



Osteopathic International Alliance · 142 E. Ontario St., Chicago, IL 60611 USA

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27 April 2010

Dear Colleague,

I'm very pleased to be able to send you the results of the OIA's first Membership Survey. As you may recall, we sent this survey out to our 54 membership organisations in February, to get your input on what important issues the Alliance should focus on in the coming years.

The OIA Board is very grateful to the 63% of members who participated in this exercise. We were also very pleased to be able to include the responses to the survey in the strategic planning session we held at our face-to-face meeting in Colorado Springs in March.

We are confident that the detailed feedback generated by the survey will assist the Board in moving the OIA and the osteopathic profession forward and achieving our aims and objectives. While we have not included the written comments that you sent with your responses, we will be addressing many of those in future communications. We hope that you will find the enclosed data and future communications educational and informative.

Finally, I would like to thank Johannes Mayer and the OIA staff for their hard work in conducting the survey and collating the responses.

With sincere regards

Clive Standen
Chair, Board of Directors

Encl.

CC: Board of Directors
Secretariat

Summary of the Detailed Results of the OIA Questionnaire:

From our 54 member organisations we received 34 replies, a total response rate of 63%, which is very high. Overall the responses were positive, with a lot of helpful suggestions about what to improve or what to change about the Alliance. At our 20-21 March Board meeting in Colorado Springs we discussed all of the results in detail and developed a business plan for the next two years. We want to explain to you the most important details of the questionnaire and [what the OIA will do](#):

- About 56% of our members want to receive more information about the complex work of the OIA and its committees, especially about political strategy, minutes, committee work, new members, and regular updates.

The OIA has started with a [Newsletter, which you have received and which will be released twice in 2010, and quarterly in the following years. This newsletter will provide regular updates on Alliance and member activities.](#)

The OIA will improve the [Web site](#) with quick information about actions at board meetings, the most important committee activities and actual news about the membership process for members who applied.

- About 43% of our members want a more active role from the OIA in national politics.

The OIA wants to [facilitate and promote the development of the osteopathic profession](#) in countries where the regulation process is going on. We will assist with our reputation and experience, but we will not interfere with political groups within a country. Our position is to assist and support with advising governmental organisations for establishing the osteopathic profession.

- 60% of our members do not want an individual membership category within the OIA.

While the Board decided not to develop an individual membership category, the OIA will continue to be the representative of osteopathic organisations worldwide. But the OIA will also continue to cooperate very strongly with leading individual membership organisations – currently WOHO.

- In the **individual part** of the questionnaire we received some important suggestions to focus on in the future. In summary these are: more information, public awareness, government support, stronger cooperation between osteopathic physicians and osteopaths, and more benefits for partner members.

As already stated, the [OIA will inform](#) all our members on a more regular basis. One actual project is a [brochure for members' patients that provides information about frequently asked questions \(FAQs\) in osteopathy](#). We will send it to all our members within the next month.

The OIA will continue to strive to strengthen the cooperation between osteopaths and osteopathic physicians. In some countries – like Germany – the OIA was the catalyst for stronger cooperation.

Our Partner members will get a special location on our Web site where they can educate others about their institution; these entries will be known as **“Partner Profiles”**.

- We received some suggestions from our members for potential new member organisations for the OIA.

The OIA Membership committee has now a list of **more than 20 potential members** we will contact in the next month. Our goal is to have more and more countries represented in the OIA from both streams of the profession.

- Some members are looking for research networking and information about actual research work.

The OIA External Affairs committee will develop a networking for research projects worldwide. This network will be developed for discussion in late-2010 and published on our Web site thereafter.

Overall, the OIA is proud to have so many active members with plenty of ideas and input into how to improve our Alliance. The Board has developed a business plan to fulfil most of your wishes within 2010 and the following years. We invite you all to come to the next Conference and AGM in San Francisco, 24-27 October so you can take part and see the results of your input in our osteopathic family.

Johannes Mayer MD, DOM
Chair, Internal Affairs committee

Responses by percentage:

Do you feel you get enough information from the OIA?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	44.1%	15
No	55.9%	19
If no, what kind of information would be useful for your organisation or college to receive?		18
<i>answered question</i>		34
<i>skipped question</i>		0
Do you understand and support the OIA policies?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	88.9%	24
No	11.1%	3
<i>answered question</i>		27
<i>skipped question</i>		7

Do you think the OIA should develop additional policies?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	45.8%	11
No	54.2%	13
If so, in what areas and by what process?		14
<i>answered question</i>		24
<i>skipped question</i>		10
Do you think the membership of the OIA is represented within the Board?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	75.0%	21
No	25.0%	7
If not how could this be improved?		10
<i>answered question</i>		28
<i>skipped question</i>		6
Do you understand and agree with the vision and mission of the OIA?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	96.6%	28
No	3.4%	1
If not, what would you suggest the OIA change?		5
<i>answered question</i>		29
<i>skipped question</i>		5
Do you feel the OIA is representative of the osteopathic profession?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	85.7%	24
No	14.3%	4
If no, which part of the profession do you feel is not represented and how could this be addressed?		8
<i>answered question</i>		28
<i>skipped question</i>		6
The OIA is a membership organisation of organisations. Do you think the Alliance would benefit from having individual members represented too?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	40.0%	12
No	60.0%	18
<i>answered question</i>		30
<i>skipped question</i>		4

If yes, would you prefer:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
a) an individual membership category within the OIA, or	72.7%	8
b) an additional Board seat designated for a specific group of members (such as educators, individual members, regulators, etc)?	27.3%	3
Designated groups you think should have an additional Board seat		6
<i>answered question</i>		11
<i>skipped question</i>		23

Do you think the OIA fee structure is fair?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	92.6%	25
No	7.4%	2
<i>answered question</i>		27
<i>skipped question</i>		7