Annual Gala Honors Joe Coletto
OCOM Receives Funding to Address Cancer Burden in Oregon
Firstenburg Foundation Funds Accessible Treatment Tables

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2018 Cherry Blossom Gala Honors the Legacy of Joe Coletto, ND, LAc

The House of Good Fortune inspired great company and good luck among all of the honored guests and alumni present at the annual gala. A lively cocktail reception, Chinese-inspired dinner, live Chinese music, the “Sparkle Lounge” with free Swarovski ear crystals, Chinese calligraphy, “Laughing Buddha” Photo Booth, the Lucky Wheel, Money Tree, the ever-popular Wine Wall, Golden Ticket Raffle, and silent and live auctions provided a vibrant backdrop for unforgettable experiences!

During the dinner program, the college honored the extraordinary Joe Coletto, ND, LAc, for his 33 years of teaching and inspiring students at OCOM. Coletto has been a teacher and mentor to all 1,550 OCOM graduates, so the gathering of colleagues, alumni, and friends to celebrate his dedication, inspiration, and leadership brought together every aspect of the college community.

Incredible support from our generous sponsors — American Acupuncture Council, Beam Development, Columbia Bank, Heritage Bank, Kaiser Permanente, Miller Nash Graham & Dunn, NW Natural, Oregon Reproductive Medicine, The CHP Group, Thede Culpepper Moore Munro & Silliman LLP, and US Bank — made the event possible.
OCOM Receives Funding to Address Breast Cancer Burden in Oregon

OCOM received $10,000 from the Knight Cancer Institute Community Partnership Program at Oregon Health & Science University to design and implement a statewide survey in 2019 for breast cancer survivors. The survey will assess the unmet needs of breast cancer survivors in Oregon and gauge interest in a future acupuncture and Chinese medicine based survivorship program. The survey will also assess knowledge, attitudes, and use of acupuncture among breast cancer survivors. Data collected will be used to expand knowledge of and access to acupuncture and Chinese medicine for breast cancer survivors.

With recent advances in cancer treatments, rates of survivorship are increasing, resulting in cancer survivors who experience substantial physical and emotional needs. Studies show that acupuncture and Chinese medicine has great promise as a component of supportive cancer care, demonstrating effectiveness for many conditions that affect survivors, including chronic pain, psychological distress, insomnia, fatigue, and immune function. Findings also suggest that although a demand for acupuncture and Chinese medicine care clearly exists, nearly half of patients have no knowledge of it.

This project will benefit Oregon breast cancer patients by ultimately providing a community-based survivorship group or program designed to increase access and understanding of acupuncture and Chinese medicine, including evidence-based principles for healthy lifestyle changes, nutrition, and stress-reduction.

According to OHSU oncologist Jingjing Hu, MD, “the remarkable advances in cancer treatment have greatly improved the survivorship rates of breast cancer patients. Though positive, this also results in a large population of patients in need of ongoing, multi-modality support to manage cancer related symptoms and improve the quality of life. I believe acupuncture and Chinese medicine will have an increasingly important role to play in this integrative approach in coming years, and this project is an important first step in determining the shape of that role for breast cancer patients in Oregon.”

This project is funded through the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute Community Partnership Program. The program is designed to build sustainable collaborations with Oregon communities by providing grants and other resources to foster development of community-identified cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and survivorship projects. The OHSU Knight Cancer Institute has made a decade-long commitment to invest in the program to develop robust, sustainable programs that benefit the health of all Oregonians. Additional information about the program is available on the institute's website.
Firstenburg Foundation Funds Accessible Treatment Tables

A chance conversation with a wheelchair-bound patient led to OCOM’s recent acquisition of new adjustable treatment tables in its clinics, offering patients with severe health issues and mobility challenges improved access to acupuncture and Chinese medicine treatments. The college’s student interns now have treatment tables that can be adjusted for treatments specific to movement-challenged patients, as well as the convenience of the practitioner.

In 2018, the Firstenburg Foundation gave OCOM $15,931 to purchase 10 ADA-compliant, electronically-adjustable treatment tables. Over the December class break, OCOM’s clinic and facility staff cleared out the old stationary treatment tables and installed seven of the new tables in the on-campus OCOM Clinic and three in the northeast Portland OCOM Hollywood Clinic. As student interns and patients returned in January, they found more than half of OCOM’s treatment tables had been upgraded to ADA-compliant, electronically-adjustable tables.

In that initial conversation, the patient had reported that acupuncture and Chinese medicine treatments helped her manage her pain and other serious health issues, but that it was challenging for her to receive those treatments. She described the effort required to move her from her wheelchair to a disassembled treatment table at floor level. Student interns providing her with care had to do so while on their knees. She said she often felt embarrassed by this elaborate, troublesome process.

The “Enhanced Access” project’s goals are to provide patients with severe health issues and mobility or movement challenges with improved access to acupuncture treatments by providing the equipment needed for patients to transfer themselves onto treatment tables and receive needed care, as well as enhancing the hands-on educational experience of OCOM student interns. This gift serves the ultimate goal of acupuncture and Chinese medicine treatment: to resolve or alleviate a patient’s health issues, resulting in greater independence, more self-reliance, and an improved quality of life.

Every single adjustable table has an immediate, positive impact. On our single electric adjustable table in the prior year, OCOM provided 479 treatments, prioritizing patients with severe health issues and mobility/movement challenges. There were, however, many more such patients needing access to such customizable equipment than could be accommodated with a single such table. Now, thanks to the Firstenburg Foundation, OCOM has a total of 11 ADA-compliant, electronically-adjustable tables with which to provide treatments. The “Enhanced Access” project has additional funding proposals pending with other foundations, aiming to replace all of the college’s existing treatment tables.

The Firstenburg Foundation invests in community nonprofits that make a measurable difference within southwestern Washington and the Portland metropolitan area, communities formerly served by First Independent Bank, which was founded by Edward W. Firstenburg. The Foundation supports the legacy of Edward W. and Mary Firstenburg, that of improving the economic conditions and quality of life within our community.
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OCOM's mission is to transform health care by educating highly skilled and compassionate practitioners, providing exemplary patient care, and engaging in innovative research within a community of service and healing.

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FY2018 Revenue and Expenses

Source of Funds

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Balance Sheet

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Support OCOM

Donors are vital to OCOM’s mission to transform health care. In 2017-2018, with the help of our generous supporters, OCOM provided thousands of treatments to low-income patients, offered student scholarships, and conducted industry leading research.

Ways to Give

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Make a one-time contribution.

Become a Monthly Donor
A recurring gift is a very meaningful way to support OCOM, a little at a time.

Sponsor an Event
Engage in a business partnership with OCOM to support our students, alumni, faculty, staff and community.

Name OCOM in Your Will
Leave a personal legacy by naming OCOM in your will or estate plan.

Contact us directly to discuss giving opportunities:

Mike Paulsen, Director of Annual Giving
mike.paulsen@ocom.edu | 503-253-3443 x204

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Thank you!