

2018-2019 REPORT OF THE ACOFP PRESIDENT

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March 2019

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since this Congress has met. And what a year it was! On top of searching for our next Executive Director, which I guess would fall under my “other duties as assigned,” there were campus visits, state society meetings, AOA and AAFP meetings, ACOFP committee meetings, and more. My years of service to this organization have been an amazing experience and this year was no exception. One of my biggest take-aways is our need to do a better job explaining to members (and prospective members) that the ACOFP is your advocate and is speaking up on your behalf – even if we don’t have the authority to make certain changes (i.e. initial certification and OCC). We are also steadfastly committed to remaining osteopathically distinct and *the go-to* resource for our specialty. Below are a few of the many important updates and highlights from the year.

Single Accreditation System – 74% or 926 of the 1244 Osteopathic residency programs that formerly held only AOA accreditation have received ACGME accreditation or are in the application process. 818 of the 926 have secured ACGME accreditation. Also, 211 programs are applying for or have Osteopathic Recognition Status out of which 138 are family medicine residency programs. 171 programs closed and 83 will close, either due to normal attrition or not intending to pursue ACGME accreditation.

Certification – this year has been full of certification change and chatter. The Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists (BOS) Executive Committee approved a request submitted by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) regarding Early Entry Initial Certification (EEIC). While details are still being worked out, this essentially means that after taking two AOBFP/ACOFP In-Service Exams, students are eligible to sit for the AOBFP initial exam in their third year. The formative assessments and initial certification exam are all being reviewed and adapted to meet the demands of students in terms of cost, flexibility and time.

We also pilot tested a new Clinical Osteopathic Recognition Training Examination (CORTE_x). CORTE_x is designed to help residency programs with Osteopathic Recognition status meet the ACGME requirement to conduct a formative exam. This pilot was conducted in October and was a huge success. The Executive Director’s annual report provides additional information.

In the year ahead, we will continue to advocate for changes to OCC that also take into consideration the feedback we often receive about cost, time and relevancy. While we don’t have the authority to make these changes, we remain your fierce advocate and voice.

Practice Enhancement & Quality Reporting – ACOFP continued our collaboration with Lightbeam Health Solutions intended to help practitioners analyze your EMR data to identify care gaps, take action at the point-of-care, improve outcomes, improve quality scores, and maximize shared savings. Come the end of our first full year, our relationship with Lightbeam solidified, materials have been developed and our first practice signed on to the solution, with others in the exploratory process.

Advocacy – this was the first full year working with Alston & Bird who now serves as our legislative and advocacy partners. It's been a very busy and productive year advocating on behalf of our members. The ACOFP has been proactively sharing our perspective on various legislation and to Congressional Committees. In total, we submitted 19 comment letters on topics including changes to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule evaluation and management (E/M) codes, RFIs related to alternative payment models and direct primary care (DPC), and issues related to physician burden. In fact, we conducted a letter writing campaign on changes to E/M codes and reimbursement. Several leaders also participated in AOA's DO Day earlier this month.

Education – the ACOFP's Continuing Medical Education programs remain high-quality and relevant to our members and non-members. Perhaps most importantly, our CME is what will help us remain osteopathically distinct – and a resource to both osteopathic and allopathic physicians. In 2018, we had over 3,100 registrations for live CME events and more than 1,800 online learning program registrations. With AOA gaining provisional ACCME accreditation, we are beginning to pursue ways to offer this credit as soon as the Fall 2019.

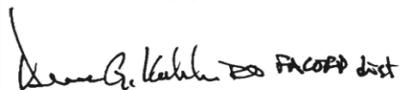
As you will read in the Executive Directors report, we are wrapping up a year long effort to re-record our OMT videos. We hope you will like the new recordings and new techniques as a helpful resource whether you teach or need a refresher on your OMT skills.

Leadership – the ACOFP Future Leaders Conference continues to be a success and a vital program to ensure a robust and diverse pipeline of leaders for both the ACOFP and our profession. This year, 16 leaders were selected to participate with 6 mentors. As part of the program, the Board had the pleasure of meeting with these future leaders as well. Rest assured, our organization and profession will be in great hands!

Executive Director Search – as you know Pete Schmelzer announced his retirement during our June Board Strategic Planning Retreat. After this, a Search Committee was formed and a search firm retained. The Search Committee convened in Chicago to interview applicants who had applied for the position. Six individuals were interviewed initially, then three were invited for a second interview. It was through this process that our current Executive Director, Bob Moore, was hired. Most recently, Bob comes to us from the American Dental Hygienist's Association. He also brings experience from several associations and terrific connections in the association world. Welcome aboard, Bob!

To the Board of Governors, Committee chairs, Committee members, State Societies and staff - thank you for your dedication to the ACOFP and to the Osteopathic profession. Keep up the good work. I would particularly like to thank Dr. DeLuca for your support and insight over this past year. Good luck and safe travels in your next year!

Osteopathically yours,



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