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## January 8, 2021

### Inside This Issue

[Happy New Year](#)

[AOA Files Lawsuit Against ABIM](#)

[Advocacy Update](#)

[2021 Legislative Session](#)

[Good Samaritan Order Extended](#)

[Vaccine & Allergic Reactions](#)

[Vaccinators Needed](#)

[AOMA Annual Convention](#)

[Telemedicine Educational Events](#)

[Birdies for Charity](#)

[Join AOMA](#)

[AOMA Calendar](#)

### New Year. New Look. New Day at AOMA.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association. We begin 2021 with optimism and a **new logo** that embraces the osteopathic philosophy. Over the coming months, watch for more announcements about AOMA's new look.

During this anniversary year we will celebrate the past, present, and future of the Association and invite you to send us your AOMA memories and stories. Contact us at [communications@azosteo.org](mailto:communications@azosteo.org).



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[AOA Files Suit Against ABIM](#)

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and seven individual physicians, who serve as ACGME program directors in internal medicine residency training programs or internal medicine subspecialty fellowships, have filed suit against the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) in the U.S. District Court in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The lawsuit challenges a policy announced by the ABIM that states program directors will only be permitted to qualify their residents for the ABIM exam if the program director is certified by the ABIM.

Criteria for service as a program director are set by the ACGME and the individual institution that is home to the residency program. AOBIM-certified DOs are fully qualified to serve as residency program directors within the ACGME accreditation system.

The ABIM's rule pushes programs to seek ABIM-certified physicians, disenfranchising physicians who are certified by the AOBIM. Further, AOBIM-certified program directors will be forced to seek ABIM certification to fulfill the critical role of qualifying their graduates, DOs and MDs, for board certification. In addition, residents will effectively be directed toward ABIM rather than AOBIM certification because of the competitive disadvantages for AOBIM diplomates created by this rule.

There is no data suggesting or confirming that AOBIM-certified program directors are less qualified or effective than ABIM-certified program directors. The AOA and individual physicians have asked the court to enter an injunction barring the ABIM from implementing its requirement. The AOA and individual plaintiffs are also asking the court to award compensatory and other available damages for AOA as compensation for the injuries caused by ABIM.

**Read the full press release from AOA**

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## **Navigating a New Normal**

We are still adapting to navigating these unusual times. Now more than ever we need to be on the forefront of advocating for the

When you contribute to the AOMA PAC you are amplifying your voice by joining with like-minded medical professionals. Through the PAC

osteopathic medical profession and your patients.

The safety protocols mandated by the pandemic have greatly impacted our ability to meet and talk with our state representatives and senators, especially those newly elected to office. The annual AOMA DO Day at the State Legislatures, traditionally an in-person event for physicians and osteopathic medical students to lobby for the profession, will not be in person and is being explored as a virtual event for 2021.

With face-to-face opportunities severely curtailed, the AOMA Political Action Committee (PAC) is the most effective vehicle to keep AOMA engaged in the conversations at the Capitol. AOMA PAC allows us to endorse and support those candidates for state public office who share our concern about the future of health care and improved access to quality care in Arizona.

AOMA is able to make monetary contributions to those legislative and statewide candidates who are in agreement with our principles, and favor a strong Arizona healthcare system led by osteopathic physicians.

Political campaigns have become very expensive. Supporting Arizona policymakers who share our concern about the future of health care is insurance for the future. Please help us replenish the AOMA PAC account. Become a Gold PAC member by making a contribution of \$250. Of course, your contribution in any amount is appreciated and will support AOMA's efforts on your behalf. To make your contribution, please go to [www.az-osteop.org/AOMAPAC](http://www.az-osteop.org/AOMAPAC).

**Donate to AOMA PAC**

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## **2021 Legislative Session**

The 55th Arizona Legislature First Legislative Session will convene on Monday, January 11, 2021. The 2021 Legislative session is already presenting potential challenges to health care issues, but we also see opportunities to enact beneficial public policies for your profession and patients.

AOMA is your voice at the Arizona State Legislature. Along with our health care community partners, we represent you and your patients. Some of the priority issues for this legislative session are:

- Expansion of telehealth for all patients, including insurance coverage for these services on a permanent basis.
- Advocate for administrative simplification and a uniform prior authorization request form.
- Oppose legislation that would negatively impact the profession, including those that would weaken herd immunity and expanded practice authority for non-physicians.
- Protect physicians from unfair policies and practices.
- Increase funding for graduate medical education to address the physician shortage in Arizona.

For more information about how to get involved in advocacy, please visit the [Advocacy Resource Center](#) on the AOMA website or call the office at 602-266-6699.

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## **Governor Extends Good Samaritan Order**

On December 31, 2020, Governor Doug Ducey extended The "Good Samaritan Order" until March 31, 2021. The order was originally issued on April 9, 2020 and provides protections for healthcare professionals and volunteers working on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic. The extension of the executive order is in direct response to the surge in COVID-19 cases in Arizona and the increased demands on the state's hospital system.

Download the full text of the Executive Order [here](#).



### Positive Returns On Your Membership Investment



Know a trusted business you would recommend as an AOMA Business Partner? Contact us at [communications@az-osteo.org](mailto:communications@az-osteo.org) or 602-266-6699.

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## COVID-19 Vaccine & Allergic Reactions



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued an update on who should **not** receive mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. Recommendations cover:

- Patients who have had a severe allergic reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Patients who have had an immediate non-severe allergic reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Patients who have had an allergic reaction to polyethylene glycol(PEG) or polysorbate.
- Patients who have had an allergic reaction to other types of vaccines or an injectable therapy.
- Patients who have had allergies not related to vaccines.

For complete information about this CDC update, please refer to the following sources:

- [COVID-19 Vaccines and Allergic Reactions](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#)



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## Volunteers Needed for COVID-19 Vaccinations

Are you interested in volunteering to staff a COVID-19 vaccination site? ADHS is seeking volunteers to serve as vaccinators or in support positions to help with site operations. To sign up with the [Arizona Emergency System for the Advance Registration of Volunteer Health Professional](#) (AZ-ESAR-VHP), visit <https://esar-vhp.health.azdhs.gov/> and follow the instructions to register and

request to be added to TEAM VAX. This is the only information provided to us at this time. As more information becomes available AOMA will share it.

Please direct all questions to Arizona Department of Health Services: [esarvhp@azdhs.gov](mailto:esarvhp@azdhs.gov)

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### **AOMA 99th Annual Convention - Virtual Event**

The largest annual medical conference in Arizona is just around the corner. The AOMA 99th Annual Convention will be livestreamed on April 7 -10, 2021 and be available for on demand playback.

The theme of the of the Convention is **100 Years of Healing**. AOMA designates this activity for a maximum of 37 hours of Category AOA 1-A credits. This activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 credits™*. Application will be submitted for AAFP Prescribed credits. Full agenda is pending.



**Save \$100!** Early registration is now open at [www.az-osteop.org/2021Convention](http://www.az-osteop.org/2021Convention).

**Register Today!**

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### **Telemedicine Educational Events**

The Arizona Telemedicine Program is offering two webinars about offering telemedicine services.

- **Developing a Telemedicine Program (Training)**  
January 11, 2021  
9 am to 2 pm  
[Register](#)
- **Care Integration in the Time of COVID: Focus on the Patient Experience**

January 13, 2021

10 am to 11 am

[Register](#)

To view the full calendar of events for the Arizona Telemedicine Program, visit [telemedicine.arizona.edu](https://telemedicine.arizona.edu).



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## [Birdies for Charity](#)

You can help make Arizona Osteopathic Charities a big buck\$ winner with your pledge in the Birdies for Charity competition at the 2021 Waste Management Phoenix Open. Every single penny of collected pledges will be awarded after the tournament.

Help Arizona Osteopathic Charities reach its goal of \$3,000.

The deadline to pledge is February 7, 2021. To make a pledge online go to [birdiesforcharityaz.com](https://birdiesforcharityaz.com).



**Feeling stuck with your current private student loans?**

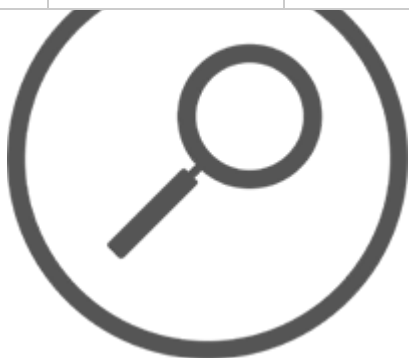
Members can access a **0.25% rate discount** through SoFi.



**SoFi**

**Learn More**





## Patients are Looking for YOU! Update Your Profile!

One of the benefits of AOMA membership is the **Find a Physician** public directory search. Make sure your practice information is up to date by logging in to your member profile on the AOMA website. When you do, prospective patients and potential referring physicians will be able to find you.



## COVID-19 Tracking Resources

[www.covidactnow.org](http://www.covidactnow.org)

<https://91-divoc.com>

## Arizona COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution

[Arizona Department of Health Services](#)

[List of Arizona County Health Departments](#)

In case you missed a past issue of the AOMA Dispatch, visit the Archives [here](#).

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