

2020-21 PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT

RICHARD G. SCHUSTER, DO



This has been a challenging year for the Academy, beginning with last year's Convocation, in the midst of which we were nearly forced to cancel due to the rapidly expanding coronavirus pandemic. However, working with The Broadmoor and their outstanding staff we were able to complete and conclude Convocation safely.

As the pandemic evolved, all organizations were forced to cancel events and construct new ones to meet the new demands. Early in the pandemic, we were approached by the AOA to help develop osteopathic specific CME to address the pandemic. I was asked by Dr. Paul Rennie to work with the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), chairing two task forces for programs addressing osteopathic approaches to COVID-19.

On our own end, the Academy was forced to cancel all in-person CME. Working with the Education Committee, we began to transition into virtual offerings. This required the acquisition and development of a new platform to deliver the material, and the development of the material itself. Although we had little to offer for the majority of 2020, these did come to fruition in 2021 with the offering of new courses, and capability of offering Convocation 2021 virtually. With the advent of vaccinations and the hope of resuming in-person courses, we have worked with the Education Committee to develop criteria by which we can safely begin in-person CME again. However, the lesson has been learned and we are working toward developing more virtual CME and other educational offerings to be available at the user's discretion.

The Academy has also been very involved with the AOA, participating virtually in the House of Delegates meeting, the mid-year meeting, and several other private and public meetings and task forces. If anything, we have been even busier than usual in this regard, and much time has been spent supporting Executive Director Sherri Quarles in her endeavors. She, in particular, has kept the Academy actively involved in the changing landscape of the AOA.

Finally, on a purely personal level, I presented as part of the AAO OMED program, the lecture, "Is the Osteopathic Profession Still Relevant?"

I look forward to continuing to support the mission of the Academy in this upcoming year. We will have many challenges as we move forward.

Richard G. Schuster, DO
AAO President-elect