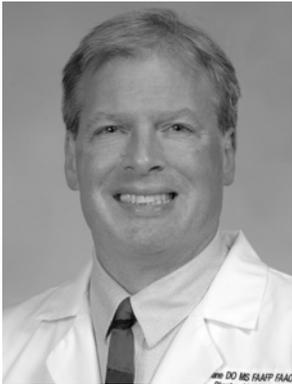


# 2017-18 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## MICHAEL P. ROWANE, DO, MS, FAAFP, FAAO



I would like to begin by acknowledging what an honor it has been to serve as the 2017-18 president of the American Academy of Osteopathy. When I began my presidency last March, I was grateful for a year working closely with Laura Griffin, DO, FAAO, our 2016-17 AAO president, in order to ensure a smooth transition to this role. Purposely pairing the year as president-elect with the AAO president as a mentor is a successful formula that has served the AAO well.

### **Osteopathic Recognition**

Dr. Griffin exemplified the advantages of an Academy president, taking the lead on a significant initiative and following through past her presidency.

Under Dr. Griffin's leadership, the AAO partnered with the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiner's (NBOME) to develop a placement examination for individuals entering a postgraduate training program accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) with Osteopathic Recognition. This involved a lot of effort and work between the NBOME and the Academy led by Dr. Griffin to bring this to reality.

Having a past president take on a major project allows the current AAO president to focus on other matters. I want to assure you, there were a lot of other matters. I also recognized that my time contributing to the Academy does not end when my presidency is over. Dr. Griffin is a great example of the continued contributions of previous AAO presidents. I am all in to serve as part of the team to make each subsequent leadership group successful.

This report is twofold: to serve as a year in review and also to share insights into how the Academy functions and serves its members, as well as the osteopathic profession.

### **Strategic Plan**

A major focus of the past year has been preparing for a new strategic plan. The changes in the current health care and political environment require organizations to adapt in a manner to thrive for the long-run. Previous strategic plans have been developed as a set blueprint with the understanding that the group must stay with that strategic plan. This is not the era we are in currently, and the Academy leadership recognized the need for a paradigm shift in how we move forward.

Everything must start from our membership to ensure the Academy keeps focused on not only meeting the needs of our individual members but on being the group to lead the osteopathic profession. The first step taken was a membership survey to determine what priorities the AAO must focus on in our next strategic plan. Taking this a step further, the Board of Trustees came together for a retreat in November to critically review the current strategic plan, identify the primary points of the membership survey and set the stage for the future direction of the Academy in creating the 2019-22 strategic plan. Prior to our 2018 Convocation, the AAO Board of Governors, Board of Trustees and committee leaders will come together to finalize all the work of this past year.

### **Position Paper**

Dr. Griffin was the primary author of the "American Academy of Osteopathy Position Paper: Recommended Guidelines for Pelvic Examination and Treatment," which was adopted by the AAO Board of Trustees on Feb. 14, 2017. This document was revised by the AAO Board of Governors in March 2017, and it presented to the AOA House of Delegates in July 2017 where it was referred back to

the Academy. I had the opportunity to reach out to multiple osteopathic specialty colleges to gain their input and revisions through the course of this year. The updated document will be reviewed by the AAO Board of Governors in March 2018 to determine the next steps.

### **Single Accreditation System**

The Single Graduate Medical Education Accreditation System (SAS) is a process that began on July 1, 2015, and will be complete as of June 30, 2020, where all training programs currently accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) are transitioning to seek accreditation by the ACGME. The AOA will cease to be an accrediting body on July 1, 2020. Osteopathic graduate medical education does not end with this but is continued with ACGME training programs seeking Osteopathic Recognition. Many Academy members are on the ACGME Osteopathic Principles Committee (ACGME OPC), including the chairperson, Robert Cain, DO, FACOI. I have been a member of this group since its inception and I can attest to the hard work each member has contributed to further osteopathic postgraduate education in this transition from the AOA to the ACGME. Dr. Cain should be commended for his hard work and leadership in moving this group forward.

The SAS has created an opportunity for the Academy to support all current AOA and ACGME training programs to successfully transition to meet all the requirements of an ACGME Osteopathic Recognition (ACGME OR) training program. The BOT has tasked me to develop a comprehensive ACGME Osteopathic Recognition Support Program, so that the AAO can provide all necessary resources to support any training program in any specialty to successfully obtain ACGME OR. The Academy is the organization that will always promote osteopathic principles and practices, as it is our central mission.

### **Scholarly Activity**

The journey to the SAS has created an urgency to develop scholarly activity to meet the increased research requirements by the ACGME. A primary avenue to disseminate osteopathic-focused scholarly activity for the osteopathic community is through *The AAO Journal*. After solid leadership for the last several years by Brian Kaufman, DO, as the editor-in-chief, the journal has instituted a completely new leadership team:

- Janice Upton Blumer, DO, FAAO, editor-in-chief
- Raymond J. Hruba, DO, FAAODist., editor emeritus
- Kevin A. Thomas, DO, MS, associate editor
- Brian Patrick Peppers, DO, PhD, assistant editor
- David Fuller, DO, FAAO, section editor
- Lauren Good, managing editor

In addition to establishing a new editorial team for the *AAOJ*, Dr. Thomas headed an *AAOJ* task force to work towards transitioning the *AAOJ* into a publication that would meet the criteria to be included in MEDLINE/PubMed.

In order to create tools for osteopathic students, interns, residents, fellows and faculty to develop the ability to write and publish a paper, another Academy member, Robert W. Hostoffer Jr., DO, FAAP, FACOP, FCCP, FACOI, made a grant donation to produce professional videos to support research training, “The Scholar Series.” Dr. Brian Peppers joined Dr. Hostoffer on this easy-to-follow and well-produced series that was made available and promoted by the AAO for all of our members to utilize.

### **The Larry Nassar Case**

Unfortunately, this year was not all positive themes. An osteopathic physician, Larry Nassar, hid behind the guise of osteopathic manipulative treatment to prey on young girls and women. The AAO released [a response to the Larry Nassar case](#) after Mark Baker, DO, the president of the AOA expressed the same

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emotion that many of us share after hearing the stories of abuse to over 150 female patients. This individual led to other inaccurate depictions of the osteopathic profession and the application of osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) in nationally recognized publications. The AOA public relations group had their hands full and was a tremendous resource to the Academy to ensure appropriate responses were given when needed. Part of a public relations nightmare is not constantly responding in a defensive manner when a group did nothing wrong, but that is a fine line to walk. A critical point from the Academy response was “the egregious actions of one individual should not deter efforts to encourage the appropriate application of osteopathic concepts in the treatment of patients.”

### **2018 Convocation**

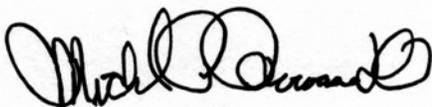
The theme for the 2018 Convocation is “Osteopathic Legends: Their Legacies Live On,” to honor the many great individuals that have impacted our profession. My good friend and a mentor, David Boesler, DO, is the Convocation program chair. Dr. Boesler put together a great program to highlight these mentors of the osteopathic profession. Some are still with us, but many are no longer with us and their unique approach to utilizing OMM is being shared by their protégés for those of us who never had the honor of meeting them.

The opening of the 2018 Convocation is the “Evening with the FAAOs” led by another mentor and friend, Dennis J. Dowling, DO, MA, FAAO. Titled “Something Different,” the program will include a series of mini-presentations from a record number of FAAOs. The group also will attend the “Evening With the Stars” to offer additional hands-on time for the group to complement their individual presentations. It will be an incredible way to start the Convocation in Dallas!

I could not end this without acknowledging the hard work of our Executive Director, Sherri Quarles and the staff. I cannot express how fortunate we are to have Sherri Quarles leading the team at the Pyramids in Indianapolis. We have connected pretty much every week all year to keep everything going in the right direction at all different times. She is always upbeat and enthusiastic. We are blessed!

In closing, I want to again thank the members for allowing me to work for all of you this past year. We have a tremendous group of individuals as members. The Board of Trustees is an incredibly cohesive and dedicated group that has given above and beyond all year long without any hesitation. It is just incredible, which is why we are positioned to be the organization to lead the osteopathic profession on preserving the osteopathic ideals for generations beyond us.

In Service,



**Michael P. Rowane, DO, MS, FAAFP, FAAO**  
**2017-18 AAO President**