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Hello Fellows and Residents,

This has been a great year for the AOCD as much has been achieved.

For starters, the College had a great Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. One of my first goals was to appoint leaders to the multiple AOCD committees. I instructed each of them to review their committees and come back with ideas for improvement, which they have done.

In March, we had a very successful Midyear Meeting in Santa Fe. The attendance was outstanding. The lectures were very educational and everyone seemed to have a great time. I wish to thank Dr. Mark Epstein for planning such a great meeting.

This year, Dr. Edward Yob and I have worked with the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) to help create an ASDS Osteopathic Dermatologist membership category. The Society is currently working on creating another new membership category, the Osteopathic Dermatology Resident. If you are not a member of the Society and you perform dermatological surgery, then you should consider joining the ASDS.

At the February American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Convention, I attended the AAD Presidential Banquet, at which the AOCD presence was greatly appreciated. I have worked with the AAD as well as several other organizations in order for our DO dermatology residents to begin receiving complimentary copies of the following publications: Dermatologic Surgery, Archives of Dermatology, Cosmetic Dermatology, Dermatology Times, and Skin and Allergy News. I am working on getting dermatology residency programs to review their committees and come back with ideas for improvement, which they have done.

In March, we had a very successful Midyear Meeting in Santa Fe. The attendance was outstanding. The lectures were very educational and everyone seemed to have a great time. I wish to thank Dr. Mark Epstein for planning such a great meeting.

The AOCD has come a long way in the last nearly 50 years. The days of preceptor programs are over. The College will only approve quality osteopathic dermatology programs and will not allow for anything like a preceptorship program to exist ever again. Today, the AOCD has 290 DO Fellows and 87 DO Residents in training at 21 DO AOA/AOCD Dermatology Residency Programs. The AOBP is our certifying dermatology board and is composed of some of our very best DO Fellows. We have an outstanding staff with Becky Mansfield as our Executive Director. I am very proud of what our prior leaders and Fellows have done for us. They have created the foundation for what we are today. They have a legacy that we can all be very proud of. This year, we have an outstanding Executive Committee: Officers and Board of Trustees who have committed themselves to continuing to improve the AOCD for each of you and our future residents. They are the caretakers of our great College.

In closing, I ask each of you to give back to the AOCD through your membership, leadership, attendance at our Annual and Midyear Meetings, and by mentoring our osteopathic residents and students.

In less than five months we will, once again, gather together at our Annual Convention. Dr. Gottlieb is planning an outstanding educational meeting and he will be installed as our next President for 2007-2008. I hope that each of you will make plans for yourself and your family to attend this next AOA/AOCD Convention in San Diego. It will be outstanding! Great osteopathic dermatology is achieved through excellence.

Sincerely,

Bill V. Way, D.O., FAOCD
AOCD President, 2006-2007

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**Upcoming Events**

**2007 Scripps Course**
July 9-13, 2007
San Diego, Calif.

**AOCD MIDYEAR MEETING**
March 12-15, 2008
Monterey, Calif.

**Annual Meeting 2007**
San Diego, Calif.
Sept. 30 - Oct. 4
check www.AOCD.org/meetings for the latest updates

**Update Contact Information**
Is your contact information current? If not, you may be missing need-to-know news from the AOCD.
Visit www.aocd.org/members. Click on the red box on the right side of the screen to update your info.
Should you have trouble accessing your profile, you can fax the new information to 660-627-2623. Send the fax to the attention of Marsha Wise, Resident Coordinator.

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Keeping it all Together: the AOCD Staff

As the AOCD celebrates its 50th anniversary, one of its members would like to get a behind-the-scenes glimpse at the staff who help keep the College running.

You may still be talking about the evening reception at the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum during the Midyear Meeting, the keynote speaker Bruce Christopher, or the more than 40 vendors in the exhibit hall. But did you ever wonder how that great venue came to serve as the backdrop for the meeting, how the speaker had all the presentation equipment he needed, or how all those booths were set up for all those vendors?

And it’s not just meetings that need arranging. Board certification and residency programs must be verified, AOA regulations must be kept up with and dating due, reports must be filed, and funding must be continually sought after and found.

Enter the AOCD staff, the people behind the scenes at the College that keep it moving forward.

**Executive Director**

More than 12 years at the AOCD, Executive Director Rebecca Mansfield was drafted into the position. Working as an office manager for Lloyd Cleaver, D.O., FAOCD, Mansfield received a call from her boss who was attending the 1994 annual AOCD meeting in Chicago in July. They had just fired the executive director, and as luck would have it, her boss was none other than Becky’s husband. As And speaking of family, the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary Michael Gottlieb, who has served as an integral part of the team, especially for the Annual and Midyear Meetings. She helps with registration, setting up the banquet and awards presentations, receptions, committee meetings, and exams. She’s a back-up to the executive editor for a little while, as well.

**Corp. Development Coordinator**

Although Shirley Gottlieb, Coordinator of Corporate Development, works off-site, she is very much a part of the AOCD family. When the College was looking to expand its corporate development efforts two years ago, she jumped at the chance to pitch in. “It’s exciting to work with an organization that is growing and to help elevate it to a higher level,” says Gottlieb, who has a background in corporate development.

Among her primary responsibilities is tracking residents’ training information and reports, which isn’t an easy task with 87 residents. The AOA requires residency program directors to complete the Resident’s Annual Report and the Annual Paper Documentation Report within 30 days of completing their training year. Additionally, program directors are required to annually complete a Program Director’s Report and Core Competency Annual Form for each osteopathic physician in the program as well as due within 30 days of completion of the training year. Given that failure to meet these deadlines may result in delayed evaluation and approval of the training year, there is a lot at stake. Wise’s goal is to have 100 percent on-time resident report turn in, she says only half jokingly.

One gets the sense that working at the AOCD headquarters is more like working at a family business, where tasks are often completed as a “community effort.” Just ask the Mansfields, who are working with the College to develop the Inside the Brochure, her husband and office manager, Chri...
Deadline for Fellows of Distinction Nearly Here

The deadline for applications for consideration as a Fellow of Distinction is fast approaching. By submitting the Fellow of Distinction application by July 1, the Fellow Committee will be able to thoroughly review the applicant’s qualifications and contributions in time for his or her induction at the 2007 Annual AAOCD Convention.

The honorary title of Fellow of Distinction at the AAOCD may be conferred on members who have made outstanding contributions through teaching, authorship, research, or professional leadership to the College.

For consideration as a Fellow of Distinction, the applicant must submit an application to the Fellowship Committee. If favorably reviewed, the candidate’s application will be presented to the Executive Committee at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Following successful review by the Executive Committee, the applicant will be presented to the general membership at its annual business meeting. Upon a 66% majority vote in favor of the candidate’s credentials by the general membership, the Fellow of Distinction candidate will be inducted during the Presidential Banquet at the Annual Meeting.

To obtain an application, either download one from the AAOCD Web site at www.aocd.org or contact the national office to request a copy.

New Criteria for Fellows of Distinction

Upon recommendation of the Fellow Committee at the 2007 Midyear Meeting, the Executive Committee approved new criteria for a Fellow of Distinction of the AAOCD.

Effective in 2009, a candidate must:
• Be a member of good standing of the AOA for a period of not less than 7 years;
• Be a member in good standing of the AAOCD for a period of not less than 7 years;
• Be a Diplomate of the AOBDD for a period of not less than 7 years;
• Be recognized as a leader among his or her peers by being active in the AOA, AOCO, and/or AOBDD for at least 7 years;
• Have obtained at least 100 service points by working in an administrative or educational capacity of the AOA, AOCO, and/or the AOBDD for a period of not less than 7 years; and
• Have obtained 200 cumulative service points prior to fellowship consideration.

For more information about the Fellows of Distinction, visit the AAOCD Web site at www.aocd.org.

AOCD Contributes to AOA Greatness Campaign

The AOCD recently contributed $1,000 to the AOA Greatness Fund.

At the Midyear Meeting, President Bill Way, D.O., FAOCD, requested that the Executive Committee make the donation, which was unanimously approved. In doing so, the AOCD joins 10 other medical associations in this endeavor. “The AOCD wishes to thank all the DO dermatologists who have made individual contributions to the AOA Greatness Fund,” says Dr. Way.

The fund is one of three programs that comprise the AOA Greatness Campaign created to ensure that the AOA and the osteopathic profession move from “good” to “great.” The campaign is designed to create a greater awareness of DOs and osteopathic medicine. Funds raised may be used to, for example, run a television ad campaign, launch a national campaign to improve the nation’s health, or fund a multi-million dollar osteopathic research project.

AOA President John Strosnider, D.O., is asking each DO to contribute $1.37 a day, and interns and residents 69 cents a day for two years to the AOA Greatness Fund. If every DO member made this pledge, the AOA would raise more than $29 million.

Another program, the AOA Greatness Corps, offers DOs an opportunity to affect and influence AOA policy by offering suggestions on proposed resolutions. Members can do so by joining this e-community.

The third component of the campaign, the “1880 or Bust Gift Membership” is an invitation to DOs who are not AOA members or have not been members since May 31, 2005 to become one valid through May 31, 2007.

To learn more about the AOA Greatness Campaign, visit the AOA Web site at www.do-online.org.
Dr. Byrd Named “Top Doc”

Roger C. Byrd, D.O., FAOCD, of Rochester Hills, Mich., was named “Top Doc” by Hour Detroit Magazine for the second consecutive year.

“I was very pleased and surprised. I have no idea how my name got on the list, but I’m glad it did,” he says, contrary to some of his colleagues who joked that Dr. Byrd must have purchased advertising space in the magazine to receive the recognition.

He learned of his place on the list in October 2005 when a staff member informed him. Last year, Dr. Byrd received a notice from the magazine. “It’s not like people began beating our door down, but several patients have remarked to us about it, which is a good thing,” he says. Dr. Byrd now has a plaque acknowledging his “Top Doc” status hanging in the office. In addition, the magazine hosted a party at the Symphony Hall in downtown Detroit for all of the doctors last year. “There was a reception and a band,” he says. “It was a nice affair.”

In a congratulatory note to Dr. Byrd, John E. Bodell, D.O., President of the Michigan Osteopathic Association wrote, “I congratulate you on being named as a ‘Top Doc.’ To be nominated is an honor for which you should be especially proud, and you should know that it is also a point of pride for your colleagues. Thank you for the positive exposure you garnered for the osteopathic profession, and thank you for the leadership you exhibit through your work.”

Of the 12 dermatologists named, Dr. Byrd was the only osteopathic dermatologist to make the list.

To choose the physicians, the magazine’s staff sends an annual survey to nearly 6,000 medical professionals in the metro Detroit area asking them “To whom would you refer a loved one for medical care?”

Dr. Byrd has been in private practice at Rochester Dermatology since 1973. He also is on staff at both Crittenton and Beaumont hospitals.

Midyear Meeting Highlights

by Marc I. Epstein, D.O., 2nd Vice President

I wish to thank all the attendees whose participation helped make this year’s Midyear Meeting on March 28th-31st, 2007, in Santa Fe, such a phenomenal success. The Executive Committee knows just how hard it is for its members to take time from their business and family responsibilities to attend. Your support of our College is greatly appreciated.

Your Executive Committee and I hope the attendees will let the rest of our colleagues, who were unable to attend, know just how great the midyear meetings have become.

We enjoyed excellent accommodations, cuisine, and refreshments at the El Dorado Hotel while taking in the natural beauty of Santa Fe and New Mexico. We feasted our eyes with inspiring artwork, as well as our palate during an evening reception at the Georgia O’Keeffe museum. There were engaging conversations along with useful give-aways from more than 40 vendors who graciously supported the meeting and its events. On the last night of the meeting, we partook in a delicious president’s dinner with hors d’oeuvres, top shelf liquor, and a southwestern buffet.

Educationally, the meeting was a resounding success with 23 hours of CME credits. The residents’ lectures on Wednesday evening and the attending lectures on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings were both engaging and informative. The Executive Committee and I want to thank all the lecturers for making this year’s meeting a truly outstanding one.

This year’s Midyear Meeting also successfully launched a few important firsts. An extremely sought after keynote speaker, Bruce Christopher, psychologist and humorist, gave two interactive lectures that let us laugh while we learned: “Why Are Women So Strange and Men So Weird?” or “How to Communicate Effectively, Reduce Frustration, and Increase Success in your Life and Work?” and “It’s Hard to Lead the Charge...If You Think You Look Funny on a Horse—the Power of Attitude Mechanics.” You can get a glimpse of Bruce’s captivating performances or a copy of them on his Web site at www.bceseminars.com. Attendees don’t forget that Bruce is extending to you a 50% discount on videos/DVDs/CDs of his lectures/seminars that you can share with your office staff, family, friends, and/or colleagues.

Another first was an outstanding interactive Live Patient Workshop led by Mark Nestor M.D., Ph.D., a leading international expert on Botox and fillers. With the help of Dr. Contreras, M.D., a University of New Mexico dermatology professor, we obtained a temporary state license for Dr. Nestor, so he could perform the injections. An on-screen video projection allowed all attendees to experience a virtual front row viewing.

Lastly, as an incentive for attendance, a drawing was held for a 2-gigabyte Memorex Flashdrive at the end of each day’s lectures.

Your 3rd Vice-President, Dr. Leslie Kramer, is already hard at work planning our next Midyear Meeting slated for March 2008 in beautiful Monterey, Calif. If I were you, I would put it on your CME schedule and RSVP as soon as registration begins, so you won’t be disappointed when it fills up.

Finally, I want to thank (and when you get the chance you should too) our Executive Director Becky Mansfield and her staff; our Coordinator of Corporate Development Shirley Gottlieb; our CME Site Selection Chair, Dr. Bob Schwarze, and his committee; our newsletter editor, Ruth Carol and her staff; and Dr. Michael Scott for their invaluable help in putting on this year’s Midyear Meeting.

2007 Annual Meeting Shaping Up

The speakers list is nearly complete for the 2007 AOCD Annual Meeting slated for Sept. 30-Oct. 4 in San Diego.

While speakers may be addressing familiar dermatology topics, they will be focusing on what is new and how related procedures/surgeries can be added to one’s practice, explains Program Chair Jay Gottlieb, D.O., FAOCD. “Attendees will be able to walk away knowing how to add a particular procedure to their practice or, based on what they learned, that they don’t want to add it,” he says.

A welcome reception will be held Sunday evening. Lectures will begin on Monday followed by the Presidential Banquet that evening. Tuesday and Wednesday will be devoted to both resident and guest speakers. Several of the latter are College members.

Look for more details about the Annual Meeting in the next issue of the AOCD Newsletter.
San Diego: From Natural Harbors to a Dazzling Downtown

Framed by inland mountains and one of the most beautiful natural harbors in the world, San Diego will be host of the 2007 AOC National Annual Meeting slated for Sept. 30-Oct. 4.

The second largest city in California comprises several charming and distinct neighborhoods to stroll through, or party in, depending on your preference.

Gaslamp Quarter

The Gaslamp Quarter is a 16.5 block historic district located around Fourth and Fifth Avenues. It is filled with grand Victorian-era buildings that are home to more than 100 restaurants, 40 nightclubs, and 100 retail shops, as well as theaters and art galleries. Cuisines to be savored include Afghan, Brazilian, Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Persian, Spanish, and Thai.

For a guided walking tour of the area, contact the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation. On the map is the William Heath Davis Historical House Museum, and the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Park and the San Diego Zoo. For a guided walking tour of the area, contact the Gaslamp Quarter Historical Foundation.

Many of the story-telling docents are veterans who served aboard the carrier. The floating Maritime Museum of San Diego features one of the finest collections of historic ships in the world, including the Star of India, the oldest active sailing ship.

Horton Plaza

A multi-level, outdoor shopping and entertainment center, Horton Plaza offers 130 specialty shops, restaurants, a movie theatre, and performing arts theatre. Well known for its whimsical and vibrantly colored design, it was created to resemble a European marketplace and function like an amusement park with colorful pathways, bridges, and staggered levels. There you will find the Lyceum Theater, home to the San Diego Repertory Theatre featuring comedies and dramas exploring cultural diversity. The Spreckels Theater built in 1912 hosts shows ranging from special theatrical engagements to rock concerts and dance performances by the City Ballet of San Diego.

Getting Around Town

Downtown San Diego is best explored on foot, with short city blocks and most streets running one way in a grid pattern for easy navigation. For those with weary feet, the following alternate modes of transportation exist:

Pocket parks are available daily along most downtown streets, particularly in the Gaslamp Quarter and along the Embarradero in the Columbia and Marina neighborhoods.

San Diego Tour Coupes’ and GoCar Tours, a fleet of three-wheel mini-cars were designed for tourists wanting to escape tour bus traffic. Up to two people can jump into these topless, miniature vehicles and enjoy a GPS-guided audio tour highlighting 100 city sites.

Converted British double decker buses ride through Old Town, Balboa Park, the Gaslamp Quarter, Seaport Village, and the San Diego Zoo.

Although a Kayak tour won’t get you around town, it will get you a view of the amazing San Diego sunsets. Enjoy paddling in the La Jolla Sea Caves and witness the many sea lions sunning on the cliffs late in the day as they feed.

Places to Visit

With sunny skies (Don’t forget the sunscreen!) and temperatures in the 70s, take advantage of the 70 miles of beaches or other attractions in the other city by the bay.

The San Diego Zoo is one of the largest, most progressive zoos in the world with more than 4,000 animals of 800-plus species on 100 acres of parkland in Balboa Park, just north of downtown along Park Boulevard. The zoo is known for its giant pandas that live in the Giant Panda Research Station. Don’t miss the newest bears live in the Giant Panda Research Station. Don’t miss the newest and most ambitious exhibit at the zoo, the Monkey Trails and Forest Trails.

SeaWorld San Diego is celebrating America’s musical heritage with the Sea to Shining Sea Music Festival, Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 6-7. The festival features four stages of live music. Don’t forget to check out the Journey to Atlantis, Shamu’s Happy Harbor, and “Believe,” a new Shamu show. Venture beyond the public exhibits for a unique interactive experience with the park’s arctic animals, including an in-pool encounter with beluga whales, as part of Wild Arctic Interaction.

Take a guided tour through remote Africa and Asia and see exotic animals in their habitats at the San Diego Wild Animal Park. The 1,800-acre wildlife sanctuary is home to more than 3,500 animals representing 429 species, including the largest crash of rhinos in any zoological facility and one of the only California condor exhibits in the world. View animals lounging in their natural settings or come face-to-face with Africa’s biggest cats at Lion Camp. Modeled after the air balloon tours of the Serengeti, the Balloon Safari offers scenic views of the grounds.

LEGOLAND California offers more than 50 rides, shows, and attractions. For the 15th year, a recreation of the city of Las Vegas built out of more than two million bricks. Also new is Captain Cranky’s Challenge, a ride that will test any rider’s sea worthiness, located in the park’s Pirates Shores.

The region boasts a variety of vineyards, from large wineries that feature guided tours and gift shops to small family-run places where you can elbow up to the oak bar to taste a fume blanc and petite sirah. Most wineries are located off Interstate 15, approximately a 45-minute to an hour’s drive north of downtown San Diego. These include the Bernardo Winery, Falkner Winery, Balboa Park, and Orfila Vineyards. If you don’t want to leave the area, the San Diego Wine & Culinary Center located downtown. The center offers tours that feature an explanation of the winemaking process along with a barrel tasting.

The city is hopping the week of the Annual Meeting. The following is a sample of events.

The Fleet Week Parade of Ships is Sept. 30 on the Bay. Watch the parade of aircraft carriers, U.S. & international ships, Navy SEALs, Navy submarines, Coast Guard cutters, harrier jets, and helicopters. Tickets are $25.

Adams Avenue Street Fair on Sept. 29 and 30 is Southern California’s largest free music festival. It features more than 80 musical acts on seven outdoor stages. The fair that takes place on Adams Avenue, between Bancroft and 35th streets, also has more than 400 food, arts and craft vendors, and carnival rides.

The 6th Annual San Diego Film Festival to be held Sept. 27-30 in the Gaslamp Quarter features 100 award-winning films, intimate gatherings with filmmakers and celebrities, high-powered industry workshops, and four nights of the city’s most glamorous parties. Tickets range in price from $10 to $250.

The AFC West Division Champion San Diego Chargers host division rival Kansas City at Qualcomm Stadium at 1:15 p.m. on Sept. 30.

As part of the Old Globe Theatre’s renowned summer Shakespeare Festival, you can catch Measure for Measure, Hamlet, or The Two Gentlemen of Verona. If the Bard is not your taste, see the world premiere musical, A Catered Affair, by Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein at the three-venue complex in Balboa Park.

For more information on San Diego events, visit the Web site www.sandiego.org/event.
Golfers Wanted

AOCD members who want to tee off at next year’s Midyear Meeting, March 12-15, 2008 in Monterey, Calif., are in the process of planning a golf tournament.

The proposed site for the tournament is the Del Monte Golf Course, a part of Pebble Beach Resorts. This beautiful course is one of the oldest and most storied courses in the country and is the oldest active golf course west of the Mississippi River, says President Bill Way, D.O., FAOCD. For more information on the course, visit pebblebeach.com and click on the “Del Monte Course” under the Golf menu. It is conveniently located adjacent to the Hyatt Regency Monterey, which is the meeting site. “We already have close to 20 responses and are looking for more participants,” he says.

If interested in participating, please contact Dr. Way at drwaydo@swbell.net.

More information regarding the tournament will come in subsequent issues of the AOCD Newsletter. We hope to see you on the course!

Number of DO Graduates on the Rise

Both the number of graduates from colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) and osteopathic medical internship positions approved by the AOCD continues to increase, according to a study published in a recent issue of the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA).

Using annual data from the AOCD’s Intern/Resident Registration Program as well as the Trainee Information, Verification, and Registration Audit, the number of graduates rose two percent while the number of internship positions rose one percent for the 2004-2005 academic year.

The number of dermatology residents followed suit. In 2003-2004, there were 19 programs, 97 positions, and 53 residents. In 2004-2005, there were 18 programs, 95 positions, and 56 residents. In 2005-2006, there were 19 programs, 106 positions, and 66 residents.

These numbers are slightly different from the numbers calculated by the AOCD. For example, in 2003-2004, the College reports 15 programs, 74 positions available, and 66 positions filled. In 2004-2005, there were 15 programs, 84 positions available, and 74 positions filled. In 2005-2006, there were 18 programs, 98 positions available, and 86 positions filled. In 2006-2007, the AOCD reports there are 20 programs, 111 positions available, and 86 residents.

Becky Mansfield, AOCD Executive Director, says the discrepancy may be because the hospitals do not turn in their numbers at the same time. Either way, both sets of figures do point to an increase in the number of dermatology resident graduates.

The study appeared in the February 2007 issue of the JAOA, Vol. 107, No. 2.

Residents Update

By Marsha Wise, Resident Coordinator

Hi Everyone,

It will soon be time to submit your Annual Reports. Remember these are due 30 days after your training period ends or late fees will be assessed. All the necessary forms can be downloaded from the AOCD-Web site at www.auocc.org/reports. Don’t forget to include the Paper Documentation form, which also needs to be signed by your program director. All documents must be received before your training year can be approved. One suggestion: Submit everything at the same time. As residents, it is your responsibility to make sure these reports are submitted.

Plans are underway for the Annual Meeting in San Diego. Mailings are scheduled to go out in the near future. The In-Training Exam is scheduled for Sunday, September 30, 2007, starting at 7 a.m. Your 2007 AOCD dues MUST BE PAID before you can take this exam.

If you are planning to present a lecture at the Annual Meeting and have not turned in an Intent-to-Lecture Form, time is running out. Please e-mail or fax your intent to me ASAP.

Information has been submitted to the American Academy of Dermatology for residents to receive their complimentary subscription to the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD) based on the current mailing address we have on file. If you have moved or are moving, it is your responsibility to submit a change of address to the JAAD. Residents will also begin to receive a complimentary subscription to Cosmetic Dermatology.

The 2007 Scripps Course entitled Superficial Anatomy & Subcutaneous Surgery is scheduled for July 9-13, 2007 in San Diego. Medicis has provided a grant for AOCD third-year residents (as of 7-07) to attend.

Currently, 32 new residents will start their residencies July 1.

Residents who celebrated April birthdays are Drs. Asfa Akhtar, Derrick Elias, Lynora Bassett, Joseph Schneider, Patricia Klem, Dwayne Monte, Andrew Razette, and Dan Marshall.

Residents who celebrated May birthdays are Drs. Kaia Hannemann, Aaron Bruce, Angela Leo, Kevin DeHart, and Kelly DeHart.

Residents celebrating June birthdays are Drs. Asfa Akhtar, Derrick Elias, Lynora Bassett, Joseph Schneider, Patricia Klem, Dwayne Monte, Andrew Razette, and Dan Marshall.

AOCD Welcomes 32 New Residents

Thirty-two new residents will begin their residency programs as of July 1.

The new residents are as follows:

• Wade Keller, D.O. (AZCOM/AZ Desert Dermatology & Surgery PC);
• Sara Mamin, D.O., (Valley Hospital Medical Center);
• Christopher Weyer, D.O., (Northeast Regional Medical Center);
• Denise Guevara, D.O., and Prethi Sundaram, D.O., (Wellington Regional Medical Center);
• Reagan Anderson, D.O., and Brandon Minor, D.O., (Oakwood Southshore Medical Center);
• Shannon Campbell, D.O., and Keoni Nguyen, D.O., (O’Brien Memorial Hospital);
• Jack Griffith, D.O., (Pacific Hospital/Western University);
• Michelle Jeffries, D.O., (COMP/Phoenix Area Dermatology);
• Michelle Foley, D.O., and Derrick Adams, D.O., (Pontiac/Botsford Osteopathic Hospital);
• Lyubov Avashalumova, D.O., Johnny Gurger, D.O., and Isis Ross, D.O., (NSUCOM/Sun Coast Hospital);
• Amara Sayed, D.O., and Andleeb Usmani, D.O., (Columbia Hospital);
• Nicole Bright, D.O., Melinda Canroy, D.O., and Joseph Laskas, D.O., (Frankford Hospital);
• Christophert Buatt, D.O., (Genesis Regional Medical Center);
• Matthew Elias, D.O., Emily Rubenstein, D.O., and Angela Cambs, D.O., (NSUCOM/BGMC);
• Travis Lam, D.O., and Heather Vollman, D.O., (OUCOM/UEHS Richmond Heights Hospitals);
• Krina Chavda, D.O., (St. John’s Episcopal Hospital, South Shore);
• Patrick Kehan, D.O., (Northeast Regional Medical Center) and;
• David Cleaver, D.O., Jason Mazzurco, D.O., and Brooke Sliker, D.O., (St. Joseph Mercy Health System)

The AOCD welcomes the new residents and wishes them the best of luck in their endeavors.
Second-year Resident Kevin Belasco, D.O., at Sun Coast Hospital Dermatology Residency Program/Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine in Largo, Fla., was an invited speaker at the 16th Annual Florida/Caribbean AIDS Education & Training Center Conference held in March.

His lecture was entitled “Emerging Issues in HIV: MRSA Skin Infections.” It focused on early diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of community-acquired and hospital-associated methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections in the setting of HIV, says Dr. Belasco. He also discussed the epidemiology of MRSA and recent trends toward multidrug resistance.

Lecturing to the group of more than 70 physicians, pharmacists, and nurses was challenging, given the diverse range of experience among the audience in this field, he says. “I enjoy teaching and have always been interested in infectious disease dermatology. I also wanted to contribute in some way to the emerging topic of MRSA, especially in the setting of HIV. As dermatologists—opinion leaders, I believe we should gain a strong understanding of infectious disease dermatology.”

In addition, Dr. Belasco contributed a chapter entitled “Dermatological Manifestations of HIV/AIDS” published last year in the HIV/AIDS Primary Care Guide, which was edited by members of the Florida/Caribbean AIDS Education and Training Center based at the University of South Florida.

Resident Speaks at AIDS Conference

ASDS Accepts Resident’s Paper for Presentation

The American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) has accepted Tony Nakhlia’s, D.O., abstract for presentation at its 2007 annual meeting.

Dr. Nakhlia is a first-year Resident at Pacific Hospital/Western University in Long Beach, Calif. The abstract he submitted in spring is entitled “Cerclage Technique for Repairing Large Circular Defects of the Trunk: Case Report of a Staged Excision of a Plexiform Neurofibroma.” The ASDS meeting is scheduled for October in Chicago.

“I am excited and honored that my abstract was accepted,” says Dr. Nakhlia. “Since my focus is in surgical dermatology, I hope to further my education at the meeting and also integrate myself into the ASDS community among the leaders in dermatologic surgery.”

Dr. Nakhlia, who is under the directorship of David Horowitz, D.O., FAOCD, eventually plans to do a Mohs fellowship, a cosmetic surgical fellowship, or a combined program for both disciplines.

Resident Receives ASDS Preceptorship Award

Third-year Resident Jan Keeling, D.O., at Wellington Regional Medical Center in West Palm Beach, Fla., was the recipient of an American Society of Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS) Preceptorship Award.

As part of the award, he will spend one week in June—all expenses paid—with Leon Kirck, M.D., in Louisville, Ky. The rotation will focus on Mohs Micrographic Surgery, as well as cosmetic procedures, such as Botox® injections, fillers, and laser treatments.

Dr. Keeling was notified in May that he won the award he applied for in February. “The preceptorship offers me a unique opportunity to learn new surgical and cosmetic procedural techniques,” he says.

Dr. Keeling met Dr. Kirck at the Caribbean Dermatology Symposium in January. It was there that the dermatology resident learned about the types of procedures that Dr. Kirck offers in his practice.

Resident Wins Two International Awards

Third-year Resident Tejas Desai, D.O., at the Western University/Pacific Hospital in Long Beach, Calif., was the recent recipient of two international awards.

As winner of the World Congress of Dermatology Award, Dr. Desai will present his research involving high frequency ultrasound in the evaluation of superficial and nodular basal cell carcinomas in October in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Next April, he will represent the American Academy of Dermatology at the Irish Association of Dermatologists’ (IAD) Annual Congress to be held in Belfast. Dr. Desai was chosen by the Committee on International Affairs to receive the IAD Fellowship to attend the meeting. He will present the same research at this meeting.

“The research involves imaging skin cancers by noninvasive means,” he says, adding, “This technology could revolutionize the way we treat cutaneous neoplasms.”

Previously, Dr. Desai won the Allergan Research Award, Ulbrich Research Award, and the Simon Greenberg Research Grant for this research. He presented it at the 2005 annual American Society of Dermatologic Surgery meeting in Atlanta, Ga., and at a poster presentation at the 2006 annual American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology meeting in Scottsdale.

“I am grateful for the accolades I have received regarding this research,” Dr. Desai says, “but I could not have excelled this much without the support and positive attitudes of those around me.”

Dr. Kirby Joins Cast of ‘Dr. 90210’

Pacific Hospital/Western University Resident Will Kirby, D.O., is joining the cast of doctors on “Dr. 90210” this fall.

The series, which airs on cable television channel E!, showcases plastic surgeons (and now an osteopathic dermatologist) who work in Beverly Hills. The show is divided into three parts, explains the Co-Chief Resident of the Long Beach, Calif.-based program. It chronicles the doctors’ social lives, their interactions with patients, and the patients’ lives. Dr. Kirby refers to the show’s format as documentary television, what he calls a hybrid of reality TV. "Everything you see is true, but it has been embellished a bit to make it more exciting for TV," he says, adding, “If you followed me for the whole day, you’d fall asleep. So for purposes of the story they film the most interesting events.”

Dr. Kirby presented cases to the show’s producers who, in turn, presented them to E! Once approved, the cameras started rolling. He began filming the five episodes scheduled to air in July during the spring. “I was told that the fourth episode is the most controversial one that they have ever had," says Dr. Kirby, who was unable to divulge the case. Filming took place in his office at Los Angeles-based Coast Dermatology, which has its share of celebrity clients. Program Director David Horowitz, D.O., FAOCD, and Co-Director Mark Horowitz, D.O., were very considerate with Dr. Kirby’s schedule, allowing him to participate in the show. Still, the shooting schedule proved difficult at times. “It’s unpredictable because sometimes patients need to be seen right away and then you need to call in the camera crew at the last minute,” he says.

But the real pressure Dr. Kirby feels has nothing to do with juggling a busy dermatology residency with a TV career. “There’s a lot of pressure on me not only because I’m the only dermatologist, but I’m the only osteopath on the show,” he says. “I want to make myself look good and present the profession in a positive light.”

Although no stranger to the land of reality TV as Dr. Kirby was the grand prize winner of CBS’s “Big Brother 2” and a houseguest on “Big Brother: All-Stars,” he describes filming “Dr. 90210” as the most pleasurable experience. “I’ve worked as a reality contestant, host, and producer. But this has been my favorite project because I dictate what happens. I get to produce, host, and star at the same time.”

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Multiple trainers, practice locations, and training sites are the key to preparing residents at Sun Coast Hospital Dermatology Residency Program/Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (Sun Coast Hospital/NSCOM) for a well-rounded career in dermatology.

To be exact, the program has seven general dermatology trainers, three dermatopathology trainers, and a recently added cosmetic surgeon with whom residents rotate. In addition to seeing patients at Sun Coast Hospital, residents will begin rotations at the Bay Pines Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, touted as one of the top five busiest VA hospitals in the country, which recently joined the program.

Plus, there are six training sites located around the Tampa Bay area. However, the program doesn’t stop with the trainers. Patient populations at the different offices range from working class to upper middle class to retirees, the latter of whom are taking advantage of the warm, sunny climate.

Although Sun Coast Hospital/NSCOM residents perform a range of dermatology procedures, that climate contributes to the large number of surgeries they perform to excise skin cancers.

Additionally, the program, which began in 1995, operates a contact dermatitis clinic established by a former associate who was a Fellow of the College of Contact Dermatitis. Over the years, she trained the residents how to perform patch testing, and now the residents run the patch test clinic and teach those skills to the new residents, who will be joining the program this July. “We’re the only site in the Tampa Bay area that has more than 300 allergens to test against,” boasts Program Director Richard Miller, D.O., FAOCD, who has served as director since the program’s inception.

Courses Aside
Outside the classroom, the residents present a lecture to the hospital staff at weekly grand rounds. They attend a monthly journal club, as well.

Regimented Schedule
One thing that does not vary is the residents’ schedule. “The program has a very regimented, didactic schedule that we don’t waiver from,” he says. A typical week looks something like the following. On Mondays, residents spend the first half of the day doing dermatopathology. This is followed by didactic learning sessions with lecturers and a review of various topics. In the afternoon, they go to various different clinics where they have a one-on-one experience with a trainer. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, the residents work with an assigned trainer. After one month, they rotate trainers. Residents have the same schedule on Thursday mornings as they do Monday mornings, but in the afternoon they work at a hospital run indigent dermatology care center. Every other week residents have an extra half-day of clinical duty.

Every six months, they rotate for one week between dermatopathology offices, one in Fort Lauderdale and the other in West Palm Beach. Residents devote one to two weeks each year to a pediatric dermatology rotation in Kansas City, Mo. In addition to that elective, they can choose one month for an elective per year. Resident destinations have included the University of San Francisco and Mayo Clinic, among others.

Variety Prepares Sun Coast Hospital/NSCOM Residents

Ferndale Labs Sponsors New Grant
The AOCDD and Ferndale Laboratories, Inc. are pleased to announce the Young Professional Development Grant.

The new grant will provide financial support for two board-certified dermatologists, who have been in practice for at least three years and no more than five years, to study for one week with a dermatologist who has a specific expertise. This grant would enable the dermatologists to acquire specific new skills to enhance their professional careers.

For more information about the grant, contact Becky Mansfield, AOCDD Executive Director, at aocdd@swbells.net.

Potential award winners have only two weeks left to submit an application for the second annual Intendis Mentoring Grant. Applications are being accepted through June 30, 2007.

This award creates, finances, and provides residents with an opportunity to study with leading experts who have a specific expertise. The recipient will be used to cover the recipient’s cost of travel, housing, and subsistence for the week of special rotation up to a given amount.

The recipient is required to submit a paper suitable for publication concerning the experience. This paper must be turned in within 60 days after the rotation is complete. Submission of expenses also is required.

Open to second- and third-year residents, this grant has two positions available per year.

Residents who would like to receive the award should complete an application, which consists of the following:

1. A one-page essay describing why the applicant wishes to receive this grant.
2. A copy of the applicant’s current curriculum vitae.
3. Application for this grant may be submitted even if a comparable application to other organizations has been made. If the recipient accepts a similar scholarship from another agency or organization, this grant application will be withdrawn. It is the responsibility of the recipient to notify the Intendis Grant Committee of competing awards.

Applications must be received in the Intendis Grant Committee by June 30, 2007.

To apply, visit the AOCDD website at www.aocdd.org/mentoring and complete the online application. In the body of the email, provide a one-page essay describing why the applicant wishes to receive this grant. Applicants will be notified of the recipient by July 1, 2007.

About Intendis
Ferndale Laboratories, Inc. is a fully integrated skincare company which specializes in developing dermatological products for the medical and professional market. Ferndale Laboratories, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ferndale Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Intendis is a registered trademark of Ferndale Laboratories, Inc. Further information about Intendis and its products can be found at www.intendis.com.
Many are lured to Belize by its barrier reefs, tropical forests, and mysterious Mayan temples. But others like Lloyd Cleaver, D.O., FAOCD, are lured by the opportunity to provide dermatological and primary care to the largely underserved Belizean population comprising the Mestizo, Creole, Garifuna, and Maya.

Dr. Cleaver made his first trip to Belize seven years ago with a group of physicians, including faculty from the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM) in Missouri where he serves as Assistant Dean for Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Alumni Issues. The trip was arranged by the Kirksville Rotary Club and faculty from both KCOM and Truman State University. That group was composed largely of audiologists and speech pathologists who realized that there was a much greater need for basic health care.

To encourage other physicians to participate, Dr. Cleaver combined a CME program on tropical medicine with the mission experience. He has even reached out to the larger KCOM community at A.T. Still University, which consists of four other schools, to get physicians to join in. “We’re trying to set up a cadre of doctors with experience and interest in tropical medicine who also can serve as preceptors for residents and medical students,” says the dermatologist who sets aside two weeks in April to make the trip.

Back in Time
Visiting some of the villages in inner and southern Belize is like going back in time 500 years, says Dr. Cleaver. “They have thatched huts and no modern conveniences.” Other villages are semi-modern, but very impoverished. “Other villages are semi-modern, but very impoverished.” They have modern conveniences.” Other villages are semi-modern, but very impoverished.

No matter what village they visit, the physicians are very well received. In fact, before they started making these missions, some of the villagers had never seen a physician, he adds. “The people are very grateful for their care and they have many health care needs.” With board certification in family practice, Dr. Cleaver finds himself providing a good deal of primary care. As half of the patients, however, have dermatological conditions, most of which are chronic.

Upon arrival in a village, there is usually a community leader who greets the physicians and announces their presence to the villagers. Often times the physicians set up shop in a school, church, or public building. On a typical day, they see as many as 250 patients. Then they load up their 12-passenger van with equipment and supplies and move to the next village.

Diagnosing Tropical Diseases

Ecopath-diseases and leishmaniasis are just some of the tropical skin conditions that Dr. Cleaver has come across. He also has treated patients for more common skin diseases such as atopic dermatitis, as well as superficial and deep fungal infections. The moist warm climate contributes to the disease progression, which is often more extensive than what he sees in patients back in the states. “At least here even if a person doesn’t receive regular care, he or she can go down the street to the drugstore to buy a cream that may help,” notes Dr. Cleaver. “There, they just don’t have that option.”

Diagnosing conditions can be tricky in the tropics without many of the diagnostic tools, such as laboratory tests, the doctors take for granted in the states. “You’re basically relying on good physical examinations and evaluations to make diagnostic decisions,” he explains. “I think it makes you a better physician because it requires you to be very accurate in your diagnostic skills.” Prescriptions are also limited to whatever the doctors bring in the formulary.

In addition to bringing medications, the physicians began giving spiral notebooks to the patients to record the care they receive. There are no medical records, Dr. Cleaver points out. They hope that the use of the notebooks will lend itself to continuity of care.

Fortunately, communication is not too much of a barrier. Formerly known as the British Honduras, many of the Belizeans speak English. The Mayan Indians, however, speak their own dialect. Someone who speaks Spanish can usually understand them, says Dr. Cleaver. Hiring interpreters is sometimes necessary to be able to discuss the patients’ health problems.

Accommodations

While there, physicians have a variety of accommodations, all of which he describes as Spartan. There are resorts in the villages and a dormitory on the farm of a nurse who runs one of the clinics. “One place in the mountains has a thatched hut roof, cement floor, and bathroom with shower;” Dr. Cleaver says. “On occasion, you might have some hot water, but more likely, you won’t. Still, you’re up in the mountains and it’s very pleasant.”

The next time he makes the trek, Dr. Cleaver will be staying on a 46-foot sailboat, which was recently purchased by a foundation called “True North” established by the physicians to help fund the missions. The boat will enable them to travel to villages that can only be accessed by the river. Once there, they can dock over night in areas that lack any accommodations. The boat can accommodate eight persons plus a captain and a cook. One of the physicians doubles as the captain. Dr. Cleaver isn’t ready to take on captain duties just yet, even though he did serve in the U.S. Navy, which is how he became interested in tropical medicine.

The physician group also plans to make boat missions to Guatemala. Additionally, they are trying to establish a clinic in Haiti. Next year, Dr. Cleaver plans to make three trips, especially if he hires an associate to free up some of his time.

Dr. Cleaver hopes that spending his time in this manner helps “make a difference.” In addition, he feels refreshed when he returns from one of these trips. “Sure” it’s providing these people with care, but it’s also providing me with care,” he says. “It’s good for the soul.”

2007 Ad Journal to Honor 50th Anniversary

Want to thank the outgoing College President for all his hard work, welcome the incoming President, or congratulate a resident upon graduation? You can by placing an ad in the AOCD Ad Journal that will be presented at the Presidential Banquet during the 2007 AOCD Annual Meeting slated for Sept. 30-Oct. 4 in San Diego.

An Ad Journal serves as a living history of the AOCD, as well as being a nice keepsake, says Coordinator of Corporate Development Shirley Gottlieb, who is spearheading it. In light of the College’s 50th anniversary, the Ad Journal will highlight major dates and accomplishments made by the College over the last five decades, as well as the incoming and outgoing Executive Committee.

Contributing to the Ad Journal is a way for members to give back to the organization that made it possible for them to become osteopathic dermatologists. If you have not received your Ad Journal form or would like more information about it, contact Gottlieb at shirleygottlieb@aol.com.
Financial Tidbits by Robert Schwarze, D.O., FAOCD

Entire books and lecture series have been devoted to increasing office efficiency. The following are a few suggestions on this hot topic.

Know how long procedures really take.

Often, we guess how long it takes to perform a procedure only to later realize the actual time is longer. On the other hand, assistants often overestimate the length of time needed as they factor in Occupational Safety and Health Administration compliance steps, laboratory work, paperwork, sterilization, and instrument setup.

SOLUTION: Take a two-week time audit to determine true procedure times. This will help improve the scheduling of appointments.

Train assistants to perform all the procedures that the law allows.

Happiest assistants are those who are given expanded duties, as well as more control and responsibility for their work (per psychologist and TV personality Dr. Phil).

SOLUTION: Develop a plan for training and cross-training (in case of absence) staff. Consider hiring a teacher from a local medical assistants’ school to do so.

Work in a global time paradigm as opposed to a microscopic one.

Be aware of the physical layout in the clinical area with respect to good time management. Does it flow well enabling patients to maneuver conveniently and quickly? Periodically, I have my office manager walk through the clinical area to check for “flow” in addition to other areas of concern and risk management. Too many assistants are myopic, but they need to be aware of other office activities besides their immediate tasks.

SOLUTION: Discuss “flow” at office meetings.

Make sure that when you enter the examination room, everything that needs to be “ready” is.

It makes no difference if you are performing a procedure or making a medical diagnosis. Everything should be ready, including the chart.

SOLUTION: Create your own checklist of things that should be done and in place prior to every patient visit.

Make sure that staff supports efficient exams and procedures.

Last week, as I was ready to enter a room, my assistant told me that there was a “funny looking” mole on the patient’s scalp. In anticipation of the biopsy, the assistant had the room fully prepared for it.

SOLUTION: Train staff to be prepared for the unforeseen circumstances that typically occur with dermatology patients.

“No dull knives.”

Have the best and most efficient equipment ready at all times.

SOLUTION: Teach staff the difference between commonly used equipment, for example, electronic thermometers are faster than mercury types.

Hire employees who work efficiently and effectively.

While at a doctor’s office, I watched the person who ultimately placed me in the exam room take 15 minutes to talk to her husband about personal problems. As a patient, I felt short changed and I realized that the boss probably had no idea that this was occurring, not to mention how inefficient and disorganized the practice presented itself.

SOLUTION: Ensure that staff works efficiently and effectively as anything less than that is a poor reflection of the practice.

Handle emergencies efficiently.

Patient emergencies occur and they will alter the schedule, but I use my lunch time for add-ons so as not to delay the whole day’s schedule.

SOLUTION: Develop a company culture that emphasizes time management and all your patients will appreciate it.

AOA Looking for a Few Good Mentors

The AOA iLEARN Mentor Program is now accepting nominations for the 2007 Mentor of the Year.

The AOA Mentor Recognition Program was developed in association with the Pfizer Medical Humanities Initiative to honor DOs who help shape the future of the osteopathic medical profession through their involvement with students and young physicians. Through their service, mentors bring a sense of pride to the profession and promote the art and science of osteopathic medicine.

Criteria used to select the winner include the following:

1. The mentor fosters the long-term development from mentee to DO colleague, encouraging mentees to develop individual talents and strengths as an advisor and guide.
2. The mentor facilitates mentees in acquiring the skills and resources needed to succeed as scholars and professionals.
3. The mentor acts as an advocate and leader in professional matters such as presentation of research findings, post-doctoral options, job placement, and practice development.
4. The mentor demonstrates respect and a sincere and active interest in the well-being of mentees.
5. The mentor is an AOA member in good standing.

Nominations, which may be submitted online or through the mail, are accepted from students, interns, residents, DOs, and AOA Affiliates. Applications are available on the AOA Web site at www.do-online.org. The deadline for nominations is July 22.

The winner will be announced during the 112th AOA Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar to be held Sept. 30-Oct. 4 in San Diego. The winner will receive the AOA Mentor of the Year trophy and a $5,000 monetary award, and will be featured in The DO magazine. Five finalists will be selected and each will receive a $1,000 monetary award.

Sign Up to Become an AOA Mentor

If you would like to become an AOA Mentor, fill out a mentor profile at www.osteopathic.org/YOM/Mentor_exchange.htm. Your information will be added to the mentor database. Mentees seeking a mentor relationship will choose criteria within their areas of interest. Mentors will be notified when a mentee has selected their profile. The mentor is then responsible for making initial contact within two weeks of receiving notification to establish a mentor relationship.
Old Name, New Submissions for JAOCD

The Journal of Resident Dermatology will revert back to its original name Journal of the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (JAOCD).

The name was changed last year in an attempt to pull from a larger audience of residents who would potentially submit submissions, says Editor Jay Gottlieb, D.O., FAOCD.

The goal is to increase the number of articles to enable the journal to publish quarterly, rather than three times a year, which is how often it currently comes out. As a quarterly journal it can be cited in Index Medicus, a bibliographic listing of references to articles from biomedical journals worldwide.

Another option to grow the publication evaluated by the Journal Committee was to combine the JAOCD with another journal entitled Abstracts in Dermatology. After speaking with the publisher, Committee members who met during the Midyear Meeting agreed that this option was not feasible, says Dr. Gottlieb.

In a related development at the Midyear Meeting, the Education Evaluating Committee (EEC) agreed to enforce its requirement for all residents to submit their annual papers for consideration for publication in a scientific journal, explaining EEC Chair James Bernard, D.O., FAOCD. Upon submission to the EEC, the resident must attach the receipt received from the Dermquest Web site for any abstract or paper accepted for presentation. The EEC requires that Dermquest's editorial board overseeing the world serve as members of the journal committee.

The next issue is due out this fall.

AOA/AMA to Conduct Physician Practice Survey

We asked three corporate executives two questions regarding education. Answers to the first question appeared in the Spring 2007 issue of the JAOCD Newsletter. The following is the second question and their responses:

“How do you see physician education, and in particular dermatologist education, evolving in the next few years?”

Elliott Milestein, Business Unit Director, Biopelle

Dermatology is a highly desirable specialty for many reasons, but two stand out in particular: It is incredibly diverse and interesting, and highly lucrative. I see dermatology education changing to address these issues.

Educational programs will have to address rapidly changing technologies especially in cosmetic procedures. Physicians should not receive all of their information and experience with fillers, IPL, lasers, RF and other emerging technologies from medical meetings and sales representatives. Similarly, dermatologists are called upon to sift through all the broad and unsubstantiated claims made by the cosmeceutical companies for their products. In the absence of true clinical studies, doctors must develop a method of evaluating efficacy and value for their patients. This skill is best learned in an academic setting before the pressures of financial realities begin to affect such decision making.

Educational programs should give some attention to the financial aspects of the field. Never before have doctors been asked so quickly after Board certification to manage a business the likes of today’s dermatology practices with its high priced equipment, extensive staff of physician assistants, nurses, and other professionals; and complicated inventory management, as well as marketing programs. By their nature and inclination as scholars and healers, dermatologists are particularly ill-suited for this and some assistance would be of great value.

I see teledermatology playing a greater role in teaching. I am concerned, however, that the reliance on technology may take away from the added, more human methods of teaching and learning: time with patients, the parry and thrust of the Socratic method, and the fraternization of teachers and students. Much is taught and much is still learned in human interaction in the field of medicine. I would hope that technology becomes an adjunct, not a replacement, for this interaction.

David Rustum, Senior Marketing Manager, CollaGenex Pharmaceuticals

As medical education continues to evolve, how a medical education activity is delivered is fast becoming a critical element of the event itself. Newer technologies such as podcasting, personal digital assistants, and other interactive approaches are unique methods to support educational needs at the point of care. Still some physicians prefer dinner meetings or symposia while others rely on journals or teleconferences to learn about new topics. But there is no denying that providers are becoming much more targeted in their approach to the delivery of education within a specialty, and technology is changing the landscape of physician learning.

Stephen W. Clark, President, Coria Laboratories

I see dermatologist education evolving into subspecialty training, such as geriatric dermatology, and becoming disease driven focusing on such issues as atopic dermatitis and psoriasis.

There also is a need to integrate people in the community for physician education as resources in institutions are getting more and more scarce. Patient access to dermatologists continues to be more and more difficult. Fewer dermatologists are practicing medical or general dermatology making this demise in access much more pronounced.

AOA/AMA to Conduct Physician Practice Survey

The AOA encourages physicians to participate in the survey as the data obtained are critical sources of information for both the AMA and AOA.

From biomedical journals worldwide.

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Join us in San Diego, California for
The American Osteopathic Association’s
112th Annual Meeting
September 30, 2007 to October 4, 2007

Welcome to San Diego, California’s second largest city. Where blue skies keep watch on 70 miles of beaches and a gentle Mediterranean climate begs for a day of everything and nothing. Bordered by Mexico, the Pacific Ocean, the Anza-Borrego Desert and the Laguna Mountains, San Diego county’s 4,200 square miles offer immense options for business and pleasure.

Relax, soak in San Diego. Let your surroundings dictate a new appreciation for all the good things San Diego has to offer. From thrilling ocean adventures to chilled-out siestas under the shadow of a palm tree, your San Diego experience will teach you a new way of life – full of fun, relaxation and beauty.

San Diego is also home to such world-famous attractions as SeaWorld, the San Diego Zoo, the Wild Animal Park and LEGOLAND California, as well as historic cultural gems Balboa Park and Old Town.