

SUBJECT: Consideration of Medical Doctors (MDs) as Active Members  
SUBMITTED BY: ACOFP Board of Governors  
REFERRED TO: 2018 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

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RESOLUTION NO. 27

- 1 WHEREAS, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) is a community of  
2 current and future family physicians that champions osteopathic principles and supports  
3 its members by providing resources such as education, networking and advocacy while  
4 putting patients first; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the ACOFP Board of Governors has actively solicited comments from members and key  
6 constituencies on the extent to which Medical Doctors (MDs) may be accepted as Active  
7 Members; and
- 8 WHEREAS, the Board of Governors received and reviewed almost 350 comments, conducted its  
9 own debate, and developed its recommendations; now, therefore be it
- 10 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Congress of  
11 Delegates adopt the recommendations in the *Report of the ACOFP Board of Governors on*  
12 *MDs as Active Members*; and, be it further
- 13 RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors be charged to direct the ACOFP Constitution &  
14 Bylaws/Policy & Organization Review Committee to prepare proposed amendments to the  
15 ACOFP Constitution & Bylaws and ACOFP Policy Manual that implement the  
16 recommendations in the *Report of the ACOFP Board of Governors on MDs as Active*  
17 *Members*; and, be it further
- 18 RESOLVED, that the Board of Governors be charged to submit these proposed amendments for  
19 consideration and action by the 2019 ACOFP Congress of Delegates.

FINAL ACTION: APPROVED & REFERRED TO ACOFP CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE as of MARCH 22, 2018

**Report of the ACOFP Board of Governors on MDs as Active Members**  
February 3, 2018

20 **Timeline for 2018 Congress and Beyond**

21 This Report presents the ACOFP Board of Governors recommendations regarding the extent to which MDs may be  
22 accepted as Active Members of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

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24 The recommendations are placed on the 2018 ACOFP Congress of Delegates agenda through a Board resolution  
25 and will be debated in a Reference Committee of the Whole at Congress Session I on Wednesday, March 21. At  
26 Congress Session II on Thursday, March 22, the Reference Committee report will be presented for further  
27 Congress debate and consideration of possible amendments to the recommendations.

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29 Following the 2018 Congress, the ACOFP Constitution & Bylaws/Policy & Organization Review Committee will  
30 draft proposed amendments to the ACOFP Constitution & Bylaws and ACOFP Policy Manual that are necessary to  
31 carry out the Congress action. These proposed amendments will be reviewed by the ACOFP Board and published  
32 in the official ACOFP Journal – *Osteopathic Family Physician* – prior to February 18, 2019, thereby fulfilling the  
33 requirement to notify members 30 days in advance of the next Congress, which will take place March 20-21, 2019.

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35 **Past Actions Leading to the 2018 Congress**

36 The ACOFP now accepts MDs only as Professional Affiliate Members who can serve on committees, but MDs  
37 cannot be Delegates to Congress, become ACOFP Fellows, or hold elected office. There are four MDs who  
38 currently hold Professional Affiliate Member status.

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40 The 2016 Congress directed the Board to consider changes to the ACOFP Constitution & Bylaws that would be  
41 necessary to allow MDs to become ACOFP Active Members – an issue arising from the transition to the ACGME  
42 Single Accreditation System that will allow MDs to complete residency training in Family Medicine residencies  
43 with ACGME Osteopathic Recognition status. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the American Osteopathic  
44 Association will open its certification to MDs.

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46 The Board presented its White Paper at the 2017 Congress, offering various perspectives on 17 aspects related to  
47 accepting MDs as Active Members and offering three possible models – Status Quo, Hybrid with Conditions, and  
48 Full Parity. Prior to developing its own recommendations, the Board asked ACOFP State Societies, selected  
49 ACOFP committees/constituencies, and individual members to submit comments on the White Paper by

50 September 15, 2017. The request for comments was issued in April, followed by reminders in May, August and  
51 early September.

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53 At its October 7, 2017 meeting the Board considered almost 350 comments, concluding that there was no clear  
54 consensus – 29 % for Status Quo; 31 % for Hybrid with Conditions; and 28 percent for Full Parity; however, the  
55 comments were valuable in guiding the Board deliberations.

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57 Ultimately, the Board did not opt for one of the proposed models over another, but rather chose to make its own  
58 recommendations on each of the 17 aspects of the issue. These recommendations are now presented for  
59 consideration and action by the 2018 ACOFP Congress of Delegates.

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## 61 **ACOFP Board of Governors Recommendations for MDs as Active Members**

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### 63 **Active Member Status**

64 Presently, the ACOFP Constitution Article III, Section 1. Qualifications states in part, “An applicant for  
65 membership, except as provided herein, shall be a graduate of a college of osteopathic medicine approved by the  
66 American Osteopathic Association at the time of graduation and shall be licensed to practice osteopathic  
67 medicine.”

68

69 The Board of Governors recommends that ACOFP accept MDs as Active Members with criteria that parallels the  
70 criteria for DOs to be accepted as Active Members; however, the Board recommends that there be additional  
71 conditions regarding such items as MDs being nominated to the ACOFP Board, serving as a committee chair, and  
72 being nominated as an ACOFP Fellow, among others.

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### 74 **Organization Name**

75 Do not change the organization name – it should remain, “American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.”

76

### 77 **Mission Statement**

78 Do not change the Mission Statement – it should remain, “To promote excellence in osteopathic family medicine  
79 through quality education, visionary leadership and responsible advocacy.”

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81

### 82 **Vision Statement**

83 Change the Vision Statement, as follows: “To serve as the professional home/community for osteopathic family  
84 physicians AND OTHER PHYSICIANS DEMONSTRATING COMMITMENT TO OSTEOPATHIC FAMILY

85 MEDICINE, fostering the career-long success of its members – to this are dedicated all ACOFP leadership, staff  
86 and financial resources.”

87

88 Note that the Vision Statement is not in the ACOFP Constitution & Bylaws or ACOFP Policy Manual and does not  
89 require formal amendment by the ACOFP Congress – it is approved periodically by the ACOFP Board of  
90 Governors and appears in the Strategic Plan.

91

#### 92 **ACOFP Definition of an Osteopathic Physician**

93 An osteopathic physician is a person who has earned the DO degree from a college of osteopathic medicine that is  
94 accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation. An MD may practice osteopathically, but an  
95 MD is not an osteopathic physician.

96

97 Note that the ACOFP Definition of an Osteopathic Physician is not in the ACOFP Constitution & Bylaws or  
98 ACOFP Policy Manual and does not require formal amendment by the ACOFP Congress. The definition is  
99 recommended by the Board for the purpose of this discussion.

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#### 101 **ACOFP Board Criteria for Officer & Governor**

102 An MD who is accepted as an ACOFP Active Member must further demonstrate commitment to osteopathic  
103 family medicine to be a Governor or Officer, with the ACOFP Nominating Committee being the filter through  
104 which candidate qualifications are evaluated. The ACOFP Nominating Committee consists of the previous seven  
105 ACOFP presidents.

106

#### 107 **ACOFP Board Criteria for Resident Governor**

108 An MD resident who is an active trainee in Osteopathic Focused Education at a Family Medicine residency with  
109 ACGME Osteopathic Recognition status may be nominated for the Resident Governor position.

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#### 111 **ACOFP Board Criteria for Student Governor**

112 An MD medical student is not eligible to be nominated for Student Governor, due to the lack of formal osteopathic  
113 training.

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#### 116 **ACOFP Committee Participation**

117 Continue to accept MDs on committees with vote; however, for the committee chair positions, only those MDs  
118 who have completed Osteopathic Focused Education at a residency with ACGME Osteopathic Recognition status  
119 can be appointed.

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121 **ACOFP Congress of Delegates**

122 An MD Active Member can be a Delegate in the ACOFP Congress of Delegates.

123

124 **ACOFP State Societies**

125 Individual states are to determine whether to allow MD membership in the ACOFP state society and the extent of  
126 their rights and privileges.

127

128 **ACOFP Residents Council**

129 An MD resident who is an active trainee in Osteopathic Focused Education at a Family Medicine residency with  
130 ACGME Osteopathic Recognition status may be a member of the Residents Council.

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132 **Student Chapters**

133 The ACOFP Board makes no recommendation at this time, pending further study of whether to accept MD medical  
134 students as ACOFP Student Chapter members. Aspects to be addressed are the fiscal impact on the ACOFP  
135 budget, the leadership role of MD medical students in ACOFP Student Chapters, and the geographic distance  
136 between ACOFP Student Chapters and MD medical students.

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138 **ACOFP Fellow & Distinguished Fellow Criteria**

139 The ACOFP Board defers to the ACOFP Conclave of Fellows to make a recommendation on whether MDs can  
140 become ACOFP Fellows and ACOFP Distinguished Fellows. The Executive Council of the Conclave of Fellows  
141 responded to the White Paper by suggesting that an MD Fellow nominee must demonstrate a commitment to  
142 osteopathic medicine; however, there is no consensus on what the criteria should be. Note that one criteria for  
143 ACOFP Fellow nomination is that the candidate must have paid Active Member dues for the previous six years.

144

145 **Award Criteria**

146 Modify the criteria to allow MDs to qualify for all ACOFP awards.

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149 **Membership in the Auxiliary to the ACOFP**

150 Membership in the Auxiliary to the ACOFP shall be open to all family and friends of those who qualify for  
151 ACOFP membership.

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153 **Auxiliary Student Scholarship Criteria**

154 The ACOFP Board defers to the Auxiliary to the ACOFP to make a recommendation for the Student Scholarship  
155 Criteria.

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