



Michigan Osteopathic Association

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President, 2020-2021
Advocates for the American Osteopathic Association

In my role as AAOA President this year, I am working with the incredible AAOA board members to implement our theme of “We are in this together” to highlight the importance of advocating for the Osteopathic Profession through each step of the professional journey. The theme supports our continued growth, while still reflecting our rich history. As in past years, we are building upon the AAOA’s history and foundation, while adapting to the ever-changing landscape of a national organization and continuing the progress we have made.

The steps taken last year in our strategic plan could not have been better timed as we immediately benefited from the investments made in webinars. We were ready to provide programs remotely for our membership with webinars and increased social media presence. Our partnership with the AOF was expanded to include the first ever Holiday Hug Grant. We were unaware about the level of need that exists within our student community and humbled by our ability to help just a little bit to improve the quality of lives. We are eager to continue our participation on the AOA Physician Wellness taskforce. Lastly our updated website better reflects our organization., increase our social media presence. We continue supporting SOMA and special projects, with our annual Fun Run at OMED proceeds. The virtual Fun Run was well received, and participation remotely will now be part of our future as well. Our partnership with the SOMA Foundation awards \$2500 in scholarships annually at OMED for medical students. Our funding of up to \$9000 supports special projects for Osteopathic student families.

We again will be working with support from the AAOA Educational Endowment Fund to provide a series of webinars to inform our DO family all over the country. Our webinars revolve around wellness from relationship to financial. More details will follow as they develop as we build relationships with appropriate resources. Our relationship with the very popular Lara McElderry of “Married to Doctors” led to a recent podcast with past president Angela Kalcec and myself. <https://marriedtODOctors.libsyn.com/169-learning-from-the-leaders-of-advocates-for-the-american-osteopathic-association>

Although we have all missed the in-person meetings, we have done everything remotely this year and are working to make the first in person again meeting memorable and reaffirming.

Our board this year is diverse in experience and gender to represent the varying DO family perspectives. We have student and resident spouses, experienced individuals and those who are not spouses, but rather family members, friends, and colleagues of Osteopathic Physicians like myself. I think this speaks volumes to the commitment and passion our board has for the AAOA, and for Osteopathic advocacy in general. We believe strongly that this is key to our continued success and relevance. Thank you for ALWAYS supporting what we DO because we are in this together.