Happy 30th Anniversary, AAOJ!

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AAOJ Scientific Editor Emeritus

Thirty years ago, I was humbled and honored to be asked to be the Founding Editor-in-Chief of the American Academy of Osteopathy Journal, or AAOJ, as it is usually called. I am humbled and honored again to write this guest editorial in anticipation of the celebration of the thirtieth anniversary year of the AAOJ, and I wish to thank the present Editor-in-Chief, Janice Blumer, DO, FAAO, for the invitation to do so.

In preparation for writing this editorial, I first chose to take a trip down “memory lane.” I wanted to refresh my memory about various events going on in the world at that time. These events, of course, are too numerous to recount here, and in addition, which ones would be most memorable? All a matter of personal taste, I suppose. The year 1991 was a time when the Soviet Union was dissolved, the Gulf War ended, and the Hubble telescope was launched. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 3168. You may have purchased a home at the average price of $120,000, or leased an apartment for an average of $495 per month. In the world of music, you may have listened to Natalie Cole sing “Unforgettable,” or maybe your musical tastes went in a different direction and you enjoyed MC Hammer’s “Too Legit to Quit!” And surely you joined in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Star Trek!

The AAO in 1991 was an organization looking to increase its presence and influence within the osteopathic profession, both here in the United States and globally. This time was the beginning of another growth spurt in the AAO. Membership in the Academy was growing, and the AAO was becoming more visible and influential by being more proactive in its relationship with the AOA, collaborating with other AOA-associated groups, and making its presence known in the growing international osteopathic community. The AAOJ was conceived as another vehicle by which the AAO could achieve these and other organizational goals.

A journal cannot be successful without its champions. The AAOJ enjoys the continuing support and encouragement of the AAO membership, Board of Trustees, and Publications Committee. In addition, the AAO staff are indispensable, working tirelessly on the production, printing, and distribution of the Journal.

From its very beginning, the AAOJ was intended to be a peer-reviewed scientific journal, and a forum for disseminating information on the science and art of osteopathic manipulative medicine. As founding Editor-in-Chief, my two over-arching goals were: 1) that the AAOJ become an educational information tool for AAO members and the entire osteopathic profession, and 2) that the AAOJ would help to project the AAO’s image as a growing, developing, and visible organization for the osteopathic profession world-wide.

The first issue of the AAOJ featured Viola M. Frymann, DO, FAAO, FCA, on the cover. Two lead articles showcased her views on osteopathic philosophy, her approach to pediatric osteopathic care, and the Osteopathic Center for Children in San Diego, CA. Other articles reflected on osteopathic principles and practice, and on practice management tips. Also featured was an image of a newly designed (and still current) AAO logo.

The AAOJ was well-received by the AAO membership. By the time we were preparing the next upcoming issues, we were already receiving an increased number of manuscripts, including research articles, case reports and tutorials. In time, we began attracting more quality manuscripts from the international osteopathic community as well. This has continued to the present day.

When we started thirty years ago the idea of an online journal was virtually non-existent. According to one source, the first peer-reviewed electronic, full-text e-journal was the Online Journal of Current Clinical Trials in 1993. Some few years ago, the AAOJ became an online journal. The AAOJ is a respected publication within the global osteopathic community, and is poised for even greater future success. Quality manuscripts continue to arrive, and a project is currently underway to have the AAOJ indexed, making its presence even more visible and influential. Indeed, we are just “too legit to quit!”

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