

SUBJECT: Proposed Name Change from Family Practice to Family Medicine

SUBMITTED BY: A. T. Still University/Kirksville Family Medicine
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REFERRED TO: 2009 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 6

- 1 WHEREAS, Family Practice, since its inception in 1969, has been the cornerstone for quality
2 care to the citizens of the United States, accounting for a larger proportion of office visits
3 than any other medical specialty; and
- 4 WHEREAS, historically the osteopathic general practitioner has made great contributions to the
5 practice utilized by osteopathic family physicians of today; and
- 6 WHEREAS, this scope of practice is enhanced by the specialty training of osteopathic family
7 physicians during a three-year post-graduate educational program, similar in length and
8 scope of training to other recognized specialist programs; and
- 9 WHEREAS, public perception of the qualifications of a medical specialist is often influenced by
10 the name of the specialty; and
- 11 WHEREAS, the current use of the name family practice does not fully reflect the advanced
12 training and specialty nature of the osteopathic family physician; and
- 13 WHEREAS, osteopathic family practice, by nature of training and scope of practice, is indeed a
14 specialty entitled to the same rights, privileges, and professional recognition conferred by
15 the public at large and by the medical establishment upon other specialties; and
- 16 WHEREAS, the scope of osteopathic family practice should not be limited in clinical, surgical,
17 office-based, hospital-based, academic, or public health practice by perception of a title;
18 and
- 19 WHEREAS, a name change would better reflect the medical specialty of family practice; and
- 20 WHEREAS, the current use of the title family practitioner does not adequately differentiate the
21 family physician's level of medical training and scope of practice from general
22 practitioners and non-physician providers, such as family nurse practitioners; now,
23 therefore be it,

24 RESOLVED, the name of osteopathic family practice be changed to osteopathic family medicine
25 to more accurately reflect the scope of training and practice of the physician certified by
26 the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) or trained in a three-
27 year post-graduate training program is sponsored by the American College of
28 Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP); and, be it further,

29 RESOLVED, the title of an AOBFP board-certified or board-eligible physician be changed from
30 osteopathic family practitioner to osteopathic family physician to more clearly and
31 accurately differentiate between the title of a family physician and non-physician
32 providers, such as family nurse practitioners, in addition to other non-physician
33 providers, such as physician assistants, advanced registered nurse practitioners/ advanced
34 practice registered nurses, and midwives; and, be it further,

35 RESOLVED, that individual state boards and licensing bodies be encouraged to change all
36 references from osteopathic family practice to osteopathic family medicine to more
37 clearly and officially emphasized the difference between osteopathic general practice and
38 osteopathic family medicine; and, be it further,

39 RESOLVED, that osteopathic family practice residency programs be encouraged to officially
40 change their titles to reflect the change from osteopathic family practice to osteopathic
41 family medicine so that their respective program objectives can be appropriately
42 represented; and, be it further,

43 RESOLVED, that this resolution adopted by the Missouri Society of the American College of
44 Osteopathic Family Physicians be forwarded to the ACOFP Congress of Delegates for
45 consideration; and, be it further,

46 RESOLVED, that the Missouri Society of ACOFP encourage ACOFP to form a committee to
47 facilitate the completion of the recommended name change from osteopathic family
48 practice to osteopathic family medicine within the various residency programs and
49 organizations.

ACTION _____