



**Final resolution after Congress Session II on March 13, 2014 - APPROVED**

**Resolution 13 - AOA/AACOM Unified Residency Accreditation System**

WHEREAS, for more than a year, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) have been engaged in negotiations with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) in an attempt to reach an agreement on a framework for creating a single unified system for the accreditation of Graduate Medical Education (GME) in the United States; and

WHEREAS, from the outset of the negotiations, the AOA/AACOM outlined five "non-negotiable items" that included:

- The discussion is limited to GME and does not extend backward to undergraduate medical education or forward to licensing or certification,
- The osteopathic medicine licensing examination, Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensure Examination of the United States (COMLEX-USA) remains in place and viable,
- Osteopathic board certification remains in place and viable,
- Osteopathic physicians must be given an equal opportunity to participate in all training programs under any unified accreditation system, and
- Any unified accreditation system must not adversely affect primary care programs in community-based settings; and

WHEREAS, at the 2013 AOA House of Delegates meeting, the AOA announced it had rejected a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) stating that it failed to satisfactorily address several of the AOA's non-negotiable items; and

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2014 the AOA announced that it had reached agreement with the ACGME on the terms of a MOU to create a single unified system for the accreditation of GME in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the full contents of this new MOU have yet to be publically disclosed; and

WHEREAS, the announced details of the MOU do not grant equal recognition of and respect for Osteopathic Certification; and

WHEREAS, the ACOFP has previously raised serious concerns regarding the concept of a single unified GME accreditation system; and

WHEREAS, the ramifications of the implementation of a such a system are far reaching and have the potential to significantly impact the future of the osteopathic profession; now, therefore be it

*continued...*



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RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) calls on the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to immediately release to the osteopathic community (if not released prior to the 2014 AOA House of Delegates) the entire Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the AOA affirms to its membership that it will withdraw from the MOU by December 31, 2015 if any of the principles listed below that are considered to be non-negotiable items are not included in the MOU, or by an amendment to the MOU:

- A requirement that all Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs recognize the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensure Examination of the United States (COMLEX-USA) results as equivalent to meet examination criteria for admission into the new consolidated and unified Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs,
- That graduates of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine accredited by the AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) will remain eligible for entry into all ACGME programs on an equal basis with U.S. and Canadian graduates of Colleges of Medicine accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS),
- A requirement that if osteopathic physicians in the new unified GME accreditation programs take osteopathic board certification examinations, those osteopathic board certification examinations be recognized as equivalent to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certification examinations and be counted equally with allopathic certification toward the required certification examination pass rate in the Basic Residency Standards.
- That the new unified GME accreditation programs recognize AOA Board Certification on an equal basis with ABMS certification for the positions of program director, director of medical education, and designated institutional officer without requiring an exception be granted by the applicable Residency Review Committee (RRC); and, be it further.

RESOLVED, that this resolution be submitted to the 2014 AOA House of Delegates, and be considered the policy of the AOA as defined by its constitution, for action; and by January 9, 2015 report to the ACOFP Board of Governors on the actions taken by the AOA.

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