

American Osteopathic College of Dermatology

October, 1991
Volume 9, No. 21

Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

Greetings to all of you.

The practice of medicine has been rapidly changing during the past few years. The Resource Based Relative Value System (RBRVS), the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment, (CLIA-88) and the organization of subspecialties are just a few of those changes. The specialty of Dermatology seems to be changing at an even more rapid pace. Dermatologic Surgery is becoming a larger and more important part of almost every Dermatology practice. Public awareness campaigns have exploded in the media, informing the public of the specialty of "Dermatology". Fifteen or 20 years ago, most Americans were unsure of what a Dermatologist did. Today, thanks to product labels like "Dermatologist-Tested" and talk shows on skin cancer and cosmetic surgery - most Americans are aware of the Dermatologist as a skin, hair and nail specialist, as well as a surgeon. It is exciting to be part of dermatology during these evolutionary times.

The AOCD is growing rapidly and moving forward. I am pleased that the AOA passed our resolution to place a moratorium on new preceptorship programs as we expand our residency programs.

Our newly-revised residency training guidelines will be reviewed by the COPT this November. Hopefully, they will be approved by the AOA this spring and will become effective at that time.

One of our long-term goals has been to substitute all preceptorship programs for dermatology residencies. I feel we are getting nearer to that day. I would suggest to all trainees in preceptorship programs to urge their trainers to convert their present programs to residencies. I would be willing to assist personally anyone wishing to change their preceptorship to a residency.

Remember, the purpose of being a trainer in a residency or preceptorship is to be dedicated to training our young people - not to reap financial benefits from their labor.

While I'm on the subject of remembering - let me remind all of you that December 31, 1991, marks the end of another 3-year CME cycle. Dermatologists who are board certified or board eligible must earn 50 credit hours or more (as may be mandated by the board of their primary specialty) in each 3-year CME cycle.

At our annual meeting this year, we will be voting on two new amendments to our bylaws. One is the establishment of a permanent Nominating Committee, which will nominate a slate of officers for our voting at the Annual Membership Business Meeting. Of course, floor nominations will also be accepted. The second amendment will be to increase our Executive Committee by two

members: a second vice president and a third vice president. These two new officers would help us with our Midyear Meetings. The Executive Committee has strongly endorsed both amendments.

What do you think about a new name for our organization? How about the "American Osteopathic Academy of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery"? Think about it. It may come up for a vote in the future.

The last 11 months have literally "flown by", putting our next AOCD meeting about a month away. As president of the AOCD during the past 11 months, I have learned many things. Most notably is the fact that there are several people in our College that are truly dedicated to improving our organization. They have worked very long, hard hours during the past year on vital issues and responsibilities of the AOCD.

I would like to thank the Committees who helped with our projects this year. I would especially like to thank Dr. Jim Bernard and his Education Evaluating Committee for meeting twice this year and for their exhausting efforts to improve our training programs.

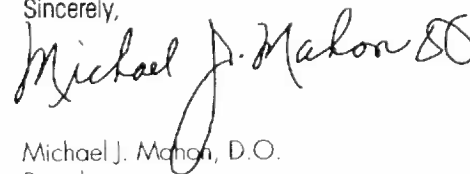
A vehicle requires fuel to move along, and the fuel of the AOCD is our Executive Director, Cathy Garris, and her staff. They have done an excellent job in coordinating and moving our College through another year.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Shelly Friedman, our President-Elect and Educational Program Chairman. He has put together an outstanding program for us this fall in New Orleans. There will be excellent speakers, breakfast sessions, workshops and much more. He has raised the caliber of our Annual Meeting to a new plateau. I hope each of you will take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn to fellowship with your osteopathic dermatology colleagues.

This unique program will be costly. "Thanks" to Dr. Michael Scott, Vice President and Program Fund Chairman, we will be able to fund it. Dr. Scott has done a superb job in raising more money this year than any other year in our history.

It has indeed been an honor to serve as your President during the past 11 months. Let me close with a quotation from two famous Americans, Mr. Bartles and Mr. Jaymes, who said, "We thank you for your support".

Sincerely,



Michael J. Mahon, D.O.
President

AOA Delegates Rule on Industry Gifts to Docs

The AOA at its July, 1991, House of Delegates meeting passed a resolution designed to provide guidelines for gifts to physicians from pharmaceutical to medical equipment industries. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLVED, that the AOA provide its members with the following guidelines for their professional conduct in reference to gifts and subsidies offered to them by representatives of the pharmaceutical and medical equipment industries:

1. Gifts to physicians should be related to patient care or medical practice; they should be of modest value. Gifts of cash should not be accepted.
2. Physicians should not accept financial subsidies from industry to defray the cost of attendance at professional conferences.
3. Financial support or gifts from industry for transportation, lodging, and related expenses for trips which are for primarily recreational and social functions should not be accepted.
4. Gifts by industry to students, interns, residents, and fellows for professional travel are appropriate if the recipient is selected by the college, training institution, or the sponsor of the educational event.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT: These guidelines are offered to physicians to assist them in avoiding the potential for impropriety resulting from industry gifts. AOA recognizes and appreciates industry's significant support of CME activities which ultimately benefit patients.

NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

Congratulations to DR. and MRS. SHELLY FRIEDMAN on the birth of their third daughter, Jennifer Ashley, born August 27. The Friedmans now have four children: Bethany 8, Kimberly 5 and Brent 1-1/2.

Welcome home to DR. LLOYD CLEAVER who was called to active duty in Guam during the Desert Storm crisis.

DR. BRUCE PALEY, a third-year resident, has had a paper entitled "Psoriasis of the Nail Presenting as Onychomycosis" accepted for presentation at the American Academy of Dermatology in Dallas this year.

DR. IRVING TENENBAUM, in conjunction with the AAD, American Cancer Society and Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital, holds free melanoma/cancer screening clinics twice each year.

DR. JONATHAN CRANE, a second-year resident, was a contributor to two papers recently published: "Topical Steroids: Dosing forms and General Considerations" in the HOSPITAL PHARMACY (vol.26, August, 1991) and "LIGATION OF THE SUPERFICIAL TEMPORAL ARTERY: A Possible Method of Arresting the Progression of Gyrate Atrophy" in the STUDENT DOCTOR (vol 12, No. 5, August, 1991).

DR. DAVID BROOKS WALKER has been appointed by AOCD president Dr. Michael Mahon to serve out the term of Dr. Daniel Koprince who, because of health problems, has resigned as chair of the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology.

DR. LLOYD CLEAVER was appointed by AOA president Dr. Gilbert Bucholz to represent the AOCD at the AOA Committee on Postdoctoral Training.

Congratulations to the following who were renominated to the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology by the AOA Board of Trustees: DR. CHARLES HUGHES (1991-94); DR. ROGER BYRD (1991-94); DR. DAVID BROOKS WALKER (1991-92); DR. THOMAS BONINO (1991-92).

DR. DAVID BROOKS WALKER has been renominated by the AOA Board of Trustees as a member-at-large to the AOA Advisory Board for Osteopathic Specialists.

DR. HOWARD GOLDMAN will be establishing a private practice in Philadelphia, PA, and joining the PCOM as clinical professor of dermatology.

Annual Meeting To Feature Expert In Dermatology Coding

Nationally-recognized authority on practice management, Inga C. Elzay, MPA, RRA, will present a workshop on the use and misuse of third-party reimbursement dermatology codes on Wednesday (11/6) at the Annual Meeting of the AOCD to be held in New Orleans November 3 through 7, 1991. Ms. Elzay is the only consultant dealing exclusively with dermatology coding. She is also an authority on legislative activity affecting dermatology.

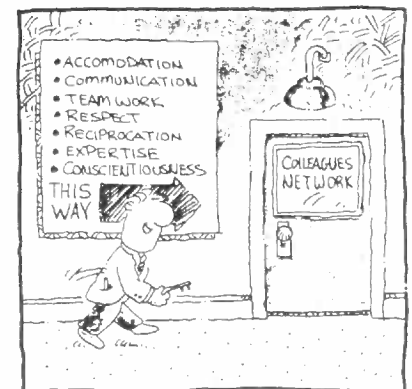
AOCD president Michael Mahon, D.O. attended a seminar sponsored by the Michigan Dermatological Society which featured Ms. Elzay. "It was interesting to learn how much we were losing in our practice because of improper coding," said Dr. Mahon. "Although, as Ms. Elzay pointed out, the most important aspect of proper coding is our documentation we also realized how important our billing person is to our practice," continued Dr. Mahon. "Ms. Elzay provided some excellent time-saving tips for our entire office staff," said Dr. Mahon. "We have implemented some of these tips and they really do work!"

Everyone who attends Ms. Elzay's workshop will take back some very important time-saving, income-producing tips for their practice.

-Michael J. Mahon, D.O.

"I highly recommend this workshop for everyone," said Dr. Mahon. "You will definitely learn some income-producing and time-saving tips that will help you in your practice."

Reservations must be made through the AOCD national office in Atlanta. Tickets are \$20 each for residents and doctors in practice and can be purchased through the AOCD office.



Compliments of Derm Marketing & Practice Management

AOCD 1991-92 Annual Membership Directory To Be Published

The 1991-92 Annual Membership Directory for the College will be published in December. Any address changes must be received in the AOCD national office in Atlanta by November 15 to be included in the new directory.

EDITORIAL

To All My Friends:

I was born with an enlarged congenital right auricle. Over six and a half years ago, I developed auricular fibrillation that failed to convert to normal sinus rhythm following two episodes of electrical shock. My father had, and one of my older sisters now has had, auricular fibrillation for over ten years. Quinaglute does nothing for me. Last week, my Cardiologist performed a Thallium Stress test, which revealed a perfusion defect near the anterior apex of the heart, involving some minor blood vessels. After the usual three hours rest period, the perfusion defect returned to normal.

An Echogram revealed a 10 to 15 percent defect of the mitral valve that permits some blood to regurgitate from the left ventricle back into the left auricle. The Cardiologist stated that if I live another ten years - somewhere along the line - the mitral valve will have to be surgically replaced. (The mitral valve works week after week, month after month, year after year, slowly degenerating as it labors without rest for 24 hours a day, contracting over two and one-half billion times prior to age seventy.)

As of today, the Cardiologist believes I am not a candidate for a pacemaker, a by-pass, an angiogram, angioplasty, or a valve replacement. (An angiogram with angioplasty performed now in those small vessels could cause more difficulty and therefore is not worth the risk.)

Currently, I take Coumadin and Lanoxin daily, and Lasix occasionally. I don't want to think or even talk about a mitral valve replacement at this stage of my life.

The moral of this story: Please don't get old!

Sincerely,



Daniel Koprince, D.O.

Dermatology Practice For Sale

Well established, private, dermatology practice in Largo, Florida, for sale. Located in the heart of the Tampa Bay area near St. Petersburg and Clearwater beaches. Negotiable terms. Will consider association or staying on, if desired. Contact: Steven C. Roberts, D.O. at 813/585-4017 evenings or weekends.

CALENDAR FOR AOCD/AOA FUTURE CONVENTIONS

1992	November 1-5	San Diego, CA
1993	October 10-14	Boston, MA
1994	November 13-17	San Francisco, CA
1995	October 15-19	Orlando, FL
1996	(dates tba)	Las Vegas, NV
1997	October 19-23	San Antonio, TX
1998	(dates tba)	Nashville, TN
1999	October 31-November 4	San Francisco, CA
2000	(dates tba)	Orlando, FL
2001	(dates tba)	Las Vegas, NV

PRESIDENT MAHON RESPONDS TO RBRVS

In a letter to Gail Wilensky, Ph.D., Administrator of the Health Care Finance Administration, AOCD President Michael Mahon, D.O., urged Dr. Wilensky to reconsider the conversion factor under the new Medicare fee schedule and requested HCFA eliminate the behavioral offset adjustment (that measure that reflects HCFA's assumption that doctors whose services will be paid less under the new fee schedule will attempt to compensate by increasing the volume of services they provide.) He stressed that no data exists to support this assumption and that volume would be adequately addressed by the volume performance standard passed by Congress in 1989.

In addition, Dr. Mahon asked that the conversion factor not be lowered to offset increases that result from the asymmetry of the transition from the current method of reimbursement to the fee schedule. This asymmetry occurs because the traditionally undervalued fees, which will increase under the fee schedule, increase faster through the transition formula than the overvalued procedures decrease. If the conversion factor is lowered, it will result in decreased reimbursement for those same cognitive services which were scheduled to receive increases in reimbursement under the new payment system.

Originally the Congress said the new Medicare fee schedule would provide for more equitable reimbursement to doctors. Under the resource-based relative value scale (RBRVS), however, physicians, especially specialties like dermatology, could take serious cuts.

-Michael J. Mahon, D.O.
AOCD President

Although HCFA initially stated the new fee schedule, developed by Harvard University professor William Hsaio, Ph.D., was not tied to the Federal Budget in any way and consideration for reducing the Budget was not a factor, Dr. Mahon stated in his letter of August 2, 1991, he believed the conversion factor was set solely on the basis of Budget requirements. He also stated he felt the fee schedule would not provide for equitable payment for all physicians as Congress had stated it would when the law mandating Medicare physician payment reform was passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards

- Eugene T. Conte, D.O.

Members are reminded that the 1991 Koprince Awards will once again be chosen from those presenting at the AOCD Annual Meeting in November in New Orleans. Three recipients will be chosen from the residents presenting papers and two will be chosen from physicians in practice. The winners are chosen using criteria such as verbal presentation, content, application to clinical practice, visual presentation and original research. The awards are funded by a grant from our own Dr. Dan Koprince and are intended to promote excellence in our educational presentations.

Winners of the 1990 Koprince Awards will be recognized and presented special plaques at the Annual Banquet this year.

As indicated in the last newsletter, the Awards Committee is accepting nominations for the "Albert P. Ulbrich, D.O. Lifetime Achievement Award". (To date we have not received any nominations.) Please submit your nominations in writing to the national office in Atlanta. Nominations submitted this year will be reviewed at our committee meeting in November with the award being presented at the 1991 meeting.

Applications for the Ulbrich Memorial Research Grant are still available from the AOCD office in Atlanta. It is quite disappointing that, as of this date, no residents/trainees have applied for this monetary grant for original research.

Bylaws

- Charles G. Hughes, D.O.

Bylaws changes have been mailed to members for their consideration prior to the Annual Meeting on November 5, 1991 in New Orleans. If you did not receive a copy, please contact the AOCD office in Atlanta.

Convention - program

- Shelly A. Friedman, D.O.

By now most of you are aware of all the exciting changes in our program this year. Beginning with the Schering-sponsored reception on Sunday night, to the lineup of nationally recognized speakers, breakfast sessions, and workshops, we believe this year will prove a very rewarding experience for all who attend.

It is necessary for you to register as a member of AOCD. To attend the Annual Reception and Banquet on Monday night you will need to purchase a ticket from the AOA for your spouse or guest. You will also need to purchase tickets for the breakfast didactic sessions through the AOCD (I hope everyone will take advantage of these). But, there is no additional charge for the remainder of the additions to the program (i.e. flap and graft workshop, concurrent didactic sessions, and Sunday night reception).

Convention - Educational Program Fund

- Michael J. Scott, D.O.

Included in this newsletter is an updated list of companies who have provided contributions for our upcoming Annual Meeting in New Orleans. We are especially pleased to add so many NEW companies to our list. I want to thank all of you who have talked to your local representatives and encouraged their participation. This really helps so much! Now, I want to ask you to post the list in your office and alert your staff to thank representative from each of these companies for their support. We need to let them know that their contributions to our College are recognized and appreciated. Thanks again!

Education Evaluating

- James D. Bernard, D.O.

The Education Evaluating Committee met in Chicago September 13 and 14 to review annual training reports, new training programs, and inspection reports. We also "fine-tuned" the updated Basic Criteria for Residency Training in Dermatology which will be submitted to the AOA Committee on Postdoctoral Training in November. In the meantime, a moratorium on any NEW PRECEPTORS has been approved by the AOA Board of Trustees.

I am pleased to report that Dr. Gene Conte has obtained approval from Grandview Hospital for a Dermatologic/Mohs Surgery Fellowship. He submitted the necessary paperwork to the Committee for its recommendation. The Committee has recommended approval to the AOA COPT.

One other action taken by the Committee was the development of a packet of information that can be provided to members, upon request, who have completed their training and are awaiting board certification exams. Some members are reporting problems with the "board eligibility" status as it applies to obtaining hospital privileges, medical liability insurance, etc. Anyone experiencing problems in this area should contact Cathy Garris, Executive Director at the national AOCD office in Atlanta.

The Education Evaluating Committee met during the AOA's 2nd Annual Graduate Medical Education Conference. The Conference was excellent . . . particularly for those of us involved in training. I encourage all program directors to plan to attend next year's meeting.

Finally, a reminder to all residents and preceptees: All scientific papers, program documentation, etc. must be submitted to the AOA Department of Education in Chicago. I recommend that copies be made of all materials and they be kept in a safe place just in case the originals are lost.

1992 Education Evaluating Committee meetings: February 15 & 16 and August 29 & 30, 1992. Both meetings will be held in Atlanta. The next AOA Graduate Medical Education Meeting: September 12 & 13, 1992 in Chicago.

Committee Reports continued to page 4

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday, November 5, 1991
2:00 pm - Sheraton Hotel

Educational Research Fund

- Eugene T. Conte, D.O.

We are continually soliciting contributions from various sources for research and educational grants for osteopathic dermatology residents. The Ulbrich Memorial Research grant is only one of the grants administered by the fund. Our efforts will continue on a daily basis to build bigger and better resources within the fund. "Thanks" to all who contribute to this fund each year with their membership renewals.

Ethics

- Eugene T. Conte, D.O.

Your Ethics Committee is currently working on standardized guidelines for responding and evaluating member inquiries. These should be ready for distribution by our November meeting.

The AOCD has adopted the AOA Code of Ethics for use as a guide for members in their professional lives. The standards presented are designed to address the osteopathic physician's responsibility to others involved in health care, to patients, and to society.

Unfortunately, there have been several complaints and inquiries regarding the questionable ethical nature of member activity. The AOCD Ethics Committee does not serve the same function as a "peer review committee". Matters of a peer review nature should be addressed on the local level (i.e. hospital peer review committee, state osteopathic association, and state licensing board). However, information concerning actions by these state entities should be forwarded to the AOCD Ethics Committee which in turn will review the information and forward to the AOA Committee on Ethics for possible action on the part of the AOA.

To become more familiar with the AOCD/AOA Code of Ethics, please refer to the AOCD Membership Directory (pg. 48) and the AOA Membership Directory (pg. 494-496).

Intraining Examinations Committee

- Eugene T. Conte, D.O.

As previously reported the date and time of this year's Intraining Exams is: Sunday (11/3) from 7:00 am to 12:00 noon in New Orleans. All first, second and third year residents are required to sit for the exam. This year's exam will consist of 220 multiple choice questions from the following areas: Basic Science, Dermatopathology, Pharmacology, Immunology, Microbiology, Clinical Dermatology and a new section on Dermatologic Surgery. There will be a 20 question Kodachrome slide quiz added to the exam. This section will be given by Dr. Jere Mammino at 8:00 am. The written exam will follow.

All residents should have received a registration card in August. If you did not receive a card, please call Dr. Conte at 513/436-1433.

GOOD LUCK AND STUDY HARD!

MEMBERSHIP

- Gene E. Graff, D.O.

Statements for membership renewals have been mailed each month beginning in June . . . however, several of our members have not yet renewed their membership! I urge you to do so as soon as possible. (If you have not renewed your membership, a dues notice is included in this newsletter.)

Remember, you can save YOUR College \$\$\$ on postage, supplies, and time by responding quickly to matters that require a reply. We value each of you and want to keep you on our membership rolls. Don't be left out of this year's Membership Directory . . . get those dues in now!

We also included this year a membership application update. Thanks to all who returned them. It's important that our College's records are kept up to date.

AOBD

-Thomas H. Bonino, D.O., Secretary/treasurer

Residents/trainees are reminded that in order to sit for their certification boards in the **year they complete their programs**, they must request a board certification packet from me at least by January 1 of their third year. All materials requested in the packet must be received in my office no later than April 1 of the year they wish to be certified.

Membership in the AOA during your training period is a requirement for board certification. Applicants for board exams will be reviewed by the AOA Department of Membership to assure they have met that requirement.

For more information on board certification requirements, contact Dr. Bonino's office.

AOCD Annual Banquet To Feature AOA President-Elect

The AOCD Annual Banquet scheduled for Monday (11/4) at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans will feature recently-elected AOA president-elect Edward A. Loniewski, D.O. of Redford, Michigan. Dr. Loniewski is certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery and is a past president and fellow of the AOAO and the ACOS. He is a founding member of the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine.

On a national level, Dr. Loniewski is a member of the AOA Board of Trustees and has served as a past chair of many major committees of the AOA.

The Annual Banquet will follow the C&M Parmacal Reception. Reservations must be made through the AOCD office. Tickets for physicians in practice are included in the AOA registration packet, however, tickets for spouses and/or guests should be purchased from the AOA. Tickets for residents/trainees and their spouses and/or guests are gratis, but reservations are required in advance through the AOCD office.