



American Osteopathic College
of Occupational & Preventive Medicine

AOCOPM News, February 2025



East Palestine Rail Accident Settlement

Via ABC News
by Meredith Deliso and Mark Osborne

Norfolk Southern and East Palestine, Ohio, reached a settlement over the February 2023 derailment that sent toxic chemicals into the area's air, soil and creeks, the village and company said in a joint statement.

"The settlement provides the Village with \$22 million from Norfolk Southern to be used for priorities identified by the Village in connection with the train derailment," a [statement](#) said.

<https://abcnews.go.com/US/east-palestine-reaches-settlement-norfolk-southern-2023-derailment/story?id=118170126>

Dr. Chip Carson presented on this topic for AOCOPM at OMED24, which will soon be available as an [AOA Self-Study Course](#).

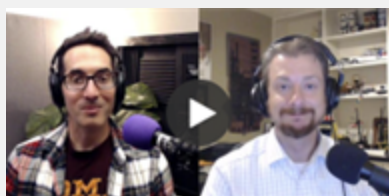


Silica dust, heavy metal, solvents may contribute to myositis with lung involvement

via Healio Rheumatology
by Justin Cooper

- Silica exposure was linked to overlap myositis and myositis with lung disease symptoms, while smoking further increased risk.
- Myositis with lung disease symptoms was also associated with moderate-to-high heavy metals, solvents exposure.

<https://www.healio.com/news/rheumatology/20250210/silica-dust-heavy-metal-solvents-may-contribute-to-myositis-with-lung-involvement>



Dispelling the Concussion Dogma

via Mescape
by Matthew F Watto, MD; Paul N Williams, MD

Although concussion isn't super-tricky to diagnose, there are borderline head injuries that I'm not certain are concussions. When the patient has amnesia or is really foggy and dazed after they hit their head, that's obviously a concussion. Is this something you struggle with?

Read more of the transcript or watch the podcast:

[https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/disPELLing-conCUSSION-dogma-2024a1000n9f?ecd=mkm ret 250209 mscpmrk neuro head-trauma etid7214962&uac=349327MR&implID=7214962](https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/disPELLing-conCUSSION-dogma-2024a1000n9f?ecd=mkm%20ret%20250209_mscpmrk_neuro_head-trauma_etid7214962&uac=349327MR&implID=7214962)



Member Highlight: Dr. Ethan Stephens

Have you ever wondered how a medical emergency is treated in space, or thought about the way microgravity affects human physiology?

Ethan Stephens, D.O., has, and he is receiving training to provide medical care to crew members and passengers of air and space vehicles. After graduating from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (WVSOM) in 2020 and completing a family medicine residency in 2023, he is now beginning an aerospace medicine residency at the University of Texas Medical Branch that he will complete in 2026.

Aerospace medicine focuses on the clinical care, research and operational support of the health and safety of space personnel.

"I knew I wanted to get training in family medicine, but I also had an interest in engineering and spaceflight. I found out about aerospace medicine late in medical school and was able to observe some online lectures about the specialty. I have been hooked ever since," the Fairbanks, Alaska, native said...more:

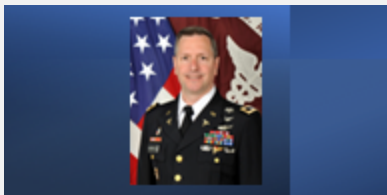
<https://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/frame.php?i=838402&p=&pn=&ver=html5>



Dr. Corey Morris's Case Study in KAFP Journal

AOCOPM Member Dr. Corey Morris's abstract and poster on a case study with hyperbaric treatment of chronic wounds is in the current issue of the Kentucky Academy of Family Physician's Journal:

<https://www.wvsom.edu/news/2024/december/wvsom-graduate-training-provide-medical-care-space-crew>



Dr. Patrick Birchfield Appointed to Serve on the AOBPM

COL [Birchfield](#), DO, MPH, MSS, FAOCOPM, FAsMA, who has dedicated many years of service to the College, has recently been appointed to serve on the American Osteopathic Board of Preventive Medicine. He shares that his goals are to ensure a fair and equitable certification process that encourages and welcomes doctors into our specialty as board certified physician ambassadors for Aerospace, Occupational, and Preventive Medicine.



Register Now for 2025 Midyear Educational Conference and OPAM Workshop: Basic Course in Occ Med, Part II

Earlybird Registration discount ends March 17, 2025!

- [Midyear Educational Conference](#), April 10-12, 2025
- OPAM Workshop: [Basic Course in Occupational Medicine](#), Part II, April 12-13, 2025.
Note: parts do NOT need to be taken in order.

- Florida Topics offered on Thursday, April 10, 2025 (one-day registration is available)

[Register for the 2025 Midyear and/or BCII](#)

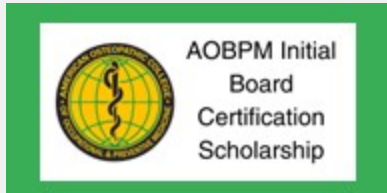


2024 Midyear Educational Conference Now Online

The 2024 Midyear Educational Conference is now available on demand at AOA Online Learning: <https://aoaonlinelearning.osteopathic.org/mod/page/view.php?id=8221>

AOCOPM Member [Discount Code](#) is in the Member Center.

Board Scholarships Available



Important update: For completion of OCC Component 3, AOBPM is now offering Longitudinal Assessment, which replaces the written exam for Aerospace Medicine, Occupational/Environmental Medicine and Public Health/Community Medicine, as well as in the CAQ of Occupational Medicine

Learn more: <https://certification.osteopathic.org/preventive-medicine/>

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(You can post on AOCOPM's social media, too)

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