Greetings from Houston, Texas!

As President of the AOCD, I welcome you to another edition of the Journal of the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology. I would be remiss in not recognizing the Editor-in-Chief of this powerful publication, Karthik Krishnamurthy, DO. His commitment to the College and willingness to go above and beyond is admirable. Thank you, Dr. Krishnamurthy. I also want to express my appreciation to Dr. Lin, our Immediate Past President, for his tireless efforts on behalf of the College. His friendship and his willingness to continue participating in a meaningful way will only make this year more successful. I think it most important that we honor our heritage, and to that end, I want to express my deepest appreciation to Dr. Jay Gottlieb for his vision and wisdom in launching the JAOCD.

I appreciated our time together in Orlando on a number of levels. First, the friendships that continue and the opportunity to develop new friendships and relationships are vital to our personal growth and development. Second, hearing new ways of doing things, discussing similar challenges, and hearing solutions to many old challenges was powerful. Finally, I believe there are no words to describe how special Orlando was personally to me. The attendees were so very caring! There is, inherent in this great organization, a camaraderie blended with the desire to help others. The kindnesses shown to me during this conference will linger long in my memory.

The year 2016 is upon us. It seems only yesterday I was entering the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, followed by my internship and residency. Soon another cycle will pass. New, excited doctors will emerge and enter residencies in dermatology. As Director of the South Texas Dermatology Residency Program in Houston, I have borne witness to fine physicians honing their skills and expanding their knowledge in anticipation of launching their medical careers. We need to be mindful that the future of our organization rests squarely upon the shoulders of these new physicians we train. It is to the great benefit of the AOCD that we serve not only as mentors but also remain active in their development in both practice and science.

Our future residents and fellows will be entering a new environment, working within a single accreditation system for graduate medical education programs in the United States. When the new system is fully implemented in July 2020, the graduates of osteopathic and allopathic medical schools will complete their residency and/or fellowship education in ACGME-accredited programs and demonstrate achievement of common milestones and competencies. No longer will there be a great divide in the practical training of DOs and MDs.

Clearly our world is changing! I suppose the greatest morsel I could share with you comes from one of my mentors, who said, “Today, at this moment, we are living in yesterday’s future.” The changes in our practice of dermatology and medicine in general are profound. We spend great swaths of time dealing with electronic medical records and ICD 10. My challenge to you is to pause and remember why you chose medicine, and particularly why you chose dermatology. Then look at your patients through a lens tinted with that memory. While we must tend to the busyness of EMRs, we must not forget our patients.

I look forward to serving you and the opportunity to meet all of you as you attend our meetings.

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