

SUMMARY

1st Invitational International Conference to form the Osteopathic International Alliance

**Wyndham Hotel
Chicago, IL, USA
June 20-22, 2003**

The meeting was called to order by the conference moderator, John B Crosby, JD at 10:15 a.m.

In attendance was: Dale Austin, MA, Peter Adler-Michaelson, DO, Ronald Blanck, DO, Joseph P Bonanno, DO, Jane Carreiro, DO, John B Crosby, JD, Todd Dombroski, DO, LTC, Bruce Dubin, DO, JD, Richard and Josephine Fasanello, DO, Richard Faliveno, DO, John Ferretti, DO, Silvia Ferretti, DO, David Fiddler, DO, Simon Fielding, OBE, Ted Findlay, DO, Linda Huen, PhD, Christian Hogrefe, MD, Joshua Kerr, Robert Klobnak, Bonnie Koenig, Michael Kuchera, DO, Michael Mallie, Linda Mascheri, William McCord, DO, Frederick Meoli, DO, Konrad Miskowicz-Retz, PhD, John Montgomery, DO, Margaret Ann Morath, DO, Hiroya Morita, DO, Reza Nassiri, DSc, Eugene Oliveri, DO, Dane and Irena Shepard, DO, Debra Smith, DO, MIHM, MBA, Joseph Smoley, PhD, James Thompson, MD, Douglas Ward, PhD, Robert Ward, DO, Larry Wickless, DO. This group represented various countries and organizations such as: Australia, Canada, Columbia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom, United States, IAMRA, FSMB, NBOME, AAO and AOA among others.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2003

INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Mr. Crosby welcomed and introduced the group and Dr. Oliveri spoke on the origins of the Council of International Osteopathic Medical Education and Affairs (CIOMEA) and the fact that this international conference was two years in the making.

PRESENTATION

Ronald Blanck, DO presented “Osteopathic Medicine and the World” which covered such topics as DOs in the US military, osteopathic medicine in Latin America, WHO and US osteopathic medicine, and the AOA and the Global Health Council.

ABSTRACTS ON OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE BY COUNTRY

Canada – Ted Findlay, DO presented a history of osteopathic medicine in Canada and discussed a need to focus on high standards of healthcare and a focus on accreditation.

Germany – Dr. Med. Christian Hogrefe led the presentation of osteopathy. In that country osteopathy is not regulated nor is registration required. However, there are seven non-physician osteopathic schools requiring 1000-1500 hours of training. The two major

osteopathy groups in Germany are the DGOM and the DAAO who came together in February 2003 to form the EROP, which combines regulation of OMT with Manual Medicine and is recognized by major health insurers.

Japan- Hiroya Morita, DO presented on the Japan Osteopathic Foundation (JOF), which was founded in 1977. This foundation has the goal of importing the American model of osteopathic medicine to Japan to give full practice rights to osteopathic physicians in Japan.

Following the abstracts lunch was held. Silvia Ferretti, DO welcomed the attendees and encouraged discussions at each table to communicate why each person attended, what issues were to be identified, and where to be at the end of the conference.

After lunch the country abstracts continued with Simon Fielding, OBE speaking about the United Kingdom. He provided a history of osteopathy in the UK as well as the current state of medicine in that country.

Larry Wickless, DO then stood in for Eduard Renard, DO, who was unable to attend, to summarize osteopathy in France. Dr. Wickless spoke about the development of rules and regulations and the difference in DO vs. MD programs in France.

The final abstract was from Reza Nassiri, DSc on the student perspective of international osteopathic medicine. He spoke of the need for base medical education criteria around the world as well as benefits of international student training such as exposure, broadened curriculum, globalization of osteopathic medicine, and recruitment opportunities abroad.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL MODELS

Bonnie Koenig provided a review of different organizational models that the OIA would be able to follow, depending on what the objectives of the alliance would be. Bonnie presented the idea of using structure as a tool and asked all to consider what the needs and goals of the alliance would be in relation to the choice of models such as a federation and an alliance.

REPORTS FROM LUNCH DISCUSSION

Why attending?

- Others will set international standards
- Help international students
- Preserve osteopathy

What issues to identify?

- Communication disconnect
- OMM/OMT issues
- Challenge of language barriers and unity
- International quality standards
- Membership issues
- WHO – similar or different goals?

- Differing laws in different countries

Where to end up by the end of the conference?

- A direction for the new group
- Organization
- Unified statement
- Communiqué

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

During the Q&A Jane Carreiro, DO told the group about the AAO's involvement in the international community which has been going on since 1994. Dr. Kuchera brought up the idea of a common language. He shared that both FIMM and WOHO have glossary committees, of which Drs. Kuchera and Adler-Michaelson are the respective chairs.

After the Q&A session there was a recess followed by a reception, held in the AOA's Boardroom.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2003

DISCUSSION

The day began with an informal round-table discussion during breakfast.

At 9:00 the group congregated and a summary of WOHO's objectives were distributed.

At 9:10 Bonnie Koenig spoke briefly to help the attendees focus on three objectives for the conference:

1. Enhancing information exchange on osteopathy
2. What might the group be or do?
3. Next steps

PRESENTATION

Dale Austin, MA, Senior Vice-President and COO, Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and Deputy Chair, International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA), gave a presentation on International Medical Credentials, Licensing and Registration. He shared the history of FSMB and IAMRA as well as breaking down Osteopathic Licensing boards in the US.

Q&A SESSION

John Crosby, JD led the conference in a Q&A session that was about topics like: contacts in Latin America, cross border labor movements, education comparability among members of IAMRA, COMLEX recognition in Australia, and many more.

WOHO UPDATE

At 11:10 Jane Carreiro, DO led a discussion of WOHO to help educate the conference members who knew nothing of this group. WOHO consists of osteopathic physicians and osteopaths in Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Americas who are working to promote high standards and practice rights for DOs around the world.

Debra Smith, DO spoke on the importance of entering the international community and the fact that a group should not become bogged down in national or regional issues but work together towards a common international goal.

LUNCH

Following lunch, Robert Ward, DO gave a presentation on the history of international osteopathic medicine. He spoke on the development of osteopathy in the US and in England, including a short biography of A.T. Still and J. M. Littlejohn.

MEMBERSHIP

Bonnie Koenig continued first with reporting more goals for the attendees to think about:

1. Educating the public
2. Establishing standards
3. World-wide recognition
4. "Institutional memory" to advise governments
5. Becoming an NGO

Next was a discussion on membership and resource issues such as physician vs. non-physician membership, education levels and funding. Structure was the following issue. Alliance was the agreed upon structure for the new group and the need for a steering committee of seven to nine people was felt.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 2003

WHAT IS IN A NAME?

A discussion was held to develop a name for the newly formed group. Some of the possible choices were:

- Osteopathic Medical International Alliance
- Alliance of International Osteopathic Medicine
- International Osteopathic Practice Alliance

However, the group voted and decided on the name Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA).

DISCUSSION: SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE

It was decided there were several important issues that would need to be worked towards, including:

1. The importance of educating the public and governments
2. The need to share information and communicate
3. Possibly hold a joint CIOMEA/WHO meeting

In regards to fundraising and resources:

1. Possibility of an official publication, an international journal
2. Development of a liaison to different international groups

FORMATION STEPS

1. Form a steering committee
 - a. Review range of activities suggested (consensus on next steps)
2. Begin communication process; Transparency = Trust
3. Clarify membership
4. Look for sources of new money
5. The AOA was asked to initially fund, staff and develop a budget for the new alliance

TENTATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Larry Wickless, DO
2. Debra Smith, DO, MIHM, MBA
3. Bruce Dubin, DO, JD
4. Peter Adler-Michaelson, DO
5. Simon Fielding, OBE
6. Hiroya Morita, DO
7. Ted Findlay, DO
8. Douglas Ward, PhD, Counselor
9. John Crosby, JD, Interim-Secretary

NEXT MEETING

The steering committee agreed to meet during the AOA's Annual meeting in New Orleans, October 2003. The larger group may meet again in March or May 2004. The possibility of a WHO/OIA meeting during the summer, possibly by e-mail, was also discussed.

CLOSING

John Crosby, JD closed the conference with a discussion of comments and concerns with the conference and where it ended.