



Alpha Omega Alpha is the national honor medical society. Founded in 1902, it is dedicated to improving care for all by recognizing educational achievement and gifted teaching, encouraging the development of leaders, supporting the ideals of humanism, and promoting service to others. Its motto is: "Be worthy to serve the suffering." Election to ΑΩΑ is a distinction that will accompany you throughout your professional life.

Boston University's chapter, Gamma Massachusetts, was chartered in 1948. Students at BUSM are eligible for selection to ΑΩΑ during their fourth year. Here at BUSM, selection is based on academic performance in BUSM-III clerkships and USMLE exams, as well as evidence of leadership, professionalism, and commitment to service and to the medical profession. Additionally, ΑΩΑ offers several opportunities for awards and scholarships for both members and non-members alike.

The BUSM Alpha Omega Alpha Executive Committee:

Matthew Lawlor, President  
Arvind Nishtala, Vice President  
David McAneny, MD, Councilor  
Robert Lowe, MD, Secretary-Treasurer

Ἄξιον ὠφελεῖν τοὺς ἀλγοῦντας  
Be Worthy to Serve the Suffering

*The Alpha Omega Alpha Chapter of  
Boston University School of Medicine  
proudly presents*

## The 2015 Alpha Omega Alpha Visiting Professorship

*James O'Connell, MD  
Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program,  
Massachusetts General Hospital*

April 29, 2015



2015 Alpha Omega Alpha Visiting Professorship

- 8:30-9:00am Welcome with BUSM AOA Executive Committee
- 9:00-10:00am Alpha Omega Alpha Address:  
*"Reflections From the Street: 30 Years of Caring for Rough Sleepers"*  
Boston University School of Medicine,  
Keefer Auditorium
- 10:00-10:30am Tour of BMC with Dr. Douglas Hughes  
Associate Chair, Department of Academic Affairs
- 10:30-11:00am Meeting with Dr. Gerard Doherty  
Chair, Department of Surgery
- 11:15-11:45am Meeting with Dr. Angela Jackson, Dr. John Polk, Dr. Karen Symes, Dr. Kenneth Grundfast, and Paige Curran  
Deans, Office of Student Affairs
- 12:00–1:00pm AOA Medical Student Address:  
"On Leadership and Listening"  
Carter Conference Center, FGH Building
- 1:00-1:30pm Chapter and farewell reception  
Carter Conference Center, FGH Building



Dr. O'Connell graduated summa cum laude from the University of Notre Dame in 1970 and received his master's degree in theology from Cambridge University in 1972. After graduating from Harvard Medical School in 1982, he completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1985, Dr. O'Connell began fulltime clinical work with homeless individuals as the founding physician of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, which now serves over 12,000 homeless persons each year in two hospital-based clinics (Boston Medical Center and MGH) and in more than 70 shelters and outreach sites in Boston.

With his colleagues, Dr. O'Connell established the nation's first medical respite program for homeless persons in September 1985, with 25 beds in the Lemuel Shattuck Shelter. This innovative program now provides acute and sub-acute, pre- and post-operative, and palliative and end-of-life care in BHCHP's free standing 104-bed Barbara McInnis House. Working with the MGH Laboratory of Computer Science, Dr. O'Connell designed and implemented the nation's first computerized medical record for a homeless program in 1995. From 1989 until 1996, Dr. O'Connell served as the National Program Director of the Homeless Families Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Dr. O'Connell is the editor of *The Health Care of Homeless Persons: A Manual of Communicable Diseases in Shelters and on the Streets*. His articles have appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Circulation*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, the *Journal of Clinical Ethics*, and several other medical journals. Dr. O'Connell has been featured on ABC's *Nightline* and in a feature-length documentary entitled "Give Me a Shot of Anything." He has received numerous awards, including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Award in 2012 and The Trustees' Medal at the bicentennial celebration of MGH in 2011. Dr. O'Connell is president of BHCHP and an assistant professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School.