Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MAOFP)

The MAOFP, an affiliate society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP), represents the professional interests of osteopathic family physicians in the State of Michigan. Osteopathic physicians (DOs) augment current medical practice by listening empathically to their patients, envisioning their patients holistically, and using expert palpation to enhance the diagnosis and treatment of their patients’ medical conditions.

Established in 1976, the MAOFP mission has remained constant: to enhance the practice standards and skills of the family practitioners in the field of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Michigan. It advocates for healthcare policies that defend, preserve, promote and protect the rights of the osteopathic family physician to ensure that patients have access to necessary, appropriate and affordable physician services and to protect the rights of patients to receive these services. Osteopathic family physicians practice a broad scope of medicine thus requiring an extremely diversified education, continually learning new technology, studying new scientific research findings and be up-to-date on current state and federal healthcare regulations. The MAOFP plays a crucial role in educating Michigan Osteopathic family physicians concerning these aspects of their practice.

Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs):
Osteopathic physicians provide something extra to benefit patients. Osteopathic medical schools emphasize training students to become primary care physicians. DOs practice a “whole person” approach to medicine. Instead of just treating symptoms or illnesses, DOs regard the human body as an integrated whole. Osteopathic physicians focus on preventive health care. DOs receive extra training in the musculoskeletal system. This training provides osteopathic physicians with a better understanding of how an illness or injury in one part of the body can affect other parts of the body. Osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) is an integral feature in the training and practice of osteopathic physicians. With OMT, osteopathic physicians augment the body’s natural tendency toward good health. By combining other available medical options with OMT, DOs offer their patients the most comprehensive care.

Education & Training of Osteopathic Family Physicians:
- Osteopathic medical students typically have completed four-year bachelor’s degrees with an emphasis on scientific courses.
- DOs complete four years of basic medical education. Many MAOFP members are alumni of the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM). MSUCOM is ranked in the top 11% nationally of all medical schools -- D.O. and M.D. -- for primary care education and has one of the biggest Graduate Medical Education (GME) systems in the nation.
- After medical school, DOs obtain graduate medical education through internships, residencies and fellowships. This training lasts three to eight years to prepare DOs to practice a specialty—such as family medicine.
- DOs must pass examinations to obtain state licenses.
- DOs practice in accredited and licensed health care facilities.
- MAOFP members are required to complete 150 credits of continuing medical education (CME) every three years. MAOFP provides educational programs with over 40 CME credits annually.

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