

HOD Action: Resolution 302 referred

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 302
(A-08)

Introduced by: American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society

Subject: Recognition of Osteopathic Education and Training

Referred to: Reference Committee C
(David M. Lichtman, MD, Chair)

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- 1 Whereas, The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) is the nationally recognized
2 accrediting authority for medical education programs leading to the MD degree in US and
3 Canadian medical schools and the LCME is sponsored by the Association of American Medical
4 Colleges (AAMC) and the American Medical Association; and
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6 Whereas, An independent board of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), Commission
7 on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA), accredits the 26 US osteopathic medical
8 schools; and
9
10 Whereas, In 2005, the president of the AAMC wrote, "...after more than a century of often
11 bitterly contentious relationships between the osteopathic and allopathic medical professions,
12 we now find ourselves living at a time when osteopathic and allopathic graduates are both
13 sought after by many of the same residency programs; are in most instances both licensed by
14 the same licensing boards; are both privileged by many of the same hospitals; and are found in
15 appreciable numbers on the faculties of each other's medical schools;" and
16
17 Whereas, Graduates of osteopathic medical schools are licensed in all states, have rights and
18 responsibilities, such as military service, that are identical to allopathic physicians and surgeons;
19 and
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21 Whereas, Between 1980 and 2005, the number of yearly allopathic medical graduates remained
22 virtually constant at around 16,000, and during this same period, the number of osteopathic
23 medical graduates increased by more than 250% (from about 1,150 to about 2,800); and
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25 Whereas, Osteopathic graduates are expected to increase to 3,300 by the year 2010 and to as
26 many as 4,000 by 2015; and
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28 Whereas, The AOA accredits osteopathic residency programs, which upon successful
29 completion allow examination for board certification by specialty boards accredited by the AOA;
30 and
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32 Whereas, The number of osteopathic students entering residencies accredited by the
33 Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has increased every year from
34 1999; and

1 Whereas, Today nearly two-thirds of osteopathic graduates are entering ACGME-accredited
2 residency training programs and upon successful completion are allowed examination by
3 specialty boards that are members of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS);
4 therefore be it

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6 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association recognize the current similarities in the
7 accreditation and certification systems for allopathic and osteopathic physicians and encourage
8 greater collaboration between and mutual recognition of education, training, and board
9 certification systems. (New HOD Policy)

Received: 05/07/08

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

H-405.969 Definition of a Physician

The AMA affirms that a physician is an individual who has received a "Doctor of Medicine" or a "Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine" degree or an equivalent degree following successful completion of a prescribed course of study from a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine. (CME Rep. 4-A-94; Reaffirmed by Sub. Res. 712, I-94; Reaffirmed and Modified: CME Rep. 2, A-04)