



**cosgp**

**COUNCIL OF OSTEOPATHIC  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENTS**

A COUNCIL OF THE  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

July 15, 2009

To osteopathic medical students,

The Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP) is in support of the **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Medical Education Assessment (LGBT-MEA)** research project being performed by the Stanford University School of Medicine. COSGP encourages each osteopathic medical student to participate in this project by completing a survey at the follow website: <http://med.stanford.edu/lgbt/lgbtmea/>

The LGBT-MEA project aims to:

1. Assess the breadth and depth of medical education with respect to caring for LGBT individuals.
2. Develop practical tools to evaluate and improve the cultural competency within US medical school curricula.

Recent evidence suggests that members of the LGBT community are at disproportionately higher risk for many medical and mental health conditions. COSGP supports efforts to ascribe sustained medical and mental health parity to all minority and underserved populations including those of the LGBT community.

During the 2008-2009 academic year, COSGP formally addressed this issue on behalf of osteopathic medical students requesting that osteopathic curriculum address lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender related health care issues by encouraging its integration into the existing cultural competency curriculum throughout the continuum of osteopathic medical education. We feel that this research project helps to address this issue by aiding osteopathic medical schools in the development of tools that medical schools can use to evaluate and improve their curricula outside of accreditation standards.

COSGP will continue to monitor and pursue LGBT education and health disparity issues. Please join us in expanding upon the existing knowledge base and participate in this survey.

Comments and suggestions should be directed the Stanford University School of Medicine LGBT-MERG at [lgbt@med.stanford.edu](mailto:lgbt@med.stanford.edu). You may also visit their website at <http://med.stanford.edu/lgbt/>.

Thank you for your participation on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Sonbol Shahid-Salles, MPH, OMS-IV  
Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine  
National Chair, Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP)  
[COGSPChair@aacom.org](mailto:COGSPChair@aacom.org)

A Council of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM)

*2009-2010 Executive Board*

*National Chair* Sonbol Shahid-Salles ♦ *National AOA BOT Student Representative* Cory Maughan ♦ *National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice* Michael Paddock ♦ *National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair* Jessica Hilst ♦  
*National Secretary* Allison Abraham ♦ *National Treasurer* Adam Hunt ♦ *National Parliamentarian* Aaron Huser ♦ *Legislative Affairs Representative* Jay Kirkham ♦  
*Medical Education Representative* Matt LaPorta ♦ *Research Representative* Kate Menssen ♦ *Public Relations/Website Representative* Owen Vincent ♦ *Programs Representative* Cindy DeMastes

*Student Government Presidents from*

ATSU/KCOM ♦ ATSU/SOMA ♦ AZCOM ♦ CCOM ♦ DMU-COM ♦ KCUMB-COM ♦ LECOM ♦ LECOM-Bradenton ♦ LMU-DCOM ♦ MSUCOM ♦ NSUCOM ♦  
NYCOM ♦ OSU-COM ♦ OUCOM ♦ PCOM ♦ PCOM-Georgia ♦ PCSOM ♦ PNWU-COM ♦ RVUCOM ♦ TUCOM ♦ TUCOM-Harlem ♦ TUCOM-Nevada ♦  
UMDNJ-SOM ♦ UNECOM ♦ UNTHSC/TCOM ♦ VCOM ♦ Western U/COMP ♦ WVSOM