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External News - *Olivia Scholes, OMS III*

University of Pennsylvania medical student Jasmine Brown, sheds light on the lack of diversity in medicine in her book "Twice As Hard". She highlights the lives of the first Black women in medicine. Read more about her story and the Black women physicians and leaders that came before her [HERE](#).

Internal News - *Miranda Willis, OMS II*

The advocacy theme of March is Leadership in Medicine. SOMA is an organization dedicated to educating and preparing osteopathic leaders and advocates, accomplished through advocacy on a national scale. This past fall, SOMA passed a number of resolutions dedicated to preparing our generation of osteopathic leaders to be the best advocates and doctors we can be.

Resolution F-22-09, "Implementing Land Acknowledgements at Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) and American Osteopathic Association Events," asked that SOMA collaborate with the Association of Native American Medical Students (ANAMS) in order to implement Land Acknowledgements at the beginning of every national SOMA event. The resolution also asked SOMA to encourage the AOA to implement Land Acknowledgements at the beginning of all of their major events. This resolution was met with resounding support, and while National SOMA has implemented this practice at national conferences in the past, this resolution ensures that all future cohorts will continue to recognize and honor the Indigenous Peoples as the "original stewards of the lands on which we now live."

Another resolution that met success during the Osteopathic Medical Education Conference was F-22-18, "Ensuring Time for Osteopathic Medical Students to Vote in Elections." This resolution cited AMA policy D 65.982, which states that we will work to ensure that medical students, residents, fellows, and physicians are allowed time to vote, as well as an AOA policy that encourages physicians to allow employees adequate time-off for voting. The ultimate ask of this resolution, which was strongly supported by the SOMA House of Delegates, was that SOMA work with the AOA and Council of Student Government Presidents (COSGP) to advocate to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and appropriate stakeholders to ensure that medical students are allowed time to vote without fear of penalties and that no mandatory events are scheduled on the day on an election.

These are just two of several examples of Osteopathic Medical Students acting as leaders and advocating for the betterment of our careers, education, and medical experience. Our members act as leaders on and off campus through their participation in community service events, medical education activities, and through participation in events like DO Day on the Hill.

Spotlight - *Isabella Mazzei, OMS II*

DO Day is fast approaching, in April! The virtual conference will be held April 15-16 and the in-person congressional meetings will be taking place April 19-20. If this is your first DO Day on the Hill, here are some things you might want to keep in mind:

- Know your district representative's background and stance on health policy related issues, prior to going into the in-person meetings
- Keep your points quick and simple, when emphasizing the AOA's stance
- There might be other physician/non-physician groups advocating the same day
- Link back to February's newsletter for further details on other advocacy conferences for various specialty organizations
- Bring comfortable shoes because there will be a lot of walking!

DO Day is a fun day to learn how to get involved in meeting with congress members and their health policy aides. Don't be nervous to speak up, have fun, and we hope it sparks something in you to further advocate for the future of healthcare.

## Meet the Newsletter Team:

Amber Shirley, OMS II  
Designer

Lincoln Memorial University DeBusk College  
of Osteopathic Medicine

Isabella Mazzei, OMS II  
SOMA Member Spotlight +  
Resolution Spotlight

Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Rachel Brasington, OMS III  
Project Manager

Nova Southeastern University  
Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

Miranda Willis, OMS III

Internal SOMA News + Advocacy  
Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine

Christine Cho, OMS IV  
Editor in Chief

Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine

Olivia Scholes, OMS II

External Political News + Recommendations  
Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine

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