OME & VA Academic Affiliations Task Force

In 2016, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) established the Osteopathic Medical Education (OME) & U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Academic Affiliations Task Force. The Task Force was established to advance AACOM’s efforts in support of its member institutions and graduate medical education (GME) partners in establishing and strengthening academic affiliations with the VA.

Comprised of individuals who currently oversee affiliation agreements between the colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) and the VA, are involved in establishing or managing relationships with the VA through an Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution, or are deans, clinical directors, program directors, and/or directors of medical education at the COMs, the charge of the Task Force is to:

- Provide expert "on the ground" national and/or regional information regarding the needs of the OME community in establishing affiliations with the VA.
- Develop recommendations to the VA on ways to build, strengthen, and/or expand partnerships to advance The Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA) GME expansion initiative with the OME community.
- Equip AACOM with nuanced information on the unique challenges and opportunities facing osteopathic medical schools and osteopathic GME partners in establishing affiliations with the VA.
- Assist in ways to facilitate channels of communication among COMs, GME partners, local VA medical centers, and the VA’s Office of Academic Affiliations.

Membership

**Chair**, Thomas McWilliams, DO (ATSU-SOMA)  
Clint Adams, DO, MPA (RVUCOM)  
VA Liaison, Edward Bope, MD (VHA)  
Jane Carreiro, DO (UNECOM)  
Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO (RowanSOM)  
Mark Desantis, DO, MS (VAMC)  
Brandon Isaacs, DO (PNWU-COM)  
Joyce Johnson, DO, MA (VA Commission on Care)  
Brian A. Kessler, DO (LMU-DCOM)  
David Klink, DO (LUCOM)  
Jennifer LeTourneau, DO (Legacy Health)  
Robert McNab, DO (Freeman Health Systems)  
Eleni O'Donovan, MD (Unity Health Care, Inc.)  
John Sealey, DO (Authority Health GME Consortium)  
Wendy Welch, MPH, PhD - (Southwest Virginia GMEC)  
David Yens, PhD - (TouroCOM-NY)

Contact Information

AACOM’s Office of Government Relations and the Office of the President work in collaboration to manage the Task Force. For more information regarding specific Task Force initiatives, please email VA_GME@aacom.org. Please view AACOM’s VA GME webpage to learn more about AACOM’s efforts to inform and engage the OME community about opportunities to partner with the VA.

About AACOM

AACOM represents the 33 accredited colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States. These colleges are accredited to deliver instruction at 48 teaching locations in 31 states. In the 2016-17 academic year, these colleges are educating more than 27,000 future physicians—more than 20 percent of all U.S. medical students. Six of the colleges are public and 27 are private institutions.

AACOM was founded in 1898 to support and assist the nation's osteopathic medical schools, and to serve as a unifying voice for osteopathic medical education. AACOM provides leadership for the osteopathic medical education community by promoting excellence in medical education, research and service, and by fostering innovation and quality across the continuum of osteopathic medical education to improve the health of the American public.