



Message from the President

When I was flying to Miami for the annual meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) and writing this column, I wondered why Miami's weather had been in the 70's and 80's earlier in the week and now rain and highs in the 60's was in the forecast. So much for a warm and sunny break, but the AAD meetings of the past always seem to bring foul weather.

I thought I would give you a few AOCD tidbits. First of all, thanks to all involved in making our Midyear Meeting in Winter Park, Colo., a success. To Program Chair and First Vice-President, Rick Lin, D.O., FAOCD, who with the help of Second Vice-President Alpesh Desai, D.O., FAOCD, put together a terrific program. Not only did we have several great guest speakers such as Whitney High, M.D., lecturing about bugs and Lisa Swanson, M.D., discussing pediatric dermatology (just to name a few), our residents did a fantastic job with their presentations. And speaking of outstanding residents, congratulations to the Koprince Award winners for the Midyear Meeting: Aleksandra Brown, D.O.; Leilani Townsend, D.O.; Geeta Patel, D.O.; and Stacy Rosenblum, D.O.

I would be remiss if I left out our wonderful national office staff for their contributions in making our meeting run smoothly. Thank you to our Executive Director, Marsha Wise, and her staff, Shelley Wood, John Grogan, and production/IT guru John Wise.

Another congrats goes out to our AOBD Chair Stephen Purcell, D.O., who has recently been nominated to serve on the AAD Nominating Committee. This is a major position on an important AAD committee and Dr. Purcell will serve us well. Also, I want to congratulate the 30 AOCD members who passed the AOBD board examination taken in San Diego last year. You now qualify to be a Fellow of the College, so please contact the AOCD office to verify your status.

I recently attended the Board of Osteopathic Specialty Societies (BOSS) meeting in Chicago with our Executive Director and BOSS representative Bob Schwarze, D.O., FAOCD. Much of the discussion was about the possible merge with the AOA and Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. AOA Executive Director John Crosby, D.O., was present and reminded us all that discussions are still in the early stages and there are still many questions to be answered about this possible merger. A big thanks to Dr. Schwarze for his dedication to being our BOSS representative for the past several years. Bob will finish his term this year, and Bradley Glick, D.O., FAOCD, will take over that position in 2014.

Looking ahead to our Annual Meeting in Las Vegas this coming October, Program Chair and President-Elect Suzanne Sirota Rozenberg, D.O., FAOCD, has put together an excellent meeting. The meeting will start on Tuesday, Oct. 1, with lectures beginning that morning, the AOCD Business Meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., followed by the President's Celebration later that evening. More lectures will continue on Wednesday and Thursday. This year's OMED will be at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino Convention Center.

On the political scene, I have recently teamed up with AOA President Ray Stowers, D.O., sending letters to state representatives in Nebraska, Hawaii, Maryland, and Washington State with the hopes of passing legislation against the use of tanning beds for minors.

So as I make it to Miami, even though the temperature outside is winter for this area, a glimpse of sun through the clouds reminds me that spring will soon be here. I wish all of you well and hope that spring 2013 will be a great beginning.

David L. Grice, D.O., FAOCD

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Small Practices Plan for ICD-10 Transition

Even though the deadline to comply with the diagnosis and procedure codes in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10) has been delayed until Oct. 1, 2014, providers shouldn't delay their plans to switch to the new coding system.

Consider the following checklist to help keep these efforts on track:

- ❑ **Educate staff about ICD-10.** Appoint an ICD-10 coordination manager and delegate a steering committee to manage the transition. Train staff on changes in documentation requirements from health plans and how this will affect work flow.
- ❑ **Perform an impact assessment.** Examine existing uses of ICD-9 codes in order to determine aspects of work flow and business practices that ICD-10 will potentially change. Be sure to evaluate both planned and ongoing projects. Create a list of staff members who need ICD-10 resources and training. These include billing and coding staff, clinicians, management, and information technology staff.
- ❑ **Plan a realistic and comprehensive budget.** Estimate a budget that includes all associated costs such as software, hardware, staff training, and even an initial change in patient volume.
- ❑ **Coordinate with external partners.** Contact system vendors, clearinghouses, and billing services to assess their readiness to transition to ICD-10 and evaluate current contracts. Ask vendors how they plan to offer support during the transition. Request a timeline and cost estimate for such support. Analyze existing health plan trading partner agreements, as well.
- ❑ **Get ready for testing.** Request a testing plan schedule from the vendor. Conduct internal testing within the practice as well external testing with payers and other external business partners once the planning stages have been completed.

OCC Recertification Exam Set for Annual Meeting

The AOBD recertification examination, which is part of the Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC), will be given on Sept. 30 at this year's AOCD Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

In order to maintain certification, all diplomats with time-dated certificates are required to participate in OCC, which officially began Jan. 1, 2013. All physicians who were board certified in 2004 and after are required to recertify beginning in 2014. Recertifying physicians may take their recertification exam one year prior to the expiration of their certification, according to AOBD Chair Stephen Purcell, D.O., FAOCD. "This may be advantageous and give the candidate two opportunities to pass the examination before expiration of their certification," he added.

The recertification exam fulfills Component 3 of OCC, which requires the provision of one (or more) psychometrically valid and proctored exams that assess a physician's specialty medical knowledge as well as core competencies in the provision of health care. The AOBD recertification exam will examine the medical knowledge necessary to practice typical general dermatology on a daily basis, Dr. Purcell said. "The core references used to construct the exam include standard texts on dermatology as well as peer reviewed journals on dermatology," he noted. "The syllabus will assist you in focusing your study efforts, but does not guarantee that all exam questions will be taken from these references."

For more information, visit the AOBD website (www.aobd.org).

Dr. Doctoroff, Joins Columbia University's Dermatology Department



Alex Doctoroff, D.O., FAOCD, was recently appointed Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Dermatology at Columbia University Medical Center and New York Presbyterian Hospital. In this capacity, he will supervise a monthly clinic for dermatology residents.

"I am honored to be on faculty at Columbia University," he said. "I hope that my appointment helps AOCD residents feel that they, too, can contribute in all corners of the medical world."

Dr. Doctoroff also serves as Assistant Chief of Dermatology at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in East Orange, New Jersey. He is on staff at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston. Dr. Doctoroff will still maintain his private practice in Clark, New Jersey.



Baby News

Congratulations to Marcus Goodman, D.O., FAOCD, and his wife, Tracy, on the birth of their first child, Cassidy Goodman. Cassidy was born Jan. 19, 2013. She weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.



Want to know who said what at the 2012 AOCD Annual Meeting? Check out the special online issue of *DermLine* featuring comprehensive meeting coverage at www.aocd.org.