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Dr. Beth Baker Takes Office as ACOEM President



On May 6, **Beth A. Baker, MD, MPH, FACOEM**, consultant at State Fund Mutual in Bloomington, Minn., and President of Medical and Toxicology Consulting Services, Eden Prairie, Minn., was officially installed as President of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM). Dr. Baker was among seven physicians elected to the ACOEM Board of Directors who took office on May 6, 2020, at the Board's virtual meeting.

While Dr. Baker would have preferred to present her inaugural address in person at AOHC 2020, the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic made this impossible. Therefore, we wish to share with you an excerpt of the message Dr. Baker would have presented at AOHC:

"Dear Members:

As I step into my new role, I look forward to continued work with ACOEM leaders and members as we strive to provide the OEM community with tools and resources to fight the pandemic, aid in safely returning America to work, and furthering the specialty.

I would like to thank Dr. Stephen Frangos for his tireless work on behalf of ACOEM this past year. Recent initiatives, including the ACOEM Member Needs Assessment, Board Strategic Planning Retreat, Revenue Generation Task Force, and Governance Task Force have set the stage for improving how ACOEM interacts with and provides services to its members and prospective

members. I would also like to thank Bill Bruce and his staff for the great job they have done this year, including developing a wonderful series of webinars about COVID-19.

This year we plan to enact some of the recommendations from the Revenue Generation Task Force to modernize ACOEM's product portfolio, including increasing the use of webinars and online learning, and potentially developing certification programs for clinics and other providers. Recommendations from the Governance Task Force introduce a new governance structure that will allow any ACOEM member to apply for a volunteer position through a transparent process.

We will also address key goals identified at the Strategic Board Retreat in January 2020 including, increasing engagement with ACOEM and the value of ACOEM membership, increasing the impact that ACOEM makes and improving organizational effectiveness, communicating the value of OEM and improving visibility, advancing the OEM body of knowledge, and improving the visibility and sustainability of ACOEM.

To address those needs I have formed several Presidential Task Forces. A Future OEM Workforce Task Force will develop strategies to improve the pipeline of OEM providers and will be chaired by Dr. Judith McKenzie; Dr. Jim Butler will serve as vice-chair. A Task Force on OEM Visibility will work on communicating the importance of OEM in improving worker health and safety to the house of medicine, OEM community, employers, and the general public. This Task Force will be chaired by Dr. Denece Kesler and Dr. Bill Buchta will be the vice-chair.

As we look toward the future, the OEM community will continue to address challenges and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. ACOEM needs to be a leader in protecting America's workforce, advancing public health, and educating health providers on the continuing evolution of best practices. ACOEM and the entire OEM community have an elevated role, and I am excited to see the direction we can take our organization.

I look forward to working with all of you over the next year. Thank you."

Beth A. Baker, MD, MPH, FACOEM
ACOEM President

Dr. Baker's entire message will be available as a video and will be posted on the ACOEM website later next month -- watch your email for the announcement.

New ACOEM Governance Structure Offers Members the Opportunity to Apply for Council or Committee Vacancies

At its spring meeting, the ACOEM Board of Directors approved a new [Governance Structure](#) for the College. Over the last year, the Presidential Task Force on Governance has been working on creating a volunteer application process and structure for governance that is more streamlined, functional, and transparent.

Here's what changed:

- *Councils and certain committee appointments* are open for eligible [members to apply](#).
- *Leadership and Member Term Limits Are Defined:* Succession and continuity within committees and councils is important and therefore a succession plan for each volunteer group has been established. Each group will have a vice chair to chair succession plan, where each term is 2 years. Members will serve up to a 3-year term, renewable for a second 3-year term. Residents are limited to one 3-year term.
- *Streamlined Council/Committee Charges:* The function-responsibility-oversight (FRO) documents for each council and committee have been replaced with new, clearer charges.

- *Updated Governance Website:* Committee/council structure, charges, composition, and current leadership can be viewed at <https://acoem.org/About-ACOEM/Governance/Councils-and-Committees>.

Volunteer Application Process:

Eligible ACOEM members may apply for more than 40 open vacancies by submitting the [online application form](#). (The list of committees and councils with vacancies can be viewed from the pull-down menu under "Select Volunteer Opportunity" on the [application form](#).) Applications will be reviewed by the council or committee chair, and recommendations provided to the ACOEM Volunteer Selection Committee for final appointment. The application deadline for current vacancies is **July 1, 2020**. New volunteer opportunities will be posted online as they become available, and the membership will be notified of these opportunities.

If you are interested in serving as a member of an ACOEM council or committee, remember, the deadline to apply for this term (2020-2023 for member positions) is July 1, 2020. If you would like more information, email Lucy Free, ACOEM Director of Governance, at lucy@acoem.org.



Registration Open for ACOEM's *Safely Returning to Work: A Virtual Symposium* June 9-11

As the nation continues to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses struggle to reopen safely. To get America back to work, employers will require the support of OEM health care professionals with expertise in returning employees to work, including dealing with testing protocols, business-specific guidance, and workplace modifications to reduce the potential for workplace transmission.

To provide physicians and all other OEM health care professionals with the latest knowledge and tools to address the issue of return to work, ACOEM has developed [Safely Returning to Work: A Virtual Symposium](#) to be held **June 9-11, 2020**, from 12:00pm-3:00pm EDT each day. The symposium which will cover a comprehensive approach to returning to work during the pandemic, the biological science of viral transmission, as well as industry-specific guidance that can be applied to workplace environments. It will also discuss the role that medicine, safety, and industrial hygiene plays in safely returning employees to the workplace.

You may [register](#) for 1 day or for the full 3-day event. Attendees are eligible to receive CME. **And, all attendees will have access to the Event Recordings for the day(s) for which they register.**

ACOEM Fall Board of Directors Election Slate Announced

The slate for ACOEM's Officer/Board election to be held this fall has been announced. The nominees and the offices for which they are running are as follows:

President:

Robert M. Bourgeois, MD, FACOEM

President-Elect:

Douglas W. Martin, MD, FACOEM

Vice President (2020-2021):

James W. Butler, MD, FACOEM
Kenji Saito, MD, FACOEM

Directors (2020-2023):

Mary Jo Capodice, DO, FACOEM
Victoria A. Cassano, MD, FACOEM
Jasminka Goldoni Laestadius, MD, FACOEM
Albert J. Osbahr III, MD, FACOEM
Warren Silverman, MD, FACOEM
Melanie D. Swift, MD, FACOEM

The polls will open by **November 1, 2020**. Those elected will take office during ACOEM's annual membership meeting to be held next May at AOHC 2021 in Austin, Texas.

Registration for ACOEM's Occupational Medicine Board Review Virtual Course Now Open

If you are striving to reach or maintain the definitive credential in your profession -- occupational medicine certification by the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) -- look no further for expert assistance and instruction than ACOEM's [Occupational Medicine Board Review \(OMBR\) course](#). This comprehensive OMBR course covers topics relevant to the rigorous ABPM occupational medicine exam and provides sample questions and guidance for preparation and test-taking strategies. No other review course prepares you better.

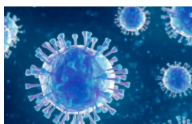
Registration for ACOEM's [Occupational Medicine Board Review Virtual Course](#) is now open. The course, which will be offered in a hybrid format, opens June 12. You will have access to the digital syllabus and can begin to study the course materials immediately after you complete your registration. Return to the [course page](#) on June 12 to view lectures recorded by course faculty, Drs. John Meyer and Francesca Litow.

ACOEM offers two registration options:

- Option #1 includes a printed copy of the course syllabus, in addition to the immediately available digital copy. The printed copy will be mailed to you within 10 days of your registration.
- Option #2 does not include a printed syllabus. You can download a copy of the syllabus from the course page and/or from a Dropbox link which we will provide in the confirmation email. Save \$100 with Option #2.

You will be able to study the course syllabus and recordings of faculty lectures at your own pace and on a schedule that is convenient for you. In addition to these on-demand study materials, we are arranging live "office hours" over a period of 10 days during which time you can interact with faculty in real-time via Zoom meeting. The schedule of office hours will be available in early June. Additional info is available online. Course registrants are also encouraged to register for the free, ACOEM hosted [ABPM Transitional MOC Requirements webinar](#) on June 23.

Visit ACOEM's COVID-19 Resource Center for the Most Up-to-Date Information Regarding the Pandemic



ACOEM is working to provide you with the latest information and resources you need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our [COVID-19 Resource Center](#) is always being updated with the latest information, and ACOEM continues to provide quality webinars related to COVID-19 that are free to the public.

Since March 18, ACOEM has offered a dozen COVID-19 webinars with more coming. Recordings from

these webinars are available at <https://acoem.org/COVID-19/COVID-19-Webinars>. For the most current list of upcoming webinars, visit <https://acoem.org/learning/webinars>.



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Make Employee Health Decisions that Matter.

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Excellence in
Corporate Health
Achievement Award
Presented by ACOEM

May Issue of *JOEM* Includes New Guidance on Spirometry



The *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine* (ACOEM) is ACOEM's official peer-reviewed publication. A benefit of membership, *JOEM*'s clinically oriented research articles are an excellent source for new ideas, concepts, techniques, and procedures that can be readily applied in the industrial or commercial employment setting. This month in *JOEM*:

ACOEM Issues New Guidance Paper on Spirometry

Spirometry plays a critical role in the primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention of workplace-related lung disease. Recently, there have been important developments in federal regulations and in official ATS recommendations which affect occupational spirometry testing. Recognizing spirometry's central role in workplace respiratory programs, ACOEM has issued new guidance of relevance to occupational health practitioners. [*Spirometry in Occupational Health--2020*](#), by Mary Townsend, DrPH, incorporates these changes into its recommendations to provide current information for all users of spirometry test results, from those who perform or supervise testing to those who only interpret or review results. The paper appears in the May issue of *JOEM* and is free to the public.

Article Addresses Pharmacotherapy and Opioid Use

The opioid epidemic is having multiple adverse effects on society including in the workplace. A new study, [*Opioid Use Disorder and Employee Work Presenteeism, Absences, and Health Care Costs*](#) in the May issue of *JOEM* evaluated the health care and productivity costs for opioid-abusing workers who either did or did not receive pharmacotherapy for their disorder. The results demonstrated significant costs for opioid-abusing workers that were reduced by approximately 70% with pharmacotherapy. Occupational medicine physicians need to be aware of this problem and the potential to reduce associated costs with appropriate treatment.

May CME/MOC Now Available

JOEM provides 3 CME/MOC in each issue -- that's 36 CME/MOC per year. And, the May *JOEM* CME articles are now available! For information on obtaining CME/MOC through *JOEM*, [visit the ACOEM store](#).

Application Deadline Extended for eCHAA



The deadline to apply for the [Excellence in Corporate Health Achievement Award \(eCHAA\)](#) has been extended for the 2020/2021 award cycle. The *Letter of Intent to Apply* is now due August 31, 2020, and [Application](#) due **October 1, 2020**.

The eCHAA is the most comprehensive health and safety award program. All applicants receive high-value feedback from experts highlighting strengths and areas for improvement, can validate their work, and gain widespread recognition. New to the program is Gold, Silver, and Bronze level recognition. For-profit or non-profit organizations in the fields of manufacturing, service, health care, financial, information technology, etc., within North America that employ 500 or more employees, are eligible to apply, as are government agencies. Email [Julie Ordning](#) for more information.

