

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



A Season of Milestones

Brian A. Kessler, DO, DHA, FACOFP *dist.*

As Dear Members,

As President of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP), I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the readers of this summer issue of the *Osteopathic Family Physician*. This issue holds particular significance as we commemorate several remarkable milestones and events that resonate deeply with our profession.

First and foremost, we celebrate the birthday of Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, the founder of osteopathic medicine, who was born on August 6, 1828. Dr. Still's visionary approach to healthcare, emphasizing the body's innate ability to heal itself, laid the foundation for osteopathic medicine as we know it today. His legacy continues to inspire and guide us as we uphold the principles of patient-centered care. This year, as we mark the 150th anniversary of the osteopathic profession, we reflect on the profound impact that osteopathic medicine has had on the practice of medicine, improving the lives of countless patients worldwide.

In conjunction with this, we are also preparing for the 75th anniversary of ACOFP, a milestone that signifies our enduring commitment to advancing the field of osteopathic family medicine. Since our inception, ACOFP has been dedicated to supporting osteopathic family physicians through education, advocacy, and community engagement. As we approach this anniversary, we celebrate the achievements of our members and look forward to continuing our mission to promote excellence in family medicine.

The month of August also marks the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year for our medical students and residents in family medicine. This new year presents a fresh opportunity for growth, learning, and the pursuit of excellence in osteopathic medical education. Our students and residents are the future of our profession, and we are committed to providing them with the knowledge, skills, and support they need to become outstanding osteopathic family physicians. We welcome them with open arms and encourage them to embrace the values and principles that have defined our profession for the past 150 years.

August is National Immunization Awareness Month, highlighting the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. As family physicians, we play a crucial role in educating our patients about the benefits of immunizations and ensuring they receive timely vaccinations. Immunizations are a cornerstone of preventive medicine, helping to protect individuals and communities from serious and potentially life-threatening diseases. During this month, let us redouble our efforts to advocate for vaccination and educate our patients about its critical role in maintaining public health.

Additionally, August 19th is World Humanitarian Day, a day dedicated to honoring humanitarian workers and advocating for the well-being of people affected by crises around the world. This day reminds us of the importance of compassion, empathy, and service to humanity, values that are deeply embedded in the osteopathic philosophy. As osteopathic family physicians, we have a unique opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of individuals and communities, locally and globally. Let us take this opportunity to reflect on our role as healers and advocates for those in need and recommit ourselves to the principles of humanitarianism in our daily practice.

As we celebrate these significant events and milestones, let us also look to the future with optimism and determination. The osteopathic profession has a rich history of innovation, resilience, and dedication to patient care. We have faced many challenges over the years, but our commitment to our patients and our profession has never wavered. Together, we will continue to advance the field of osteopathic family medicine, uphold the legacy of Dr. Andrew Taylor Still, and make a lasting impact on the health and well-being of our communities.

We also look forward to seeing all of our colleagues at the Osteopathic Medical Education Conference (OMED). Additionally, do not forget about the ACOFP 62nd Annual Convention and Scientific Seminars. Mark your calendars for April 2-6, 2025, and join us in Palm Springs, California, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our family with a bang!

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering dedication to the osteopathic profession and your commitment to excellence in family medicine. Your hard work, compassion, and expertise are the foundation of our success, and I am honored to serve as your President during this momentous time. Let us celebrate our past achievements, embrace the opportunities of the present, and look forward to a future filled with promise and possibility.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Kessler, DO, DHA, FACOFP *dist.*
2024-25 ACOFP President