



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## **Maine Osteopathic Association Hosts 115th Annual Convention, Honors Distinguished Physicians and Future Leaders**

Rockport, Maine — June 5–7, 2026 — The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) convened its [115th Annual Convention](#) at the Samoset Resort in Rockport, bringing together osteopathic physicians, healthcare leaders, and medical students from across the state for three days of education, collaboration, and celebration.

The convention offered 21.5 continuing medical education (CME) credits, featuring a wide range of clinical topics including rural health transformation, emergency medicine, lifestyle medicine, women’s health, and public health updates.

A highlight of the weekend is the MOA Awards Ceremony and Reception on Saturday evening June 6th, recognizing outstanding contributions to osteopathic medicine, patient care, and community service throughout Maine.

### **Celebrating Excellence in Osteopathic Medicine**

The [MOA proudly recognizes this year’s award recipients](#) for their leadership, dedication, and impact:

*Louis Hanson, D.O. Osteopathic Physician of the Year Award*

Karen Benezra, DO — Honored for her compassionate, patient-centered care, leadership within the MOA, and commitment to advancing whole-person osteopathic medicine. Dr. Benezra practices Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine in Arundel, Maine.

*Roswell P. Bates, D.O. Public Service Award*

Christine Blake Smith, DO — Recognized for decades of service in addiction medicine, chronic pain care, and her contributions to public health initiatives locally and nationally. Dr. Christine Blake Smith is the owner and medical director of Portland West Family Practice, where she specializes in comprehensive family medicine, chronic disease management, and addiction care, including leadership of the Maine Opioid Dependency Program, a statewide opioid treatment program which she founded in 2020.

### *Young Physician of the Year Award*

Breanna “Bre” Glynn, DO — Celebrated for clinical excellence, leadership within the MOA, and dedication to mentoring future physicians and serving underserved populations. Dr. Breanna Glynn is a hospitalist at MaineGeneral Medical Center’s Alford Center for Health in Augusta and is trained in family medicine with additional expertise in neuromusculoskeletal medicine.

### *Presidential Citation for Student Excellence*

Rachelle Mendola, DO— Honored for exceptional leadership, advocacy, and service, including work with underserved communities and advancing student engagement in osteopathic medicine. Dr. Mendola is a recent graduate of University of New England’s College of Osteopathic Medicine Class of 2026. She is continuing her training with a research Fellowship.

In addition, the MOA recognized physicians reaching milestone service anniversaries ranging from 20 to 55 years, honoring their longstanding commitment to patient care and the profession across Maine. Heartfelt comments reflecting on 50 years of practice in the state were spontaneously delivered by Michael Bedecs, DO, a triple board certified physician and the owner and medical director of the Age Management Center of New England in Portland, Maine. Ira Stockwell, DO of Westbrook was honored for his more than 55 years of medical practice in the state.

### **Investing in the Future of Healthcare in Maine**

Through the [Maine Osteopathic Educational Foundation \(MOEF\)](#), the MOA continues its commitment to developing the next generation of physicians. At the Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> ceremony, [2026 scholarship and new Scholars program recipients](#) were recognized.

### **2026 MOEF Scholarship Recipients**

Recipients of the Traditional MOEF Scholarships (\$2,500 each) include:

- Jade Lindenau, OMS II
- Labina Faizizada, OMS III
- Miranda Lawell, OMS II
- Jordyn Holbrook, OMS I

### **Inaugural Maine Osteopathic Scholars Program**

The MOA also celebrates the launch of the Maine Osteopathic Scholars Program, supporting early medical students with mentorship and professional development:

- Kylie Muzzall, OMS I
- Erin Cairns, OMS I

All of this year's recipients are current osteopathic medical students at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Portland, ME. These initiatives reflect MOA's ongoing mission to strengthen Maine's healthcare workforce, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

### **A Tradition of Leadership and Innovation**

Founded more than a century ago, the Maine Osteopathic Association represents over 1,300 osteopathic physicians dedicated to improving healthcare access, advancing medical education, and promoting whole-person care across the state.

The annual convention not only provides high-quality continuing education but also fosters collaboration among healthcare professionals and reinforces the osteopathic commitment to patient-centered, community-focused care.

### **Event Highlights**

- Opening reception with the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNE COM)
- Specialty tracks in emergency medicine and women's health
- Networking events and exhibit hall
- MOEF fundraising activities supporting scholarships and education
- Family-friendly activities, including a Kids Camp and 5K run/walk

### **About the Maine Osteopathic Association**

The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization dedicated to supporting osteopathic physicians through advocacy, education, and leadership development. The organization plays a vital role in advancing healthcare quality and access across Maine.

### **Media Contact**

Amanda Mahan, Executive Director  
Maine Osteopathic Association  
Phone: 207-623-1101  
Email: [amahan@mainedo.org](mailto:amahan@mainedo.org)

## Event Photos



## 2026 MOA AWARDS RECIPIENTS



YOUNG  
OSTEOPATHIC  
PHYSICIAN OF  
THE YEAR



Breanna Glynn, DO

LOUIS HANSON, DO  
OSTEOPATHIC  
PHYSICIAN OF THE  
YEAR



Karen Benezra, DO

ROSWELL P.  
BATES, DO  
PUBLIC  
SERVICE  
AWARD



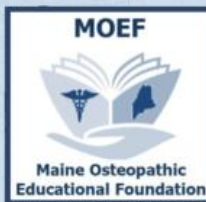
Christine Blake Smith, DO

Presidential  
Citation - Student  
Excellence



Rachelle Mendola, DO

*Congratulations!*



## 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### Traditional MOEF Scholarship (UME)

*(for 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year students)*



Jade Lindenau, OMS II  
(Class of 2028)



Jordyn Holbrook, OMS I  
(Class of 2029)



Labina Faizizada OMS III  
(Class of 2027)



Miranda Lawell, OMS II  
(Class of 2028)

### Maine Osteopathic Scholars Program - 2026 Cohort

*(for class of 2029 students)*



Erin Cairns, OMS I  
(Class of 2029)



Kylie Muzzall, OMS I  
(Class of 2029)