



Western  
University  
OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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*The discipline of learning. The art of caring.*



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COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC  
MEDICINE OF THE PACIFIC  
WHITE COAT CEREMONY

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Saturday, August 8, 2009

8:30 a.m.

Fox Theater Pomona  
301 South Garey Avenue  
Pomona, California



THE COLLEGE OF  
**Osteopathic**  
**Medicine** OF THE  
PACIFIC

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*The discipline of learning. The art of caring.*

**Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine**  
**Class of 2013**

# THIRTEENTH ANNUAL WHITE COAT CEREMONY

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## **Welcome**

Ethan R. Allen, DO, DSc (Hon.)  
Western University of Health Sciences Board of Trustees

Richard A. Bond, DO, DrPH, FAAFP, COMP '84  
Western University of Health Sciences Board of Trustees

## **Opening Remarks**

Clinton E. Adams, DO, MPA, FACHE  
Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific

## **Keynote Speaker**

Susan Melvin, DO, COMP '84  
Director, Long Beach Memorial Family Medicine Residency Program

## **Presentation of Students**

Class of 2013  
College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific

## **Pledge of Commitment**

Alexander Paul Aversano, DO  
Clinical Clerkship Director, Portland Oregon

## **Closing Remarks**

Clinton E. Adams, DO, MPA, FACHE  
Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific

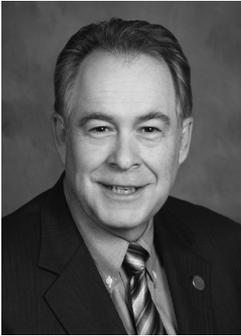
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# CLINTON E. ADAMS, DO

DEAN, COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE OF THE PACIFIC  
WESTERN UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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Clinton Adams, DO, has been Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (COMP) since January 2005. Dr. Adams joined COMP following a distinguished career in the United States Navy, where he attained the rank of Rear Admiral and served in a variety of capacities, notably as Command Surgeon for United States Fleet Forces Command, Command Surgeon for Allied Command for Transformation (NATO), and Commander of the Naval Regional Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Dr. Adams has overseen the implementation of a new curriculum and the growth of research funding and publications. The academic profile of the institution has been recognized by organizations as reflected in national rankings in licensure examinations and placement of graduates in postdoctoral residency programs.

Among other professional certifications, Dr. Adams is a Fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives and a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, and is board certified in Anesthesiology. He completed an anesthesia residency at George Washington University and Family Medicine at the Charleston Naval Hospital. He is a past president of the Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, a member of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians, and also serves on the Executive Board of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

# SUSAN MELVIN, DO, FAAFP

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A passionate family physician, Susan Melvin, DO, has been the residency director of the Memorial Family Medicine Medical Group, affiliated with Long Beach Memorial and Miller Children's Hospital, for the past decade. She has been an active member of the prestigious MemorialCare Physician Society Board of Directors since 2002.

A graduate of Western University of Health Sciences, Dr. Melvin completed her family medicine residency at Riverside General Hospital (Riverside, CA) and her Geriatric Fellowship at East

Carolina School of Medicine (Greenville, NC). Dr. Melvin holds board certification in Family Medicine and Geriatrics. She also completed the University of Southern California Management Development program, which enhanced her business management skills as she runs a large, successful medical group practice.

Under Dr. Melvin's leadership, the Long Beach Memorial Family Medicine residency program has earned a reputation for training excellent, compassionate physicians dedicated to serving their communities in all aspects of family medicine including pediatrics, obstetrics, geriatrics and more. A dedicated physician and educator, Dr. Melvin runs this program with a lot of heart, encouraging its residents to actively seek opportunities to serve the needs of and connect with its diverse local community.

Dr. Melvin received the 2008 California Academy of Family Physicians' Barbara Harris Award for excellence in education, and has been recognized with other prestigious awards for excellence in education and research throughout her career. In 2006, she was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to California's Osteopathic Medical Board. She currently serves as secretary-treasurer of that board.

She is currently chair of the Board of Directors of the MemorialCare Physician Society, a group of over 1,500 physicians who work with MemorialCare to improve clinical outcomes and patient safety through the use of medicine's best practices.

She is also an active member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, California Academy of Family Physicians, Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California, American Geriatrics Society, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors, and Coastal Research Group. Dr. Melvin has traveled around the country sharing her expertise, publications and career-long passion and interest in various critical family medicine trends and topics, including women's health issues, domestic violence and abuse, and the special health needs and concerns of elderly patients.

# ALEXANDER PAUL AVERSANO, DO

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Alexander Paul Aversano, DO, graduated from Des Moines College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in 1969. He interned at Brentwood Hospital in Warrensville Heights, Ohio from 1972-1973, and did his residency in neurology at The Cleveland Clinic from 1974-1977. In 1977, he went into private practice in neurology in Portland, Oregon, and was affiliated with Eastmoreland Hospital. He has been involved in student, intern, and residency training since that time. He served as Director of Medical Education at Eastmoreland for five years, and has served on the Medical Education Committee for 25 years. He was professor of neurology for five years at the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, and was Teacher of the Year in 1982. He is the clerkship director for Portland's Northwest Track.

# PLEDGE OF COMMITMENT



As I embark upon my studies at  
Western University of Health Sciences, I will:

Enter into a relationship of mutual respect with my professors and my colleagues to enhance the learning environment and to gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of a competent and compassionate health care professional;

Accept responsibility only for those matters for which I am competent, maintain the trust expected of a health care professional, and never take advantage of the relationship I have with patients;

Show compassion and respect for all others;

Set worthy examples in the application of humanistic principles in my relationships with patients and others within the health care community;

Work toward improving my sensitivity and skills in human interaction, understanding, and respecting the differences among my patients and colleagues;

Value the knowledge and wisdom of the health care professionals who have preceded me in the profession, and endeavor to contribute to the humanistic tradition and philosophy;

Recognize my weaknesses and strengths and strive to develop those qualities that will earn the respect of my patients, my colleagues, my family, and myself;

Continue learning throughout all the days of my life.

# THE WHITE COAT CEREMONY

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This ceremony is part of the initiation of new health professions students; it is a time when they are “cloaked” with their first white lab coat. This ritual, held in the presence of faculty, administration, and family members, helps students become aware of their responsibilities as healers from the very first day of their training. The ceremony encourages them to accept the obligations inherent in their scope of practice: to be excellent in science; to be compassionate; and to lead lives of uprightness and honor. Today’s thirteenth annual ceremony marks what has become a valued tradition here at Western University.

## THE SPONSORS

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WesternU is deeply appreciative of the generosity of the following sponsors:

**Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California is honored to donate the white coats to the class of 2013.**

The **Arnold P. Gold Foundation** is a public, not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering humanism in medicine. The funds raised by the Foundation are used for projects related to this mission and include support of white coat ceremonies throughout the nation. WesternU is indebted to the Arnold P. Gold Foundation for donating the “Humanism in Medicine” pins for the new students.

COMPETENT, COMPASSIONATE, AND CARING LIFELONG LEARNER

“The Osteopathic Physician of the 21st Century.”

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**Family and guests may be photographed for future University publications.**

# OSTEOPATHIC POST DOCTORAL TRAINING INSTITUTE (OPTI)



An OPTI is a consortium of an osteopathic medical school and affiliated teaching hospitals, the purpose of which is to establish a stronger and higher quality of postdoctoral training than can be realized by the individual institutions. The OPTI concept was mandated by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and its Council on Postdoctoral Training (COPT).

OPTI-West places high value on the commitment of its partners to provide quality Osteopathic Graduate Medical Education (OGME). It is pledged to providing its partners with a quality evaluation program that will ultimately provide insight and oversight of learning and education outcomes. OPTI-West and its partner institutions are committed to providing an academic and employment environment in which all staff and employees are treated with respect and dignity.

### **OPTI-West Teaching Hospitals:**

Arrowhead Regional Medical Center .....	Colton, California
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Pacific Hospital Long Beach.....	Long Beach, California
Garfield Medical Center .....	Monterey Park, California
Riverside County Regional Medical Center .....	Moreno Valley, California
San Diego FP/Sports Medicine Center .....	San Diego, California
St. Mary–Corwin Hospital.....	Pueblo, Colorado
Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center.....	Corvallis, Oregon

OPTI-West is also committed to fostering, developing, conducting and maintaining the philosophy and performance of research. Research is the foundation of graduate medical education and is a priority for OPTI-West, GME and Program Directors.