

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN



Whichever part of the osteopathic profession that we work in, and in whichever country, one of the enduring pleasures of practising osteopathy is the patients with memorable stories who make memorable recoveries. Often, in my experience, it's not the "miraculous" or "instant" improvement that lodges in one's mind, but those individuals who presented more of a challenge, whose care required thought, determination, application, review and an evolving strategy. In these stories, progress is often slower than originally anticipated but the successful outcome more satisfying when it arrives.

It strikes me that much the same can be said of the OIA.

My first actual contact with the OIA was at a meeting in Toronto in June 2004, shortly after the first meeting with the WHO in Geneva about Guidelines for Osteopathy and Chiropractic. More than five years later, the OIA is a reality, but the WHO Guidelines are yet to be published.

Although progress seems slow, much has been achieved.

As I write, the OIA has 10 countries represented with its Full and Associate Members and with its Partner Members there are more than a dozen countries represented. We have held successful education forums in the United States [twice], Germany, the United Kingdom, and our 2009 Forum in Sydney Australia. This most recent Forum focused on ways in which the three "major stakeholders" – regulators, educators and associations – can work together to advance the osteopathic profession.

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The Sydney AGM saw the installation of the first wholly elected OIA Board of Directors. I'd like to pay tribute to those from the profession who have served on the Board to date. As we add more members, and evolve our systems and bylaws, it is my sincere hope that the OIA will grow to reflect the worldwide profession, its priorities and objectives.

Meanwhile, I would like to thank all of our members who completed the membership survey that we recently sent out. The Board is reviewing the results and will share our findings soon.

Sincere good wishes,



Clive Standen
Chair, OIA Board of Directors

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Australian Osteopathic Association Update

Ozteopathy 2009 – Best Practice: Osteopathic Health Management

The Australian Osteopathic Association Conference, in conjunction with the Osteopathic International Alliance took place at the SMC Convention Centre, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, 16 - 18 October 2009.

Ozteopathy 2009 brought together a wide variety of health professionals who will inform, assist and enhance the skills of osteopaths as they face the daily challenge of providing best practice primary health care, contemporary business management and achieving a healthy work life balance.

DrMed Johannes Mayer
(Germany)

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If you would like to contribute information to the newsletter, please contact us at

OIA@osteopathic.org

Ozteopathy 2009 – Due to demand, this year's program was expanded to three streams of education sessions and practical workshops where attendees could develop valuable skills and tools to put into practice straight away! Ozteopathy 2009 gave Osteopaths a wonderful opportunity to meet with, listen to and learn from colleagues from all over the world. Delegates heard from a huge array of Australian and International speakers, all of whom challenged and stimulated interest! Ozteopathy was the perfect forum for those seeking new ways to pursue "Best Practice", clinically, as a business, and personally. Delegates connected with other osteopaths at the right place, at the right time and most importantly, in the right frame of mind.

Events were kicked off with a welcome reception on the evening of Thursday 15th October, followed by three full days of conference program, forums and events; including the conference dinner on Saturday 17th October. The conference pack, provided to all delegates, contained the full quota of information, presentations and lecture notes, as well as contacts for on-going learning and follow ups.

Ozteopathy 2009 – the Topics: Topics covered: How to Value your Business; Treating Lower Back Pain; The Ponseti Method of the Management of Talipes, Developments in Radiology, The Science of Immunisation, Manipulation Made Easy, Osteoporosis; Impacts of Diet and Vitamin D deficiency; Sports Taping, Mental Health assessment , New Web Technologies for your Practice; The Future of Osteopathic Education; Developing Successful Practice; Quick Nutritional Assessment; Detecting Skin Cancer; The Osteopathic Management of Scheuermann's Disease, Recognising Personality Disorders, Osteopathy and Children's Health; Embryology and Respiration; Osteopathy around the Globe; Rehabilitation and Falls Prevention; New Australian Regulation and what it means for Osteopathy; Osteopathic Medicine in the USA and much, much more.

Speakers included: Professor Brian Freeman – Embryologist; Professor Robert Booy – Immunologist; Dr Nick Penney – Osteopath; Peter Bull – Radiologist, Professor Cathie Sherrington – George Institute, Jill McGregor – Nutritionist, Tony Juarez – Physiotherapist, Childrens Hospital, Westmead, Andrew Charlton, educator and GP, Geraldine White, Mental Health Specialist, and a fantastic range of Australian and International speakers.

-Antony Nicholas, Executive Director, Australian Osteopathic Association

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Update on Belgium from the International Academy of Osteopathy

The International Academy of Osteopathy (IAO), together with the professional association Register for Osteopaths Belgium (ROB), undertook legal actions against the Belgian state for not having implemented the federal law of 29 April 1999, regulating osteopathy. On 22 January 2010 the court of Brussels decided that the Belgian government needed to activate this law. The Government has been given 3 months to do so. This means that the committee where all discussions will take place has to start working and, after more than 10 years the osteopathic profession has an official forum where it will debate with the medical world on how osteopathy will be regulated in Belgium.

Background: On the 29th of April 1999, the federal government of Belgium approved an enabling legislation that would regulate so-called non-conventional methods of treatment. An enabling legislation is a law in which specified frameworks are left open. At the same time this law describes how the procedure works and how these blank frameworks need to be filled in. Besides osteopathy,

this law also has to regulate other non-conventional methods of treatment such as acupuncture, chiropractic methods and homeopathy.

This law was approved more than 10 years ago, but only one framework was filled in since then. The Belgian government determined a few years ago with whom it wishes to negotiate to fill in the remaining frameworks. Logically, they chose the professional federations which represent the diverse non-conventional methods of treatment.

Because the government does not appear to be keen to execute this law further, two organisations devoted to osteopathy summoned the Belgian state in May 2008. These two organisations were the IAO and the ROB.

The IAO, established in 1987, has a full time education that every high school graduated student may take part in. IAO is officially recognised by three universities (two in the UK and one in Austria) which makes it possible for its 2,000 students to obtain both a BSc(hons)Ost. and a MSc.Ost. Since March 1997, the IAO has been continuously in possession of the ISO9001 quality certificate in Osteopathic Training and Education. The IAO constantly aims at giving quality academically and organisationally.

-Grégoire Lason, DO, BSc(hons) Ost. Med., Joint-Principal of The International Academy of Osteopathy (IAO)

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OIA Board Meets at AAO

The OIA Board of Directors met on 20-21 March during the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) Convocation in Colorado Springs, CO, USA. The meeting focused on strategic planning based on the results of the membership survey that was sent out last month. The Board set out a plan for better communication and more interaction with our membership, so stay tuned!

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Upcoming Member Events

23-24 April, Vienna, Austria

Meeting of the [European Registry for Osteopathic Physicians \(EROP\)](#)

7-10 May, Saint-Petersburg, Russia

The Second International Osteopathic Conference, "The Art of Osteopathy" takes place during the magical time of white nights.

Hosted by: The Russian Academy of Osteopathic Medicine, Institute of Osteopathic Medicine, United National Register of Osteopaths, European School of Osteopathy, The John Wernham College of Classical Osteopathy, and Institut Supérieur d'Osteopathie

More information [available here](#)

24-28 October, San Francisco, USA

The American Osteopathic Association's (AOA-US) Unified OMED 2010

For more information, visit [OMED 2010](#)

24-27 October, San Francisco, USA

OIA Annual Conference and General Meeting

In conjunction with the AOA-US, American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) and the American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine (AOCOPM)

If your organisation would like to share upcoming events, please email the Secretariat at OIA@osteopathic.org.

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