



# South Carolina's HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY

Monthly Newsletter

February 2025

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## 2025 SCOMS Winter CME Conference Held in Greenville



More than 100 physicians, medical students, medical school faculty members, and healthcare professionals gathered in downtown Greenville for the [2025 Winter CME Conference](#), which was held Feb. 14-16. The weekend was filled with exceptional presentations, networking and celebrations.

As a reminder, conference attendees have until March 15 to view the four on-demand CME lectures. Please be sure to submit your CME form and evaluation form to [tammy@scdos.org](mailto:tammy@scdos.org).

SCOMS sends its immense appreciation to the following sponsors and exhibitors: VCOM-Carolinas, Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, Practice Point CME Communications, Butterfly Network, The Tyger River Group at Morgan Stanely, CenterWell Senior Primary Care, South Carolina Department of Public Health, South Carolina AHEC, and Lutheran Hospice.

A special thanks to all who participated in the Silent Auction, which raises funds to support the SCOMS Scholarship and Awards Program!



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## Save the Date for 2026!

Mark your calendars now for the 2026 SCOMS Winter CME Conference, which will be held February 13 – 15 on Hilton Head Island. Details will be shared soon regarding the host venue. If you are interested in being a presenter, please email [tammy@scdos.org](mailto:tammy@scdos.org).

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## Welcome New Member



Dr. Elise Resnick is a psychiatrist who specializes in addiction. She practices at Unity on Main in Greenville.

Dr. Resnick earned her medical degree from West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in 1987 and did her Psychiatry Residency at Albert Einstein Healthcare Network. She also holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health.

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## SCOMS Merchandise



[SCOMS merchandise](#) was popular at the 2025 Winter CME Conference. Fleece jackets are \$39, t-shirts are \$14, and tumblers are \$12. If you are interested in making a purchase, please contact [andrea@scdos.org](mailto:andrea@scdos.org).

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## **Nominations for SCOMS Scholarship and Awards Open on March 3**

SCOMS seeks your nominations for recognizing excellence in the osteopathic medicine profession for its [Scholarship and Awards Program](#). You may [Submit Nominations](#) beginning on March 3, 2025 for Physician of the Year, Resident of the Year, Student DO of the Year, and SCOMS Student Scholarship.

Deadline to submit is April 10 and presentations will take place during the Annual Meeting on June 12.

## **AMA Offers Webinar on Partnering with Patients- Step 3 in Hypertension Control (Lifestyle Modification)**

A webinar will be held on Thursday, April 24 at 12:30 p.m. (EST) featuring Stephen P. Juraschek, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine Department of Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Ruth-Alma Turkson-Ocran, PhD, MPH, RN, FNP-BC Clinical Investigator, Division of General Medicine Research at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

The learning objectives include:

1. List 6 modifiable lifestyle risk factors related to hypertension.
2. Describe evidence-based interventions for each risk factor that can improve blood pressure control.
3. Provide examples of communication strategies that promote culturally-, linguistically-, and socially-appropriate patient engagement in lifestyle change.
4. Identify resources that can support clinicians, care teams, and patients to achieve lifestyle change.

[Register Now](#) to participate in the Zoom call.

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# Nominations for the AOA's Distinguished Service Award Are Open

Nominations for the 2025 AOA Distinguished Service Awards opened on Feb. 24. This prestigious award is the AOA's highest honor. It is presented annually to deserving physicians or lay individuals in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the understanding and advancement of osteopathic medicine through research, education, financial aid or other areas that enable the profession to make a greater contribution to public health.

No more than three Distinguished Service Awards will be given per year. This year's awards will be presented at the 2025 House of Delegates meeting in July. The nomination period is Feb. 24 to March 28, 2025. To get more information and submit a nomination, please visit the Distinguished Service Award webpage on or after Feb. 24.

Please contact Priya Garg, MBA, Chief Engagement and Diversity Officer for the AOA, at [pgarg@osteopathic.org](mailto:pgarg@osteopathic.org) with any questions.

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## DO Appointed Chief Medical Officer of the U.S. Department of Energy

In December, [Lt. Col. Scott Everson, DO, MPH](#), joined the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) as the agency's chief medical officer. A graduate of Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCU-COM), Dr. Everson is an AOA board-certified occupational and environmental medicine physician with over two decades of experience providing excellent patient care.

Most recently, he served as the chief of occupational and environmental medicine for both the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Space Force, where he served as the primary consultant and subject matter expert to the U.S. Surgeon General on all matters related to occupational and environmental medicine. Dr. Everson retired from the U.S. Air Force in October 2024.

In his new role for the DOE, Dr. Everson will serve as the chief occupational and environmental medicine physician in support of over 50 occupational health facilities, which provide health care for more than 100,000 federal and contract employees for the DOE, in addition to over 60,000 former DOE employees. He is also the vice president and chair of the occupational medicine division of the American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine (AOCOPM).

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## Trump Administration Review of Psychiatric Meds Raises Concerns

The Trump administration's plans to study the "threat" posed by psychiatric medications in children have medical societies and mental health professionals concerned that the administration may be considering restrictions on the use of psychotropic drugs in pediatric patients.

An [executive order](#) signed last week created the "Make American Healthy Again Commission" to investigate the nation's "escalating health crisis," particularly in child health. [Recently confirmed](#) Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. will chair the effort.

As part of its investigation, the executive order directed the commission to assess "the prevalence of and threat posed by the prescription of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), antipsychotics, mood stabilizers, stimulants, and weight-loss drugs."

A report on the commission's findings is due in a little less than 100 days. Eighty days later, the commission must submit recommendations for federal action.

Although who the commission members are and the scope of its work is unclear, the language in the executive order — namely the implication that the Trump administration views psychotropic medication as a "threat" to children — was enough to prompt psychiatrists from across the country to contact the American Psychiatric Association (APA) about possible limitations on the use of psychotropic medications in pediatric patients.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

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## **Important Information for DOs on the BCBS Provider Settlement**

Osteopathic physicians who treated patients covered by any Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) company between **July 24, 2008, and Oct. 4, 2024**, may be eligible for compensation from a major antitrust litigation settlement. **The deadline for submitting claims is July 29, 2025.**

The [official settlement platform](#) is live, providing key details such as class notices, claim submission deadlines, and provider eligibility. This is also where providers and facilities must submit claims for a share of the Net Settlement Fund. Physicians should remain alert for additional settlement notices that may impact their practice. A webinar for medical professionals/groups was held on Feb. 14 and additional sessions will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

For questions, contact [BCBSProviderSettlement@WhatleyKallas.com](mailto:BCBSProviderSettlement@WhatleyKallas.com) or (800) 745-8153. AOA Physician Services is available to assist members with navigating the process upon request at [physicianservices@osteopathic.org](mailto:physicianservices@osteopathic.org) or (312) 202-8194.

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## **IndeDocs 2025 Independent Medical Practice Summit**

IndeDocs (Independent Doctors of South Carolina) resolves to work collaboratively to protect and promote independent practice in South Carolina. They invite our members to join them at their 2025 Independent Medical Practice Summit being held in Columbia, SC on March 15, 2025.

Use code FRIEND2025 at checkout to receive 25% off the admission fee for the event.

To learn more about IndeDocs and the Summit, [click here](#).

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## **Time to Renew Your SCOMS Membership?**

SCOMS offers multiple membership categories to welcome a variety of individuals who practice in and support the Osteopathic profession.

<b>Membership Category:</b>	<b>Effective July 1, 2024</b>
Physician	\$175 or \$395 for 3 years
Retired	\$140
Military	\$140
Out-of-State Physician	\$90
Associate	\$90
Resident	\$50
Student / Intern	\$30

[Click here](#) to remain a member of the **ONLY** association in SC devoted to improving and promoting public health by the advancement of the science and profession of osteopathic medicine.



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