



# DO-TOUCH.NET

## *Insider*

June 2017

# From the *director*



Dear Colleagues,

Whether it begins by accident (Pasteur and Penicillin) or by intention (AT Still and Osteopathy), advances in human existence occurs through systematically collected serial observations. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, human kind is constantly collecting observations. Eric Schmidt, the CEO of Google estimates that “every two days we create as much information as we did from the dawn of civilization up until 2003.” When we use electronic billing, electronic medical records, or a credit card, we are providing systematically collected serial observations to humongous data sets that will be used to influence in the near future how we practice and how we live.

As osteopathic clinicians, we often look to Dr. Still for his insights he gained from his systematic observations for modern day medical advice and solutions. While it is important to recall and utilize Dr. Still’s perspectives, it is critical, and consistent with his directives, to assess his conclusions and to make further observations with modern technologies to advance the practice and understanding of osteopathy. To advance osteopathy not only through the eyes and hands of one person and one person’s patients but through the eyes, hands and patients of hundreds of DOs is a tremendous opportunity that DO-Touch.NET offers clinicians who want to actively participate in advancing osteopathy. DO-Touch.NET actively develops scientifically sound palpation training programs for its members, seeks out and promotes the most accurate and feasible tools for clinicians to use in their offices, and supports clinicians to contribute to the large data warehouse that osteopathy requires to make new observations to advance Osteopathy’s principles and practices.

As an update, the current monitoring adverse events study will be finishing at the end of the summer. It is critical for DO-Touch.NET to meet its goals for this and every project it takes on to build its reputation as a reliable source of sound osteopathic research. I hope every participant will do what it takes to meet their site goals. The membership continues to expand as a result of another productive annual meeting and AAO convocation. Our first manuscript from our study evaluating effectiveness and safety of OMT has been accepted and is undergoing final revisions prior to publication this fall. Our first NIH Grant has been submitted. Its goal is to advance our infrastructure to collect more accurate and meaningful data efficiently from your office. Also this summer, the network will be launching a study led by Karen Snider, DO, FAAO to perform a national assessment of the use of OMT in the pediatric population. All those who see pediatric patients, use an EMR, and are interested in participating in this study should contact DO-Touch.NET’s network manager Lisa Norman for more information. Data for this study should take no more than 1 day to collect!

*Brian F. Degenhardt, D.O.*



**DO-Touch.NET**  
A Network of Doctors Treating with OMM

## DO Touch.NET Annual Meeting

We had so much fun this year at the AAO Convocation in Colorado Springs! We had the opportunity to see many of our members at our DO-Touch.NET Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar and catch up with others at our exhibit booth. This event helped to increase our membership base to more than 320 members!!!

Our speakers for the DO-Touch.NET Annual Meeting and Educational Seminar came from near and far and their topics focused on the current evidence of OMM and Manual Therapy as well as what is being done and what needs to be done to promote and advance OMM and Manual Therapy research. Participants learned what research opportunities are available for OMM research, and the barriers that must be overcome to implement that research into their own clinical practice. DO-Touch.NET updates were also reported as well as the progress of the various studies being conducted by the network in the US and in Germany.

Immediately following the annual meeting, DO-Touch.NET hosted a luncheon and awards ceremony for our members. During this event several of our active research members received awards for their significant contributions to the network and for their vision, determination, and commitment to research in osteopathic medicine. Those receiving awards included: Reem Abu-Sbaih, DO; William Brooks, DO; Eileen Conaway, DO; Richard Feely, DO; Regina Fleming, DO; Marina Fuhrmann, DO (Europe); Hollis King, DO; Bernadette Kohn, DO; R. Paul Lee, DO; Michael Shane Patterson, DO; Eric Snider, DO; Sherri Walker, DO; and Katherine Worden, DO.

We are already planning next years event and hope you will be able to join us in Dallas.



Nora Ern, DO (Europe); Markus Weslowski, DO (Europe); and Eric Snider, DO



Lisa Norman, Bernadette Kohn, DO, Jane Johnson



Sherri Walker, DO and Brian Degenhardt, DO



Francesco Cerritelli, DO, Europe



*member spotlight*

### **Richard A. Feely, DO, FAAO, FCA, FAAMA, FIAIME, FABQAURP**

Dr. Feely is in private practice in downtown Chicago at the Feely Center for Optimal Health, a small group practice utilizing Osteopathic principles and philosophy in direct patient care. He is Clinical Associate Professor of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine at Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, Downers Grove, IL. He and a team of health experts bring patients a refreshingly different approach to health care. With a wide array of proven-effective resources, Feely Center offers unique solutions for optimal health, within one practice. These include acupuncture, Chinese herbology, functional and traditional medicine, and Osteopathic manipulative medicine, especially, cranial Osteopathy.

Dr. Feely is board certified in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM), Acupuncture, Independent Medical Examiner, Healthcare Quality Management and Family Practice. He has been practicing OMM and Acupuncture for over 30 years. He is proficient in YNSA, French Energetic and Five Element Acupuncture. He has authored *YNSA Principles and Practice* and *Clinical Cranial Osteopathy*.

The Osteopathic philosophical approach to the patient permeates the office as they care for patients. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine is the core of treatments that has helped so many of Dr. Feely's patients, either for improved health, longevity, acute or chronic structural dysfunction and/or disease states concluding that OMM has a viable place in most medical conditions and problems. Dr. Feely's commitment to OMM and research has been shown by his strong support of DO-Touch.NET and its research activities as well as his hope that more research studies on the clinical effects of OMM/OMT are developed within the medical community. Dr. Feely has served the profession as president of the Osteopathic Cranial Academy, American Academy of Osteopathy, Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society, Osteopathic Cranial Foundation and FORCE. Currently, he is a director of the American Osteopathic Foundation.

Sharing my skills with resident physicians and during rotations with DO students is a great pleasure! I also provide monthly lectures at Franciscan St. James Health Hospital about OMM/OMT sharing the rich legacy of Osteopathic techniques to residents and student physicians.



### **Patient-Reported Adverse Events from Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment Study Update**

**Currently we have received 655 data sets from the Patient-Reported Adverse Events from OMT study. Although this is a good number, we are far from our goal of 1,000 and we only have until the end of September to complete the study. To succeed, 21 surveys will need to be submitted each week through the end of the grant. Please keep this in mind as you are recruiting or just starting the enrollment process, we need your help more than ever to reach our study goal. This data is extremely critical to the future of the profession and we can only succeed with the team effort of the network.**

**Thank You!!**

### **May 2017 DO-Touch.NET Membership Map**





## German Collaboration



Martin Verhoff  
Wettringen, Germany

### *member spotlight*

#### My way to Osteopathy

During my work as Physiotherapist, my first contact with Osteopathy was 16 years ago by a colleague. I had the luck to have the Still Academy near my residence. Today after several additional trainings and qualifications, I still appreciate this "basic training".

The interesting thing about osteopathy is to solve the exciting daily challenge of finding the dysfunctions of my patients in the anatomical and physiological context and to counter this with the osteopathic philosophy. For me, osteopathy is a natural science that makes me understand life and the living. For several years I have been especially interested in the interrelationship between the somatic structure and the emotional sensations. My Bachelor's and Master's thesis was about the influence of Osteopathy in patients with somatoform autonomic disorders.

Five years ago, I launched a project, in collaboration with the town where I practice. This project gives every mother the opportunity to get an osteopathic examination together with her infant. The municipality takes a large part of the costs and this project continues to be a great success.

In Germany we are in a phase of important decisions regarding the future practice of Osteopathy. I have been a member of the VOD for 14 years and I support the claim of the VOD, which is consistently supporting the creation of the independent profession of the Osteopath. In recent years, osteopathy has gained great popularity and acceptance in Germany, which is due to the informative and enlightening public relations work of the VOD.

Scientific studies are needed to further advance this development. For me the cooperation with DO-TOUCH.NET is an important link. With these international studies, results with many research subjects could be achieved and by the international participation the general valid criteria of Osteopathy can be depicted, e.g. for insurance companies. The scientific claim should correspond to the entire osteopathic philosophy. By a fragmentation of Osteopathy only for scientific reasons, Osteopathy would lose its immense potential and thus its identity. In today's high-tech medicine, I see a great opportunity for Osteopathy, which has always been understood as a humanistic medicine, to complement school medicine.

My spare time I spend with sports, hiking with my wife and reading books. We are both Greece fans.

All the best with our osteopathy and always satisfied patients.

**Congratulations and appreciation goes out to the VOD DO-Touch.NET active study members and their contributions to the "Patient-Reported Adverse Events From Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment" (AE) study. To date, 10 osteopaths have completed their participation in the study, they have received 355 data sets, and expect to conclude study recruitment on July 15, 2017, with more than 400 data sets complete. This will be a significant contribution to the data warehouse and we look forward to working with them on future manuscripts and many other collaborative activities.**

**We were privileged to have Nora Ern, DO (Europe), and Markus Weslowski, DO (Europe), both members of the VOD travel back to Kirksville with us following Convocation. While in Kirksville they worked with Brian Degenhardt, DO; Ken Pamperin, MS; and the entire A.T. Still Research Institute (ATSRI) team to train and work with the digital camera measurement system (DCMS). This system was designed by the ATSRI to obtain objective feedback from commonly used osteopathic palpation techniques. This system will soon be installed at Hochschule Fresenius University in Idstein, Germany to be used as a training and assessment tool for palpatory skill development, just as it is used at A. T. Still University.**

**The VOD will also be holding their 20th International Congress from September 29—October 1, 2017 in Bad Nauheim, Germany. We were honored to be a part of this event last year by invitation of the VOD and host a booth at the conference. This collaboration resulted in over 40 new DO-Touch.NET members. We are currently planning our next trip in September and hope to match or exceed those numbers this year.**

**We are looking forward it!!!**



Check out our website for more information on our current studies, members, meetings, and more.

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