



National and Chapter News



ΑΩΑ Board of Directors and national office staff, left to right: Mark J. Mendelsohn, MD; Eve J. Higginbotham, SM, MD; Alan G. Wasserman, MD; Sheryl Pfeil, MD; N. Joseph Espat, MD; Tonya Cramer, MD; C. Bruce Alexander, MD; Ruth-Marie Fincher, MD; Barbara Prince; Richard L. Byyny, MD; John Tooker, MD, MBA; Lynn M. Cleary, MD; Alicia Alcamo, MD; Robert G. Atnip, MD; Steven A. Wartman, MD, PhD; Laura Tisch, MSIV; Christopher Clark, MD; Wiley Souba, MD, DSc, MBA; William F. Nichols; Richard B. Gunderman, MD, PhD; Suzann Pershing, MD; and Alan G. Robinson, MD.

2013 meeting of the ΑΩΑ board of directors

The annual meeting of the board of directors of Alpha Omega Alpha was held in Denver, Colorado, on October 5, 2013. Present were:

Officers: President C. Bruce Alexander, MD; President Elect John Tooker, MD, MBA; Immediate Past President Ruth-Marie Fincher, MD.

Members at large: Robert G. Atnip, MD; N. Joseph Espat, MD; Eve J. Higginbotham, SM, MD; Sheryl Pfeil, MD; Alan G. Robinson, MD; Wiley Souba, MD, DSc, MBA; Steven A. Wartman, MD, PhD.

Councilor directors: Lynn M. Cleary, MD, State University of New York Upstate Medical University; Richard B. Gunderman, MD, PhD, Indiana University School of Medicine; Mark J. Mendelsohn, MD, University of Virginia School of Medicine; Alan G. Wasserman, MD, George Washington University School of Medicine.

Student directors: Alicia Alcamo, MD, the Ohio State University College of Medicine; Christopher Clark, MD, University of Mississippi School of Medicine; Tonya Cramer, MD, Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science; Laura Tisch, MSIV, Medical College of Wisconsin.

Coordinator, Residency Initiatives: Suzann Pershing, MD.

National office staff: Executive Director Richard L. Byyny, MD; Assistant Treasurer William F. Nichols;

Programs Administrator Candice Cutler; Membership Administrator Jane Kimball; Managing Editor Debbie Lancaster; Controller Barbara Prince.

Absent: Secretary-Treasurer Joseph W. Stubbs, MD; Member at Large Douglas S. Paauw, MD; Medical Organization Director Carol A. Aschenbrener, MD, Association of American Medical Colleges.

New to the board are: Mark J. Mendelsohn, MD, representing the University of Virginia School of Medicine, elected to a three-year term as Councilor Director; Wiley Souba, MD, DSc, MBA, elected to a three-year term as member at large; Laura Tisch, MSIV, representing the Medical College of Wisconsin, elected to a three-year term as student director; Steven A. Wartman, MD, PhD, elected to a three-year term as member at large. Councilor director Richard Gunderman, MD, PhD, was elected to a three-year term as member at large.

The board of directors recognized the retiring board members, and expressed thanks for their service to Alicia Alcamo, MD; N. Joseph Espat, MD; and Ruth-Marie Fincher, MD.

Thanks were also expressed for the exemplary service of retiring President C. Bruce Alexander, MD, who becomes immediate past president.

Elections

The following members of the board were elected as officers for a one-year term:



1. John Tooker, MD, MBA—President
2. Douglas S. Paauw, MD—President Elect
3. C. Bruce Alexander, MD—Immediate Past

President

Five honorary members were proposed this year and were elected to honorary membership for their distinguished contributions to medicine. Profiles of these honorary members will appear in a future issue of *The Pharos*:

1. Shotai Kobayashi, MD, PhD—President, Shimane University
2. Mats Lundström, MD, PhD—Professor Emeritus, Lund University, Sweden
3. Boris Malyugin, MD, PhD—Deputy Director General, S. Fyodorov Eye Microsurgery State Institution
4. John H. Pearn, MD, PhD, MPhil, AO, RFD—Professor Emeritus, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
5. A. G. Prentice, MBChB—President, the Royal College of Pathologists, London

Reports

Dr. Alexander and Dr. Byyny presented their reports for the year, summarizing the year for AQA programs, new medical school chapters, chapter visits, fundraising, the membership directory and database, and communications and public relations.

The financial review was presented by Mr. Nichols and Ms. Prince. A presentation on AQA's investment program was given by Jennifer Ellison and Diana Lieberman of Bingham Osborn & Scarborough.

Mr. Nichols presented a proposal for regular small dues increases, subject to approval each year by the Executive Committee. The proposal was passed by unanimous consent.

Dr. Gunderman reported on the councilor meeting that immediately preceded the board meeting. A final report on the councilor meeting from the committee chairs (Dr. Gunderman, Dr. Gabriel Virella, and Dr. Elma LeDoux) follows.

Dr. Fincher reported on the status of new chapter chartering.

A report on the Professionalism Award and the Professionalism Meeting in July was presented by Dr. Paauw by teleconference.

A report on the work of the committee for the Leadership Award was presented by Dr. Higginbotham. A motion was made to approve the Leadership Award and Development Program to promote the development of leaders in academia, medical and health organizations, and the community. The motion was passed by

unanimous consent.

A report on *The Pharos* was presented by Managing Editor Debbie Lancaster.

Dr. Pershing presented a report on the Residents Initiative project and the results of the Postgraduate Award.

Miscellaneous

The minutes of the 2012 board meeting were approved. A final budget was also approved.

Respectfully submitted

Executive Director Richard L. Byyny, MD

Alpha Omega Alpha elects new officers and directors

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society is pleased to announce the election of its officers and directors for the 2013/2014 year.

Officers

President—John Tooker, MD, MBA, MACP (AQA, University of Colorado, 1970), is Emeritus Executive Vice President and CEO of the American College of Physicians and Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Tooker served as Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of ACP from 2002 through 2010. He served as Medical Organization Member on the AQA Board of Directors from 2009 through 2011, and was elected a member at large in 2011.

Immediate Past President—C. Bruce Alexander, MD (AQA, University of Virginia, 1970), Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Pathology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Alexander was elected to the board of directors of AQA in 2002 as a councilor director, and subsequently elected as member at large in 2005. He became secretary-treasurer of the society in 2007 and president of the society in 2013.

President-Elect—Douglas S. Paauw, MD, MACP (AQA, University of Michigan, 1983), Director, Medicine Student Programs, Professor of Medicine, Rathmann Family Foundation Endowed Chair in Patient-Centered Clinical Education at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Paauw was elected to the board of directors of AQA in 2005 as a councilor director and was elected as member at large in 2007. He was awarded the AQA Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award in 2001.



**Alpha Omega Alpha
elects new officers
and directors**



C. Bruce Alexander, MD



Richard B. Gunderman, MD



Mark J. Mendelsohn, MD



Douglas S. Paauw, MD, MACP



Wiley "Chip" W. Souba, MD, DSc, MBA



Laura Tisch, MSIV



John Tooker, MD MBA, MACP



Steven A. Wartman, MD, PhD, MACP



Directors

Member at Large—Richard B. Gunderman, MD, PhD, MPH (AQA, University of Chicago, 1992), Professor of Radiology, Pediatrics, Medical Education, Philosophy, Liberal Arts, and Philanthropy, and Vice Chair of Radiology, Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Gunderman was elected to the board of directors of AQA as a councilor director in 2010. He was awarded the AQA Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award in 2012. Dr. Gunderman was elected to a three-year term as member at large.

Councilor Director—Mark J. Mendelsohn, MD (AQA, University of Virginia, 2007), Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the University of Virginia School of Medicine was elected to a three-year term as councilor director. Dr. Mendelsohn has been the AQA councilor at the University of Virginia since 2008 and is regularly recognized as one of the university's outstanding teachers. Dr. Mendelsohn serves on the medical school Admissions Committee, is the long-time chair of the Pediatric Intern Selection Committee, and co-directs the university's International Adoption Clinic.

Member at Large—Wiley “Chip” W. Souba, MD, DSc, MBA (AQA, University of Texas at Houston, 1978), Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the Geisel School at Medicine at Dartmouth College, was elected to a three-year term as member at large. Dr. Souba is widely recognized for his innovative approaches to developing leaders and leadership, having published more than forty articles on health care leadership challenges, personal and organizational transformation, leading oneself, barriers to effective leadership, and the language of leadership.

Student Director—Laura Tisch, MSIV, at the Medical College of Wisconsin, was elected to a three-year term as student director. Ms. Tisch is the AQA chapter president at MCW and was elected to AQA in 2013. Ms. Tisch has been active in her chapter's volunteer activities, including the MCW Saturday Clinic for the Uninsured, the USMLE Step 1 Board Review Tutoring program, and the MCW Department of Admissions Applicant Liaison and Student Interviewer program. She has participated in research in early breast feeding rates and Kaposi Sarcoma.

Member at Large—Steven A. Wartman, MD, PhD, MACP (AQA, Johns Hopkins University, 1970), President and CEO of the Association of Academic Health Centers and member of the editorial board of *The Pharos* since 1996, was elected to a three-year term as member at large. Dr. Wartman is recognized internationally for his work in the organization and management of academic health centers. He is currently a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Medicine at Georgetown University and an Adjunct Professor of Medicine at George Washington

University and Johns Hopkins.

A complete list of the members of the AQA Board of Directors is on the inside front cover.

2013 AQA Councilor Meeting

The 2013 AQA councilor meeting was held in Denver, Colorado, on October 3 and 4. Approximately one-third of chapter councilors attended, as well as several national officers and staff members from the national office. The program for the meeting was organized by a committee including Richard Gunderman, Elma LeDoux, and Gabriel Virella, and members of the AQA staff. Experience of participating councilors varied widely: several had served as councilor for more than two decades, while others had been appointed to the post only a month or two before the meeting.

Executive Director Richard Byyny opened the meeting with a discussion of the importance of the leadership opportunity that every councilor enjoys, particularly with regard to promoting both AQA and its mission to students, faculty, and alumni. There is ample evidence that many contemporary physicians are discouraged about the future of medicine, and AQA can make a big difference in redressing this situation by fostering local discussions of medicine's core aspirations and the practical steps all physicians can take to help promote them.

At each medical school, the AQA councilor can serve as a node in the nexus of important networks in medicine, including different medical specialties, academic and nonacademic physicians, and different generations of physicians, from the most senior to the most junior. An effective councilor can act as a catalyst, helping the chapter and its members do a better job of serving physicians at all levels, as well as schools of medicine, hospitals and health systems, and the communities they serve. Councilors can provide critical leadership and help all parties regain a focus on medicine's most defining and essential missions.

The meeting featured the debut of the first chapter handbook for councilors and chapter AQA personnel developed by the staff in the national office. Dr. Byyny stressed that the handbook remains a work in progress, but it represents by far the most useful resource chapters have ever enjoyed. The handbook's purpose is not to tell councilors how to do their jobs, but to provide an organizing framework and range of options for the activities of each chapter.

The handbook addresses a variety of core topics of concern to every councilor and chapter, including AQA's constitution, information about the roles of officers and the board of directors, and eligibility and nomination procedures for different categories of members, including



Photo: Councilor meeting co-chairs Richard Gunderman, MD, PhD; Elma LeDoux, MD; and Gabriel Virella, MD, PhD; with Executive Director Richard L. Byyny, MD.

students, residents, faculty, alumni, and honorary members. It also covers AΩA's many award programs, which support a variety of chapter-based and national opportunities in service, creativity, and leadership. Other helpful sections address chapter organization, staffing, and finance.

It is worth stressing that, in many respects, there is no "correct" way to run a chapter. Every chapter must operate in accordance with AΩA's constitution, but doing so still provides considerable latitude to adapt to local challenges and capitalize on local strengths and opportunities. The councilors meeting provides an opportunity for participants to share new ideas and best practices. Many councilors commented on the many ideas they had encountered at the meeting, which they intended to share with members back home.

A perennial point of great interest among councilors are the different procedures chapters have adopted for nominating new members, which should include criteria beyond just grades and board examination scores. Chapters at schools with pass/fail grading policies often find it difficult to nominate students in their third year, which means that student members are elected as fourth

years and then graduate in the same academic year. This makes it difficult to achieve the level of engagement and continuity in student leadership found in chapters that nominate third-year students, who stay on as fourth years. It is not difficult to identify the top three or four students to be nominated late in the third year, and earlier selection of a few student leaders can provide important continuity with student involvement in the chapter.

Another important point regarding new members is the fact that the organization's constitution was revised in 2012 to allow many AΩA chapters to nominate more candidates in non-student categories for membership, in proportion to the size of the size of each student class. This change was enacted without reducing the number of such candidates any chapter can nominate. Many councilors report that new members in the alumni and faculty categories often demonstrate a particularly high level of enthusiasm for AΩA, so chapters should consider taking full advantage of this opportunity.

Chapters should also take steps to ensure that their school's students, including incoming first-year students, are well-informed about AΩA's mission, history, and the nomination criteria for membership, so that students



John Tooker, MD, MBA, president of the AQA Board of Directors, with Jim Sebastian, MD, councilor at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

know how new members are selected. As previously indicated, different chapters assign different weights to such factors as scholarship, leadership, service, professionalism, and research. Though it happens infrequently, it is always a shame when a nominated student elects not to join, in part because it usually takes a spot away from another student who might be eager to do so.

Some chapters are inviting all students whose class standing makes them eligible for membership to submit brief reflective essays setting forth their understanding of AQA's mission and describing the ways in which they would help to advance this mission if they were to become members. This helps to prime newly elected members to hit the ground running and play an active role in the life of AQA. It also provides additional useful information that chapters can use in determining which students to nominate for membership.

It is especially important that all chapters engage new members as active participants in the work of the organization. The probability that members will get involved seems to be highest near the time they first join. Many of AQA's most vibrant chapters have developed programs that give new members in all categories an opportunity to support the organization's missions with their time, talent, and treasure. Going forward, the plan is to disseminate examples of such best practices through both the website and upcoming issues of *The Pharos*.

AQA's award programs are too numerous to detail here, but one that deserves more participation by many



Executive Director Richard Bynny and Clarence Joe, DMD, MD, councilor at the Medical College of Georgia.

councilors is the Administrative Recognition Award, which provides a certificate of appreciation and a modest honorarium to the chapter staff person who assists the councilor in day-to-day operations. These administrators often contribute a great deal, and in many cases, doing so is not a part of their formal job description. The board and national office encourage councilors to nominate worthy administrators, many of whom find the recognition one of the most meaningful they have received.

Another program that merits more chapter participation is the Visiting Professorship program, which brings distinguished physicians and scientists to medical school campuses, where they address both AQA members and broader medical school communities. One particularly appropriate occasion for such visits is each chapter's annual induction banquet, at which visiting professors often serve as featured speakers. The national office supports each visiting professor's travel and lodging expenses and provides an honorarium, making it a no-cost opportunity for chapters.

The induction dinner can play several important roles. Some chapters use the occasion as an opportunity to recognize faculty members who have been nominated by students as models of teaching excellence or professionalism. Many charge a sufficiently high price for paying attendees that inductees can be subsidized to attend at no charge. Others use the occasion as an opportunity for fundraising, sending out a request for donations with invitations. Some also hold silent auctions at which



attendees can bid on items that have been produced by members or donated by local organizations.

Debbie Lancaster, managing editor of *The Pharos* and webmaster, reviewed the national organization's website, which continues to improve. The website now features a Chapter Resources page with information specifically for chapter personnel.

A session at the councilors meeting led by residency initiatives coordinator Suzanne Pershing focused on keeping newly elected members engaged throughout their residency training, which often takes place at an institution different from the medical school where they were elected. An informal poll of participants revealed that at most institutions, resident members tend to have little role in chapter life. Residents can be involved in many ways, including participating in the new member nomination process, contributing to service projects, and helping to educate students about residency training in different fields.

One key in engaging resident members is determining which residents at an institution are AΩA members and then encouraging them to become involved in their local chapter's activities. It is generally helpful to identify a resident or two who will serve as a local champion of resident engagement. The new Postgraduate Research Award program also provides another opportunity to engage residents. Of course, it is always important to query residents themselves about how they would like to become involved.

In conclusion, the 2013 councilor meeting was highly

informative and energizing for those who attended, and provided participants with an opportunity to get to know one another and exchange helpful tips and perspectives. It is primarily at the level of each individual chapter that AΩA comes fully to life, and the extent to which each does so hinges in large part on the imagination and dedication of its councilor. Serving as a councilor is an effective and rewarding way to make a difference not only for AΩA but also for the profession and the suffering patients whom we strive to be worthy to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard B. Gunderman, MD, PhD
Elma LeDoux, MD
Gabriel T. Virella, MD, PhD

Instructions for *Pharos* authors

We welcome material that addresses scholarly and nontechnical topics in medicine and public health such as history, biography, health services research, ethics, education, and social issues, as well as philosophy, literature, the arts, professionalism, leadership, and humor. Poetry is welcome, as well as photograph/poetry combinations. Photography and art may also be submitted. Scholarly fiction is accepted. All submissions are subject to editorial board review. Contributors need not be members of Alpha Omega Alpha. Papers by medical students and residents are particularly welcome.

Submissions must meet the following criteria:

1. Submissions may not have been published elsewhere



Lesley Motheral, MD, councilor at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, and John Brust, MD, councilor at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.



Lynn Cleary, MD, councilor at the State University of New York Upstate Medical University and councilor director on the AΩA Board of Directors, and Melvin Lopata, MD, councilor at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.



Regina Gandour-Edwards, MD, councilor at the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine, and Kathleen Ryan, MD, councilor at Drexel University College of Medicine.



Gregory Strayhorn, MD, PhD, councilor at Morehouse School of Medicine, and Amelia Drake, MD, councilor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

or be under review by another journal.

2. Essays should have a maximum of 15 pages (approximately 5000 words), and be submitted in 12-point type,



Dan Blunk, MD, councilor at the Texas Tech University Health Science Center Paul L. Foster School of Medicine.

double-spaced, with one-inch margins. They should be accompanied by a covering letter and a title page with the word count (or page count), return address, and e-mail address. References should not exceed 20 unique items (see below).

3. Poems or photograph/poetry combinations should be in 12-point type, with one-inch margins, with the author's name, address, and e-mail address on the first page.

4. Electronic submissions are preferred. Send them to info@alphaomegaalpha.org. Or send by mail to Richard L. Bynny, MD, Editor of *The Pharos*, 525 Middlefield Road, Suite 130, Menlo Park, California 94025.

5. After peer review, comments on the manuscript will be sent to the author along with an editorial decision. Every attempt is made to complete preliminary reviews within six weeks.

6. The editors of *The Pharos* will edit all manuscripts that are accepted for publication for style, usage, relevance, and grace of expression, and may provide appropriate illustrative material. Authors should not purchase illustrative material because the editors cannot guarantee that it will be used.

7. In accordance with revised copyright laws, each contributor will need to sign an Author's Agreement, which will be sent with the edited galleys. Information on copyright ownership and re-publication of articles is detailed in the Author's Agreement.



Participants meet in small groups to discuss chapter participation by residents.

Reference information

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of citations and quotations in their papers. Once a manuscript has been accepted for publication, therefore, the author will be required to provide photocopies of all direct quotations from the primary source material, indicating page numbers. (Please mark the quoted material on the photocopies with highlighter.) In addition, the editors will require photocopies of all references: the title page and copyright pages of all books cited, the first and last pages of book chapters cited, and the first and last pages of journal articles cited, as well as the Table of Contents of the particular issue of the journal in which the cited article appeared. PubMed or MedLine citations are also acceptable. The foregoing items will be used to verify the accuracy of the quotations in the text and the references cited, and to correct any errors or omissions. The photocopies will not be returned.

References should be double-spaced, numbered consecutively in the text, and cited at the end in the following standard form:

Journal: Zilm DH, Sellers EM, MacLeod SM, Degani N. Propranolol effect on tremor in alcoholic withdrawal. *Ann Intern Med* 1975; 83: 234–36.

Book: Harris ED Jr. *Rheumatoid Arthritis*. Philadelphia: WB Saunders; 1997.

Book chapter: Pelligrini CA. Postoperative Complications. In: Way LW, editor. *Current Surgical Diagnosis and Treatment*, Ninth Edition. Norwalk (CT):

Appleton & Lange; 1991: pp 25–41.

Each reference should be listed in the bibliography only once, with multiple uses of a single reference citing the same bibliography reference number. Examples are available at our web site: www.alphaomegaalpha.org.

Citation of web sites as references is discouraged unless a site is the single source of the information in question or has official or academic credentials. Examples of such sites are official government web pages such as that of the National Institutes of Health. Encyclopedia sites such as britannica.com are not primary references.

Leaders in American Medicine

In 1967, as a result of a generous gift from Drs. David E. and Beatrice C. Seegal, Alpha Omega Alpha initiated a program of one-hour videotapes featuring interviews with distinguished American physicians and medical scientists.

The collection has been donated to the National Library of Medicine, which will maintain it for permanent use by scholars visiting the library. A listing of videos available for loan, as well as streaming videos of some of the collection, can be found here: www.alphaomegaalpha.org, or by contacting Debbie Lancaster at d.lancaster@alphaomegaalpha.org or (650) 329-0291. Those wishing to purchase copies from the National Library of Medicine may do so by contacting Ms. Nancy Dosch, manager, Historical Audiovisuals, History of Medicine, Building 38, Room 1E-21, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20891. Telephone (301) 402-8818, e-mail nancy_dosch@nlm.nih.gov.