2022 Conclave of Fellows

Awards Ceremony

Friday, March 18, 2022
Dallas, Texas
2022 ACOFP
Conclave of Fellows
Awards Ceremony

Friday, March 18, 2022
Dallas, Texas

5:30 pm | Conclave of Fellows Awards Ceremony
7:00 pm | Conclave of Fellows Awards Reception

Program

Master of Ceremonies
James E. Froelich III, DO, FACOFP dist.

National Anthem
Alexandra Blakewell

Invocation
Robert C. DeLuca, DO, FACOFP dist.

Introduction of Fellow Award Candidates and Sponsors
Thomas N. Told, DO, FACOFP dist.
Bruce R. Williams, DO, FACOFP
Nicole H. Bixler, DO, MBA, FACOFP

Introduction of Distinguished Fellow Award Candidates
James E. Froelich III, DO, FACOFP dist.
Kevin V. de Regnier, DO, FACOFP dist.
2021–22 ACOFP Awards Committee

Thomas N. Told, DO, FACOFP dist.
   Chair
Ronnie B. Martin, DO, FACOFP dist.
   Vice Chair
James E. Froelich III, DO, FACOFP dist.
Kenneth A. Heiles, DO, FACOFP dist.
Carol L. Henwood, DO, FACOFP dist.
Robert N. Pedowitz, DO, FACOFP
M. Jay Porcelli, DO, FACOFP dist.
Steven F. Rubin, DO, FACOFP dist.
Rodney M. Wiseman, DO, FACOFP dist.
Jan D. Zieren, DO, MPH, FACOFP dist.

2021–22 ACOFP Executive Council of Conclave of Fellows

James E. Froelich, III, DO, FACOFP dist.,
   Chair
Kevin V. de Regnier, DO, FACOFP dist.
   Vice Chair
Jan D. Zieren, DO, MPH, FACOFP dist.
   Secretary
Steven G. Bander, DO, FACOFP dist.
   Joel M. Feder, DO, FACOFP dist.
   Paul A. Martin, DO, FACOFP dist.
   William H. Stager, DO, FACOFP dist.
   Alesia J. Wagner, DO, FACOFP dist.
2021–22 ACOFP Board of Governors

Nicole H. Bixler, DO, MBA, FACOFP  President
Bruce R. Williams, DO, FACOFP  President-Elect
David J. Park, DO, FACOFP  Vice President
Brian A. Kessler, DO, FACOFP  Secretary/Treasurer
Robert C. DeLuca, DO, FACOFP dist.  Immediate Past President
Duane G. Koehler, DO, FACOFP dist.  Past President
Greg D. Cohen, DO, FACOFP dist.  Governor
David A. Connett, DO, FACOFP dist.  Governor
Gautam J. Desai, DO, FACOFP dist.  Governor
Rebecca D. Lewis, DO, FACOFP  Governor
Saroj Misra, DO, FACOFP  Governor
Derrick Sorweide, DO, FACOFP  Governor
Elizabeth Palmarozzi, DO, FACOFP  Speaker, Congress of Delegates
Antonios Tsompanidis, DO, FACOFP  Vice Speaker, Congress of Delegates
Rachel A. Hume, DO, MPH  Resident Governor
James Wyatt Eikermann, OMS IV  Student Governor
Bob Moore, MA, CAE  Executive Director
2022 Fellow Award Candidates

The Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (FACOFP) Award recognizes experience, dedication and contributions of the highest order to the advancement of osteopathic family medicine.

The designation, presented annually since 1976, awards a Fellow plaque to those candidates that have contributed outstanding national, state and local service through teaching, authorship, research or professional leadership.

The Fellow Award is conferred only on persons in the osteopathic profession and seeks to demonstrate the importance of professional career and family medicine service in the community. The candidates are approved by the ACOFP Awards Committee and by a majority vote of the ACOFP Board of Governors.

A minimum of six consecutive years of dues-paying membership in ACOFP and registered attendance at a minimum of six AOA Annual Meetings, and the ACOFP Annual Convention & Scientific Seminars or AOA’s Annual Osteopathic Medical Conference and Exposition over the last ten-year period are prerequisites. Candidates also must submit an unpublished scientific paper pertinent to family medicine and suitable for publication.

The approved nominees are invited to the ACOFP Conclave of Fellows Awards Ceremony held annually at the ACOFP Annual Convention & Scientific Seminars, at which time the designation of Fellow is officially conferred.

The Awards Committee and the Board of Governors extend their sincere congratulations to the candidates who have been selected as Fellows of the Conclave.

ACOFP Outstanding Paper Crest Award & the ACOFP Most Outstanding Scientific Paper Award

The ACOFP Awards Committee annually presents the ACOFP Outstanding Paper Crest Award to deserving candidates who submit unpublished scientific papers that demonstrate thoughtful and critical thinking, plus a level of excellence suitable for publication.

Recipients will be presented a Fellows Crest along with their plaques during the ceremony. A separate plaque may also be presented to one candidate who submitted the Most Outstanding Scientific Paper.
Jean M. Bouquet, DO, FAWM, earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado in Boulder, Colorado (1984) and his doctor of osteopathic medicine from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Missouri (1989). He is currently an assistant professor at Rocky Vista University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine and is the co-director of the urban underserved track, which focuses on marginalized, vulnerable and underserved populations. He is also a member of the Admissions Committee, the Institutional Review Board and the Student Performance Committee.

After 15 years as the president and owner of a solo family practice, Dr. Bouquet retired from clinical medicine in 2020. He is also the president and CEO of Cure Cervical Cancer, Inc., and the president and CEO of Viospex PC, a medical device company.

Dr. Bouquet has been a member of ACOFP since 2004 and has served as the Colorado delegate to the ACOFP Congress of Delegates. He is also a member of the Colorado Society of Osteopathic Medicine, the American Osteopathic Association and the Wilderness Medical Society.

Sponsor: Camille Z. Bentley, DO, MPH, FACOFP
Scientific Paper: An Innovative Design for the Vaginal Speculum

*Recipient, 2022 Outstanding Paper Crest Award

Nils V. Brolis, DO, received his doctor of osteopathic medicine from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine (2011), where he earned the Award of Outstanding Achievement in Primary Care, as well as the Joseph L. Muscarelle Jr. Endowed Scholarship twice.

Dr. Brolis is a member of the family medicine faculty at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine (RowanSOM) and a core faculty member of the Inspira Family Medicine Residency Program. He is also the founding medical director of the RowanSOM Simulation Center, overseeing all phases in the construction and establishment.

A member of ACOFP since 2007, Dr. Brolis currently serves on the Procedural Medicine Work Group and the New Physicians Committee, participated in the ACOFP Future Leaders program in 2013 and presented a poster at the ACOFP Annual Convention & Scientific Seminars in 2014. He is also a member of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners and the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

Sponsor: George J. Scott, DPM, DO, FACOFP
Scientific Paper: Using Motivational Interviewing to Combat COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy in the Family Medicine Office
Carol S. Browne, DO, attended Southwestern University in Georgetown Texas (1980) before earning her doctor of osteopathic medicine from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM) in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1986. She is currently a professor at the University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine (UIWSOM) and serves as co-lead of the Developing Osteopathic Clinical Skills Curricular Integration Team and as director of objective structured clinical examinations and standardized patients.

Dr. Browne spent 10 years as faculty at TCOM. She received several awards during her tenure, including the Coleman Clinical Faculty of the Year, the Apple Award for Clinical Faculty of the Year and the National Student Osteopathic Association George Northrup Award for Osteopathic Educator of the Year. After leaving TCOM, Dr. Browne enjoyed private practice for 10 years in rural central Missouri and later for seven years in the St. Petersburg, Florida area.

Dr. Browne has been a member of ACOFP since 1982 and is president-elect of the Texas Society of the ACOFP, after serving as vice president and treasurer. She is also an active volunteer with the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) and the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners. She was recently named as a director in training on the AOBFP.

Sponsor: David E. Garza, DO, MS.MEdL, FAAFP, FACOFP dist.
Scientific Paper: A Novel Approach to Training First-Year Osteopathic Medical Students to Have Vaccine-Related Discussions With Parents of Pediatric Patients

Lauren F. Clemmons, DO, earned her bachelor of science in biology from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina (2007) and her doctor of osteopathic medicine from Lincoln Memorial University - DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tennessee (2011). She currently serves as an assistant professor of family medicine and osteopathic principles and practice at the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM) in Dothan, Alabama. At ACOM, she co-chairs the Preclinical Competency Committee and has served on over a dozen other committees and task forces. She is also a physician with Southeast Health in Ashford.

In addition to serving as an Alabama delegate to the ACOFP Congress of Delegates, Dr. Clemmons is a member of the Alabama Osteopathic Medical Association, the American Osteopathic Association and the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.

Sponsor: Joseph D. Baker II, DO, FACOFP
Scientific Paper: Assessment of the Effect of Monitoring Student OMT Procedure Logs on the Procedures Logged
Jennifer S. Johnson, DO, MBA, earned her bachelor’s degree in human biology from the University of Kansas (2001), her doctor of osteopathic medicine from Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine and Bioscience (2005) and her master of business administration in healthcare leadership from Rockhurst University (2005). She completed her residency at the University of Minnesota Family Medicine Residency Program, serving as chief resident 2007–2008.

Dr. Johnson is a physician at the Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato, Minnesota. She is the regional physician lead for topics such as outpatient-focused quality metrics and Accountable Care Organization measures. Dr. Johnson is also a community preceptor for the family medicine residency at the University of Minnesota and an instructor in family medicine at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science.

Dr. Johnson has been recognized for her contributions by the Mayo Clinic (Service Excellence Award), the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (Resident Teacher Award) and the American Osteopathic Association (Guardian of the Profession Award). She has been a member of ACOFP since 2007 and is a member of several committees. She is a past president and current board member for the Minnesota Osteopathic Medical Society.

Sponsor: Erin Westfall, DO, FACOFP
Scientific Paper: Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation and Manipulation: A Case Study

Helaine Larsen, DO, earned her bachelor of science from St. Joseph’s College (1999) and her doctor of osteopathic medicine at the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYIT-COM) in 2004 before completing her residency at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center, where she served as chief resident in 2006–2007.

Dr. Larsen currently practices at Babylon Health Medical Associates in Babylon, New York, as well as at Sunriver Health in Wyandanch, New York. In addition, she is the associate program director of family medicine at Good Samaritan Hospital. As a clinical assistant professor of family medicine at NYIT-COM, she won Clinical Preceptor of the Year two years in a row. She is the executive director of the New York state chapter of ACOFP, where she has also held the position of treasurer. Dr. Larsen also serves as a New York delegate to the ACOFP Congress of Delegates. She has presented several times for the New York state chapter of ACOFP and has been published frequently in ACOFP’s peer-reviewed journal, Osteopathic Family Physician.

Sponsor: Patricia Happel, DO, FACOFP
Scientific Paper: A Review of Sexually Transmitted Infections
Sameh Moawad, MBChB, DO, FACHE, earned his doctor osteopathic medicine from New York College of Osteopathic Medicine at the New York Institute of Technology (2007). Prior to that he earned his bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery degrees from Alexandria University, in Alexandria, Egypt.

Dr. Moawad is the Robert J. Dole Veterans Affairs Health Care System (VAHCS) chief of staff/chief medical officer, serving previously as chief of staff and chief medical officer of Amarillo VAHCS for over three years. As the executive physician, he serves as the chairman of the medical staff, medical executive board and professional standards board. In these roles, Dr. Moawad has provided robust process improvement in all clinical areas—and direct supervision of all clinical service chiefs—to include graduate medical education and research.

In addition, Dr. Moawad is also a clinical associate professor of family medicine with the University of Kansas Medical Center and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. Prior to his VA career, he was the CEO and president of Moawad Health Services, PC. Dr. Moawad is board certified and a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Sponsor: Katarina Lindley, DO, FACOFP

Christopher A. Paynter, DO, MS, earned his bachelor’s degree at the Lincoln University of Missouri (2007), a master’s degree in biomedical sciences from the Kansas City University College of Medicine and Biosciences (2008) and his doctor of osteopathic medicine from Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine (2012). He completed his dual-accredited family medicine residency with the University of Missouri-Kansas City Department of Community and Family Medicine in 2015.

Dr. Paynter currently works as a physician for SSM St. Mary’s Hospital at the Tipton clinic and as the associate director of the Central Missouri Hospice. In his practice, he emphasizes preventive care and whole-body wellness. He will also serve as a regional dean for Kansas City University.

In addition to his involvement with ACOFP, Dr. Paynter is a past president of the Missouri Society of ACOFP (MSACOFP) and an active committee and board member. In his role, he was involved in the creation of the DirRenna Foundation for the Advancement of Osteopathic Medicine—a sister organization to MSACOFP—and served as its first president.

Dr. Paynter has also served in other leadership roles, including as a trustee for the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (MAOPS) and as the 2022–23 second vice president and the liaison for the Osage Valley District of MAOPS. He is also a member of the American Osteopathic Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Sponsor: Bruce R. Williams, DO, FACOFP
Scientific Paper: Perceptions of the SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine in Rural Missouri
Kim Pfotenhauer, DO, BC-ADM, earned a bachelor of science in zoology from Michigan State University (MSU) in East Lansing, Michigan (2002) before returning to earn her doctor of osteopathic medicine from MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) in 2009. She completed her residency in family medicine at OhioHealth O’Bleness Hospital in Athens, Ohio, and a fellowship in diabetology at Touro University California College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Pfotenhauer currently serves as an assistant professor and the director of clerkship curriculum at MSUCOM. Prior to her work in Michigan, she was an assistant professor in the primary care department at Touro University in California.

In addition to representing both Michigan and California at the ACOFP Congress of Delegates, Dr. Pfotenhauer has served as a board member-at-large of the ACOFP California, a member of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians, a member of the American Osteopathic Association and a member of the Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons of California. Dr. Pfotenhauer is currently a member of the Journal of Osteopathic Medicine’s Editorial Board. She speaks regionally and nationally on diabetes, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, vitamin D and metabolic disease.

Sponsor: Jay Shubrook, DO, FACOFP
Scientific Paper: Type 1 Diabetes in Adults

* Recipient, 2022 Most Outstanding Scientific Paper Award

Leonard A. Powell, DO, MS, CMD, attended Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pennsylvania, where he earned his bachelor of science in chemistry (2005) before earning a master of science in organic chemistry from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey (2007). He went on to earn his doctor of osteopathic medicine from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine in 2012.

Dr. Powell is currently an assistant professor at the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, where he teaches in the departments of geriatrics and gerontology, family medicine, and osteopathic manipulative medicine. He has authored several review books and journal articles, including publication in ACOFP’s peer-reviewed journal, Osteopathic Family Physician.

In addition to being an active member of ACOFP and the New Jersey Chapter of the ACOFP, Dr. Powell is a member of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, the American Osteopathic Association, the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, the American Geriatrics Society and the American Medical Directors Association.

Sponsor: Danielle Cooley, DO, FACOFP
Scientific Paper: Adapting Medicare Annual Wellness Visits for the Long-Term Care Population
Rachel A. Young, DO, is the clinic director and associate program director at McLaren Greater Lansing Family Medicine Residency Clinic in Lansing, Michigan, where she chairs the COVID-19 Task Force. Prior to joining McLaren in 2019, Dr. Young worked in private practice. As a teaching physician, she uses her past experiences to enrich students’ and residents’ knowledge of practice management. She is the 2021 recipient of the ACOFP New Osteopathic Physician of the Year Award.

An active member of ACOFP since 2012, Dr. Young currently serves as vice chair of the Women in Leadership Committee; a member of the New Physicians Committee, Resolutions Review Committee and the Task Force on Climate Change; and as a Michigan delegate to the ACOFP Congress of Delegates. In addition to her involvement with ACOFP, Dr. Young is actively engaged with the Michigan Osteopathic Association, the American Osteopathic Association and the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians, of which she is a past president.

Dr. Young earned her doctor of osteopathic medicine from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in East Lansing, Michigan, in 2012 and completed her residency at St. John Providence Macomb-Oakland in Warren, Michigan, in 2015.

Sponsor: Saroj Misra, DO, FACOFP
Scientific Paper: How to Increase Efficiency in Your Family Practice
2021 Class of Fellows

We are pleased to honor the following Fellows from the 2021 class at this year’s ceremony:

Paula Gregory, DO, MBA, FACOFP, attended Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Georgia, where she received her undergraduate degree in biology (1982) and earned her doctor of osteopathic medicine from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, West Virginia (1988).

Dr. Gregory is chair of primary care at California Health Sciences University and a practicing physician at Physician Partners. She previously served as assistant dean and chair of clinical education at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine – Georgia campus and as founding dean and chief administrative officer of the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences – Joplin campus.

She started a free clinic in association with the Pilgrim Cathedral Church, providing education on disease states, medication use and topics of interest for patients. Dr. Gregory served as the 2011 president of the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association and is the editor of ACOFP's peer-reviewed journal, Osteopathic Family Physician.

Sponsor: Bruce Williams, DO, FACOFP

Rebecca D. Lewis, DO, FACOFP, attended Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, where she received her bachelor of science in chemistry with an emphasis in biology (2008) and earned her doctor of osteopathic medicine from Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Parker, Colorado (2012).

Dr. Lewis works in the clinic, hospital and obstetrical settings of St. Mary’s Hospital in Enid, Oklahoma. She currently serves as a governor on the ACOFP Board of Governors, vice president for the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association and as a member of the Enid Community Clinic Board of Directors. She is a past president of the ACOFP Oklahoma State Society (2018–19) and a previous board member for the Northwest Domestic Crisis Services Center. Dr. Lewis volunteers in her community as a physician at the Enid Community Clinic and at the Journey House Pregnancy Resource Center.

She was also the 2021 recipient of the Most Outstanding Paper Award for her scientific paper.

Sponsor: Steven Bander, DO, FACOFP dist.
Jill Y. Porter, DO FACOFP, attended Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania, where she received her undergraduate degree in biology (1995) and earned her doctor of osteopathic medicine from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, Pennsylvania (1999). Prior to entering postgraduate medical education, Dr. Porter cofounded Brackin Porter Family Medicine, where she practiced for 14 years.

Dr. Porter is currently the associate director of the Doctors Hospital Family Practice Program at OhioHealth in Columbus, Ohio. She serves as a member of the OhioHealth Physicians Group Primary Care council; on the Board of Directors of Syntero, Inc.; and on the Admissions Committee at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Porter is also the director of the Wellness on Wheels initiative at OhioHealth and a recipient of the Ohio Osteopathic Association 2021 M. Bridget Wagner, DO, Humanitarian Award.

Sponsor: Geraldine Urse, DO, FACOFP
We are pleased to honor the following Fellows from the 2020 class at this year’s ceremony:

**William Blazey, DO, FACOFP**, attended SUNY Binghamton in Binghamton, New York, where he received his undergraduate degree in biology (2001) and earned his doctor of osteopathic medicine from the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYIT-COM) in Old Westbury, New York (2005). He completed an osteopathic family medicine residency at Long Beach Medical Center and served as chief resident in 2008.

Dr. Blazey is the associate dean for academic affairs at NYIT-COM and is an associate professor of family medicine. He provides medical care at the Academic Health Care Center at New York Tech and delivers wellness and injury prevention lectures to community groups. He also serves on the American Osteopathic Association’s Bureau on Scientific Affairs and Public Health; as the chair for the Medical Ethics, Jurisprudence and Professionalism Division of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners; and is a past board member of DOCARE International.

*Sponsor: Nancy Bono, DO, FACOFP*

**Matthew Cannon, DO, FACOFP**, attended Clemson University where he received his degree in health sciences and earned his doctor of osteopathic medicine from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (2005). After completing his family medicine residency at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, Dr. Cannon worked in private practice, then pursued academics. At VCOM-Carolinas, he served as chair of family medicine before being promoted to clinical affairs associate dean. He was named Clinical Professor of the Year for six consecutive years.

In 2019, Dr. Cannon became dean for VCOM-Carolinas, where he continues to see patients, accompanied by VCOM students. He also attends international mission trips annually. Under his leadership, VCOM has the largest number of graduates entering South Carolina primary care residencies.

Dr. Cannon has served as president of the South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society and currently is a member of its board of trustees. He also serves his community as chairman of St. Luke’s Free Medical Clinic Board of Directors.

*Sponsor: Dixie Tooke-Rawlins, DO, FACOFP*
Carol A. Penn, DO, MA, ABOM, FACOFP, attended New York University in New York, New York, where she received her undergraduate degree in dance education (1976) and master’s degree in humanities (1990). She earned her doctor of osteopathic medicine from Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Stratford, New Jersey (2007).

Dr. Penn serves as clinical faculty with Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, the Center for Mind Body Medicine and the Medical Moguls Academy and as a trustee with Lunch Break, Inc. A business woman, servant leader and entrepreneur, Dr. Penn is founder and chief visionary officer of Penn Global Visions LLC, a health and education multimedia firm changing the world one meditation at a time, and founder and chief medical officer of Penn Mogul Medical Group, a concierge medical practice.

Moved to activism by the murder of George Floyd, Dr. Penn is the content creator for two courses accredited for continuing medical education—The Mindful Genogram: Understanding Implicit Bias Through the Lens of Ancestral Bias and Unpacking Racism Through the Lens of Mind, Body and Spirit: We Can Become Allies—and has presented both the course and the complementary workshop nationally since June 2020.

She is a medical correspondent for WURD Radio in Philadelphia, where she is a frequent guest and podcaster, as well as the host of her own weekly show and podcast, Weightless in Mind, Body and Spirit. She is also a two-time best-selling author, and her book, Meditation In a Time of Madness, launched in 2019 as a number-one best seller in the category of meditation and alternative medicine.

Sponsor: Joshua Coren, DO, FACOFP

Felecia Waddleton-Willis, DO, FACOFP, attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., where she received her undergraduate degree in botany/microbiology (1984) and earned her doctor of osteopathic medicine from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (1991). She is an Osteopathic Heritage Health Policy Fellowship graduate (2000) and a distant learning clinical medical adjunct speaker at large. She collaborates with a provider team that travels nationally and internationally to train physicians in utilization of the Fascial Distortion Model for pain management.

Dr. Waddleton-Willis currently serves as an adult and family medicine physician at Mid-Atlantic Permanente in Columbia, Maryland. She is a recipient of the Baltimore Service Area Most Improved in Quality Performance award and was named one of 2016’s most dedicated physicians by The Bethesda Magazine. Representing the State of Washington Department of Early Learning, Dr. Waddleton-Willis was appointed to the Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities.

Sponsor: Bernadette Riley, DO, FACOFP
**Lynn Marie Wilson, DO, FACOFP, FAAFP**, attended Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, where she received her undergraduate degree in genetic engineering (2006), and earned her doctor of osteopathic medicine from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2010).

In 2016, she joined Lehigh Valley Health Network’s Department of Family Medicine as a family medicine faculty attending and shortly after became section chief of geriatrics in the Department of Family Medicine. In 2019, Dr. Wilson started the Geriatric Fellowship program through a partnership of the family medicine and internal medicine department.

*Sponsor: Carol Henwood, DO, FACOFP dist.*
2022 Distinguished Fellow Award Candidates

The Distinguished Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (FACOFP dist.) recognizes exceptional members of the Conclave of Fellows.

The designation is presented annually to those Fellows who have exhibited exemplary service to ACOFP by attendance, as well as support of the governance and committee structures, locally and nationally. The Award is conferred on Founder and Active Members. The criterion for awarding a Distinguished Fellow Award includes contributions in four of the five requirements since their Fellow induction year: Academic Service, Fellows Sponsorship, Financial Support of ACOFP, National ACOFP Committee Service and State of Local Service.

Each candidate must have attended a minimum of at least 20 total ACOFP Annual Convention & Scientific Seminars and/or AOA’s Annual Osteopathic Medical Education Conference since the Fellow induction year. The candidates are reviewed and approved by the Executive Council of Conclave of Fellows and by a majority vote of the ACOFP Board of Governors.

The approved candidates are invited to the ACOFP Awards Ceremony held annually at the ACOFP Annual Convention & Scientific Seminars at which time the designation of Distinguished Fellow is officially conferred and presented with their Distinguished Fellow Crystal Award and gold cord.

The ACOFP Executive Council of Conclave of Fellows and the ACOFP Board of Governors extend their sincere congratulations to the candidates who have been selected for the Distinguished Fellow Awards.
William J. Burke, DO, FACOFP, received his bachelor’s degree from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio (1984), before earning his doctor of osteopathic medicine the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens, Ohio (1988). He completed his residency at OhioHealth Doctors Hospital in 1991.

Dr. Burke is the dean of Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Dublin campus, where he also serves as a tenured associate professor of family medicine. Prior to his time at the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, he was the vice president of medical education at OhioHealth Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

An active volunteer, Dr. Burke is a past president of the Ohio State Society of ACOFP. He is also very involved with ACOFP, including as a delegate to the Congress of Delegates and chair and member of several committees. He has been a member of ACOFP since 1988 and was awarded the distinction of Fellow of the ACOFP in 1997.

Dr. Burke’s dedication to the osteopathic profession shines through in his involvement in other organizations and generosity, including his roles as past chair of the Osteopathic International Alliance, as a former member of the board of trustees of the American Osteopathic Association and as a founding director of the International Primary Care Educational Alliance.

David E. Garza, DO, MS.MEdL, FAAFP, FACOFP, earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas at Austin (1985), his doctor of osteopathic medicine from the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth – Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (1989) and his master of science in medical education leadership from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (2016).

He currently serves as the interim associate dean for clinical affairs, family medicine clerkship director and the rural/underserved/military clerkship director at the University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine (UIWSOM). He is also a staff physician at the UIW Health Services Clinic.

Dr. Garza became an ACOFP member in 1985, and since then, he has been actively involved in several committees, including his current role as vice chair of the Medical & Professional Ethics Committee and as a delegate to the ACOFP Congress of Delegates. He is a past president of the Texas ACOFP.

Dr. Garza is also a member of the American Osteopathic Association, where he serves on the Board of Trustees; the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, where he is a past president and current member of the Board of Trustees; and the Texas Medical Association.

In 2008, Dr. Garza was awarded the distinction of Fellow of the ACOFP and, in 2018, he received the Master Preceptor Award of the ACOFP.
David J. Park, DO, FAAFP, FACOFP, earned his bachelor of science in psychology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook (1993) and his doctor of osteopathic medicine from New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (1998).

He is the vice president and founding dean of the Rocky Vista University Montana College of Osteopathic Medicine (MCOM), previously serving as the vice president and campus dean on the RVUCOM Southern Utah campus. Prior to joining RVU, he served in various medical education leadership roles during the 10 years he lived in Las Vegas. Dr. Park was the chair for the department of primary care and assistant dean of graduate medical education at Touro University of Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine. He also served as the chief academic officer for the TUMEC Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution. Dr. Park was also the founding program director of the family medicine residency at Valley Hospital Medical Center and served in that role for nine years.

Dr. Park has been an ACOFP member since 2006 and was awarded the distinction of Fellow in 2010. He was selected as the 2010 recipient of the Most Outstanding Paper Award. Dr. Park began serving on the ACOFP Board of Governors in 2014. In 2018, he was elected vice president and is now president-elect. He serves as an ex-officio board member on the newly created ACOFP-Mountain West Regional Society, which currently represents Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. Dr. Park has served on numerous ACOFP committees and was the program chair for two national ACOFP conventions.

In his dedicated career for the osteopathic profession, Dr. Park has been recognized for his achievements through several awards, including the American Osteopathic Association Advocacy Award in 2021, the American Osteopathic Foundation Educator of the Year Award in 2020 and the Innovation in Medical Education Award, sponsored by the Society of Osteopathic Medical Educators and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.
Geraldine N. Urse, DO, MHPEd, FACOFP, earned her doctor of osteopathic medicine from the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (1993) and later earned a master of health professions education from Michigan State University (2014). She completed a fellowship in integrative medicine in 2019.

Before retiring in 2020, Dr. Urse served as the director of medical education at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. She has been an active volunteer since becoming an ACOFP member in 1989, participating in and chairing the ACOFP Women in Leadership Committee for several years and serving as an Ohio delegate to the ACOFP Congress of Delegates. She is currently a member of the ACOFP Constitution & Bylaws Committee.

In addition to her involvement with ACOFP, Dr. Urse is a past president of the ACOFP Ohio Chapter, a past president of the Ohio Osteopathic Association and a past president of the Columbus Osteopathic Association. She has been recognized for her professional and academic work, including the Columbus Osteopathic Association Linder Advocacy Award in 2020, the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine Medal of Honor in 2018 and the Ohio Osteopathic Association/Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine George L. Eckert, Jr., DO Mentor of the Year in 2013, among others. Dr. Urse was awarded the distinction of Fellow of the ACOFP in 2003.
2020 Class of Distinguished Fellows

We are pleased to honor the following Distinguished Fellows from the 2020 class at this year’s ceremony:

**Gautam Desai, DO, FACOFP dist.**, attended Boston University, where he completed his undergraduate psychology degree and earned his doctor of osteopathic medicine from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Desai’s academic service includes lecturing at multiple ACOFP conventions on subjects ranging from understanding CME, to osteopathic medicine incorporation into common presenting conditions, to manipulative medicine workshops. His philanthropic efforts awarded him *Ingram’s Magazine* 2015 Heroes in Healthcare award, in recognition of his medical missions and volunteerism. In 2012, he received the Robert A. Klobak Award from DOCARE International for his outstanding accomplishments providing health care to indigent and isolated people in remote areas around the world.

Dr. Desai is a member of the ACOFP Board of Governors, serving as vice president for 2022–23. He became an ACOFP Fellow in 2009, sponsored by Lori Boyajian-O’Neill, DO, FACOFP.

**Janette M. Willcox, DO, FACOFP dist.**, is dean of the Virginia campus of the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM-VA) in Blacksburg, Virginia. She attended Truman State University, where she completed her undergraduate degree (1974) and then obtained her doctor of osteopathic medicine from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (1978).

In addition to her role as dean of VCOM-VA, Dr. Willcox serves on the graduate medical education board of advisors for VCOM-affiliated programs and as the course director for professionalism and ethics at the college. She also serves on the board of directors for the Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association, the Medical Society of Virginia and the Osteopathic International Alliance, as well as on the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Board of Deans.

Dr. Willcox became an ACOFP Fellow in 2009, sponsored by Dixie J. Tooke-Rawlins, DO, FACOFP.
Fellows of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

* Julius Abramsohn
* Phillip Accardo
  Kevin Ache
  Andrew Adair
* Roy Adams
  Kerry Agnello
  Robert Agnello
* Ernest Agresti
  Ernestina Agresti
  Linda Agresti
  Margaret Aguwa
* Harrison Aldrich
  Ethan Allen
  Joseph Allgeier
* R. Almquist
  Barnet Alpert
  Igor Altman
* Maynard Amelon
* Richard Anderson
* W. Andreen
  John Angeloni
* Carlton Apgar
  David Armbruster
  James Arnold
  David Ashcraft
* J. Auld
  Joseph Baker
  Robert Ball
  Steven Barag
  Lewis Bass
  Bruce Bates
* John Bauers
* Elmer Baum
  Michael Becker
* J. Beckmeyer
* Darryl Beehler
  Bridget Bellingar
  Deborah Bennett
  Camille Bentley
* William Bergen
  Bernard Bernacki
* Bernard Bernacki
  Andrew Berry
  John Bettor
  Peter Bidey
  John Biery
  Glenn Bigsby
* William Billings
* Allen Birrer
  Nicole Bixler
* Robert Blackburn
* Harold Blood
* Stephen Blood
  William Bograkos
  Craig Boisvert
* Arthur Bok
  Nancy Bono
* Chester Boone
* Victor Bove
  Terri Bowland
* Donald Boxman
  George Boxwell
  E. Brandt
  Alexander Brazalovich
* Richard Brennan
  Francis Brescia
  N. Brethouwer
  Alan Brewer
* Jack Brill
  Bruce Brink
  Bruce Brink
  Per Brolinson
  Gayle Brook
  Jeffrey Brookman
  Anne Brooks
* D. Brown
  Jack Brown
  Patricio Bruno
  Wayne Buchwald
  Vernon Buckley
  Joseph Buder
  Alexander Bunt
  William Burke
* John Burnett
  Ronald Burns
  Michael Burry
  Daniel Callan
  Pablo Calzada
  Matthew Cannon
  Amy Capoocia
  Dennis Carter
* John Carter
  Toni Casale
  John Cegelski
  Lie-Ping Chang
  Stacy Chase
  Larry Cherry
* Myrlen Chesnut
  Steven Cimerberg
  Michael Clary
* Robert Clem
* James Coan
* Myral Coatney
* Allen Cohen
* Jerome Cohen
* Richard Colarusso
* Wayne Cole
  Samuel Coleridge
  Eileen Conaway
* Thomas Conklin
  Brenda Connolly
  Daniel Conte
* Kenneth Conte
* Joseph Conti
  Joseph Cook
  Ronald Cook
  Danielle Cooley
  Michael Cooper
  Joshua Coren
  William Cox
* Marion Coy
  Bradford Croft
* Robert Cross
  Edmund Csényik
* John Cunningham
  Tyler Cymet
  Thomas Czarnecki
  James Czewski
  Maria Daly
Bobby Daniel
Rob Danoff
* James Davis
James Dearing
Randall DeArment
* Marvin DeBattista
Joseph DeGaetano
Anthony Dekker
Arnold Del Pilar
Hector Delgado
Linda Delo
* Eugene DeLucia
* George Denka
Martin Diamond
Brian Dickens
* C. Dickey
John Dickey
Leonard DiGiovanni
Anthony DiMarco
* James DiRenna
* Jerome Ditkoff
Jerome Dixon
Richard Dobrusin
Wayne Dodakian
* Dale Dodson
Edwin Doehring
Robert Dolansky
John Dougherty
* Wilbur Downing
Robyn Dreibelbis
Marcia Drewry
Joanna Drowos
Scott Druckman
* Norman Dubiel
* Joseph Dubin
Gail Dudley
Darlene Dunay
* John Earnshaw
* Thomas Easton
Kenneth Eberhard
Gregory Ebner
Dennis Eckels
Cynthia Egan
Andrew Eilerman
James Eitner
* George Elanjian
Joy Elliott
* Lewis Elliston
Thomas Ely
Nelson Eng
Katherine England
Robert England
* Irving Epstein
Erik Esper
Robert Esper
* Ronald Esper
Stephany Esper
* Stanley Essl
Paul Evans
Dawn Fairley
* Alan Fallick
* Fredrick Farmer
Ian Fawks
* Stephen Fedec
Amber Fedin
* Michael Feinstein
* Arthur Feldman
* Raymond Felling
Robert Fernandez
Bradley Feuer
Frank Filipetto
* Robert Finch
Shari Fine
David Fink
Larry Finkelstein
* John Finley
* John Fiore
Philip First
Jeremy Fischer
* J. Fish
* Gerald Flanagan
Jodi Flanders
Theodore Flaum
* J. Forbes
Melinda Ford
Claude Foreit
E. Foster
Mark Franklin
Mary Franz
Daniel Freeland
Richard Frey
Donald Furci
* Earl Gabriel
Samuel Ganz
* Robert Gardner
David Garza
Jeffrey Gastorf
Melissa Gastorf
* Robert Gates
Ernest Gelb
* Frank George
Julian Gershon
Ioanna Giatis-Kessler
* Andre Gibaldi
* Robert Gillson
John Gimpel
Kelli Glaser
* Melvin Glaser
* Joseph Glickel
David Goldberg
Ellice Goldberg
* Ronald Goldberg
* Irving Gordon
Bradley Grant
* Sanford Greenbaum
Linda Greenspan
Jordan Greer
Robert Greer
* Robert Greer
Paula Gregory
* Alfred Grilli
Pamela Grimaldi
* Sidney Grobman
Andrew Gross
Gretta Gross
Joan Grzybowski
Peter Guiney
Elizabeth Gunther
Adarsh Gupta
* Joseph Guzik
Jennifer Gwilym
Ann Habenicht
William Hailer
Donald Hall
* Richard Hall
* Robert Haman
* William Hand
* Raymond Hanna
Patricia Happel
Douglas Harley
Harvey Harris
* Ray Piper
  Jillane Pitcher
  David Plundo
  Gary Plundo
  Terri Plundo
  Robert Poetz
  M. Porcelli
  Jill Porter
  George Pramstaller
  * Irvine Prather
  * Murray Pritchard
  Justin Puckett
  Jerome Pumo
  Daher Rahi
  Ben Raines
  Kenneth Ramey
  J. Rand
  Harvey Randolph
  Bruce Rankin
  Daniel Raub
  Jennifer Ravenscroft
  Robert Reese
  Thomas Reeths
  Dale Reinker
  Jeffrey Rettig
  * Thomas Reutter
  Sally Ann Rex
  Louis Reznick
  * William Rhode
  John Rice
  David Richards
  Bernadette Riley
  * Fred Rinehart
  Bret Ripley
  Sonia Rivera-Martinez
  Myral Robbins
  * John Roberts
  * Gerald Roderick
  * Alexander Rodi
  * J. Rodos
  Rebeccah Rodriguez-Regner
  William Rogers
  * Loren Rohr
  Kathleen Rollinger
  * Robert Rosbolt
  Herbert Rosen

David Rosenberg
Barbara Ross-Lee
* James Rowland
  Katina Rue
  Ronald Russ
  * Samuel Salman
  Lawrence Salob
  * Raymond Saloom
  Brent Sanderlin
  Mark Sanders
  Phillip Saperstein
  * C. Sauter
  * Daniel Saylak
  Richard Schafer
  Earl Scheidler
  Samuel Scheinfield
  * A. Schildberg
  Brent Schlapper
  Joseph Schlecht
  Seymour Schlossberg
  * Ida Schmidt
  Mark Schneider
  Martin Schnier
  Peter Schoeps
  Damon Schranz
  Harold Schreiber
  Frederic Schwartz
  George Scott
  Kerry Scott
  Shannon Scott
  Donald Sefcik
  Jennifer Sepp
  Regan Shabloski
  * T. Sharp
  B. Shaw
  Karen Sheflin
  Karen Shepherd
  Thomas Shima
  * K. Shimoda
  Mark Shiu
  * Whitlaw Show
  Jay Shubrook
  Randy Shuck
  Cynthia Shughrie
  Victoria Shuman
  * Richard Siehl
  * Eugene Sikorski

Christopher Simpson
* David Simpson
  Martha Simpson
  Harold Sirota
  David Skillinge
  * David Skole
  * Ernest Slaughter
  * Vernon Sloan
  Leonard Smith
  * Morton Smith
  Troy Smith
  Richard Snow
  Derrick Sorweide
  Brenda Sowter
  Harvey Spector
  Randy Spector
  Thomas Spooner
  * Leonard Staff
  * Eli Stark
  Philip Starr
  Joseph Stasio
  Thomas Steele
  Joel Stein
  Richard Steiner
  * Paul Steingard
  Ralph Stolz
  * David Strickland
  * Jack Strickler
  * John Strosnider
  Layne Subera
  * Chester Suske
  William Swallow
  * Harry Sweeney
  Thomas Szwed
  Albert Talone
  Richard Tancer
  Steffan Taub
  * H. Taveau
  * John Taylor
  Gerard Teplitz
  * Harold Teplitz
  * Matthew Terry
  Richard Terry
  * Mary Theodoras
  George Thomas
  * George Thomas
  * Harold Thomas
James Thomas
Dixie Tooke-Rawlins
* George Torres
Jonathan Torres
Kevin Treffer
Charles Truthan
Antonios Tsompanidis
Priscilla Tu
Amelia Tunanidas
Pantelis
Robert Tupa
Donald Turner
James Turner
* Jacek Turowski
Geraldine Urse
* Mark Varidin
* Plato Varidin
Kenneth Veit
Norman Vinn
Charles Vonder Embse
Felecia Waddleton-Willis
Earle Wagner
Barbara Walker
E. Wallace
Craig Wallingford
Joseph Walsh
John Walton
Kelli Ward
Rodey Wassef
Lynn Waters
Roberta Wattleworth
Jacqueline Weaver-Agostoni
* Paul Wehram
Jason Weihl
* S. Weinstein
John Welch
Erin Westfall
William Wewer
* James Wheeler
* Maynard Whetstone
Harold White
Craig Whiting
* Tom Whittle
* Charles Wilcher
Margaret Wilkins
Bruce Williams
John Williams
* L. Williams
Barbara Williams-Page
Grace Wilson
Lynn Wilson
* Terence Wilson
Gary Winn
Frank Winters
Lisa Witherite-Rieg
Larry Witmer
John Wolf
Thomas Wolf
* Jack Wolfe
* H. Wonder
Ralph Wood
Monica Woodall
Robert Woods
William Woolery
Teniesha Wright-Jones
Joseph Yasso
Andrew Young
* Ben Young
Peter Zajac
Alice Zal
* Edmund Zapp
Michael Zawisza
Lowell Zeid
Thomas Zimmerman
James Zini
Christopher Zipp
Hallie Zwibel
* Chester Zwissler

* deceased
Distinguished Fellows of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

Larry Anderson
* Michael Avallone
Steven Bander
William Betz
* Frank Bonifacio
John Bowling
Larry Bunnell
* Mary Burnett
Boyd Buser
Carman Ciervo
Greg Cohen
David Connett
Bruce Cunningham
Kevin de Regnier
Robert DeLuca
Gautam Desai
Gary Edwards
Joel Feder
Gail Feinberg
James Froelich
R. Gallagher
Dan Galloway
Katherine Galluzzi
Robert George
Jeffrey Grove
Patrick Hanford
Kenneth Heiles
* Max Helman
Carol Henwood
* Wilbur Hill
* Samson Inwald
Gregory James
Royce Keilers
Kieren Knapp
Duane Koehler
* Donald Kotoske
* Richard Krejda
Harald Lausen
* David Levine
Martin Levine
Jeffry Lindenbaum
J. Mannino
Paul Martin
Ronnie Martin
Joseph McNERney
Joseph Molnar
Michael Murphy
Kenneth Nelson
Terry Nickels
Richard Ogden
* Marcelino Olivera
* O. Pauley
* Robert Peters
Eugene Pogorelec
* Louis Radnothy
* Burt Routman
Steven Rubin
George Sawabani
* John Sevastos
Dana Shaffer
* Eric Sheflin
Mark Sikorski
Anthony Silvagni
William Silverman
George Smith
Gregory Smith
Arnold Sokol
William Stager
* Joseph Stella
Ray Stowers
Stephan Swetech
Thomas Told
Alesia Wagner
Janette Willcox
Rodney Wiseman
* Rudolph Wolf
* T. Zachary
Jan Zieren

* deceased
History of the Fellow Awards Ceremony
By S. L. Koplovitz, DO, FACOFP

The Conclave of Fellows Ceremony of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, as you are witnessing tonight, started in this manner. Dr. John Sevastos was president of ACGP in 1975-76 and had the opportunity to attend the Conclave of Surgeons, at which time he witnessed the procedures.

When he came back from the meeting, he talked to me with a lot of enthusiasm about the fact that we ought to consider revamping our present ceremony. And after considerable phone conversations, we decided to try to see what we could do about it. We submitted a plan to the Board of Governors and decided we could proceed without any money forthcoming from the College. Then there was the problem of how we were going to fund this project. It so happened that we had an occasion to meet with Mr. Marvin Anzel, of E. R. Squibb Pharmaceutical Corporation, regarding the preceptor program, which they had sponsored for us for quite some time.

The College had its mid-year meeting in New York in July 1976. Mr. Anzel hosted the Board of Governors dinner, and at that time, I spoke to him about sponsoring the Fellow ceremony. He promised to talk to the president of E. R. Squibb and said he'd get back to me. A meeting was arranged for Dr. Sevastos and me to meet with Mr. Bongiovanni, president of Squibb Pharmaceutical Corporation.

Dr. Sevastos came to Harrisburg, and we drove to Princeton, New Jersey, and met Mr. Bongiovanni—a robust, hearty and most interesting individual. In the course of the conversation, we somehow got to talking about opera and evinced quite an interest on the subject, and apparently this broke the ice. Mr. Bongiovanni then turned to Mr. Anzel and told him to give us what we needed to complete the project. We sat with their designer and evolved the mace design, and also a banner.

Having crossed the first barrier, we next turned to the details of the ceremony. And first on the agenda was the music that would be used. This was very important because we felt that something was needed that would fit into the solemnity of the occasion and still not be funeral. The old chestnut of “Pomp and Circumstance” by Sir Edward Elgar, which we are all familiar with, having been played at our high school and college graduations, was “old hat.” John Phillip Sousa band marches are great for military and razor-sharp precision but were too rapid for our needs. I opted for the “War March of the Priests from Athalia” by Felix Mendelssohn. This piece had a special cadence and rhythm that lent itself to the dignity and solemnity for a ceremony that provided for a proper entry. We had a serious problem trying to find a tape of a war march. Finally, Carolyn Haman found the tape after some hard looking and shopping in Dallas.

The next problem had to do with the lighting. Dr. Sevastos was definite in his ideas of proper lighting and spent a lot of time with the operator of the spotlights and in repeated rehearsals until he was satisfied.
On the night of the ceremony, Dr. Sevastos and I were as nervous as expectant parents because we were informed by the chief of the executive staff that the whole project would not work. Letters had been sent to previous recipients of the Fellows Award, inviting them to participate in the procession. About 30 or 40 responded.

Time for action had arrived. Grand Marshall Sevastos lined us up two by two. As president of ACGP, I walked with the grand marshall. He gave the signal to “go.” The house lights dimmed, and the war march started. I muttered to Dr. Sevastos, “Well, here we go.” We stepped into the darkened aisle. The spot picked us up, and we made a right turn down the long center aisle towards the head table. At first, all we heard was the music as we marched, and then about one-third of the way down the center aisle, we suddenly heard a loud, spontaneous applause that built up to a crescendo until we all reached our assigned place.

What an emotional moment! The only other event to equal it so far as my relations with ACGP/ACOFP was the dedication of our office building, and the history of that program makes for another interesting story. Suffice to say, when we arrived at the head table, I looked at Dr. Sevastos’ glistening eyes—and he at mine. No words were spoken, we just shook hands and sat down.
Tradition

Academic Regalia
American academic costume had its origins in the 11th and 12th century European Universities when gowns distinguished academic doctors, masters and bachelors from other segments of the population.

The Gown
Although it may originally have been worn as protection against unheated medieval buildings, the academic gown today symbolizes the democracy of scholarship, because it covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath. It is usually black.

The Cap
When Roman Law freed the slave, he won the privilege of wearing a cap. The academic cap is a sign of the freedom and responsibility of scholarship. The color of the tassel denotes the degree.

The Hood
The hood is lined with the official color of the college or university. The color of the facing denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color associated with medicine is green. The Fellow hoods and gowns are recorded in Missouri and recognized as part of total academic regalia.

The Gold Cord
ACOFP is proud to recognize the achievement of our Distinguished Fellows by providing each with a gold honor cord. This cord represents a Fellow’s lifelong dedication and contribution of the highest order to the advancement of osteopathic family medicine.

The Mace
Mace in its original definition is a weapon of offense, made of iron or steel, and capable of breaking through armor. The mace was carried as a symbol of royal authority, and for this reason, the royal arms was set on the button at the end of the handle.

As you will note, the ACOFP Mace has the coat of arms logo in the button staff. The ACOFP Mace traditionally carried in our processionals is a product of detailed artwork and is fashioned from solid bronze with a serpent entwining the staff. The button, or top of the mace, has cast a perfect logo of ACOFP, which is threaded and opens into the shaft of the Mace, wherein enclosed is a beautiful parchment with the names of the ACOFP past presidents appropriately inscribed thereon. Each year, as is traditional in our processionals, the presiding president passes it on to the new president, and in turn, their name—as immediate past president—is placed on the scroll of the mace.