



Montana Osteopathic Medical Association 2025 Spring Newsletter

Greetings from MOMA!

We have done once a year newsletters instead of 2 or 3, the last few years, so that we don't take a lot of your time, but enough to get our message out. So here we go!

CME - for the last 15 years or so, we have contracted with the Billings Clinic's CME department for our annual event - MOMA's Primary Care Roundup. Please see our CME tab on our website, mtosteopaths.com, concerning this. A multi-venue (live-on-site, live virtual, and enduring for 60 days post-conference access) has proven to be a monumental amount of work, and Billings Clinic's CME department has decided not to continue this collaboration for 2025. Again, see details on our website. We have replaced it with a virtual venue, VOCCME, with 7 other DO state affiliates. I personally signed up for this and have found the first 11 or so hours to be excellent and relevant to all outside the speaker's specialty. We hope in the future to provide a smaller live/onsite venue for those that want this (best venue we think, but harder to attend for most). This will not occur in 2025, but hopefully in 2026. Please consider attending VOCCME. Up to 48 credits in 8 credit increments, MOMA receives 75% of registration fees after we pay an initial fee to join, which helps us promote the distinctiveness of our profession. Registration ends May 31st, but you can view programs until June 30th. So even though you sign up for only the minimum 8 hours, it will give you a chance to see what you think of the program and consider doing more of this in future years.

MOMA Membership - We sent out a dues request with a return envelope a couple of months ago. Again, as our website indicates, we exist to promote Osteopathic distinctiveness. To help understand our mission to promote Osteopathic distinctiveness, please read the speaker instructions that we have sent to our CME instructors for many years under the Mission tab on our website. What we offer is just good medicine, and something the practice of medicine needs more of. If you don't have our return letter, you can go to our website to pay dues-either by PayPal or download our member dues form and send it back to us (and save us the PayPal charges).

Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine in Montana! - As most of you know, there are 2 new DO schools in Montana, one in Billings (Rocky Vista University) and one in Great Falls (Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine). Both started about the same time, the first classes are finishing up their 2nd year this summer, and we hope together we can do things that will improve the health care in Montana in many ways, most of which we probably don't understand yet. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with them, and I know they would appreciate your support in any way you see fit.

Northwest Osteopathic Foundation (NWOFF) - This non-profit foundation has existed now for 25+ years, and, in part, supports the 5 northwest states, including Montana. One function of the foundation is providing scholarships to DO students. One of these scholarships is the Shirley Carpenter endowed scholarship. It is awarded to a student from Montana. On our website, there is a tab for this scholarship - be assured, your financial support of this scholarship focuses on Montana, and MOMA and the foundation would both be appreciative of any donation you would see



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fit to provide. Also, please review the announcement about a June event for scholarship fundraising, for which the foundation will match any donations at <https://nwosteo.org/giving/>.

AOA Policy - Having personally been involved in MOMA for 35 years, and our CME, a stint as the Director of Osteopathic Education at the MFMR (family medicine GME (graduate medical education) program here in Billings), it occurred to me that we were making mistakes that affected the profession's distinctiveness. Specifically, after doing this for so long, it was apparent to me that we focused too much on the procedure of OMT (Osteopathic manipulative treatment) and not enough on the global OPP (Osteopathic principles and practice). When all DO's had to do AOA CME and GME, I believe we got lazy, and just added OMT to our education, ignoring the bigger picture of what OPP means, a much more difficult concept to educate on. When our students were no longer required to do Osteopathic CME and GME, we have now needed to explain what OPP and the Osteopathic approach to patient care means, and incorporate this into all levels of education (again, to help understand our mission to promote Osteopathic distinctiveness, please read the speaker instructions that we have sent to our CME instructors for many years under the Mission tab on our website). Hopefully, the AOA (American Osteopathic Association) can take the lead on efforts to accomplish this change in our educational focus.

It is with mixed emotions that we announce our current MOMA president, Elizabeth Palmarozzi, DO, FACOFP, the founding campus dean of Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in Great Falls, has decided to leave for a new position in osteopathic education to be closer to her family. We wish her all the best and thank her for all she has done for medicine in Montana, and for her efforts with MOMA. She will be missed.

Effective May 1, 2025, Dr. Doug Woerner, DO, our current VP/President elect, has agreed to assume the role as president of MOMA and Dr. Wendy Cheek has graciously volunteered to be our VP/President Elect. We thank both for being involved with MOMA for so long and their efforts with the Osteopathic profession in many other venues.

Thank you for all you do (DO) for your patients, and please contact us with questions or suggestions on how we can best serve you.

Donald Grewell, FAAFP
Executive Director, MOMA