

# Convocation 2025 Physician Track Lectures & Workshops

## On the Shoulders of Giants: Mentors, Past, Present, and Future

Register: [www.academyofosteopathy.org/convo25](http://www.academyofosteopathy.org/convo25)

### 7-9pm Wednesday Lecture (2 CME)

Hollis H. King, DO, PhD, FAAO, FCA & R. Paul Lee, DO, FAAO

*No Signup Required*

Evening with the FAAOs

### 8am-11am Thursday Morning Lectures (4 CME)

Sean J. Moloney, DO

Edward G. Stiles, DO, FAAODist

Brian F. Degenhardt, DO

William Stager DO, MPH, MS, FAAFP, FAAMA, FAAO, FACOFP dist.

Mico (Margaret) Sorrel, DO, FCA

*No Signup Required*

Welcome

Mentoring: An Osteopathic Perspective

An Anthology of OMM Research: From Conception into the Horizon

Robert C. Fulford, DO, FCA: Physician, Philosopher, Healer, Teacher

Cranial Contributions of Dr. Charlotte Weaver

### 2:30-4pm and 4:30-6pm Thursday Physician Workshops (1.5 CME each)

Mico (Margaret) Sorrel, DO, FCA

Treatment of the Articulation of the Dorsum Sellae-Basisphenoid

Open to all who attended the Thursday morning lecture on Charlotte Weaver and who have a working knowledge of cranial osteopathy. With new awareness of the synchondrosis at the juncture of the dorsum sellae and basisphenoid and its crucial role in addressing cranial dysfunction, how might the osteopath successfully treat this region? What have you failed to treat successfully by limiting yourself to approaches stemming from the Sutherland tradition?

Kurt P. Heinking, DO, FAAO

“Release Techniques” of Robert Kappler DO, FAAO

The workshop will teach and explain release techniques of Robert Kappler, DO, FAAO. Dr. Kappler was a master of all forms of OMT, but especially in his mid to later years he relied heavily upon indirect technique due to the chronicity and severity of issues in his patients. The techniques taught in this workshop were developed over a number of years. Dr. Kappler would palpate tissue texture change (plus or minus tenderness) in a given tissue and perform an indirect/combined release. This was performed by finding a position of ease or comfort in which the tissue was the most relaxed, leading to an inherent release. As the release was occurring, he would apply a gentle direct myofascial stretch. This is similar to many other techniques, but also somewhat unique. Dr. Kappler would palpate an area of tissue texture and tension rather than a distinct tender point. So, it was similar to Strain-Counterstrain, MFR and Still technique. Sometimes he would use a compression or traction vector but sometimes not, he only did what was necessary. Localization and palpation were the important factors. It was very gentle and effective. He applied this approach to articular, ligamentous, myofascial, cranial, and viscerosomatic dysfunctions.

Richard W. Koss, DO

Robert C. Fulford, DO: Osteopathic Pioneer in Bio-Energy

This workshop is designed to introduce the participants to the Osteopathic diagnosis and treatment principles in the living Bio-Energy field as practiced and taught by Robert C. Fulford, DO. We will palpate this subtle energy through the properties of the fascia. The delicate motions observed in the fascia serve as “the place to look for the cause of disease and the place to begin the action of remedy in all disease” (AT Still). These unique concepts go beyond the current Osteopathic education as taught in other OPP or CME courses.

Brian F. Degenhardt, DO

The transformational impact of objective feedback on palpation training

This lab offers attendees hands-on experience with advanced technologies and techniques for obtaining objective feedback on assessing positional asymmetry and passive motion testing related to vertebral segmental motion. Participants will gain heightened awareness of their diagnostic skills and receive personalized feedback to further refine their techniques and enhance their diagnostic capabilities. Evidence-based recommendations will be provided to support skill improvement. Additionally, de-identified performance data will be collected during this lab and will be reported to conference attendees on Sunday to aid in quality assessment and continuous improvement efforts.

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## 2:30-4pm and 4:30-6pm Thursday Physician Workshops (1.5 CME each)

*Dennis J. Dowling, DO,  
MA, FAAODist*

Advanced Facilitated  
Positional Release

Facilitated positional release (FPR) as practiced by Stanley Schiowitz, DO, FAAO and those whom he directly taught, is a rapid diagnostic approach utilizing an indirect followed by direct treatment. The physician initially places the region or somatic dysfunction into a neutral idling position. An activating force of compression, traction, or torsion is then applied to facilitate an immediate release of tissue tension, joint motion restriction, or both. This is followed by placing the region into its directions of relative freedom for a few seconds and then repositioning, if desired, into the barrier directions followed by reassessment. The positioning into the barriers brings FPR into greater resemblance with the Still Technique. FPR is easily applied, effective and time efficient.

*Edward G. Stiles, DO,  
FAAODist*

Advanced Muscle  
Energy

Mitchell, Sr. wrote two articles (1948 & 1958) about the pelvis. Twelve years after the second article, he conducted his first muscle energy technique (MET) Tutorial which presented MET for the whole body. The material from that course was never published by Mitchell, Sr. During the last 4 years of Mitchell, Sr.'s life, Stiles helped him teach 3 or 4 MET tutorials. Stiles also made several trips to Chattanooga to upgrade his MET understanding and skills. Stiles was also treated by Mitchell, Sr. multiple times and treated Mitchell, Sr. several times. All those experiences help Stiles to realize Mitchell was "fine-tuning" his MET to the patient. This takes MET to a new level. This understanding and skills will be taught.

*Frank Willard, PhD; Joel  
M. Talsma, MS; Tyler H.  
Redway, PhD*

A Functional Approach  
to the Anatomy of  
the Upper Extremity

This workshop honors Dr Andrew Taylor Still's guiding principle, "begin with anatomy, end with anatomy as a knowledge of anatomy is all you want or need." By utilizing classic dissection, live partner palpation, and ultrasound technology, Dr Willard and his team will present a unique anatomic perspective to explore the dynamic function of the upper extremity.

NOTE: Dr. Willard's hands-on anatomy workshop is limited to 24 participants and has an extra cost of \$100 to offset the cost of specimen transportation.

**WORKSHOP FULL**

## 8am-12:30pm Friday Morning Lectures (4.5 CME) No Signup Required

*Alexander S. Nicholas, DO, FAAODist*

Principles of HVLA

*Richard L. Van Buskirk, DO, FAAO*

Still Laughlin Techniques and the Evolution of Still's Methodology

*Kimberly Wolf, DO, FAAP, FAAPO, FACOP*

Pediatric Osteopathic Research Update

*K. Turner Slich, DO*

Still's Exaggeration of the Lesion

*George J. Pasquarello, DO, FAAO*

Incorporating Diagnostic Ultrasound in a Musculoskeletal Practice

## 2-3:30pm and 4-5:30pm Friday Physician Workshops (1.5 CME each)

*Alexander S. Nicholas,  
DO, FAAODist*

Clinical Application of  
High Velocity/Low  
Amplitude Technique

The classic principles of high velocity/low amplitude (HVLA) as defined by ECOP and Dr. Nicholas' personal experiences with this technique that have caused him to reconsider some of the ways we teach this technique to students and clinicians. How this technique is compared to other styles of techniques that focus on articular dysfunction will be presented.

*Richard L. Van Buskirk,  
DO, FAAO*

Still Laughlin Lightning  
Universal Treatment

Towards the end of his life Dr. A.T. Still apparently developed and utilized a variation on his Indirect-then-Direct treatment that would treat all somatic dysfunction diagnosed in a patient in one brief but very complex maneuver. The formula behind this treatment was passed on in a modified form by Dr. William Garner Sutherland to Dr. George Laughlin. Dr. Ed Stiles spent several years working with Dr. Laughlin uncovering the principles. This workshop teaches how to identify Key Dysfunctions (also known as Key Lesions or Areas of Greatest Restriction). Using these, two variant methods of stacking and unwinding these "Keys" will allow the physician to learn the principles of the Still-Laughlin Lightning Universal treatment.

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*K. Turner Slich, DO*

Exaggeration of the Lesion

This presentation focuses on a treatment approach Dr. Still called “Exaggeration of the Lesion,” which he developed in the 1880s, and was the type of technique upon which the osteopathic profession was built. This presentation explores the framework of this approach, and explores how this type of technique is paired with one of three activating forces: articulatory, indirect, and challenge the barrier.

*George J. Pasquarello, DO, FAAO*

Hand-Held Ultrasound: Office Diagnosis Efficiency for the OMM practitioner

This workshop will be a hands-on exploration of portable handheld ultrasound’s utility in an OMM setting. We will evaluate the upper extremity to demonstrate the ease of use and diagnostic accuracy this technology can offer to a busy OMM practitioner. The availability of real-time, static, and dynamic imaging can significantly enhance the diagnosis, treatment, and research options for the many presentations we see in practice.

*Kimberly Wolf, DO, FAAP, FAAPO, FACOP*

Osteopathic Approach to Plagiocephaly

During this workshop we will dive into factors that influence plagiocephaly and how to address them. In addition to discussing how to treat these patients with OMT, we will share different modifications of techniques to help make them more developmentally appropriate for infants. How to treat associated symptoms such as torticollis, spitting up, and colic will also be a component of the workshop.

*Guy A. DeFeo, DO*

High-Yield OMT for the Extremities

This session will provide a methodology to quickly and effectively evaluate some of the more common presentations of complaints involving the upper and lower extremities. Quick, efficient and effective osteopathic manipulative techniques will be demonstrated by the presenter and practiced by participants. All techniques will be capable of being performed by any osteopathic physician who has developed the basic competencies to perform osteopathic structural evaluation and treatment.

*Frank Willard, PhD; Joel M. Talsma, MS; Tyler H. Redway, PhD*

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### 8am-12pm Saturday Morning Lectures (4 CME) *No Signup Required*

*Michael P. Rowane, DO, MS, FAAFP, FAAO*

Beyond Zink

*Lisa Ann DeStefano, DO*

Sutural Cranial Approach

*Karen M. Steele, DO, FAAO, FCA*

Harold A. Blood, DO, FAAO, Memorial Lecture: What I learned from Richard H Still, Jr., DO, Great-Grandson of A.T. Still

*Hugh Ettlinger, DO, FAAO, FCA*

The Work of Anne Wales, DO

### 1:30-3pm and 3:30-5pm Saturday Physician Workshops (1.5 CME each)

*Kenneth Lossing, DO*

A Modern Clinical Approach to Chapman’s Points

Dr. Lossing has been using Chapman’s points clinically for many years. He has discovered a unique modified approach to effectively treat many clinical scenarios in a short period of time. Dr. Frank Chapman originally described these points in 1929 as lymphatic stasis in nerves, reflecting lymph stasis in organs. It is only in the last 5 years that it has been proven that there is sympathetic nerve fibers in lymphatic nodes! This positively confirms Dr. Chapman’s theory of nearly 100 years ago.

In this class, we will learn how to palpate the reflex points, evaluate whether it is active or not, evaluate the connected organ, and effectively treat the points. Each point is normally treated in about 15 seconds. The treatment result is measured with changes in mobility and motility, immediately after the treatment. In other words, we can palpate the change in the target tissue!

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*Hugh Ettlenger, DO,*  
*FAAO, FCA*

The Technique of Anne  
Wales, DO

Dr. Wales had a unique application of Dr. Sutherland's treatment approach. This workshop will explore treatment of the pelvis, ribs, craniocervical junction, and cranium.

*Paula Eschtruth, DO, FCA*  
Dr. Fulford's Philosophy  
and Teachings

Presenting Dr. Fulford's techniques for opening up the physical body for the flow of vital energy so that working with the mental, emotional, and spiritual levels will be easier. Shock technique, Breathing, Grounding, Opening the Heart Level to LOVE. Also presenting Dr. Fulford's philosophy on care of yourself so you are better able to treat patients.

*Michael P. Rowane, DO,*  
*MS, FAAFP, FAAO*  
Beyond Zink

This workshop will explore the Common Compensatory Pattern (CCP) structural exam developed by J. Gordon Zink, DO, FAAO. The CCP's fundamental steps go beyond the simplified CC/CT/TL/LS screen taught to medical students and will serve as a time-efficient foundation of diagnosis and treatment for busy clinicians. The workshop will also explore OMT techniques and pearls related to the observed patterns.

*Lisa A. DeStefano, DO*  
Sutural Cranial  
Approach

It is said that Sutherland's quest to discover Cranial Osteopathy is recognized as one of the great feats of deductive reasoning. By intensely studying each bone and his specimen's skull, he was able to reason out their mechanical linkage and probable movement in time. He came to understand the structure of the cranium like no one had before, using sensitive hands. This course focuses on using deductive reasoning to understand the mechanical linkages of the human cranial bones. This practical approach, with direct lineage (and homage) to Sutherland, makes Cranial Osteopathy easy to learn, teach, and perform.

*Hollis H. King, DO, PhD,*  
*FAAO, FCA*  
As the Twig is Bent

This workshop will focus on addressing common pediatric problems, many of which could be the sequelae of untreated plagiocephaly/torticollis. Dr. King will share less commonly-known techniques passed down from giants, including Dr. Frymann and Dr. Magoun. There will be a focus on addressing vision and dental issues, otitis media, and seizure disorders.

*Frank Willard, PhD; Joel*  
*M. Talsma, MS; Tyler H.*  
*Redway, PhD*

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### 8am-12pm Sunday Morning Lectures (4 CME) *No Signup Required*

*Sajid Surve, DO, FAOCPMR, FAAO*

FAAO Dissertation: Osteopathic Approach to the Voice  
The Evolution of FOM – Foundations of Osteopathic  
Medicine

*Rebecca Giusti, DO*

Objective Feedback Palpation Training Lab: Key takeaways

*Brian F. Degenhardt, DO*

C.O.R.K. Conference on Osteopathic Research and  
Knowledge Update

*Jordan Keys, DO*

*Ajay Sharma, DO and Kavin T. Williams, CPC,*  
*AAO Consultant*

Coding E/M service, OMT with Modifier-25

*Sean J. Moloney, DO*

Closing Remarks