



NJAOPS

New Jersey Association of Osteopathic
Physicians and Surgeons

PRESS RELEASE
Date: September 4, 2015

For Immediate Release:

National Health Care Association Taps Local Physicians for Leadership; Passes Multiple Resolutions to Improve Medical Practice and Patient Care in Region

MONMOUTH JUNCTION, NJ—September 4, 2015— Two prominent osteopathic physicians from the New Jersey/Philadelphia region have been honored this summer with positions of leadership in the most prominent national organization for osteopathic medicine in the United States. The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) installed John W. Becher, DO, an osteopathic emergency physician from Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, as president of the AOA; and Ira Monka, DO, a family practice physician from Cedar Knolls, New Jersey, was elected to a three-year term as Board Trustee.

Dr. Becher assumed the presidency before an estimated 500 osteopathic physicians (DOs) at the American Osteopathic Association's annual business meeting in Chicago. The organization represents the professional interests of the nation's more than 110,000 DOs and osteopathic medical students. "The dynamic times we're living in have brought extraordinary change to health care in just the past few years. Osteopathic medicine is one of the fastest-growing segments of health care professionals in the United States and the demand for our philosophy and approach to care has never been greater," says Dr. Becher. "As physicians, we treat the whole person, not just illness and injuries. I welcome the opportunity to add our perspective to the national health care conversation." Dr. Becher currently serves as chairman of the department of emergency medicine at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he also graduated from in 1970. He is also director of osteopathic medical education at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey and an adjunct professor of emergency medicine at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. A member of the Federation of State Medical Boards' Maintenance of Licensure Committee, Dr. Becher has trained more than 150 emergency physicians as a residency director. During his career, Dr. Becher held leadership roles within the AOA, including as a member of the editorial board of The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA), and is past president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA).

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Ira P. Monka, DO, MHA, FACOFP is a board-certified family physician, a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, President of the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (NJAOPS) in 2006, and currently serves as the current Assistant Speaker of the House for the NJAOPS House of Delegates. Dr. Monka practices at the Medical Institute of New Jersey in Cedar Knolls. He has been named a “Top Doc” by New Jersey Monthly Magazine for several years, including in 2013. Dr. Monka has served the AOA in many capacities including third vice president, member of the Bureau of State Government Affairs and program chair for OMED 2012 – the Osteopathic Medical Conference & Exposition. Dr. Monka earned his osteopathic medical degree from Rowan University - School of Osteopathic Medicine in Stratford, New Jersey.

“For more than a century, our area has trained some of the best in our profession, a credit to both the outstanding medical community and excellent osteopathic medical schools in Philadelphia and Stratford, NJ, said Robert Pedowitz, DO, president of the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons. “We wish Dr. Becher and Dr. Monka well as they lead our profession at this important time of transformation in U.S. health care.”

Through NJAOPS, New Jersey was represented at the AOA House of Delegates meeting in Chicago by a delegation of 20 physicians, 2 medical students and Executive Director, Robert Bowen. Several issues were discussed and key resolutions were passed that address timely and relevant issues in health care, and will directly impact physicians and patients health in New Jersey.

Some of the highlighted resolutions include:

- H-215 Equivalency Policy for Osteopathic Continuous Education (OCC)
- H-337 Violence Against Healthcare Staff
- H-324 Physician Incentives to Underserved Areas
- H-312 Tax Credit for Precepting
- H-314 Retail Medical Clinics in Facilities Selling Tobacco, Nicotine or Vaping Products
- H-400 - A/2015 Interference in the Physician-Patient Relationship by Personal Injury Attorneys and Insurance Carrier Agents

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NJAOPS advances the interests of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons in New Jersey, as well as the patients they serve, through advocacy, education and communications. To successfully implement this mission, NJAOPS actively engages in legislative action, as well as public information initiatives. For more information regarding AOA resolution specifics, please contact NJAOPS.

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About NJAOPS

The New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (NJAOPS) is a professional medical association that represents the interests of more than 5,000 osteopathic physicians, residents, interns and medical students in New Jersey. NJAOPS works to unite New Jersey's osteopathic physicians and supporters of quality patient care to take action on important professional and public health issues. Membership in NJAOPS provides you with a comprehensive and growing array of benefits and services to meet your professional and personal needs.

About the American Osteopathic Association

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) proudly represents its professional family of more than 110,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students; promotes public health; encourages scientific research; serves as the primary certifying body for DOs; is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools; and has federal authority to accredit hospitals and other health care facilities. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org. About the AOA House of Delegates The AOA's House of Delegates, comprised of more than 500 delegates representing osteopathic state medical associations, specialty societies, interns, residents and students from throughout the country, meets annually in July to set organizational policies and elect new officers.

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