



2008-2009 President's Report Guy A. DeFeo, DO

Following the tradition of my recent predecessors the format of this report will be to focus on the mission of the American Academy of Osteopathy, to teach, advocate and research the science, art, and philosophy of osteopathic medicine. After assuming the role of President there has been a whirlwind of activity, most of my time focusing in the broad category of advocacy.

Although I had initially joked that I would get a year's worth of work from Steve Noone in two months, it appears that was a fairly accurate prediction. For two months I was in constant contact with Steve Noone and the Academy staff; as matters from the Convocation were wrapped up and planning instituted for the coming fiscal year.

The week of May 19th began the long anticipated transition of the Executive Director. Harriet O'Connor stepped in and hit the ground running. Following an Executive Committee conference call on May 21, Steve Noone finally left the building for the last time on May 22. Harriet has completely immersed herself into the operations of the Academy and will provide details in her Executive director's report. After taking the reins in May, Harriet has been coordinating the transition at the Academy offices which have included restructuring of the existing staff and the addition of a new Communications Director in August. In addition, the new information technology system has been instituted including addition/replacement of computers and installing a true network. The newly redesigned website was up and running in March.

From April 23-27 I was invited to the Annual Oklahoma Osteopathic Association in Oklahoma City. It is an honor for the Academy to be recognized among other national leaders. I also presented an OMT workshop.

I represented the Academy at the Cranial Academy's annual conference and their Board meeting on June 19th as well as registered to attend their educational program.

Summertime in this profession brings a weeklong stay in beautiful downtown Chicago at the summer meeting of the American Osteopathic Association Board of Trustees, the Federation of Osteopathic Specialty Organizations (FOSO), and the AOA House of Delegates. Once again, there are many state delegations that include active AAO members, so this serves as reinforcement to the official representation of the President and President-Elect. Our delegation, along with the Executive Director, is able to monitor the action at various reference committees.

This meeting also provided an opportunity to approach AOA Executive Director John Crosby to follow up on the AOA pledge for assistance with the Flu Pandemic program at the AOA Convention in October. As a result of this meeting, and with assistance from Boyd Buser, the Academy was able to secure funding from the AT Still Foundation to assist in the delivery of this program.

The AOA Convention in Las Vegas in October saw the Academy present the Flu Pandemic program as well as another outstanding educational program. As usual, the Academy staffed the OD&TE service which is always in high demand. I was able to spend some time adding to this service to the profession.

In November I represented the AAO at the Osteopathic International Alliance meeting held in Chicago. Prior to that meeting I lectured to the Midwestern University College of Osteopathic Medicine department of Obstetrics.

As the end my term as President rapidly approaches I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Academy members for the honor of serving as your president. During this year, as in all years, we have strived to follow the mission to teach, research and advocate for the benefit of the osteopathic profession. My goal this year was to seek balance. In many ways I believe that service for the Academy is a way to repay the profession for the nurturing and support the Academy has provided to me during the development and continuation of my career as an osteopathic physician.

Although my term as president will end, my service and dedication to this association and the profession will continue and my ability to contribute significantly will be enhanced by this experience. All of you need to be congratulated for taking responsibility for the success of this organization. I am grateful for the knowledge and support gained as a member of the Academy family, and I will continue to repay the organization by providing support and assistance to provide for a means for the Academy to fulfill its mission. While I can never repay our profession and each of you completely, I realize that I have the obligation to continue to try, and I promise each of you I will continue to do so.

As I prepare to conclude my term, I leave with the knowledge that your incoming President George Pasquarello will continue the great traditions of this organization and that the supporting cast of members will provide all of the assistance he needs.