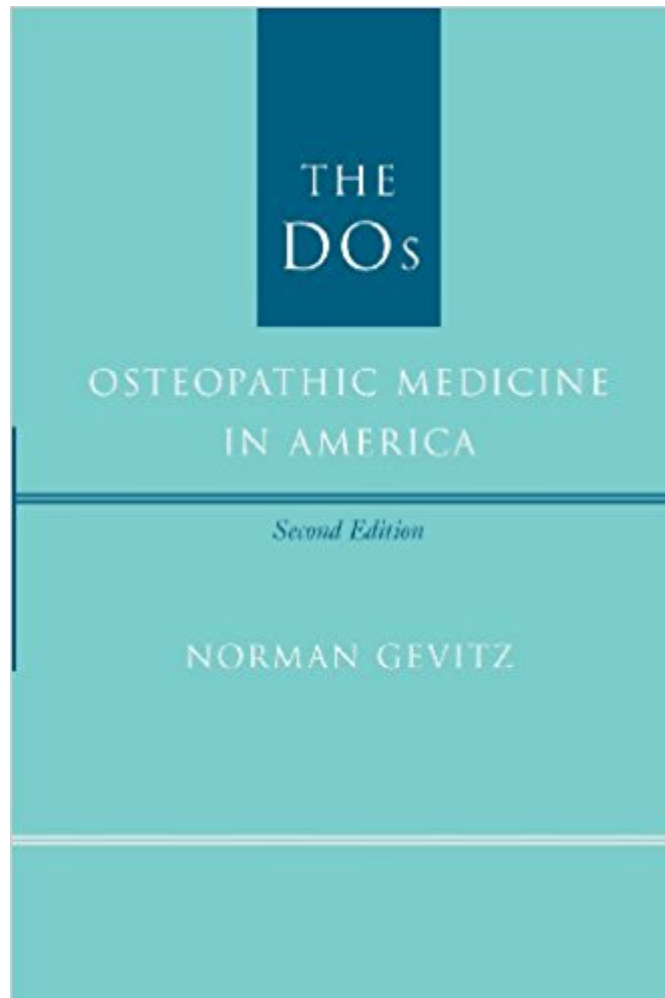




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# The DOs: Osteopathic Medicine In America



## Synopsis

Overcoming suspicion, ridicule, and outright opposition from the American Medical Association, the osteopathic medical profession today serves the health needs of more than thirty million Americans. *The DOs* chronicles the development of this controversial medical movement from the nineteenth century to the present. Historian Norman Gevitz describes the philosophy and practice of osteopathy, as well as its impact on medical care. From the theories underlying the use of spinal manipulation developed by osteopathy's founder, Andrew Taylor Still, Gevitz traces the movement's early success, despite attacks from the orthodox medical community, and details the internal struggles to broaden osteopathy's scope to include the full range of pharmaceuticals and surgery. He also recounts the efforts of osteopathic colleges to achieve parity with institutions granting M.D. degrees and looks at the continuing effort by osteopathic physicians and surgeons to achieve greater recognition and visibility. In print continuously since 1982, *The DOs* has now been thoroughly updated and expanded to include two new chapters addressing recent and current challenges and to bring the history of the profession up to the beginning of the new millennium.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An outstanding second edition,... bringing his history into the present and giving the reader a remarkably insightful understanding of osteopathic medicine and the challenges it faces today... A superbly written book, well researched, thoughtful, and enjoyable to read. Gevitz has made an important contribution to the canon of medical literature" (JAMA)

"Lucid, thorough, and judicious... Gevitz has produced an excellent study." (Bulletin of the History of Medicine)"The best historical study of the subject to date." (American Scientist)"Gevitz provides what may well be the definitive study." (Journal of the American Medical Association)"A refreshing and balanced view of the osteopathic profession." (Osteopathic Annals)"The most meticulous and careful study of the profession ever written by an outsider, and it is very useful." (The DO)"Entertaining, thoughtful, and interesting to read... Gevitz's history reminds us once again of the many factors that influence the division of labor in health care. For the illumination it provides on these matters, this well-written account should take its place as a major sourcebook on a small but important occupation." (Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law)"Gevitz has written an invaluable brief history of osteopathic medicine... An indispensable book that will be useful to any scholar in the field." (Charles E. Rosenberg Isis)

I read this book through 5 times. I was convinced to pursue an osteopathic education after the first read. The first few chapters cover the origins of osteopathic medicine in the United States by following Dr. A.T. Still. The book concludes with how osteopathic medicine has progressed ever since, how it is today, and where the future may lead us. Take caution with the end of the book since it was published in 2004. However, I consider this book a must-read for any student applying to D.O. schools. This book will give you a much deeper understanding of what osteopathic medicine is really about. Part of the "What is Osteopathic Medicine" packet give out at LECOM-Erie actually contains an excerpt from this book.

I will be applying to medical schools (MD and DO) shortly and was recommended to read this book by a friend. Applying to DO schools you will inevitably be asked "What is a DO" and "why do you want to be a DO and not an MD". This book 100% should allow you to make your own answers to these questions. What I love about this book is that A.T. Still, the founder of osteopathy is not made out to be some god-like character. The author describes Dr. Still and the entire osteopathic history from a (minimally) non-biased standpoint. For example, did you know that Dr. Still used to practice medicine for the Shawnee Indians, and then at night go to their sacred burial grounds and steal their dead bodies so he could study anatomy? Interesting...eh? Anyway, osteopathy in 2013 is not the same as it was during the 19th century. Osteopathy in 2013 is an amalgamation of the reforms, trials and tribulations both within the osteopathic profession and with other medical establishments (the AMA), and needs of the health profession. This book gives a thorough explanation of this history and by the end, the reader should know about the subject and its history. Only giving 4 stars

because the field of osteopathy is rapidly changing and even in the years since the second edition of this book was completed, there are a bunch of changes in the field (specifically, merging of ACGME and AOA residencies in 2015). There were also some grammar errors which I wished the editor had caught before the book was published.

This book is a thoroughly enjoyable history of osteopathic medicine and its evolution through the past 100 years. The book is written in very clear and concise language and is a far cry from a dry history book. It presents the information in a highly unbiased way, and gives a comprehensive review of both the principles of osteopathic medicine and how the world has seen this branch of medicine. It is wonderful that books like this are available to dispel many of the myths that surround osteopathic medicine. As an Osteopathic Medical Student, I would consider this book a must read for anyone who is interested in going into osteopathic medicine or interviewing at an osteopathic medical school. It would also be a great book for anyone who is interested in medical history or the politics surrounding healthcare.

The most common question Osteopathic Physicians get is "What is an osteopathic physician" and Dr. Gevitz, a sociologist, has answered the question in an entertaining and extensive manner. The history of Osteopathic medicine, the original "out of the box" thinking by Dr. Still and the subsequent political turmoils are all well defined and provide a foundation for the distinctiveness of the osteopathic approach. While most medicine seeks to eradicate the disease, Dr. Still and subsequent practitioners wondered why the illness occurred in the first place, engaging in a dialog that led to an approach to illness that sought to enhance the body's ability to resist disease. More than one observer has suggested that Osteopathic medicine was the modern foundation for holistic medicine, addressing the body, mind and spirit. The book is my favorite gift to allopathic colleagues and has led to some informative discussions about medicine and the approaches to the healing process.

As an incoming DO medical student, I was curious (also, it was a required summer reading) about how DOs came to be and how they are currently viewed. This book does just that. It goes into the history, starting with the inception of the profession with A.T. Stills, and takes us to the current battles DOs in America face. Gevitz honestly talks about the issues DOs face, such as being perceived as "lesser" doctors than our MD peers (which is not true!) and the relative obscurity of the profession, as compared to MDs. It's a very interesting read, and I would recommend it to anyone

who is thinking about matriculating into a DO school, or going to see a DO for a physician. I hope in a few years, Gevitz will come out with a 3rd edition to summarize the changes in the profession that are currently underway!

Really awesome read for anyone interested in pursuing the osteopathic track and looking to learn more about the actual history the development of this branch in the US. Wonderfully written historical book. I purchased in order to strengthen my knowledge of osteopathy before writing my medical school personal statement / secondary applications.

Excellent past history about the difficulties in both the founding of osteopathic medicine, and their current identity issues. Also noted is the large amount of detail regarding research and payer issues of the current market. I do however wish that the details revolving around current issues, successes, failures, etc were covered in greater detail. (Current meaning greater detail over the last 25 years.) though I will say this lack is a personal desire for information that in no way detracts from the books cited purpose and data. It is very much worth the read if your interests lay in the history of the field.

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