New JAOA Associate Editors

Gilbert E. D’Alonzo, Jr, DO

I am pleased to announce the addition of Michael A. Seffinger, DO, as an associate editor of JAOA—The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association. Dr Seffinger takes the place vacated by Felix J. Rogers, DO, in 2010.

Dr Seffinger graduated from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in East Lansing in 1988. After completing his internship and residency in family medicine, Dr Seffinger practiced family medicine in Gardena, California. In 1999, he became assistant professor of family medicine and osteopathic manipulative medicine at Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific in Pomona, California. There, Dr Seffinger advanced to associate professor and now also holds the title of chair of the Department of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine/Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. He is also the 2011-2012 president of the American Academy of Osteopathy.

In addition to being a lecturer, teacher, and mentor, Dr Seffinger is an accomplished author, having written or contributed to numerous books, including all 3 editions of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) textbook, Foundations of Osteopathic Medicine. He has been the primary author or contributing author for several research articles published in various journals, including the JAOA and Spine. In 2010, he was the chair of the Clinical Guidelines Subcommittee on Low Back Pain and took the lead on creating the AOA’s guidelines for osteopathic manipulative treatment for patients with low back pain.

Dr Seffinger has a long history with the JAOA. In 1999, he began peer reviewing manuscripts; in 2006, he helped launch the JAOA section “The Somatic Connection” with Dr Rogers and continues to manage that section with JAOA Editorial Board Member Hollis H. King, DO, PhD; and in 2007, he became a member of the JAOA Editorial Advisory Board. In his new role as associate editor, Dr Seffinger brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that, with the talents of associate editor Michael M. Patterson, PhD, will help guide the future of this journal.

I am also pleased to announce the addition of Michael Fitzgerald as associate editor. In 2010, the AOA created a JAOA Realignment Task Force to explore options for improving and expanding the JAOA so that it remains a relevant and clinically useful publication for all osteopathic physicians. Mr Fitzgerald, the publisher of AOA publications and the task force’s secretary, was appointed to the role of associate editor to implement the many recommendations of the task force, including the recruitment of original research and other scholarly works related to the tenets of osteopathic medicine.

Mr Fitzgerald has worked for the AOA for 31 years. He began his career as a staff writer for The DO and has since held many positions, most recently director of the Department of Publications.

Please join me in welcoming Dr Seffinger and Mr Fitzgerald to their new roles with the JAOA. I look forward to working with them to make the JAOA a stronger publication.