International Osteopathic Medicine

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AOA Trustee

AAO Convocation
March 2014
Overview

• History
• Bureau of International Osteopathic Medicine (BIOM) – Vehicle for U.S. osteopathic medical recognition
• Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA) – Unification of the osteopathic profession globally
• World Health Organization (WHO) – Osteopathic Benchmarks and more
• International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) – Forum for the U.S. profession to expand
• Global Health Council (GHC) – International forum for education about U.S. profession
History

• Osteopathy introduced in England by J. Martin Littlejohn, DO in early 20\textsuperscript{th} century
• Outside US, the profession developed predominately with a restricted scope of practice
• Terminology – “Osteopath” vs. “Osteopathic Physician”
Differential Development of the Profession

• In the US, Osteopathic Medicine is fully integrated into mainstream (allopathic) medicine
  – This process took over 75 years from start to completion, as medical practice is regulated by the individual states, as opposed to federal regulation
Differential Development of the Profession

• In most of the rest of the world, osteopathy exists as a primarily manual therapy based profession
  – Regulated in few countries
Differential Development of the Profession

• In several European countries, a third “stream” exists, i.e., allopathic physicians who have taken extensive training in osteopathic philosophy and OMT, and practice osteopathic medicine as a specialty, under the auspices of their medical licensure
History

- For many years, American DOs travelled to foreign countries to teach
- As osteopathy grew, these practitioners desired membership in US organizations
- AOA not interested
History

• AAO created a membership category for non-US osteopaths
• Problems arose
• 1996 - First “International Forum” held in Atlanta
• AOA did not participate, but soon after created CIOMEA
BIOM Activities

• BIOM
  – Promotes osteopathic medical education and practice
  – Facilitates interactions between the AOA, affiliates, and international health care organizations
  – Online International Clearinghouse
  – Annual International Seminar & Poster Session
BIOM Activity

• Annual International Seminar and Poster Session at OMED

• 2013 program focused on outreach and humanitarian care, including
  – Pediatric AIDS initiatives in Lesotho
  – Healthcare delivery in Haiti, from both student and physician perspectives
  – Street medicine in underserved areas
BIOM COM Survey

- BIOM conducts an ongoing survey of all COM programs and activities in
  - International student clinical electives
  - Medical outreach
  - Professional interactions with international organizations
- The report is intended to help raise awareness of the opportunities and interactions available for osteopathic medical students and physicians in the international community
- Currently available as an excel document on Osteopathic.org
- The survey is being updated and revised into an analysis report and will be available in May
BIOM Reports, Cont’d

• *White Paper on Guidelines for Osteopathic Physicians-in-Training Cultural Competencies & International Electives*
  – Guidelines for COMs, OPTIs, and outreach groups for developing int’l electives and cultural competency programs
Background

- There is a significant impact of culturally diverse perspectives, values, beliefs, traditions and customs to health care choices, health policy, and actual delivery of health care.
- Osteopathic physicians-in-training often gain valuable insights by participating in required or elective rotations in international or culturally-focused U.S. sites.
- Approved by AOA BOT July 2011; Available for download at Osteopathic.org.
Other Avenues for Expansion

• The AOA also networks at international conferences such as
  – International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) – Bi-annual conference of MRAs
    – helped with expansion in Canada and others
  – World Health Assembly (WHA) – Annual conference of the WHO
  – Global Health Council (GHC) – provides education opportunities for the osteopathic profession to health professionals that are unaware of osteopathic medicine
DOCARE International

• Founded in 1961 to “provide healthcare to indigent and isolated people in remote areas around the world”
• Carry out ~16 outreach programs a year in Central America, Caribbean, Africa
• Continuity of care clinics in Guatemala and Nicaragua
  – 2-4 week rotations at both clinics open to students and residents
In 2011 AACOM created their International Collaborative

- Aims to provide structure for global health and international rotation educational efforts at COMs
- Jan Willcox, DO, Chair; Tyler Cymet, DO, AACOM staff liaison
- Meets at AACOM Annual Conference
- BIOM and IC have information sharing partnership
  - BIOM staff serves as liaison between groups
U.S.-Trained DOs Practicing Around the World

- 66 nations grant full practice rights to U.S.-trained DOs

Recent victories:
- Australia
- Jamaica
- India (currently only for outreach)
- South Africa (currently only for outreach)
- Malta
### U.S.-Trained DOs Practicing Around the World, Cont’d

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Countries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central &amp; South American</td>
<td>Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Venezuela</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>Bahrain, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia &amp; Australasia</td>
<td>Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Micronesia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Taiwan, Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>Canada, United States, Bahamas, Bermuda, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico (Yucatan state), St. Lucia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>Austria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom</td>
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U.S. DO Expansion

• The AOA works for international licensure recognition on a case-by-case request basis
  – Contact the AOA’s International Division to inquire about your country of interest
  – The Division can provide the information or contacts you need
  – Can provide a letter of introduction, if no previous contact has been made with that country’s health officials
Expansion, Cont’d

• Licensure packet sent to health officials – sometimes that is all that is needed to gain licensure (Grenada) – sometimes much more is involved (UK)
  – usually directly correlated to the sophistication and size of the government and country
  – Canada, UK, and New Zealand required years of discussion and education about the osteopathic profession before licensure was granted

• Best case: the DO will have contacts in the government, or even a job offer in place
Licensure Packet

• Letter about the equivalent recognition of U.S. DOs and MDs for education, training and licensure
• Third party confirmation from
  – U.S. Federal Codes for SSA, VA, CMS, etc.
  – AMA, ABMS, DoD, FSMB, others
• Sample COM curriculum
• FAIMER’s International Medical Education Directory (IMED) and Avicenna Directory (formerly the WHO Directory of Medical Schools)
Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA)

- Organization of organizations; reconnects global profession in the 21st century
- 2004: Alliance incorporated in U.S.
- Vision: “Osteopathy, through its distinct perspectives and practices, will make an important contribution to improving integrated quality health care worldwide.”
- Mission: Advance the philosophy and practice of osteopathic medicine and osteopathy worldwide.
Current Membership

- The OIA has 71 organizational members
  - Representing more than 110,000 osteopathic practitioners
  - Member organizations in 28 countries
    - 9 Full
    - 9 Associate
    - 53 Partner members
Board of Directors

- Mr Michael Mulholland-Licht (AU), Chair
- Dr Jane Carreiro (US), Vice-chair
- Dr Peter Ajluni (US), Secretary-Treasurer
- Dr William Burke (US)
- Ms Ana Paula Ferreira (BR)
- Mr Charles Hunt (UK)
- Dr Karen Nichols (US)
- Ms Marina Urquhart-Pullen (UK)
- Dr Alain Wurtz (FR)
www.OIAAlliance.org

A great resource for global osteopathic knowledge
2014-2016 Strategic Plan

- Board of Directors held a strategic planning session at their October Chicago meeting
- Developed a totally new Strategic Plan, based on input provided by member organisations
- Four focus points:
  - Advocacy and Partnership
  - Member Activities
  - Good Governance
  - Research
Osteopathic Presence at the Olympics

- 2012 London, UK. OIA press releases to news outlets around the world
- 2016 Planning Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2020 Planning Tokyo, Japan
  - Partnering with local members for 2016 & 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
27 July 2012

Osteopathic Presence at the Olympic Games

As the 2012 Olympic Games are now firmly under way, the osteopathic profession continues to have an impact on the Olympics. Osteopathic physicians and osteopaths have lent their skills to athletes from around the world for more than 100 years and will continue to do so at the London Games.

More than 1000 athletes and athletic trainers are participating, serving as designated members of the Olympic Medical Staff. Also for the first time, an osteopathic physician or osteopath will be on the Medical Team in the Athlete’s Village.

Members of the medical staff will provide care for athletes from eight countries provided in more than 20 locations, including the Athlete’s Village and many others.

In addition to providing medical care, many osteopaths and osteopathic physicians provide leadership on numerous Olympic committees providing oversight of operations, logistics and personnel. Athletes treated by osteopathic practitioners have most recently won medals in the 1992, 1994, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 Games.
WHO Benchmarks for Training in Osteopathy

- Published in Nov 2010 as part of the series *Benchmarks for Training in Traditional/Complementary and Alternative Medicine*
- A very different document than was approved at the WHO Consultation
- The OIA decided to produce its own document to build on the *Benchmarks*
Status Report on Osteopathy, Stage 1

- Published in March, 2012
- Mandated by OIA members to improve upon the disappointing WHO Benchmarks for Training in Osteopathy
- Developed in concert with the WHO and describes:
  - The osteopathic profession in its historical and current context
  - Osteopathic core competencies
  - Existing regulatory models
  - Educational standards worldwide
OIA Contributed to WHO Strategy

- Macau, October 2013 – WHO releases the TM Strategy Document
- OIA contributed statistics to the document and was invited to present at the conference
The OIA has now published *Osteopathy and Osteopathic Medicine: A Global View of Practice, Patients, Education and the Contribution to Healthcare Delivery*

- Describes the current state of osteopathy and osteopathic medicine globally and how these disciplines interact with national health systems across a range of countries
- Available in hard copy, PDF or summary at [www.OIAlliance.org](http://www.OIAlliance.org)
IAMRA

International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)
- AAOE: Full Member
- AOA: Associate Member
- NBOME: Associate Member

11th IAMRA Conference
- London, UK, September 2014
  - Theme: Medical Regulation - Evaluating Risk and Reducing Harm to Patients
  - The AOA is applying to present on OCC
9th International IAMRA Conference
- United States (Philadelphia), September 2010
  • 225 attendees from 32 countries

10th International IAMRA Conference
- Ottawa, Canada October 2012
Comparison of several MRAs’ requirements for domestic and international medical graduates’ requirements for practice
Future Meetings

• World Health Assembly, May 18-22, Geneva, Switzerland
• 12th Bi-annual IAMRA Conference – September 9-12, London, UK
• OIA London Conference and AGM – October 3-5, in conjunction with the British Osteopathic Association
• 16th Annual BIOM Seminar – October 25 at OMED Seattle
Thank you!

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