

2019-20 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

KENDI L. HENSEL, DO, PHD, FAAO



What a year! As I look back at all that's transpired, my feeling is one of both pride and humility.

I am proud to have represented the AAO at many events this past year. From the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association state convention, to the Osteopathic Cranial Academy annual conference, to meetings of the AOA, I have been honored to have served as your representative at many events. The Academy is a highly valued voice in discussions on everything from billing to CME, and your leadership has served you well this year.

I am humbled to have served you, our members, my colleagues, in this role. I have represented your concerns at the AOA and with other specialty associations. In personal roles I have carried that representation to the NIH and AMA. I hope that I have been a voice speaking the unifying truth of this great profession, raising awareness of what we do, and how we are different.

You have great leadership in the Academy. You have visionary committees like the Education Committee, which works diligently to develop courses that you want, to advance your skills, and to serve your patients. You have the Publications Committee, which is working to increase the quality of AAO publications and products, and to elevate the standard of the *AAOJ*. Your Board of Trustees has worked to improve the Academy's policies and procedures, and improve communication and goal-sharing with our many committees.

You have a great AAO staff. Led by Sherri Quarles, this team works to keep the many aspects of the Academy running. From meeting minutes, to publications, to event planning, and keeping accounts, there are innumerable tasks that go into a smooth-running organization, many of which I was not aware of until this last year. So much goes on behind the scenes that most of us never know. And Sherri, as our Executive Director, represents us to such a high standard, she is a model among association executive directors. She speaks out often, with concise and relevant points to support her position, and she's sought out to consult and partner on issues. Sherri's knowledge of Academy history, policies, and the many issues that are relevant to our members is truly voluminous, and I would not have been as successful (or sane!) this year without her counsel.

We have so many challenges ahead of us. We, as a profession, still struggle without a clear identity. We struggle with reimbursement, with licensing demands, and with burnout and competing demands. There is always something else to do!

But the remarkable thing I've witnessed this year has been how much most of us have in common, and how much we want to work together. When we share a goal, many past animosities can be put aside, and a new foundation built on commonalities. Not to say we'll always, or even frequently, agree, but I believe there is hope in our profession. I believe that we are in a stronger place now, with more schools, more numbers, and more opportunities.

So, what will I do now, with the presidency behind me? No plans for Disneyland here! I have my "day" job, at UNTHSC- TCOM, where I've been for 15 years, and now serve as a course director and associate program director for our residencies. I have some research plans percolating, and new collaborations to develop. I have patients to see, and the flag of osteopathic medicine to wave as I continue to represent you at the AMA Pain Care Task Force and on the NIH-NCCIH Advisory Council. And I will continue to serve the AAO in any way I can.

This has been an amazing year, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve and represent you.

Kendi

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendi Hensel DO PhD FAAO". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kendi Hensel, DO, PhD, FAAO