Osteopathic Spirit Week

Rural Medicine

William J. Pettit, D.O.
Associate Dean for Rural Health & Associate Professor of Family Medicine

Oklahoma State University
Center for Health Sciences
Center for Rural Health
Tulsa, Oklahoma

April 10, 2009
D.O.s practice in 66 of the state’s 77 counties.

D.O.s comprise 20% of the physician workforce in Oklahoma.

69% of the D.O.s practicing in Oklahoma are graduates of the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Osteopathic Medicine stresses the primary care specialties:
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Obstetrics/Gynecology

Oklahoma Osteopathic Association (OOA) started in 1900, representing over 1,600 D.O.s.
Active Osteopathic Physicians

1 dot = 1 physician

Source: Oklahoma Board of Osteopathic Examiners (01/2007)
Oklahoma D.O.s Make a Difference!

Active Primary Care Physicians by Degree Type per 100,000 Population, 2007
Comparison of Oklahoma with the Highest & Lowest Ranked States

- Massachusetts (1): 122.1 M.D. (3.5 D.O.)
- U.S. Average: 80.4 M.D. (7.8 D.O.)
- Oklahoma (43): 55 M.D. (19.3 D.O.)
- Mississippi (50): 58.1 M.D. (5.5 D.O.)

Oklahoma D.O.s Make a Difference!

“In 1972, the Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery…was the nation’s first freestanding osteopathic institution ever to enjoy state [legislative] support.” (page 22)

“…[one] characteristic that impressed legislators and the public: More than half the D.O.’s practice in nonurban [rural] areas.” (page 24)

OSU Center for Rural Health

2001: Created by the Oklahoma State Legislature as the “Oklahoma Rural Health Policy and Research Center”

2005: Name changed to “OSU Center for Rural Health”

**Mission**
The Center for Rural Health's mission is to support the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences and its College of Osteopathic Medicine by seeking to improve healthcare in rural Oklahoma through 1) Student education; 2) Residency training; 3) Research; 4) Program applications; 5) Advocacy; and 6) Alliances with others who share its goals.

**Vision**
The Center for Rural Health's vision is to uniquely impact healthcare professionals from the time they are youth through the time they are practicing in rural communities through recruitment, training, and support services, thereby strengthening the broader healthcare delivery systems in rural communities.
## OSU COM...Then and Now

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Entering Class of 1974</th>
<th>Entering Class of 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Applicants</td>
<td>~600</td>
<td>1,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Students</td>
<td>36* (6%)</td>
<td>88 (5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># from Oklahoma</td>
<td>32 (89%)</td>
<td>74 (84%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># from Rural</td>
<td>~23 (64%)</td>
<td>~40 (45%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Females</td>
<td>2 (6%)</td>
<td>46 (52%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Different States Represented</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Preceptors</td>
<td>~40</td>
<td>~140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*34 students graduated
Distance Learning from the Start

“...in the beginning [ca. 1973], the college only drew on Tulsa area resources, preceptorships to other areas of Oklahoma were to be added as soon as practical....continuing contact between the student in the field and the college was to be maintained by the use of talkback television.” (page 76)

Telemedicine...Then and Now

1990

2007
The Primary Care Mission Continues

OSU-COM Graduates Entering Primary Care Residencies
1977 - 2008

Note:
* No Data Available for 1984

Data Source: Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences (2008)
(c) 2008 Oklahoma State University
http://ruralhealth.okstate.edu
Rural Physicians in Oklahoma by Medical School (Five Largest Alumni Base)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medical School</th>
<th>Number of Active Graduates Practicing in Rural Oklahoma</th>
<th>Rural Primary Care</th>
<th>60%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Oklahoma (Allopathic)</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma State University (Osteopathic)</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City University of Medicine &amp; Biosciences (Osteopathic)</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Kansas (Allopathic)</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.T. Still University (Kirksville, Mo.) (Osteopathic)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Oklahoma Board of Osteopathic Examiners (01/2007) Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure & Supervision (02/2007)
Encouraging Rural & Primary Care Practice

Pre-Doctoral Training Grant

- OSU Center for Rural Health Staffing Enhancements
  - Rural Medical Education Coordinator
  - Four Regional Coordinators
  - Data Analyst

- Rural Medical Education Curriculum
  - Perspectives for Rural Health (Spring 2009)
  - Rural Medical Care (Fall 2009)

- Expanded Early Rural Experiences
  - Summer Rural Externship
  - Early Rural Experiences

- Student Osteopathic Rural Medicine (StORM) Club
Encouraging Rural & Primary Care Practice
Osteopathic Residency and Internship Programs, 2008

Notes:
OPTI = Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution
* = Residency starting in 2009