



# Michigan Osteopathic Association

## **President's Report April 30, 2022, MOA Virtual House of Delegates**

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My one-year term as president of the Michigan Osteopathic Association has gone by quickly. That is the way things work in life and in medicine. We are all so busy with our day to activities and responsibilities that before you know it the next challenge awaits. The challenge for many of us these last two years has been how to continue practicing medicine with the challenges of a global pandemic.

As you all know COVID-19 still presents risks, but with the mitigation strategies most of society has followed in the last 2 years, things are getting “back to normal”. It will be great to see all of you in person at our Spring conference next month in Southfield. I would like to thank the MOA staff and the MOA Education Committee for guiding us through the COVID years and for managing the high quality—and well attended—virtual conferences that we had in 2020 and 2021.

During my term I have had the opportunity to chair the MOA board meetings where we had many important guests and presentations. The highlights for me included presentations on the state of public health in May 2021 from Joneigh Khaldun, MD—the now former—Chief Medical Executive for the State of Michigan and another update in February 2022 from the current Chief Medical Officer, Natasha Bagdasarian, MD and the MDHHS Director, Elizabeth Hertel.

The MOA has continued to effectively partner with stakeholder groups. We enjoy a strong partnership with many hospital groups and the Michigan Health and Hospital Association. I would like to thank our CEO, Kris Nicholoff for all the work he does behind the scenes to keep us informed and with an active voice in the medical community. I would like to thank Kevin McKinney for his lobbying efforts and keeping us engaged. Early in my term we provided a strong voice and support in the support of The Fair & Equal Michigan, a group working to amend the Elliott Larsen act to include protections for LGBTQ citizens in the law. Discrimination of any kind is unjust, and the MOA will continue to provide leadership here.

Public Health Over Politicians (PHOP) is another area where the MOA has been active. PHOP is actively campaigning against the flawed Unlock Michigan 2.0 petition that would place a 28-day limit on statewide emergency epidemic orders and orders by local health officials. Our position is that healthcare decisions should be left to the experts, not the whims of any political body.

I am very confident that the Osteopathic Profession here in Michigan will continue to be strong and, in my opinion, the strongest of all the states. I would like to thank all the Michigan delegates who once again shone brightly at the AOA House of Delegates. In October 2021 I attended the MSUCOM White Coat Ceremony for the classes of 2024 and 2025 and witnessed first-hand the enthusiasm and character of our Osteopathic students. In my opinion, we will definitely be in good hands with these future Osteopathic Physicians.

In November 2021 I once again was able to enjoy the company of MSUCOM students, this time at the 5K fun run and fundraiser. It was a clear, crisp morning and it was fun running out and back along the banks of the Red Cedar River with the finish just outside of Fee Hall. Kudos to Taylor Scott, DO, Bruce Wolf, DO and Kris Nicholoff for supporting the students and participating. I would encourage all of you to join me and the students at the annual event this November.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Dr. Jeff Postelwaite, who handed over the reins to me last year. Dr. Postelwaite, with his expertise in business and management, expertly guided the MOA through the heart of the COVID-19 crisis. As my term comes to a close and Dr. Stephen Bell—a fellow private practitioner—assumes the role of president, I strongly believe we the MOA will be successful in working on behalf of osteopathic physicians and the patients they serve.