



SUBJECT: American Osteopathic Association Specialty Board Certification

SUBMITTED BY: ACOFP Board of Governors

REFERRED TO: 2019 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 29

1 WHEREAS, the mission of the American Osteopathic Association is "to advance the distinctive
2 philosophy and practice of osteopathic medicine;" ¹ and
3

4 WHEREAS, one of the ways the AOA works to achieve this mission is through the development and
5 administration of osteopathic board certification and re-certification examinations and
6 processes; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the AOA Board of Trustees through the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists oversees
9 the certification/re-certification process; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the AOA recently received a report from the Boston Group, a consulting firm engaged
12 by the AOA to assist in improving and enhancing the AOA board certification and re-
13 certification process; and
14

15 WHEREAS, one of the recommendations of the Boston Group is to remove all osteopathic
16 principles and practices (OPP) material from the core certification and re-certification
17 examinations and to place this material in separate, optional modules; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine's *Glossary of Osteopathic*
20 *Terminology* (AACOM GOT) defines OPP (Osteopathic Philosophy Principles and Practice) as
21 "a concept of health care supported by expanding scientific knowledge that embraces the
22 concept of the unity of the living organism's structure (anatomy) and function (physiology).
23 Osteopathic philosophy emphasizes the following principles: 1. The human being is a
24 dynamic unit of function. 2. The body possesses self-regulatory mechanisms that are self-
25 healing in nature. 3. Structure and function are interrelated at all levels. 4. Rational
26 treatment is based on these principles;" ² and
27

28 WHEREAS, implementing this recommendation of the Boston Group would prohibit the AOA from
29 fulfilling its stated mission; now, therefore be it
30

31 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians recommends that the AOA
32 Board of Trustees through the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists shall ensure that
33 osteopathic principles and practices (OPP) remains an integral and required part of AOA
34 board certification and re-certification examinations as appropriate for each specialty; and,
35 be it further
36

37 RESOLVED, the ACOFP calls on the AOA to collaborate in an open, transparent, and inclusive
38 manner with its specialty colleges, its specialty certifying boards, its state societies, and
39 other interested members to ensure that the redesigned specialty board certification/re-
40 certification processes it implements:

- 41
- 42 1. Continues the opportunity for inclusion of osteopathic content that assesses
43 osteopathic principals and practices (OPP) in osteopathic certification examinations
44 relevant to that specialty.
 - 45 2. Continues the opportunity for osteopathic certifying boards to develop and administer
46 OMM practical examinations which are specific and appropriate for their specialty.
 - 47 3. Continues a requirement for specialty specific content in CME for re-
48 certification/continuing certification.
 - 49 4. Continues the requirement of osteopathic CME relevant to that specialty to maintain
50 osteopathic board certification.
 - 51 5. Includes as a component of the re-certification process a longitudinal learning program
52 developed and operated by an organization with nationally recognized expertise in
53 osteopathic learning and testing, and be it further,
54

55 RESOLVED the ACOFP also calls on the AOA to:

- 56 1. Continue to encourage ACGME to include an osteopathic educational component in
57 Osteopathic Recognized residencies.
- 58 2. Continue to support the inclusion of osteopathic content in residency In-Service Exams.
- 59 3. Continue a requirement for osteopathic content in osteopathic CME programs, and be
60 it further
61

62 RESOLVED, the ACOFP seek support for this resolution from osteopathic specialty colleges,
63 AOA state societies, and other interested parties with standing in the AOA House of
64 Delegates; and, be it further.
65

66 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP forward this resolution to the AOA House of Delegates.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of March 21, 2019

1. <http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/about/Pages/default.aspx>, accessed May 6, 2018
2. Educational Council on Osteopathic Principles (ECOP) of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), *Glossary of Osteopathic Terminology, November, 2011*, pg 33