

EDITORIAL

Leslie M. Ching, DO

From the Editor: An Introduction

Hello! I am very honored to be the new editor of *The AAO Journal*. As a brief introduction, I graduated from VCOM-Virginia in 2010, completed Family Medicine residency at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, and then completed the NMM Plus 1 year in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Since then, I have primarily been teaching OMM, mostly at Oklahoma State University COM, but also briefly at Touro University-California. At OSU-COM, I've served as the second year OMM course coordinator, supervising physician for our required 3rd year OMM rotation in the clinic and hospital, program director for our ONMM3 program, and taught all years of medical students and residents. Additionally, I have worked part-time at the Cherokee Nation Urgent Care for 8 years and part-time at a private pediatric clinic in Tulsa, where I saw general pediatric and pediatric OMM patients. Of note, I graduated from the Upaya Zen Chaplaincy program based out of Santa Fe, NM in March 2023, with a final project that examined healing through the lenses of osteopathy, trauma, and Zen Buddhism.

It's been my honor to serve on several committees in the AAO since I have been in residency, including the Board of Governors, Education Committee, and Louisa Burns Osteopathic Research Committee.

I published my first paper when I was in medical school, which was about osteopathic philosophy and was the first-place winner in the AOA Bureau of History essay contest.¹ Since then, I've published several papers in the *AAOJ* and *JAOA/JOM*. My topics have generally considered osteopathic philosophy, such as exploring complex systems as a framework for explaining OPP.² Other papers revisited significant historical statistics through an analysis of extant records, such as the morbidity and mortality of the patients treated by DOs³ and osteopathic physician mortality⁴ during the 1918 influenza pandemic, and the treatment results at the Still-Hildreth

Sanatorium.⁵ Through all of these endeavors, I have been inspired and supported by several key mentors, including Harriet Shaw, DO, Richard Schuster, DO, Ken Graham, DO, David Harden, DO, and Ava Stanczak, DO, and also my colleagues, students, and patients.



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AAOJ Editor-in-Chief

As editor, I would like to complete the multi-year effort for the *AAOJ* to be indexed in MEDLINE so that our publications can be more widely accessible. The AAO was established to “teach, advocate and research the science, art and philosophy of osteopathic medicine” and my hope is that the *AAOJ* will expand its presence as more and more people become aware of the potential of osteopathic medicine. As part of this effort, we need quality papers, articles, and reviewers. Every issue will have a short list of possible topics that may provoke your interest in writing a review article or short piece. If you are working in a medical school or residency, working with students or residents on a paper is a good way to mentor them through the publication process. We encourage the development of original research, presentation of novel case reports, discussion of osteopathic educational philosophy and practices, and considerations on the philosophy of practice and history of osteopathic medicine.

I would also like to encourage the submission of your photos or artwork for publication on the cover or in the journal itself. Ideally, these would be pieces that foster contemplation into the art of OPP or medicine itself. Short pieces of poetry or fiction may also be considered for publication.

In brief, my vision for the *AAOJ* is to be a journal that

considers how our rich history impacts the practice of osteopathic medicine today while advancing the philosophy, science, art, and practice of osteopathic manual medicine. How can this journal reflect the lived experience of practicing osteopathic manual medicine? Our membership is growing ever more diverse with regards to medical specialties, geography, style of practice, work situations, religious and spiritual beliefs, ethnicities, sexualities, and genders and it is my hope that our journal reflects this multiplicity of experiences and viewpoints.

The field of medicine has changed in innumerable ways since A.T. Still, MD, DO, flung the banner of osteopathy to the breeze on the Missouri frontier in the late 1800s—but the core of medicine, which is the relationship between the patient and physician on a goal towards healing, is still the same.

References

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3. Ching LM, Watson A, Watson T, Ridgway P. The osteopathic approach during the 1918 influenza pandemic, featuring newly analyzed case reports. *Am Acad Osteopath J*. 2021;31(2):9-16.
4. Watson A, Watson T, Ching L. Osteopathic physician mortality in the influenza pandemic of 1918-1920. *J Am Osteopath Assoc*. 2020;120(7):472-5.
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