

National Association of Osteopathic Foundations (NAOF)

In 1987, leadership from five (5) osteopathic-supportive foundations, including David Rianda, Marlow Garvin and Chris Bearsdsley, formed a national network of osteopathic-supportive foundations – naming it the National Association of Osteopathic Foundations (NAOF). A 1989 “Charter of Affiliation” was presented to and adopted by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and, subsequently, the House of Delegates. The AOA Affiliation status is an official recognition of the NAOF within the AOA structure, yet the NAOF is an autonomous group, including governance and decision-making.

Over the years, the NAOF has hosted meetings which included educational presentations from AOA, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), and Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA). In addition to annual meetings, NAOF has provided support to advance SOMA as the premier hub for the cultivation of osteopathic medical students in becoming dynamic, innovative professionals, poised to be future leaders in healthcare. In 2004, several NAOF members engaged in a national funding collaborative, totaling over \$654,000, to support the first ever multi-center osteopathic clinical trial entitled [Multi-Center Osteopathic Pneumonia Study in the Elderly \(MOPSE\)](#).

Activity and membership in the NAOF heightened in the mid to late 1990s as the field of philanthropy experienced an influx of newly created or expanded health foundations – resulting primarily from the sale of hospitals, health systems and health insurance plans. With experience and continued interest in osteopathic medicine and community health grantmaking, many of these foundation leaders, many of whom had previously been associated with osteopathic training hospitals, sought counsel, comradery and support from their NAOF colleagues. At this stage in our collective history, a number of osteopathic-supportive foundations have new executive leadership and many of the pioneering executives are preparing the next generation of foundation leaders to serve as advocates and supporters of osteopathic medicine, education and research.

The National Association of Osteopathic Foundations seeks to serve osteopathic-supportive foundations that have funding purposes and interests related to community projects consistent with the osteopathic philosophy, osteopathic medicine, osteopathic medical education, and research. NAOF promotes the exchange of ideas and information through educational programs, publications and conferences.

Today, NAOF is positioned to reinvigorate and expand its membership to sustain a supportive network of professionals, related, but not limited to, community health grantmaking, fund raising, osteopathic medical education and research, Board development, and investment strategies.

“As over two decades ago, there are opportunities for us to learn from and share with like-minded colleagues on best practices in support of our respective communities and participate in collaborative efforts to advance osteopathic medicine, its training programs and research.”

said Rick Vincent, President and CEO of the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations.
