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The Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA) held their Annual Conference and General Meeting September 25th through 27th, 2015, at the Hotel Montreal Bonaventure in Montreal, Canada. The Montreal Conference was titled 'Osteopathy: A Global Presence' and truly was global with 81 attendees, representing 31 organizations from 15 countries.

The goals of the Osteopathic International Alliance are to:

- Collect and disseminate accurate and targeted information about the state of the osteopathic profession worldwide
- Promote excellence in osteopathic education, research, and health care delivery
- Conduct consultative partnerships with international associates and organizations to advocate for the osteopathic profession
- Sponsor and deliver educational forums
- Participate in jointly sponsored research and health care related topics

The Montreal Conference, in keeping with these goals, was structured around four distinct pillars: Education, Regulation, Research and Association Leadership & Membership. On Saturday, September 26th, I participated in the Regulatory pillar which was moderated by OIA Board members Ana Paula Ferreira, DO (Brazil) and John Gimpel, DO (US). As a representative of the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners (AAOE), my presentation was titled 'The Distinctive Difference of Osteopathic Licensing in the United States'. My objectives were to review the proud history of the osteopathic profession, denoting the American path of education and the use of COMLEX-USA as a requirement for graduation. I highlighted our state based licensure and the existence of the 14 distinctly osteopathic medical boards. To keep our colleagues informed of current trends, the expansive growth of osteopathic medical schools and osteopathic medical students were enumerated. The transition to a single accreditation system was also reviewed and lead to a robust discussion.

A report from OIA Chair, Jane Carreiro, DO (US) [included] gives more detail to the future projects of the OIA and delineates the results of the Board elections.

I want to thank the AAOE and the OIA for the opportunity to contribute in this distinguished connection of osteopathic physicians and osteopaths worldwide.

Respectfully Submitted, Geraldine T. O'Shea, DO, Immediate Past President, AAOE

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OSTEOPATHIC INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

2015 OIA Montreal Conference & Annual General Meeting

We want to thank all members that attended our annual conference! There were a total of 81 attendees, representing 31 organizations from 15 countries. We had a diverse and dynamic group of speakers and moderators who helped make the conference a success. We will contact members via email once presentations are posted on the OIA website. To provide feedback or comments about the meeting and its content, please access the [2015 OIA Montreal Conference Survey](#).

2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) & Conference

The 2016 Conference and AGM will be co-hosted by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA-US) in conjunction with their annual convention. The AGM is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, 17 October and the conference for Sunday and Monday, 18-19 October in Anaheim, California (USA).

2016 Dues

The 2016 dues invoices will be sent out in November. Membership dues are collected on an annual basis and are due by 1 January 2016. Upon receipt of your invoice, [please visit the OIA online to pay your dues](#).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr Jane Carreiro, Chair
Mr Charles Hunt, Vice-Chair
Dr William Burke, Secretary-Treasurer
Ms Ana Paula Ferreira
Dr John Gimpel
Mr Stephen Hartshorn
Mr Antony Nicholas
Dr Karen Nichols
Dr Alain Wurtz

Chair's Report: *A Tribute from Jane Carreiro*

Dear Colleagues,

Over the past months, the OIA Board has been busy on several fronts and I would like to take this opportunity to share some highlights with you.

On May 19, 2015, the OIA Executive Secretary Josh Kerr, Immediate Past-Chair Michael Mulholland-Licht and I were invited to meet with Zhang Qi, Coordinator of Traditional and Complementary Medicine (TCM) Division at the World Health Organization (WHO). Dr. Zhang discussed two projects

the WHO plans to develop. The first, a **Global Report on Manual Therapies**, will include all internationally used modalities. Experts within the TCM division will draft the document using collected data and information. Work was scheduled to begin on the report in the later part of 2015 and Dr. Zhang solicited immediate input from the OIA on the outline of the report and the content of the questionnaire. With Mr. Kerr's assistance, Mr. Mulholland-Licht and I shared these drafts with the Board and were able to provide input to the WHO before the end of May. (Bravo to the Board for their timely response!)

A second planned WHO-TCM project is a report on the safety and quality of service delivery in traditional and complementary medicine. This is needed to promote safe practice standards. The WHO plans to select institutions in several countries to identify challenges to quality and safety assurance and describe successful responses. These will then be compiled into a checklist that can be adapted and shared between countries and modalities. Mr. Mulholland-Licht and I identified many similarities and parallels between this planned WHO project and the timelines. The proposal will then go before the appropriate WHO committee, WHO board and OIA board for review. The collaboration must show mutual benefit to both groups. In the meantime, we have agreed to move forward with the Global Report on Manual Therapy, which will be a comparison of capabilities among professions (the OIA can also ask for contacts for this, to help lead it and to provide information for Stage 2 of our Capabilities document). This global report and our Stage 2 of the Competency Domains document will show collaborative work with other professions, and along with our previous projects together, should move forward official relations.

The OIA has granted Elsevier and the International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine the right to acknowledge that the journal is recognized by the OIA. It is not the official journal. The OIA board is interested in collaborating with other journals that are of importance to the profession.



Sadly, the OIA board accepted the resignation of our dear friend and colleague Josh Kerr in July. Josh has taken a wonderful position with another medical organization in the US and he will do a fantastic job, but we will miss him. Linda Mascheri and Verna Bronersky have stepped up to assist the OIA until a new executive secretary is identified. The OIA contracts with the AOA (US) to provide staff assistance. The OIA board and I are working closely with the AOA (US) to identify the OIA needs as we grow and progress in our mission.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the mission and goals of the OIA. For a many years the global osteopathic profession has been trying to steer the focus of health care towards “patient health”. With the emerging focus of the WHO, it appears that health care may finally be moving in that direction. As we move forward, we need to remember that we have not been alone in this endeavor. Other professions have been working towards this end as well. Just as the streams of the osteopathic profession have had to disassemble barriers and assumptions to come to a recognition of that which the streams hold in common and that which make them distinct, we need to be leaders in breaking down the barriers that exist between similarly minded professions. We need to educate, support, and role model inclusion and inter-professional collaboration for the benefit of our patients.

All my best to each and every one of you.

Jane

Highlights from the Annual General Meeting

Board Elections

Mr Antony Nicholas, CEO of Osteopathy Australia was elected as Member-at-Large to the OIA Board for a three-year term, replacing Mr Michael Mulholland-Licht who completed his second term. Dr William Burke was elected by acclamation by the American Osteopathic Association, which is the largest osteopathic physician member organization.

Membership

The OIA has 79 organisational members representing 28 countries on 5 continents; 10 Full, 9 Associate and 60 Partner members.

New Members

The following Partner members were ratified:

- ◆ Academia Italiana di Medicina Osteopatica (AIMO), Italy – February 2015
- ◆ Escuela Argentina de Osteopatia (EAdO), Argentina – March 2015

OIA Proposed Bylaw Changes

Also introduced at the AGM, were three proposed bylaws changes to be voted upon at the 2016 AGM. The first was a dues increase and the remaining two focused on succession planning.

◆ Proposed 2017 Dues Increase

It is in the best interest of the financial stability of the organization to maintain between six months and two years of operating funds in reserve. The OIA currently has six months of operating funds in a reserve fund, however the strategic plan directs the board to also use these funds for special projects undertaken to enhance collaboration with the WHO. It is the Board's opinion that the reserve fund needs to be increased to meet both of these conditions, the strategic plan directive and financial stability of the OIA. The proposed bylaws changes will be sent to all members 60 days prior to the 2016 AGM. Since the organization was created in 2005, there has only been one dues increase in 2010. More information will be provided in future newsletters.

◆ The Importance of Succession Planning

Succession planning is an essential part of good governance. It can be used to build strong leadership, help a business survive the daily changes in the marketplace, and force executives to review and examine the company's current goals. To ensure continuity of the OIA's strategic goals, the OIA Board agreed that the best succession planning for the organization and external relationships would be for the Vice-chair position to be changed to Chair-elect. This position would be a protected position with the intent to work together with the immediate past chair prior to becoming Chair. More details will be presented in the coming months, and this issue will be presented for ratification by Full members in 2016.

Five Year Reviews

In December, we will begin sending out Five Year Review notices to members who were ratified in 2011.

2015-2016 Member Meetings

- **The American Academy of Osteopathy**
[2016 AAO Convocation](#) - Somatic Dysfunction and Emotional Well-Being: An Osteopathic Approach to Mental Health **16-20 March 2016**.
- **Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (MWU/CCOM)**
[Costin Institute for Osteopathic Medical Educators](#):
The Costin Institute is a year long educational experience leading to a designation as a Costin Scholar (C.S.), which signifies advanced expertise in teaching, research, management and leadership skills. This experience will hone the skills of current medical educators and will also provide a realistic job preview to those D.O.s considering a career switch into the academic world. The program consists of four weekend sessions. [Click this link for more specific info and to Register now!](#)
- **International Conference on Research in Osteopathic Medicine (ICROM)**
The International Academy of Osteopathy (IAO) will annually organize one scientific symposium. The first International Conference will take place in Ghent, Belgium on Saturday, **24 October 2015**. Join the IAO as they present Osteopathic Research of the Spine. If you are interested in participating, the Organizing Committee invites submission of original osteopathic and research-related posters, within the spine. [Register for the symposium](#).
 - ICROM is offering a [post graduate course](#) before the symposium. This course will provide a scientifically based treatment approach to organic dysfunction of the fascia system. This course gives free access to the conference.

Training Day Continues at Sutherland College of Osteopathic Medicine (SCOM)

Sunday, November 15, 2015 (13:30 to 18:00)

Introduction to Behavioral Semiology of the Newborn and Baby—Jennifer Foucart, Lecturer and Head of the Chair of Psychology at the WSF of the ULB

- More and more young parents rely on osteopathy for some specific disorders of their child such as sleep and gastrointestinal disorders, requiring a fine knowledge of the behavioral semiology of the newborn on the part of the osteopath who would like to make a differential diagnosis. To register, [complete the registration form on SCOM's website](#). For more information: contact@scom.be

If your organisation would like to share upcoming events, please email the Secretariat at OIA@osteopathic.org.

Interested in Hosting the 2017 AGM & Conference?

Bids are currently being accepted for the 2017 and the 2018 AGM and Conference site. If your organization is interested in applying, proceed to the OIA website and [download the application](#) that is housed under the Events tab. Questions, contact Chasati Allen at callen@osteopathic.org by **28 October 2015**.

OIA Speaker's Bureau

As part of our commitment to providing our members and the entire profession with the best possible resources, we have developed a Speakers Bureau, which gives you access to experts in all areas of the osteopathic profession. The Bureau is composed of present and past OIA Board members whom are available to speak at conferences, to your associations, schools and elsewhere.

[View our Speaker's Bureau](#).

Osteopathy and Osteopathic Medicine: A Global View of Practice, Patients, Education and the Contribution to Healthcare Delivery

This report, endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO), provides valuable information about the osteopathic profession. The External Relations Committee has prepared bullet points about this report to assist with policymaking and lobbying efforts. [To download your copy, visit the OIA website](#).

Partner Profiles and Member

- Partner Profiles highlights our new Partner member organisations' missions and activities.
- You can also find the [Osteopath FAQ Brochure](#) on our website, translated into seven languages.
- The [Global Digest of Osteopathic Organisations](#) provides a list of osteopathic organisations in various countries. This document is updated as new information is received.
- The International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine (IJOM), published by Elsevier, is offering all members of the OIA individual discounted subscriptions to the journal, starting from 2015. Discounted subscription (January 2015–December 2015) is EURO €64.00. Members should contact the Publisher and state that they are members of the Osteopathic International Alliance. [View more details online](#).

[More Details](#)