



A LIGHT IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

“This is unfamiliar territory for everyone, and none of us knows what lies ahead. But we hope that our contributions and efforts will make a meaningful difference.”

- Martin Levine, DO, MPH, FACOAP, AOF Board President



We offer our deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks for your continued support of the osteopathic community and would like to provide a brief update on our work and service to the profession during the coronavirus pandemic.

The AOF Board of Directors takes great pride in the Foundation's ability to support programs and services that promote osteopathic medicine and enhance patient-centered care. This month, we have worked tirelessly to ensure spring grant, scholarship, and award [applications](#) would open without delay. In addition, staff has researched and published [resources](#) that may be of help to our partner nonprofits, as well as individuals and small businesses across the country.

The Foundation will continue to assess and monitor this ever-evolving situation and we will bring new resources to light as they become available. Moreover, please rest assured, we will make the best decisions we can based on the information available and provide updates accordingly.

[Read the full message](#)

To all of the doctors, nurses, technicians, transporters, EMTs, pharmacists and everyone who supports patient care and are rising to the occasion and caring for our most vulnerable populations we say thank you. Your dedication, commitment and courage deserve our deepest gratitude and admiration.

Together, we will #ShineOn.

Sincerely,

*The Board of Directors and staff
of the American Osteopathic
Foundation*



IMPORTANT DATES

April 19-25
Osteopathic Medicine Week

October 16
Save the Date!
AOF Honors Gala

HOW DO AOF AWARDS COME TO BE? THE STORY BEHIND A HISTORIC AWARD

If you've ever wondered how AOF awards get named, you're not alone. In fact, the story behind an award's creation can be as inspiring as the winners it recognizes.

The AOA/AOA Donna Jones Moritsugu Memorial Award was established in 1993 in memory of the late wife of Rear Admiral Kenneth Moritsugu, MD, whose life was cut short by a tragic auto accident. Donna was a multi-talented woman and professional in her own right. She was a constant source of inspiration and counsel to her husband, who called her the "wind beneath his wings."

Likewise, many DOs are blessed with spouses who help them accomplish their professional goals. While physicians often receive acknowledgments of these accomplishments, only infrequently do their significant others get recognized alongside them.

Losing his wife led Dr. Moritsugu on a journey to find a way to recognize the invaluable contributions of spouses like Donna, whose unwavering support helped him through medical school and throughout his rise to the top of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) as a Rear Admiral.

Dr. Moritsugu, a longtime colleague, counselor, and friend of the osteopathic medical profession, established the Donna Jones Moritsugu Memorial Award with the AOF in 1993. It has been sustained through annual personal contributions and a matching gift from Johnson & Johnson.

Joining us in presenting this award is the Advocates for the AOA (AAOA), a non-profit group of spouses and supporters of DOs whose vision aligns with the goal of this award. The AAOA aims to support public health and educational activities that inform and engage patients and families on the benefits of osteopathic medicine and public health.

We continue to have a great relationship with Dr. Moritsugu, checking in regularly to provide updates, share recipient stories, and grow enhance the program. as the number of Osteopathic Colleges increase.



Kylie Martinez, partner of Chad Martinez, Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, 2019 AOA/ AAOA Donna Jones Moritsugu Memorial Award Recipient



Salman Kermali, partner of Sepeedeh Araghiniknam, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, 2019 AOA/ AAOA Donna Jones Moritsugu Memorial Award Recipient



SHARE YOUR STORY

Over the upcoming weeks the AOF will be collecting stories from our readers on how COVID-19 has impacted their work and their lives. Our goal is to feature these heroic stories, to inform future AOF programs, and to serve as an historical and very human snapshot of the personal and professional challenges and small rays of light during this very uncertain time.

If you'd like to share your story, please reach out to Carolyn Torgersen, Director of Marketing and Mission Communications directly at ctorgersen@aof.org.

RECOGNIZE A NEW PHYSICIAN IN YOUR STATE WITH EXPANDED AOF RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Nothing encourages the development of leadership skills in the next generation of osteopathic physicians like recognition. While most people don't take on leadership roles with the goal of being recognized, taking the time to identify and celebrate the contributions they make inspires others to take on more responsibility and help steer the course of their growing, changing profession.

For almost 20 years, the AOF James M. Lally, DO, Emerging Leader Award has honored osteopathic leaders within their first five years of practice whose actions are instrumental in improving their programs, the profession and public health. Awarding one leader per year was a great start, but we thought...We can DO MORE!

Beginning in 2019, the AOF partnered with State Affiliates to expand the Emerging Leader Award program, with the goal of recognizing one exceptional leader from every state. Through the expanded program, each State Affiliate can submit the name of an emerging leader as their "State Emerging Leader," with a chance at winning the national title.

“This award is such an important opportunity to identify leaders early in their career, in addition to many traditional awards that honor a lifetime of service,”

says Rita Forden, AOF CEO. "By encouraging emerging leaders at the start of their journey, we can help accelerate their trajectories and motivate others to follow in their footsteps."

An "Emerging Leader" is defined as an outstanding Osteopathic Physician in practice less than five years.

Nominees must:

- Be a current member of the AOA and their Specialty College;
- Promote osteopathic medicine and its philosophy;
- Be a role model who continuously uses their leadership skills to better the profession;
- Have numerous noteworthy accomplishments;
- Have made a positive impact through teaching, administration, committee work, political actions, or work with local and national associations.



Cole Zanetti, DO, Director,
Digital Health Track
Rocky Vista University College
of Osteopathic Medicine, 2019 James
M. Lally, DO, National Emerging Leader
Award Recipient

All nominated State Emerging Leaders will undergo a national review to determine the AOF's National James M. Lally, DO, Emerging Leader of the Year for 2020. In 2019, we had ten State Emerging Leaders. Do you think we can get 50 in 2020?

This award is named after former AOF Board President James M. Lally, DO, for his exemplary leadership, generous spirit and unquestionable integrity. Dr. Lally continues to dedicate his impressive career to practicing the philosophy and tenets of osteopathic profession; and through this service, has made a significant impact locally, nationally and internationally.

[Learn more about this exciting program](#), including how to submit your state's nomination.