

Oath of Leadership

The mission of the American Osteopathic Colleges of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery (AOCOO-HNS), as established by its Board of Governors and Colleges Boards, is to serve the membership by advancing the philosophy and practice of osteopathic ophthalmology and otolaryngology-head and neck surgery and by promoting excellence in education, research, and the delivery of quality cost-effective healthcare in a distinct, unified profession.

As a Board Member of the AOCOO-HNS, I am fully committed to the Colleges and its mission. I recognize that leadership within the organization is a higher calling and carries additional responsibilities and obligations to support the activities of the AOCOO-HNS. As a leader, my decisions and actions must be guided by what is best for the Colleges. To this end, I pledge to honor and promote the AOCOO-HNS, and its mission by following three guiding principles:

I. I will maintain and strengthen the **Vision** of the AOCOO-HNS by:

- Defining the mission of the Colleges with my fellow Board members and participating in strategic planning to review the purposes, programs, priorities, funding needs, and targets of achievement.
- Annually contributing to osteopathic ophthalmology & otolaryngology philanthropy, encouraging DO colleagues to do the same.
- Publicly supporting and promoting the Colleges' policy within the osteopathic family and to the public.

II. I will conduct myself with the highest level of **Integrity** to honor the AOCOO-HNS and to support the highest ideals of the osteopathic profession for which it stands by:

- Accepting the by-laws of the Colleges, understanding that I am morally and ethically responsible for the health and vitality of the Association, and adhering to the AOCOO-HNS Conflict of Interest policy by recusing myself from discussions or votes in which I may not be impartial.
- Leading the way by being an enthusiastic booster and a positive advocate for the Colleges, and extending that enthusiasm to the College's Student and Resident Chapters.
- Accepting that every Board member is making a statement of faith about every other Board member, we trust each other to carry out this Code to the best of our ability.

III. I will be **Competent** in my actions and decisions for the AOCOO-HNS by:

- Fulfilling my financial responsibilities by reviewing and approving the annual budget, overseeing adherence to it, ensuring independent auditing occurs on schedule, and overseeing the investment policies and procedures of the association.
- Making myself available to attend Board meetings, taking phone calls, and serving on committees, and being prepared for these meetings by reading agenda and other materials.
- Understanding that the job of the Board is to govern, not manage, and that the only staff member I have responsibility for and authority over is the Executive Director.