

# Allopathic Interest and Feedback Regarding an Osteopathic Medicine Curriculum

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## Intro

Osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) is a set of hands-on techniques used by physicians to diagnose, treat and prevent illness or injury. OMT is taught to all osteopathic medical students, but allopathic medical students (MD) are rarely educated on OMT. Given the **benefits** of OMT for patients, we propose MD students should also be offered **OMT educational experiences**. Currently, there is a paucity of osteopathic curricula for MD students as well as data establishing interest in MD students regarding OMT.

## Methods

We developed a survey to assess the **awareness** and **interest** in OMT among MD students at Penn State College of Medicine, and to determine the **educational delivery methods preferred** for an OMT course.

- REDCap survey was sent to all medical students at Penn State Hershey (HMC) and University Park (UP). Of note, HMC is an academic medical center and UP is a community-based campus.
- Our survey consisted of 17 questions aimed at assessing both the awareness and exposure of MD students to OMT, as well as their interest in participating in an OMT elective.
- We pilot tested our survey on 8 medical students.

## Results

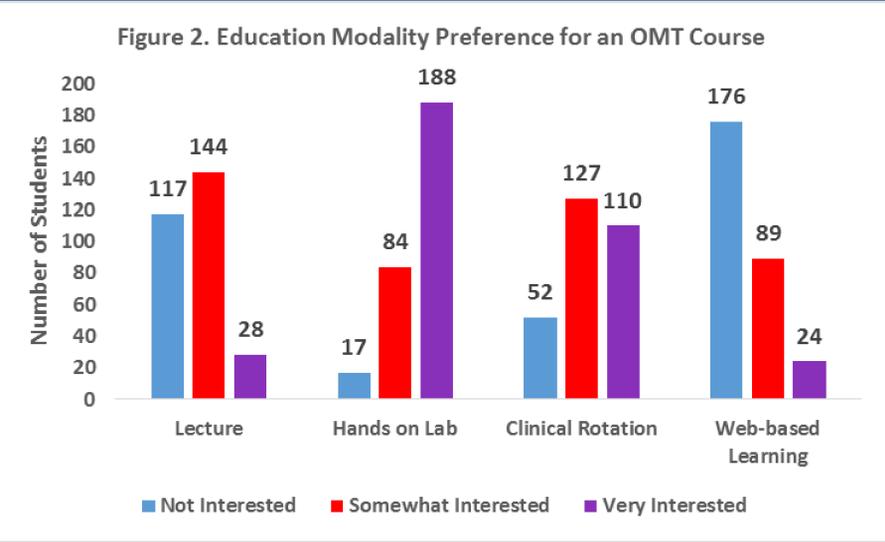
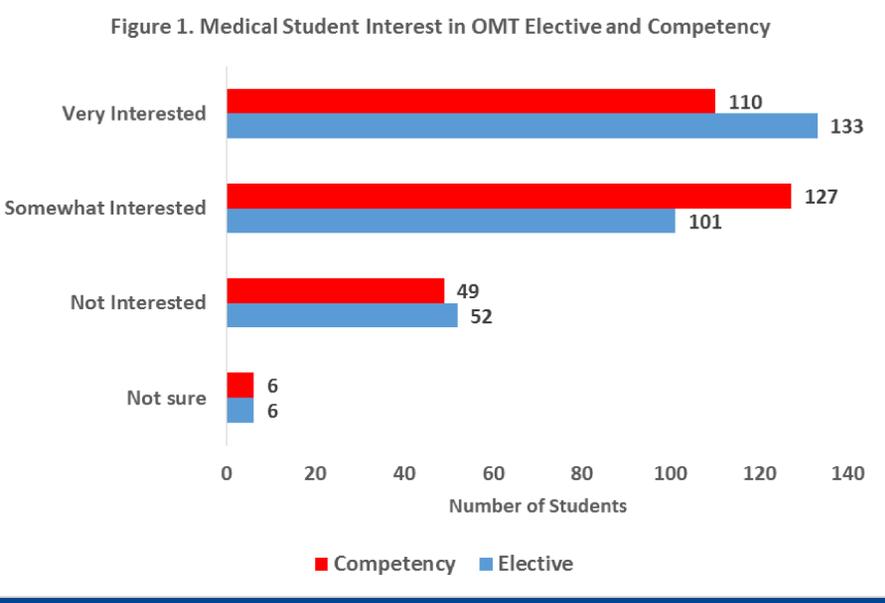
- 296 medical students responded to the survey. Response rate was 39.5%.
- 73.2% reported that they are at least somewhat aware of OMT as a treatment option for patients with musculoskeletal pain.
- Degree of interest in developing competency in performing OMT is significantly associated with a family member or friend having been treated with OMT ( $p=0.015$ ).
- When OMT was observed in a clinical or educational setting, this was significantly associated with interest in learning when to refer to a qualified provider for OMT ( $p=0.047$ ), as well as increased interest in taking a 2 week OMT elective ( $p=0.012$ ).
- Students who anticipate a career in primary care are interested in developing competency in OMT ( $p=0.01$ ).



Penn State College of Medicine allopathic medical students are largely interested in a two-week elective in OMT.

The majority of students are interested in developing competence in OMT.

Medical students preferred hands-on workshops and lecture over clinical rotations or web-based content.



## Discussion

The results from this needs assessment survey support our efforts in developing a two-week elective in OMT. Based on responses, we will focus on structuring OMT education in hands-on workshops, rather than web-based content or clinical rotation experiences. Moving forward, we would like survey students from other medical schools as a wider data-set would confirm these findings are universal, regardless of location or demographic factors of other allopathic medical schools.

## Future Directions

Due to COVID-19, we had to postpone the medical student focus groups. We plan to reschedule the focus groups for the summer and use the feedback to help build and develop the curriculum.