

AAOS item writer spotlight

Interview, Spring 2023
Dr. Norman Y. Otsuka

AAOS has many great volunteers who contribute to the Academy's examination development process. Through their experience and expertise, they offer their time to help build the future of our examination product offerings. Each quarter, we will celebrate these efforts with a featured volunteer in the AAOS Item Writer Spotlight.

Norman Y. Otsuka, MD, FAAP, FACS, FAAOS, is our inaugural featured volunteer for the Spring 2023 AAOS Item Writer Spotlight. Dr. Otsuka serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Orthopaedic In-Training Examination® and the Examinations and Assessments Education Committee Chair. We recently had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Otsuka about the many years he has volunteered with AAOS, and the fantastic contributions he has made to our exams. Thank you, Dr. Otsuka!



How many years have you been an AAOS volunteer?

I began working on the Orthopaedic In-Training Examination® in the early 2000s.

How did you first find out about volunteer opportunities?

When I first got involved with the Leadership Fellows Program under Dr. Tolo as an inaugural fellow.

What has been the most rewarding thing about participating in exam development?

I find many things rewarding about exam development. First, I enjoy being involved in the training of residents, and I get to work with great colleagues. With my longevity serving on the EAEC, I have seen many positive changes over the years, and we continue doing good work with the ABOS. Finally, I am grateful to work with great staff at the AAOS!

What is your best advice to new item writers?

Dedication to item writing can take a lot of work, but it is for a great cause—to better the orthopaedic profession. It is very rewarding to know you are helping the next generations of orthopaedic surgeons.

One last question—you're known for your great ties, suspenders and socks. Who is your favorite animated character?

Bugs Bunny — “What’s up, Doc?”

**To get involved and become an AAOS Item Writer,
click here or email WriteExams@aaos.org**