Greetings from Houston, Texas!

As I think about our recent past and the dramatic changes afoot, I recall Suzanne Sirota Rozenberg, DO, FAOCD, past president of the AOCD, commenting in a 2014 issue of the JAOCDS about the future merger of the AOA and ACGME. As I’ve quoted previously, “Today, at this moment, we are living in yesterday’s future.” Our future has arrived.

The AOA, along with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, have agreed to a single accreditation system for graduate medical education programs in the United States. Graduates of osteopathic institutions will complete their residency and/or fellowship education in ACGME-accredited programs and demonstrate achievement of common milestones and competencies side by side with graduates of allopathic medical schools. I hope you grasp the full meaning of what you just read: Osteopathic and allopathic graduates will no longer be divided.

Perhaps the most exciting news to share is the AAD vote that just passed last month. Osteopathic physicians certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology will now be recognized as Fellows in the AAD. We have been fighting this battle for generations. The vote suffered defeat in 2004 and 2010. On both occasions, a majority of the membership voted in favor, but the two-thirds majority required to approve a change to the bylaws fell short. I was told I would never see this vote go through in my lifetime. The shift exemplifies what we all have known for a long time—we are equals with our MD counterparts. This vote gives us the ability to hold offices and serve on committees. I sincerely hope we all serve the AOCD and AAD in some capacity. By harnessing the strength of both organizations, we can affect change.

However, our work is far from done! More than ever, the preservation of our osteopathic roots is critical. The AOCD remains a strong organization. I am proud of our heritage and mindful of the work that lies ahead. This college has nurtured me throughout my career and will do the same for generations of osteopathic dermatologists to come—if we believe in and support it. The AOCD brought us to where we are. Each of us emerged as dermatologists in part because of this great organization.

The AOCD will remain a strong provider of service and support to dermatologists who chose osteopathy for their medical training and philosophy. Our boutique organization is special. Our members are not lost among the masses. Our professional development will remain world-class. Our publications will continue to disseminate valuable information and updates. The person-to-person connection is what makes AOCD one of the greatest assets in our daily professional lives.

As you read this issue, reflect on how fortunate we are to be osteopathic dermatologists. Our future will remain strong as long as we join together in keeping the vision alive, provide outstanding training and seminars to our members and never forget that our purpose is to serve patients.

I look forward to seeing you in Santa Monica!

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