

A Fascial Approach to The Thoracic Viscera

Date: October 30 - November 1, 2026
Location: OU-HCOM Dublin Campus, Dublin, OH
Course Director: Richard G. Schuster, DO
Register online at www.academyofosteopathy.org



Course Description

This course is an introductory course in visceral techniques to the thorax and thoracic viscera. Attendees will explore traditional osteopathic concepts of ventral technique as they apply to the thoracic viscera, ribs and anterior neck. Emphasis will be placed on physical examination, functional anatomy, and the anatomical relationships between diaphragm, ribs, sternum, thoracic spine and cervical spine, to the base of the skull, particularly as they relate to fascial continuity. Included will be discussion of the autonomic nervous system, vascular flow and lymphatic drainage. Attendees will come away with improved confidence in physical examination, direct and indirect approaches to the ribs and thoracic viscera, and lymphatic techniques. Integration of visceral (ventral) techniques with spinal (dorsal) and cranial techniques will be emphasized at the conclusion.

This is an intermediate level course. The curriculum includes lessons on muscle energy technique; thoracic spine technique; articular techniques; functional techniques; myofascial release; and high-velocity, low-amplitude thrust.

Prerequisites

It is strongly encouraged, though not required, that participants have taken a course in abdominal visceral approaches.

Continuing Medical Education

20 credits of AOA Category 1-A CME are anticipated.

Course Location

OU-HCOM Dublin Campus
6775 Bobcat Way
Dublin, OH 43016

Course Dates & Times

- Friday, October 30, 8:00 am–5:00 pm
- Saturday, October 31, 8:00 am–5:00 pm
- Sunday, November 1, 8:00 am–12:00 pm

Meal Information

Lunch provided Friday and Saturday (gluten-free and vegan options available). Coffee and hot tea provided daily.

Course Director

Richard G. Schuster, DO is in solo private practice in Indianapolis, doing direct primary care and osteopathic manual medicine. Dr. Schuster graduated from the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1994 after completing an undergraduate fellowship in osteopathic principles and practice. He completed a family medicine residency at the Firelands Regional Medical Center in Sandusky, Ohio, and a postdoctoral fellowship in sports medicine at the Toledo Hospital in Ohio.

The chair of the AAO's 2015 Convocation, Dr. Schuster was the 2022-2023 AAO President, and is a member of the AAO Education Committee. Dr. Schuster has a strong interest in medical education, and his academic interests include musculoskeletal medicine, biomechanics, and functional anatomy, with an emphasis on how the body transmits and organizes

Registration Fees	On or Before June 29, 2026	June 30 - October 15, 2026	On or After October 16, 2026
Academy members in practice*	\$810	\$900	\$1000
Resident/Postgraduate	\$630	\$700	\$800
SAAO Member	\$360	\$400	\$500
Non-member practicing DO or other health care professional	\$1170	\$1300	\$1400
Non-member Resident/Postgraduate	\$990	\$1100	\$1200
Non-member Student	\$810	\$900	\$1000

* AAO Associate Members, International Affiliates and Supporter Members are entitled to register at the same fees as Academy Members in practice.

Questions or need additional information? Contact event planner Dreonna Howard at eventplanner@academyofosteopathy.org