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**External News - *Olivia Scholes, OMS III*****Advocating for Osteopathic Medical Students**

We have the opportunity– and responsibility– to advocate for fair policies and expectations when applying for residency programs. Read about an OMS-III's experience advocating for comparable minimum USMLE and COMLEX-USA scores [HERE](#).

Check out an article regarding single licensure/implementing an Osteopathic competency section in the new SOMA magazine, [The Future DO](#). (Article is on page 23)

**Internal News - *Miranda Willis, OMS II***

One of the most exciting parts of the spring SOMA House of Delegates is the opportunity to see what needs the SOMA members see in their community and feel passionate about. This coming HoD will see a large number of resolutions presented with topics ranging from increasing awareness of emergency contraception, allowing physicians more time in rooms with their patients, encouraging the use of functional and supportive language in technical standards for students with disabilities, and many more.

For those who have not attended a HoD meeting, the rules used to maintain order and ensure that all voices are heard are called Robert's Rules of Order. These rules are a manual of parliamentary procedure, written by Henry Martin Robert. The guiding principles of Robert's Rules are as follows: everyone has a right to participate before anyone may speak a second time, everyone has the right to know what is going on at all times, and only one thing may be discussed at a time. Most actions require a second and most decisions require a majority rule. The speaker can only be interrupted for urgent reasons, such as a point of order, in which you see a breach of the rules. For those interested, a simplified guide is linked [here](#)!

One specific resolution that will be discussed at the upcoming house is S-23-16, Advocating for Appropriate Patient Counseling and Pain Management Prior To, During, and After IUD Insertion and Pelvic Exams. This resolution, written by students from Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences COM, resolves that the SOMA advocate to ACOOG and ACOG to provide appropriate counseling to patients before, during, and following IUD procedures and pelvic exams. It resolves that the SOMA encourages appropriate parties to offer more effective pain management during these procedures. It also resolves that the SOMA work with the AOA, AACOM, and appropriate stakeholders to encourage research on, but not limited to, the pain experienced by women during these procedures, the biases surrounding women's perception of pain and its impact on care and pain management, and solutions toward effective pain control. Like the resolution that came before it regarding obtaining consent for pelvic exams on patients under anesthesia for other medical procedures (see the November Newsletter for more details on S-22-21), this resolution addresses a long-standing lapse in care faced by patients that has been overlooked for many years. Hopefully, like S-22-21, this resolution can start the process of change. Regardless, this HoD is sure to produce many new pieces of SOMA policy that change our profession and medical school tenure for the better.

**DO Day - *Rachel Brasington, OMS III***

DO Day on the Hill is here! The virtual conference will be held April 15-16 and the in-person congressional meetings will be taking place April 19-20. Each year, the AOA chooses three issues that have a direct impact on osteopathic physicians, students, and patients. Whether you are joining to advocate in person or advocating from home, here is what you need to know about the AOA's top three advocacy priorities this year:

1. Protecting patient access to care and physician practices by advocating for positive updates to Medicare physician payment.
2. Expanding graduate medical education and the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program.
3. Advocating for student loan reform by encouraging Congress to support the REDI Act (S.704/H.R.1202).

Be sure to know the basics of these priorities when advocating for yourself, your colleagues, and your future patients. Have fun and good luck!

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