Dear Readers,

Yet another year has passed, and the JAOCD is celebrating its 14th year in publication. It was founded by Dr. Jay Gottlieb in 2003 and has attracted many talented and dedicated editors and reviewers over the decades. As our current Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Karthik Krishnamurthy, assumes the responsibilities of the AOCD presidency, I will be piloting the ship.

As early as this spring, you should be able to claim category 1B credit for reading the journal and taking a brief quiz. Rather than reinventing the wheel, we have been working with other specialty DO organizations to ensure our CME credits are valid and recognized by the AOA. My hope is that this helps our members attain the few category 1 hours sometimes unavailable at our meetings. Of course, I also hope it incentivizes more of us to include the JAOCD in our regular reading regimen.

We also have published our last printed issue. Going forward, all issues will be online and always available for you to peruse. In an era of shrinking sponsorship, it no longer makes sense to continue printing and mailing our journal. This decision also allows us to practice good environmental stewardship and will help us to more accurately assess our true readership, allowing us to approach more sponsors and tweak our journal to better fit your needs.

Many of us, myself included, first published in the JOACD, and I wish to keep this option open for future authors. We need your help, though, to make this happen. The residency requirement of a yearly publishable paper has not produced the volume of quality submissions we need to become a suitably prestigious reflection of our College and our profession. We rely on Program Directors to thoroughly review their residents’ papers, a responsibility that may be getting lost in the shuffle. I kindly ask that Program Directors take this task seriously, as subpar submissions clog our review process and continue to hinder our bid for MedLine indexing. We ask that authors honestly assess their work to determine whether it represents the thoughtfulness and professionalism required of great physicians -- and if not, change it. We want to see the best you have to offer.

Finally, I would like to invite submissions that broaden our scope. We receive plenty of case reports. Consider producing original research and in-depth reviews, and focusing on topics specifically related to osteopathy. We also welcome opinion pieces, letters to the editor, comments on current or historical events, clinical pearls and tidbits of wisdom, and comments and opinions on AOA/AOCD policies and procedures.

I hope you find increased value in our new electronic format, and I look forward to seeing what our authors produce for upcoming issues.

Stay well,

Derrick

Derrick Adams, DO
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