With soaring attendance numbers, the 2013 American Occupational Health Conference (AOHC®) welcomed 1200 occupational and environmental medicine (OEM) professionals who convened April 28 to May 1, in Orlando Fla. This world-wide contingent, hailing from Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Switzerland, Trinidad, United Kingdom, and Venezuela, joined U.S. colleagues for ACOEM’s 98th annual meeting – a truly global representation!

A return to Rosen Shingle Creek, home of the 2010 AOHC, showcased conference activities Sunday to Wednesday on the resort’s 230 lush acres at the headwaters of the Everglades. This location afforded attendees a relaxing “green” atmosphere in more ways than one since the hotel continues to practice and improve on its green initiatives program with conservation efforts that began a number of years ago! And...to accommodate increased attendance this year, rooms were offered at neighboring locations (Rosen Plaza, Westin Orlando Universal Boulevard, and Vista Cay) with convenient shuttle service looping between the properties.

Our traditional “comment” tree – you guessed it, an orange tree – provided us with attendees’ insights to the meeting – a must have in order to gauge how we’re doing! Thanks to all attendees who contributed an “orange” note that provided comments and feedback – many of which are shared in this conference recap.

Congratulations to ACOEM on a successful conference – the materials provided were very valuable, concise, and well organized – well done!

This year’s AOHC giveaways, procured by attendees dropping off a “contact” card at a select group of participating booths at the Exhibit Hall, were bestowed on three attendees! Two were awarded an ACOEM-branded travel fitness kit and the third winner was the recipient of a Nike+ FuelBand – a wristband that measures everyday activities (e.g., steps taken and calories burned) via an accelerometer that converts these into “NikeFuel.” It displays information at the press of a button, can sync with a mobile phone or computer, and is also a great watch! And...chosen from attendees who turned in their conference evaluation by a pre-determined date, a physician member was the recipient of a Nexus 7 mini tablet (her preference over a Kindle Fire HD)!

AOHC consisted of diverse, well-attended courses (both pre- and post-conference) on April 26-27 and May 2. In between, days were filled with the Opening Session and its Sappington Lecture, the Annual Membership Meeting, meetings of the House of Delegates and Board of Directors, along with the “tracked” OEM sessions. Meal discussions, worksite visits, exhibits, poster presentations, ancillary meetings, and social events were interspersed throughout AOHC which officially “kicked off” Sunday afternoon, April 28, with its Opening General Session.
Great Planning is Key to Success!


Educational Opportunities – Something for Everyone!

Built around a theme of the role occupational medicine can play in building healthier workplaces, homes, and communities, this year’s conference provided integral learning opportunities for every attendee! AOHC included more than 60 educational sessions, 7 courses, and 4 worksite visits.

Conference sessions followed 5 OEM tracks — Clinical Practice; Management and Administration; Education and Scientific Research; Environmental Health and Risk Management; and Regulatory, Legal, Military and Governmental Practice — many of these were also listed as “R” indicating Resident/Recent Graduate (RRG) friendly sessions — particularly helpful to those new to the field. And, as a way to reach out to this group, RRG Section members attending AOHC were tapped to introduce speakers at educational sessions and were also encouraged to look for colleagues wearing a “Mentor” ribbon identifying an individual who could provide assistance on best ways to navigate the meeting and the field of OEM! This year, a particular favorite was the “Low Back Pain: Thinking Outside the Disc” session given by Dr. John Sandness – he achieved nearly rock star status when he offered to add more timeslots to his “hands-on” portion so that many interested session attendees could be accommodated!

Low back pain and the extra sessions on exam techniques by Dr. Sandness – I never before heard the information he presented – this one lecture alone was worth coming to Orlando!

Five pre- and 2 post-conference courses offered an array of educational opportunities — MRO Comprehensive; Occupational Medicine Board Review; Foundations in Occupational Medicine (Segment 2); Spirometry Testing in Occupational Health: Physician Update; Commercial Driver Medical Examiner; Work Disability Prevention: Mastering Your Role in the SAW/RTW Process; and Medicolegal Issues for Independent Medical Examiners and Expert Witnesses: A Workshop.

Popular worksite visits continue to fill quickly each year and this year was no exception – on the schedule were The Toxic Tour: Lake Apopka and the Farmworker Population; A Culture of Safety and Wellness at Rosen Hotels and Resorts; Central Florida Fire Academy; and Safety and Health of Animal Handlers at Disney’s Animal Kingdom, an overwhelming favorite!

Monday evening’s agenda offered a special free late night film screening of a new documentary highlighting post traumatic stress treatment for returning veterans entitled “Not Yet Begun to Fight,” about how fly fishing can be used as therapy to help vets recover from PTSD — one of the producers and soldiers highlighted in this film were on hand to answer questions! This event was followed by an Tuesday morning 1-hour “special” plenary session, Reflections from a Former U.S. Assistant Surgeon General: The Vital Role of Public-Private Collaboration, where James Galloway, MD, of Northwestern University School of Medicine, shared his insights related to government and public service.
AOHC expanded its international presence by scheduling the **SOM International Panel Discussion** moderated by Outgoing ACOEM President **Karl Auerbach, MD**. Panel members included in-coming ACOEM President **Ron Loepke, MD**; SOM President **Richard Heron, MD**; **Maureen Cividino, MD**, of Occupational and Environmental Medical Association of Canada; and **Joan Saary, MD**, of Occupational Medicine Specialists of Canada. Attendees participated in candid discussions on issues impacting occupational and environmental medicine on an international level.

*To meet world leaders in OEM and hear about the differences, the similarities, and the challenges that each and every country experiences was a not-to-be missed opportunity!*  

And...on Wednesday, post-conference, leaders from 17 international occupational medical societies met to launch the **International Occupational Medicine Society Collaborative**. This initiative, sponsored by ACOEM and the United Kingdom’s Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM), was co-chaired by new ACOEM President Ron Loepke, MD, and SOM President Richard Heron, MD. The Collaborative aims to improve worker health and wellness globally through the exchange of ideas and information about common issues that affect workers and workplaces. It will provide an ongoing forum to promote best practices in occupational medicine and greater awareness of issues impacting worker health worldwide. This initial gathering was a great start that will be followed-up by a series of on-line meetings over the upcoming year with a second in-person meeting tentatively scheduled for a European location in 2014.

**“FIRSTS” AND RETURNING FAVORITES AT AOHC!**

This year, we launched an **AOHC mobile app** to enhance the meeting experience! Available for free download to an iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, or Android, attendees could access full event schedules by day, speaker, track, or event type; connect with other attendees; follow AOHC on Twitter; find sessions and exhibitor locations; and access details about exhibitors and sponsors — all from their mobile device. More than 500 downloads were recorded indicating quite an interest from attendees!

*The App is fantastic! Exceedingly well designed and implemented — no need for paper, much easier to use. Hope this is a permanent feature!*  

Another first, for attendees’ convenience, was a complimentary **charging station** located near ACOEM’s Booth for ease of “juicing up” various devices! And....**free wireless access** throughout the conference venue was also a hit — at peak usage there were 300 simultaneous users!

And for those attendees who needed to wind down after a long day of sessions and meetings, **complimentary Tai Chi classes** were offered on Monday and Tuesday, where the instructor guided participants through relaxing movements based on tai chi principles — a great 1-hour escape from busy conference activities!

A returning favorite was **conference handouts provided on a flash drive** to attendees in their registration packets! As in previous years, handouts could also be accessed on-line prior to conference and for 2 weeks thereafter as well. The **handy internet kiosks** were always quite busy — a great place to check e-mails. Another returning favorite — the 1-hour “**Early Bird**” Sessions that offer free CME — once again, well-received!
AOHC 2013 Recap

NETWORKING AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

AOHC provides many opportunities to interact with colleagues and the New Member Orientation was a popular place for newcomers to start. Early Sunday morning, 60 new members had the chance to enjoy a continental breakfast, learn more about the College, and network with colleagues in an informal setting. They were greeted by Scott Levy, MD, Chair of the Membership Committee, and addressed by Ronald Loepke, MD, Incoming ACOEM President, as well as Conference Co-chairs Drs. Phyllis Gerber and Michael Holland. Past President Natalie Hartenbaum, MD, spoke on Fellowship, Stephen Frangos, MD, provided information on Special Interest Sections and Components, and Drs. Robert Bourgeois, Gayatri Reddy, and Philip Parks assisted with round table discussions!

Enjoyed the opportunity to exchange ideas with my colleagues.

AOHC’s Exhibit Hall Opening Reception and Abstract Poster Presentations on Sunday evening provided attendees the chance to mix with colleagues, become familiar with services, products, organizations, and information vital to the OEM field. Fifty exhibitors participated this year – both familiar faces from years past and newcomers too! Nearly 50 poster presentations, along with the use of e-posters that debuted last year, augmented the evening’s experience. Exhibits could then be viewed all day Monday and until early afternoon Tuesday. A complimentary lunch on Monday was provided to those who secured a ticket when registering for conference.

The New Fellows Luncheon was held Monday, with 33 in attendance, greeted by Natalie Hartenbaum, MD, Chair of the Committee of Fellowship Examiners, who presented each with their Fellowship pin. Fellows were greeted by Drs. Karl Auerbach and Ronald Loepke, ACOEM’s outgoing and incoming presidents, respectively, and Board Officers Kathryn Mueller, MD, Mark Roberts, MD, and James Tacci, MD, House Officers James Butler, MD, Paul Papanek, MD, and Philip Adamo, MD, along with ACOEM Executive Director Barry Eisenberg. The 2013 Class of 41 new Fellows was officially inducted during ACOEM’s Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 1.

At Monday evening’s optional social event at Cuba Libre Restaurant attendees were welcomed with a custom mojito – the Occ Doc Rocks! The traditional and “Nuevo” Cuban dishes along with open air tropical ambiance, upbeat Latin music, and salsa dancers were enjoyed by all! And...the annual Past Presidents’ Dinner, held Tuesday at Chatham’s Restaurant, was enjoyed by 20 past presidents and their guests. A special “roast” of a tribute was paid to Karl Auerbach, MD, the soon-to-be past president, who was relinquishing the gavel the following day.

Attendees were frequent visitors to ACOEM’s Member Services Booth where a plethora of OEM-related information could be found! An expanding collection of medical books, ACOEM logo products, and of course, giveaways such as mouse pads and pens, were sought after items. Staff were also on hand at the Booth to demonstrate the Practice Guidelines app and ACOEM Idea Marketplace™ (an on-line resource where members can share ideas and materials on OEM topics), both celebrating their one-year anniversary!
The new Residents and Recent Graduates Resume/CV Yearbook was also showcased at the Booth. This free on-line database accessed via MyACOEM, compiles the resumes/CVs of the College’s residents and recent graduates for access by other ACOEM members as employers – an exclusive pool of ACOEM OEM professionals! In addition, a representative from HealthCareers Network was available throughout the conference to answer questions about ACOEM’s On-line Career Center.

And…the Booth featured special guest Dr. Tee Guidotti — this year’s recipient of the ACOEM Knudsen Lifetime Achievement in OEM Award, who signed copies of his 3-volume Praeger Handbook of Occupational and Environmental Medicine series, Global Occupational Health, and Occupational Health Services: A Practical Approach. For those who already owned the books, he signed a commemorative card in appreciation of their previous purchase. Stop by the Booth next year in San Antonio at AOHC 2014 – you never know what or who you’ll find there!

OPENING SESSION – AWARDS CEREMONY AND SAPPINGTON LECTURE

The Opening General Session took place Sunday afternoon beginning with a heartfelt “welcome” by ACOEM President Dr. Karl Auerbach. Conference Co-chairs Drs. Phyllis Gerber and Michael Holland, were introduced and provided their own personal greetings to attendees and gratitude to fellow AOHC Planning Committee members. The session continued with the presentation of ACOEM’s annual awards and the keynote C. O. Sappington Memorial Lecture which provides an opportunity each year to address a major issue in the field of OEM.

Award Presentations

Knudsen Lifetime Achievement in OEM Award – Tee L. Guidotti, MD, MPH, FACOEM. The highest honor in OEM, this award recognizes an individual who has had a distinguished career in one or more disciplines of occupational medicine, environmental medicine, and/or environmental health. Dr. Guidotti was bestowed this award for his leadership and contributions as exemplified by his outstanding lifetime service to ACOEM and OEM, culminating in his presidency. His commitment to preserving ACOEM and OEM history, and his 30 years in academics as professor, clinical chief, department chair, and institute director, reflect his dedication to the College and the specialty. He was also commended for his sole authorship of the 3-volume The Praeger Handbook of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, a massive achievement published in 2010.

Kehoe Award for Excellence in Education & Research in OEM – Stefanos N. Kales, MD, MPH, FACOEM. This lifetime achievement award is presented to an individual for significant contributions to academic excellence or research in the disciplines of occupational medicine, environmental medicine, and/or environmental health. Dr. Kales received this award for his lifetime contributions as an educator and researcher which include programs he developed to improve firefighter fitness particularly in the area of cardiopulmonary fitness; his work in the field of sleep medicine; and his major contributions in OEM toxicology as evidenced by numerous scientific peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Kales was also cited, as Director of Harvard’s OEM residency, for developing new approaches to training residents in health and productivity and disability prevention, and motivating them to pursue a wide range of research projects.
ACOEM Meritorious Service Award – Douglas W. Martin, MD, FACOEM. This Award recognizes an ACOEM member who has provided meritorious, laudable service to the College. It was presented to Dr. Martin for his contributions to ACOEM as chair of the Medical Review Officers Section, chair of the Clinical Practice Committee, secretary/treasurer of the Private Practice Section, and course director for Musculoskeletal Diseases and the Core Curriculum. In addition, he was recognized for his work on the Stay at Work/Return to Work Committee, presentations on MRO Controversies, and active participation in the ACOEM House of Delegates. Dr. Martin was also cited for his contributions and specialized knowledge in assisting ACOEM to receive ACCME “Accreditation with Commendation” status.

Health Achievement in Occupational Medicine Award – Mary C. Townsend, DrPH. This Award is presented to an ACOEM member for a specific, unique achievement in OEM. Dr. Townsend received this award for her contributions to the field of spirometry, particularly as author of the seminal scientific papers on spirometry and respiratory surveillance – significant contributions to the literature which summarize advances of particular relevance to occupational health. Dr. Townsend was also lauded for her educational achievements as exemplified by her spirometry training programs and for her work on the Pulmonary Panel for ACOEM’s Occupational Medicine Practice Guidelines.

Adolph G. Kammer Merit in Authorship Award – This award, named for the first editor of the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (JOEM), recognizes the most outstanding contribution published in JOEM during a given year. This year’s recipient, Ronald F. Teichman, MD, MPH, FACOEM, was recognized for his contribution to the medical literature as Guest Editor of the special issue on “Health Effects of Deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq.” This June 2012 issue was the first major compilation of scientific studies devoted to health and exposure issues faced by veterans returning from the most current conflicts.

Global Leadership in Occupational Health Award – Cathryn Baase, MD. This award, co-sponsored by ACOEM and the National Business Group on Health (NBGH), honors an individual who demonstrates excellence in leadership in implementing programs that improve the health and productivity of the workforce. Dr. Baase, Chief Health Officer at Dow Chemical Company, who could not be present, was honored for longstanding contributions to the field of health and productivity. At Dow, she has driven a global program that includes detailed metrics and continuous health improvement. Her vision and leadership have advanced the field of health and productivity around the globe.

Corporate Health Achievement Award (CHAA) – CHAA annually recognizes organizations with outstanding employee health and occupational and environmental medicine practices determined after undergoing an assessment in four categories – Leadership and Management, Healthy Workers, Healthy Environment, and Healthy Organization. American Express was chosen as the deserving recipient based on their overall success in delivering effective tools that foster a safe and healthy environment and encourage employee engagement and pride in the company. Their American Express Healthy Living global wellness program features best-in-class resources, enhanced access to care, and a supportive work environment for employees and their families. They were also
commended for their integrated data warehouse, which allows for ongoing research and analysis to assure that offerings are consistent with employee needs. Accepting this award for American Express were Wayne Burton, MD, Global Corporate Medical Director, Karen DiProfio, RN, Director of Nursing, and Daniel May, Corporate Safety Manager.

**Resident Research Presentation Awards** – These awards are presented annually by ACOEM’s Resident and Recent Graduates Section and the Academic Section to encourage residents and recent program graduates to share their research, clinical techniques, or theory development in OEM. Winners this year were Drs. Jorge Benitez, Roxana Diba, Malgorzata Hasek, Kevin Johnson, Nnaemeka Odo, Vivian Onunkwo, Papiya Ray, and Dennis Teehan.

**C. O. Sappington Memorial Lecture**

The Sappington Lecture – presented in honor of ACOEM member Clarence Olds Sappington, MD, the first American to earn a DrPh degree, was delivered by Paul Grundy, MD, MPH, FACOEM, Director, Healthcare Transformation, at IBM Corporation, who spoke on *Patient Centered Medical Home*. Dr. Grundy is a leader and innovator who works to improve health care quality. At IBM, he develops and executes strategies that support its health care industry transformation initiatives. Dr. Grundy is President of the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative, a coalition he lead IBM in creating in 2006, dedicated to advancing a new primary care model called the Patient Centered Medical Home as a means of reforming health care delivery. He serves on The Medical Education Futures Study National Advisory Board, chairs the Health Policy of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) Industry Committee, and is Adjunct Professor at the University of Utah’s Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.

*Dr. Grundy was an excellent speaker – clear and to the point. I now understand exactly the concept of patient-centered care.*

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM ACOEM’S ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Colleagues gathered Wednesday morning, May 1, for the Annual Membership Meeting held the last day of AOHC. On the agenda was an address by outgoing ACOEM President Karl Auerbach, MD, the Fellowship Ceremony, presentation of the Outstanding Achievement Awards, an address by Richard Heron, Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM) President, presentation of the Patterson Memorial Lecture by Dr. Sandra Schneider, and introduction of ACOEM’s new Board of Directors, including an inaugural address from incoming ACOEM President Dr. Ronald Loeppke, along with the recognition of the new House of Delegates officers.

**Fellowship Ceremony**

2013 Class of Fellows – This year’s class was comprised of 41 ACOEM colleagues. Most were in attendance to be recognized in person for this achievement. Dr. Nathalie Hartenbaum, Chair of the Committee of Fellowship Examiners, and President Dr. Karl Auerbach assisted by Secretary-Treasurer Dr. James Tacci, bestowed individual medallions to those present as a memento of this honor. *Congratulations to the Class of 2013!*
2013 CLASS OF FELLOWS
Olufemi Adekeye, MBBS, FACOEM
Mark K. Arness, MD, FACOEM
Lauren Barton, MD, MPH, FACOEM
John G. Benitez, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Catherine Bodnar, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Josette Boukhalil-Laklak, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Monica L. Brown, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Earl J. Campazzi, MD, MPH, MBA, FACOEM
Monica Clark-Reed, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Alfred C. Emmel, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Amy Espy-Smith, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Lisa Galloway, MD, FACOEM
Ping Gao, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Robin F. Griffiths, MBCHB, MPP, FACOEM
Andrew H. Guo, MD, MPH, MBA, FACOEM
Karen Huyck, MD, PhD, MPH, FACOEM
Martin B. Jones, MD, FACOEM
Lauren R. Kaufman, MD, PhD, FACOEM
Prerna Mona Khanna, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Thomas B. Kibby, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Peter C. Lee, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Ruth L. Light, MD, FACOEM
William M. Lowe, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Fredric A. Marks, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Ronda McCarthy, MD, MPH, FACOEM
James D. McCluskey, MD, MPH, PhD, FACOEM
Joseph J. Mignogna, MD, MPH, FACOEM
George W. Moore, MD, MS, FACOEM
Jorge A. Morales-Camino, MD, MS, FACOEM
Richard Newcomb, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Terry L. Puckett, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Lori Rolando, MD, MPH, FACOEM
Geraldine Ruffa, MD, MS, MPH, FACOEM
Gerald W. Saboe, DO, MPH, FACOEM
Warren Silverman, MD, FACOEM
Susan F. Spengler, MD, MSPH, FACOEM
Marc Suffis, MD, FACOEM
Peter Swann, MD, FACOEM
Craig F. Thompson, MD, MSPH, FACOEM
John M. Williams, MD, MPH, FACOEM
George D. Zoret, MD, MS, FACOEM

Outstanding Achievement Award Recipients – This award recognizes the work of committees, councils, sections, or other volunteer groups within ACOEM for an outstanding group achievement over the past year. The Council on OEM Practice, whose members include Co-chairs Marianne Cloeren, MD and Michael Levine, MD, and Drs. Philip Adamo, Melissa Bean, Jennifer Christian, Lee
Glass, Michael Lockheart, Dana Mirkin, Kathryn Mueller, Kevin Trangle, and ACOEM staff liaison Julie Ording, organized and administered a compensation survey to better understand the practice environment and trends impacting members, a substantial undertaking! The Task Force on the Use of Opioids developed “Principles for Ensuring the Safe Management of Pain Medication Prescriptions by OEM Physicians.” This new document provides guidance on the safe management of pain medicine and addresses both the treatment of non-cancer-related chronic pain and the potential abuse and misuse of opioids in the U.S., vital information that will also help guide ACOEM’s public policy with respect to opioids. Members of this task force include Chair Kathryn Mueller, MD, and Drs. William Woo, Marianne Cloeren, Kurt Hegmann, and Doug Martin.

President’s Award – President Karl Auerbach acknowledged Drs. Natalie Hartenbaum and Fred Green, and also his late wife Marilyn Auerbach, as individuals who made significant contributions to his career helping him to achieve his objectives and thereby contributing to his leadership success at the College.

Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM) Presidential Address – Following a tradition of international collaboration, officers of ACOEM and SOM – our U.K. counterpart – have attended each other’s annual meeting. Dr. Richard Heron, SOM President, addressed the ACOEM membership in Orlando and new ACOEM President Ron Loeppke attended the SOM meeting held June 10-13 in Bournemouth, England, perpetuating this professional bond.

Patterson Memorial Lecture – This lecture honors the memory of William Patterson, MD, FACOEM, an ACOEM Board member who also served as chair of the Committee on Ethical Practice in OEM. This year it was presented by Sandra M. Schneider, MD, FACEP, who spoke on “The Interface Between Emergency Medicine and Occupational Health.” Dr. Schneider is Past President of the American College of Emergency Physicians and Professor and Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y. She also serves as Emergency Physician-in-Chief at Strong Memorial Hospital and as Attending Physician at Highland Hospital, both in Rochester. She is a recognized expert in emergency medicine and has published more than 90 academic journal articles.

Passing the Gavel – New Officers and Directors Installed/House Officers Recognized
Outgoing President Karl Auerbach passed the symbolic gavel of office to ACOEM’s new President, Dr. Ron Loeppke, who was among 7 physicians to take office during AOHC. Dr. Loeppke is President and Vice Chairman of U.S. Preventive Medicine, headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla. Dr. Loeppke then presented Dr. Auerbach with a special plaque commemorating his exemplary service to ACOEM and its Board of Directors from 2012-2013.

Other officers installed for 1-year terms were President-Elect Dr. Kathryn Mueller; Vice President Dr. Mark Roberts; and Secretary-Treasurer Dr. James Tacci. Members installed as Directors for 3-year terms (2013-2016) were Drs. Steven Pike, James Seward, and Charles Yarborough. Retiring Board members Drs. Warner Hudson, William Buchta, and Brian Svazas were acknowledged and thanked for their many years of service. In addition, new officers of the ACOEM House of Delegates for 2013-2014, installed on April 28, were recognized – Speaker Dr. James Butler, Speaker-Elect Dr. Paul Papanek, and Recorder Dr. Philip Adamo.
AN ARRAY OF ANCILLARY ACTIVITIES

House of Delegates

The 94th Session of the ACOEM House of Delegates (HOD) was held Sunday morning, April 28. Presentations by Drs. Melissa Bean, James Butler, and Paul Papanek were followed President Karl Auerbach, who reviewed the past year’s accomplishments, and Secretary-Treasurer James Tacci, who provided a financial report. They were followed by Barry Eisenberg, ACOEM Executive Director, who presented an ACOEM update. Membership Committee Chair, Dr. Scott Levy, gave his report and the HOD Internal Affairs Work Group presented its slate of candidates to run for the Board in the upcoming fall election. During this session, Dr. James Butler formally took office as HOD Speaker, and Drs. Paul Papanek and Philip Adamo were installed as HOD Speaker-Elect and Recorder respectively. Preceding this session, the HOD gathered for a Saturday evening “Rag Tag” dinner held at Pointe Orlando at Fat Fish Blue – to relax and reconnect with HOD colleagues and meet new ones too!

Board of Directors

As is customary during AOHC, the ACOEM Board of Directors met twice – all day Saturday, April 27, before the Board changed hands, and again on Wednesday afternoon, May 1, with the College’s new leaders in place. With a flurry of activity at both, much was discussed and much was accomplished!

JOIN US NEXT YEAR FOR AOHC TEXAS STYLE – April 27-30, 2014!

Next year, join us in San Antonio where Dr. Robert Bourgeois (the “CajunMD”), of Bourgeois Medical Clinic, Morgan City, La., will be chairing the conference. Planning is underway – session proposals have been submitted and proposals for scientific abstracts are due in November, while resident abstracts are due next year in February.

Great experience – definitely will be back next year!

AOHC 2014 will be held April 27-30 at the Marriott Rivercenter – an anchor of San Antonio’s Rivercenter Mall, a great location with shopping, dining, and entertainment. The 38-story River Walk hotel is also easy walking distance to the Alamo, one of the nation’s most revered landmarks, and not far from the San Antonio Zoo. This hotel was recently named a Meetings & Conventions Magazine Gold Award Winner! The hotel block will be open for reservations later this fall and AOHC 2014 registration will begin in December – watch for more details!

See you at AOHC in 2014 – educational offerings at this conference in the Lone Star state promise to make it a success in a BIG way!

Best AOHC I’ve attended in the last 15 years! Let’s do it again in San Antonio!