An increasing amount of the ACOFP management team’s time is spent attempting to anticipate the future and aligning our staff and financial resources accordingly. Such future forecasting always comes with a measure of uncertainty, but even more so as we now face greater volatility in national health care policy; in membership, certification, and CME policy emanating from the American Osteopathic Association; in the structure and function of the ACGME Single Accreditation System; and perhaps even in our own criteria for ACOFP membership.

To find the answers, we have to start by asking the right questions, such as:

- What will replace a repealed Affordable Care Act?
- How can we help members maintain their practices through the maze of Alternative Payment Models?
- If the AOA decouples its membership requirement from certification, what will be the impact on ACOFP membership?
- How many of the 150 osteopathic family medicine programs will apply for ACGME accreditation by the December 31, 2017 deadline?
- As the Single Accreditation System takes form, what will be the impact on ACOFP resident membership and our InService Exam?
- How will ACOFP State Societies respond to the Board’s White Paper, addressing the extent to which MDs are accepted into ACOFP membership?

At this time of great uncertainty, we look to what we can control. While the 2016 ACOFP Convention in Puerto Rico was evaluated by most as a successful experience, the finances punched a hole in our budget. So the staff was aggressive in working with our vendors for convention services to better anticipate costs, budget appropriately, and reduce costs at the 2017 Convention. Anticipating the cost associated with the volume of 2017 Congress resolutions, we quickly switched to a paperless Congress. Likewise, the ACOFP Finance Committee and Board put their own activities under a microscope to reduce overall expenses.

While expense reduction is important, there are times when we need to invest in resources that will yield member benefit, as is the case with the technology required to provide online CME. ACOFP has in place a robust online learning platform and we will be expanding our e-Learning Center with more content and technology that allows for easier access.

Know that the Board and staff are future-focused and determined to see through the uncertainty. The Board’s upcoming Strategic Planning meeting will focus on taking the results from the recent survey of ACOFP membership and turning them into positive action on behalf of the membership. We value fresh ideas, constructive criticism, and grassroots support!

Respectfully submitted,

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