



**College of Osteopathic Medicine**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Parker, CO - **Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVUCOM)** will have 35 students and five faculty members participate in the annual D.O. Day on the Hill, a National advocacy event that will be held on March 5, 2009. Coordinated by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) and the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA), D.O. Day on the Hill brings together practicing osteopathic physicians, residents and medical students to advocate for improvements in health care for their patients and for health care policy reform.

More than 1,500 osteopathic physicians, residents and students will convene on Capitol Hill, meeting with their Members of Congress to discuss the osteopathic medical profession and health care issues that are of importance to patients and physicians.

Facing a critical shortage of primary care physicians and limited access to care and quality outcomes for the patients of the country, one of the strengths of the osteopathic education model (which emphasizes primary care and community based practices) is its traditional history of producing these critical health care professionals and deploying them in underserved locations across this country.

“Osteopathic physicians represent one of the key constituents needed to enact important health care reform and advance the health of our nation based in part on their commitment to patient-centered practices and their record of service to underrepresented and underserved populations,” said Ronnie B. Martin, D.O., FCOFP-dist, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine for Rocky Vista University. “The University can significantly impact the health and wellness of the citizens of Colorado, especially as it relates to community-based preventative and primary care, and meeting the needs of the underserved in our state and region. We would also like to advance the focus on the patient-centered medical home model as we believe that it can beneficially affect access, quality of healthcare, and lower healthcare cost both regionally as well as nationally,” said Martin.

The faculty and students from RVUCOM will be meeting with Congressman Mike Coffman, representing Colorado’s District 6, the same district where the University is located. In addition, since students at the University are from Colorado and the region,

the student delegation will also meet with the other six U.S. Representatives in Congress and both U.S. Senators from Colorado.

Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVUCOM) is the first Osteopathic, and only the second college of medicine in the state of Colorado and the region. The college emphasizes the education of community based and primary care providers for rural, underrepresented, at-risk and underserved populations and includes a goal to improve access to, and quality of, health care for all Coloradans.

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