Happy New Year! January 1, 2017 ushered in new opportunities and challenges. Last year is but a vapor. With the new year comes a change in leadership in the White House. We witnessed an election season like no other in history. As with any change in leadership, we and our practices will all experience some form of change and growth as a result of that election. Let us remain true to our practice of medicine, regardless of political view.

As President of the AOCD, I welcome you to the winter edition of the Journal of the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology. It seems but yesterday we gathered in Santa Monica for our Fall meeting. In March, we will gather in Atlanta to learn, develop fellowship, and share new knowledge and ideas. I encourage all of our membership to make a special effort to join us in Atlanta. The cast of presenters is both broad and deep in knowledge and experience.

You have all honored me with your support throughout this year, and Dr. Lin, our Immediate Past President, continues to guide me through some unchartered waters as we move into the future. Please continue your invaluable support of all our AOCD leadership.

During this holiday season, I pondered my own professional and personal accomplishments and goals. I realized I had not updated my plan over the last several years, mostly because it remains grounded in my core values. Although a few of the desired outcomes of those values have changed, I determined I must become more proactive in shaping those outcomes.

I decided I will be a verb in 2017!

As humans, we declare resolutions with conviction. We begin with such steadfastness, but soon, our persistence wanes, with the ever-present pressures of life. I believe that is why so many New Year’s resolutions come and go before the end of winter (or even before January 31!). Our goals are descriptive of what we want, and perhaps not what we need to be to accomplish what we want. Our goals are but nouns and adjectives to describe success, health, happiness, or anything else upon which we set our sights.

Conversely, “being” requires conscious choice. Being a verb communicates a commitment to action. Assuming the role of a verb means honoring whom we want to be. Try “being a verb” in this wonderful new year!

Let’s keep the AOCD strong as a provider of service and support to dermatologists who chose the path of osteopathy. As you read this edition of the JAOCD, think about how we can keep the vision and legacy of DO dermatology alive and well. Keep the main thing the main thing. Let me know the verb you choose.

See you in Atlanta!

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