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LOMA LEGISLATIVE GAZETTE

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Presenting the Spring issue of the LOMA Legislative Gazette, a free publication provided by the Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association to keep our osteopathic physicians in the state abreast of current advocacy matters. We hope to bring you a newsletter that will be brief but informative.

STATE MATTERS

The LSMS Hosts Legislative Reception and White Coat Wednesday at Capitol

Many physicians want to continue with what the Louisiana State Medical Society did at the Capitol in Baton Rouge in previous years, so the LSMS requested reserved days from the state legislature. This year's Legislative Reception, sponsored by the Physician Coalition, will be held by selected physician groups attending the reception. There are some space limitations, but approved groups should be able to bring up to 5 member physicians and 1 staff. This event will be on Tuesday, May 16. Those physicians wishing to participate should anticipate a fee of \$1,000 per group. Please contact Maria Bowen, Vice President, Governmental Affairs for the Louisiana State Medical Society for further information. Her contact information is mbowen@lsms.org if you plan to participate.

White Coat Wednesday follows on May 18. White Coat Wednesday is open to all physicians and medical students. This is an excellent time to demonstrate an active advocacy for your profession. You may also contact Maria, at the above email, for more information.

The Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association (LOMA) advances the philosophy and practice of osteopathic medicine by providing a supportive working environment and continuing educational opportunities for current and future DOs, by educating the public about osteopathic medicine, and by promoting availability of quality cost-effective health care in underserved areas.



LOCAL NEWS THAT MATTERS

VCOM-Louisiana Hosts Inaugural Via Research Recognition Day

Founded as a research-oriented osteopathic medical school, the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) has a long-standing tradition of hosting annual Research Day events on each of its campuses. As the newest of the four campuses, VCOM-Louisiana held their inaugural Via Research Recognition Day on Friday, April 14, 2023.

A total of 55 posters were submitted to the poster session held during Via Research Recognition Day. The posters were divided into five categories for judging: biomedical research, clinical and case studies, COVID-19 and epidemiology, education research and pharmacology. The top three posters in each category received recognition during the awards ceremony.

Click on the link to read the full story:

<https://www.vcom.edu/news/2023/04/19/vcom-louisiana-hosts-inaugural-research-recognition-day>

NATIONAL MATTERS

Federal Updates – Eliminating the X-Waiver

Alexis L. Cates, DO

Ochsner Medical Center

Emergency Medicine, Medical Toxicology

You may recall in December of 2022, one of the last acts of the 117th Congress was to pass the Consolidated Appropriations Act (Omnibus bill). It was ultimately signed by President Biden and is celebrated due to the removal of arguably one of the biggest hurdles in addiction medicine: the “X-waiver.”

If you have a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) license, there is a chance that you have heard about or been asked about having an X-waiver. If you have treated a patient with opioid use disorder, the same is likely true. Prior to the passing of the Omnibus bill, the X-waiver was an addition to a practitioner’s DEA license. The X-waiver was thought to be an important step in combating the opioid crisis - allowing practitioners to provide life-saving buprenorphine outside of a rehabilitation facility in a controlled office or hospital setting with counseling and care management interventions. Buprenorphine as a partial opioid agonist has led to improved patient outcomes, including decreased sequelae of drug misuse and decreased risk of fatal overdoses.

As an emergency medicine physician and medical toxicologist, I am encouraged by the federal removal of the X-waiver. I hope that the

elimination of this regulation encourages all physicians and other practitioners to learn this safe and effective way of treating patients with OUD and utilize this in their daily practice.

Read the full Article:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-YYDCPkPPLSrQI1-yxcaihUwCsuYXhUEanINf1pliX4/edit?usp=sharing>

Solutions From Senator Cassidy

Cassidy, Hassan, Colleagues Reintroduce Connected MOM Act to Improve Health Care for Expectant Mothers

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Tom Carper (D-DE), Todd Young (R-IN), and Jacky Rosen (D-NV) reintroduced bipartisan legislation aimed at improving health care for expectant mothers. The Connected Maternal Online Monitoring (MOM) Act requires the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide coverage recommendations for remote devices such as those that can check for irregularities in blood pressure, blood glucose, and pulse rates which can be indicators of potential pregnancy complications. It also requires CMS to update state resources, such as state Medicaid telehealth toolkits, to correspond with the recommendations provided. The goal is to improve maternal and infant outcomes for pregnant and postpartum women.

Read the full Article:

<https://www.cassidy.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cassidy-hassan-colleagues-reintroduce-connected-mom-act-to-improve-health-care-for-expectant-mothers>

Non-Compete Clause Rulemaking, Matter No. P201200

46 organizations representing more than 178,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, had the opportunity to comment on the Non-Compete Clause Proposed Rule.

“We appreciate the work that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has undertaken to ensure that businesses may no longer abuse non-competes clauses to unfairly discourage or limit competition”.

The background, scope of the proposed rule, applicability to non-profit organizations, alternative proposals considered by the FTC, are all discussed in the letter generated from our Osteopathic Political Action Committee.

Click on the link to read the full letter:

http://policysearch.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/20230419_Affiliate-Sign-on_FTC-Non-Compete_vSubmit.pdf

Advocacy Support From the AOA:

TAKE ACTION

Raise your voice on issues that impact the osteopathic medical profession. The AOA calls on members to reach out directly to lawmakers when legislative activity significantly affects DOs and their patients.

Advocate on behalf of our profession and patients by engaging lawmakers and staying up to date on policy developments.

Visit the [OAN Action Center](#)

View the latest AOA advocacy alerts and learn more about how you can get involved.

https://osteopathic.quorum.us/action_center/

A Lagniappe From the AOA's Website:

You've dedicated your life's work to helping patients, but focusing on your own physical and mental well-being is just as important.

Whether you're a medical student, a retired physician, or somewhere in between, you've likely experienced moments when you've felt overwhelmed trying to balance the demands of your life and career. Though well accustomed to taking care of patients, physicians and medical students aren't always good at taking care of themselves. Left unchecked, stress can lead to

physician burnout, and in some cases, depression and maybe suicide.

The AOA is committed to helping support the wellness of all osteopathic physicians and medical students from the first days of medical school through retirement. The following Wellness Toolkit resources were developed by DOs and osteopathic medical students serving on the AOA's Bureau of Osteopathic Research & Public Health to help you start on a path toward a healthier mind, body and spirit.

Read more about AOA's Wellness toolkits at:

<https://osteopathic.org/life-career/wellness-toolkit/>

For comments or suggestions regarding this legislative gazette, please contact LOMA at: ed@loma-net.org