted to become a coach. I loved the game and enjoyed helping younger players improve. But after meeting my half-brother, I felt a pull towards something bigger. I wanted to make a difference in people's lives, especially during their toughest moments. So, I decided to pursue medicine with the hope of positively impacting my community and hopefully leaving a legacy that my future children would be proud of.

What courses or subjects have you found most interesting and relevant to your medical studies?

I enjoyed every aspect of medical school. I was genuinely enthusiastic about learning and developing as a future physician. In hindsight, some of my favorite subjects were cardiology, pulmonology, and renal studies. It was fascinating to observe how the different systems of the human body interconnected, and how an issue in one organ system could impact another. When you really begin learning about the human body you realize what a miracle it is and how everything must work just right to function.

Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?

I see myself hopefully working in academic medicine. I want to pursue a fellowship, but still unsure which one as I enjoy all the subspecialties of anesthesiology. I want to be heavily involved in creating more avenues for medical students to pursue a career in anesthesiology, especially osteopathic students. I could see myself becoming a program director and being involved in national organizations to help creating a better match system for medical students.

How do you stay up to date with the latest updates and developments in the medical field?

I follow a few journals such as anesthesiology, JAMA, and listening to podcasts such as ACCRAC. Although fourth year I have been relaxing a bit before getting thrown into the deep end as an intern.

How do you plan to stay involved with the AOCA as you move forward on your career path?

I want to continue being involved in the committees AOCA have to offer. I hope to eventually take on other roles in the college and hopefully even speak at the annual conference on topics involved osteopathic medical students pursuing the field of anesthesiology.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Allan Escher, DO,
FAOCA

AOCA Secretary/Treasurer



Associate Member,
Anesthesiologist
Moffitt Cancer Center

COM: Kansas City University
Residency Program: Michigan
State University

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Could you tell us about your journey within the College and what led you to your current role?

My journey started in 2003, when I asked, “How can I get involved?” and it all flowed from that initial desire!

How do you stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices in anesthesia?

I stay up-to-date with Doximity, LinkedIn, and the AOCA.

What motivates and inspires you in your day-to-day work life, and how do you maintain enthusiasm and passion for your work as an anesthesiologist?

Helping the poor and the sick inspires me. My commitment to osteopathic medicine and its ideals fuels my passion as an anesthesiologist.

Fun Fact – share a fun fact about yourself.

Since 2012, I work every year in Lourdes, France. My experiences there with malades (the sick) has served as a way to recharge for my osteopathic profession.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Del Proctor, DO,
FAOCA**

**AOCA Finance and Committee
Strategic Support Committee
Audit Committee Chair**



Director of Anesthesia,
Chief of Staff Electric
Hillcrest Hospital
Cleveland Clinic

COM: Kentucky University
Residency Program: Cleveland
Clinic, South Point Hospital

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Could you tell us about your journey within the College and what led you to your current role?

I was motivated to become an active member and ultimately a fellow of the college, as it is a prestigious honor in the anesthesia specialty, and it indicates a superior level of service leadership advocacy and education.

How do you stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices in anesthesia?

AOCA meetings of course! But that is just one great pipeline as continuing medical education from multiple professional and academic sources allows me a fount of information. With a couple online journal subscriptions and a few carefully curated social media follows, there is a constant flow of up to date and pertinent information for aspiring and current anesthesiologists.

What motivates and inspires you in your day-to-day work life, and how do you maintain enthusiasm and passion for your work as an anesthesiologist?

I think I have the best occupation possible. Being able to gain the trust of patients within literally minutes of meeting them is an acquired skill. The motivation is there every single time a patient trusts me with their life. As stress inducing as some surgeons / patients / surgeries may be, finding balance within my personal life has allowed me to be a passionate anesthesiologist daily. I have found a mostly decent diet when partnered with routine physical exercise promotes mental health and overall well-being.

Fun Fact – share a fun fact about yourself.

I am named after my great grandfather, grandfather, and my dad. All were equine veterinarians. I broke the mold and chose anesthesia. Although some of my earliest memories are in the operating room on my grandfather's farm watching in awe as a 1200-pound thoroughbred was put to sleep prior to surgery.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Ursula N. Landman,
DO, FAOCA**
AOCA President-Elect



Clinical Associate Professor
Anesthesiologist
Stony Brook Medicine

COM: NYITCOM

Residency Program: Stony
Brook Medicine

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Could you tell us about your journey within the College and what led you to your current role?

I always felt a strong connection to the Osteopathic profession. My uncle was a DO and my inspiration. I completed my osteopathic internship at Long Beach Medical Center. During residency I wanted to keep my osteopathic connection, so I applied to have my allopathic residency training recognized by the AOA. I took the oral of the boards at the beginning of an AOCA meeting and had a fabulous time with all after taking the boards. I met new colleagues who would become lifelong friends. Each year was a reunion amongst friends and their family at our annual meetings now known as VAPOR. AOCA completed this connection. Colleagues could befriend my family who accompanied me to all the meetings and my kids grew up going to these meetings yearly. It was always important to me to get our osteopathic students involved and from early on I contacted all the osteopathic medical schools via letters and follow up phone calls. It is beautiful today to see so many students involved, and I love that we get to welcome so many students and residents into AOCA. At NYITCOM I advise the anesthesia student group since 2000. In AOCA, I became further involved in membership and decided we needed some fun activities such as a 5k. This blossomed into the Tim Ernst run walk we have yearly. AOCA has been my professional home since 1998. I started as a member and then continued involvement in committees, eventually serving on the Board of Governors of the AOCA. It is an act of love doing all and giving back to the College working my way up through its various positions and this year I will serve as the upcoming President.

How do you stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices in anesthesia?

I stay updated by reading and going AOCA conventions - the annual, midyear as well as my local NYSSA conventions and the ASA. I love to see the latest equipment for anesthesiology at these conventions as well as the newest medications developed and best practices overall. I also attend the AOCA's monthly webinars - Second Sundays or the AOCA on demand library of content. My weekly department conferences are also a terrific source of information on anesthesiology best practices. A lot can be learned from all my colleagues. As I teach our residents and students, it keeps me in a constant learning mode.

What motivates and inspires you in your day-to-day work life, and how do you maintain enthusiasm and passion for your work as an anesthesiologist?

I strive to deliver safe anesthesia care to all as this is so important and seeing patients so appreciative serves as my inspiration. The smile as someone gets pain relief after an epidural is priceless. In addition, the best enthusiasm and passion for me is while I teach medical students and residents. Their passion for learning is contagious. It keeps me on my toes and reminds me why I got into medicine. I do enjoy this daily banter and having to look up new techniques. We are all lifelong learners and it's truly seen in anesthesiology with all the latest medications, equipment that has come into existence during my practice since I became a physician.

Fun Fact – share a fun fact about yourself:

I do love nature and hiking. I have summited Mount Fuji in Japan, Mount Greylock in the USA, and Munros in Scotland - Ben Nevis, Ben Macdui, Braeraich, Sgor Gaoith, Ben Cairngorm, Corbetts, Meall a' Bhuachaille, and Goat Fell. I do love to travel and enjoy nature. Long Island itself is beautiful. I'm lucky to have this beautiful area to enjoy sunsets, sunrises, and gorgeous beaches when I'm not traveling.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Camille Hawkins, DO

AOCA Board of Governors
Student Resident



Pediatric Anesthesia Fellow,
Nationwide Children's Hospital

COM: A.T. Still School of
Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona
Residency Program: OhioHealth
Doctors Hospital

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Could you tell us about your journey within the College and what led you to your current role?

I've followed along since medical school but took the AOCA VAPOR conferences as an opportunity to present my CA-2 and CA-3 year and network. I was lucky enough to be nominated to this current position.

How do you stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices in anesthesia?

As a resident, time is the most precious resource, so I tend to stay up to date on quick reads and listens- my 2 favorites are Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (@apsforg) reels on Instagram and ACCRAC podcasts on Spotify.

Fun Fact – share a fun fact about yourself.

I married my high school sweetheart, we have 2 daughters, love going to sporting events, and buying too many house plants.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**H. Jane Huffnagle,
DO, FAOCA, FASA**
Chairperson of Nominating
Committee, Awards and Honors
Committee member, Scholarly
Activities Committee member



Clinical Professor of
Anesthesiology and Obstetrics
& Gynecology,
Thomas Jefferson University
Hospital

COM: PCOM

Residency Program: Thomas
Jefferson University Hospital

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Could you tell us about your journey within the College and what led you to your current role?

My first introduction to the AOCA was in 1996, when I was asked to speak at the annual meeting in Scottsdale by Dr. George Arcos. I agreed to be a speaker and then asked everyone I knew what the AOCA was as I had never heard of the organization! My sister and I first met Dr. Adele King at that meeting and my interest in the AOCA was born. The AOCA was a smaller and more inviting organization than either the ASA or SOAP, as I was a member of both and regularly attended their annual meetings. We attended several AOCA meetings/conclaves after our first, but I never dreamed that I would ever become a Fellow. We both were persuaded to host the annual meeting in 2007 and became "twin" Fellows in 2008. I was so excited and honored that my hat fell off as I was receiving my Fellow plaque. No one seemed to mind!

I have been active in this amazing college for many, many years and realize that it is a very rewarding, collegial and worthwhile organization, and I am very proud to be associated with it. I have watched the AOCA grow into an even more scholarly and professional organization over the years, with the introduction of nationally and internationally known speakers, workshops and presentation of scientific abstracts/original research. The AOCA stands up to the caliber of any society in existence today.

As a member of the AOCA for over 20 years, I have lectured at the annual conference quite a bit as well as moderating poster sessions and working on various committees. My efforts were rewarded with the Distinguished Service Award in 2022. What a wonderful surprise and great honor! Committee involvement furthers the work of the College and promotes its' mission. The AOCA fosters professionalism, service, leadership, organizational skills, and growth in our field of anesthesiology. I am very honored and proud to be a member of the AOCA and would recommend it to any DO trained anesthesiologist. It is truly a valuable, rewarding and vital organization.

Fun Fact – share a fun fact about yourself.

My sister Suzanne plays the viola and I play the violin. We occasionally play duets in Church with our pianist/choir director. We are by no means professional players, but we have a good time!



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Robert Erick
Szczypka, OMS-III**

**Student Member
COM: A.T. Still University KCOM**

**AOCA Legacy
Committee Member**



What courses or subjects have you found most interesting and relevant to your medical studies?

I have found every course in medical school interesting, but the most interesting would be pathology. The most relevant courses I took were pharmacology and physiology.

Where do you see yourself in the next 10 years?

I stay up-to-date with Doximity, LinkedIn, and the AOCA.

What motivates and inspires you in your day-to-day work life, and how do you maintain enthusiasm and passion for your work as an anesthesiologist?

In 10 years, I hope to be a practicing general anesthesiologist. I may want to pursue a fellowship, but at this point I am still undecided.

Fun Fact – share a fun fact about yourself.

I enjoy playing guitar and although I stand at 6'8", I do not play basketball.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Frank Yanoviak, DO

AOCA Member Engagement
Committee Member



Retired Physician
Anesthesiologist

COM: Philadelphia College of
Osteopathic Medicine

Residency Program: Geisinger
Medical Center

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Could you tell us about your journey within the College and what led you to your current role?

In my mid and later career I started to get involved with the College by going to their Annual Meeting for CME in cool places. Here I enjoyed the boutique feel, academic conferences where I met neat attendees and presenters whom I consider like family!

My present role in the Member Engagement Committee allows me the opportunity to try to recruit and maintain members so they too can enjoy all that the AOCA has to offer and also be in the family of Osteopathic Physician Anesthesiologists.

How do you stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices in anesthesia?

I am involved with a MOCA program, I am an avid reader of anesthesiology and medicine in general, I like to go to the AOCA annual meeting and other anesthesiology conventions in interesting places, and enjoy anesthesiology workshops.

Fun Fact – share a fun fact about yourself.

I have two grandsons who live close by who call me “papaw” and we all love to hangout together!

I love to do and teach anesthesiology with physicians and anesthesia professionals . I am involved in Mission Trips to Central America to work and teach anesthesia professions. My recent trip was to Tegucigalpa, Honduras to work alongside and impart some knowledge to my anesthesia friends in Honduras. I am on a continual journey to learn and practice my Spanish.

I love to grow any tree or bush that produces fruit or produce. A sample of my trees: avocado, mango, star fruit, leche, banana, pineapples and a few others.



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Paul Gray, II,,
DO, FAOCA**

**AOCA Past President
Life Member**

Medical Director,
Cleveland Clinic Lorain
Ambulatory Surgery Center

COM: Chicago College of
Osteopathic Medicine

Residency Program:
Brentwood Hospital



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Could you tell us about your journey within the College and what led you to your current role?

A past president, Ray Johns, recommended that I join and become active the College. I ran an Annual Meeting on short notice, received my Fellowship, and was elected to the Board of Governors. I was then named Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, then Secretary-Treasurer. Later I was elected Vice-President and rose through the chairs to President. I left the board after serving as Past-President. I was recently nominated for Life Membership.

How do you stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices in anesthesia?

I continue to stay current by attending a variety of meetings, reading journals, and articles found online.

Fun Fact – share a fun fact about yourself.

I became interested in anesthesia after being told by a friend who was a resident that the elective was a blow-off ending at noon every day which would give me time to study for part 2, National Boards.

The day I started I was told to report to the suburban hospital 30 miles south of Chicago because both residents were in Hyde Park. That resulted in living in a call room at Olympia Fields for essentially a week at a time and functioning as a first year resident while I was a senior student (rounds, intubations, spinal, and even an epidural).



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

**James Griffin,
DO, FAOCA**
AOCA President

Private Practice
Anesthesiologist

COM: UHSCOM

Residency Program: Albany
Medical Center



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Could you tell us about your journey within the College and what led you to your current role?

I joined the AOCA after completing my anesthesiology residency, got involved in a few committees, and served as a Program Chair for an Annual Meeting. I was awarded my AOCA Fellowship and was later nominated to serve on the AOCA Board of Governors. After serving as a member on the Board of Governors I was nominated to serve as Vice-President and eventually became the AOCA President. I highly recommend becoming involved with the AOCA as a committee member. I have learned immeasurable skills such as management, finance, advocacy, and leadership which have helped me greatly in my professional career.

How do you stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices in anesthesia?

I have recently retired from my anesthesiology practice, but I continue to stay current by top notch CME offerings by the AOCA at the Annual Meeting, the Mid-Year Seminar and the Second Sundays webinars. I also regularly peruse medical newsfeeds, journals, and Audio-Digest (notably many of the lectures are from the AOCA meetings!) I maintain my AOBA certification through participation in OCC.

Fun Fact – share a fun fact about yourself.

I play bagpipes!



AOCA MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Austin Goff

**Student Member
AOCA Future of the Field
Committee Member**

COM: A.T. Still University -
Kirksville of Osteopathic
Medicine

Home Town:
Syracuse, Utah



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Could you tell us about your journey within the College and what led you to your current role?

It wasn't until the summer after my first year of medical school that I recognized my desire to pursue anesthesiology. I was able to shadow an anesthesiologist for a day and I found fascinating parallels between my experiences in the operating room and my experiences working as a chemist before medical school. Our anesthesiology professor was kind enough to allow me to meet with him and talk about anesthesia as my future career. He mentioned that there was an anesthesia conference in Chicago in two weeks, just a short drive from my medical school. I made it a point to attend this conference which happened to be the AOCA Mid-year Seminar. I met many other anesthesiologists and was taught about the different committees. The Future of the Field committee resonated with me because I wanted to help with the effort to engage with and support other medical students that desired to pursue anesthesiology. Now as a fourth year medical student and in the future as a resident, I hope to use my experiences to help mentor, teach, and provide opportunities for others to connect within the anesthesia community.

How do you stay updated with the latest industry trends and best practices in anesthesia?

I will occasionally read current articles from the journals anesthesiology and JAMA. I am currently doing several anesthesiology rotations at different institutions across the US and have been exposed to ample amounts of different approaches, techniques, and technologies that are available in anesthesiology.

Fun Fact – share a fun fact about yourself.

I love running, hiking, trail running, and really anything outdoors. I also have got really into ice cream making this past year. Perhaps it is the inner chemist in me that loves devising different recipes, except this time I actually get to enjoy eating my product!