



DO-TOUCH.NET

Insider

December 2016

From the *director*



Dear Colleagues,

Greetings and happy holidays!

Throughout many parts of the world, the end of the year is a time for thanksgiving, celebration, reflection, assessment, planning, and hope. Here at the administrative offices of DO-Touch.NET, the network whose purpose is to assist in advancing health through research on osteopathic manipulative medicine, we are thankful for the work that you do and your intention to contribute to real world research in OMM. In an era of great change within the healthcare system, it is critical now for clinicians and patients to proactively participate in shaping healthcare. One way of doing this is by contributing to research which establishes the evidence from which healthcare policy is created.

Within DO-Touch.NET, significant growth occurred in 2016. In the past year, the network has grown to 277 members, an increase of 83. There are 202 clinicians who practice in the USA, 56 in Germany, and 19 from other locations around the globe. "Active members," those who have contributed data to DO-Touch.NET research projects within a three-year period, has increased to 87 members, over 30% of the membership. A study group has formed within DO-Touch.NET, called the Pediatric Research Alliance, to evaluate OMT in the pediatric population. They have been routinely meeting to design their first study which we hope will be launched in 2017.

In DO-Touch.NET's current study assessing adverse events after OMT (AE study), we have the goal of 50 clinicians within the USA collecting data from 1000 unique patients (in other words, each clinician contributing data from 20 unique patient visits). As of Dec. 2016, we have collected data on 465 patients, 13 clinicians have completed data collection, and 28 are currently enrolling. In a parallel study occurring in Germany, 6 clinicians have completed data collection and 13 are enrolling.

With deeper reflection, it becomes clear that our success rate is not meeting the network's goals. Data collection for the AE study was to be completed in September 2016 and now 3 months later, we are not half way to achieving the study's goals. This study was designed to be extremely simple for clinic office staff and patients to manage. We hoped that clinicians would be able to complete their role in the study in 1-2 months, but at this time, it is taking an average of 8 months. Generating evidence to influence healthcare policy requires timely performance and dissemination of research. Timely performance and dissemination of research also leads to better funding and more influential study designs. We have to do better if we are going to meet our purpose of influencing the evolution of healthcare.

Now there are great opportunities but great risks for not producing quality research in OMM. As a result, this year's DO-Touch.NET Annual Meeting is entitled "Building a Research Culture in OMM: Advances, Limitations, and Opportunities." This half day meeting will occur Wednesday afternoon, March 22, from 1-5 pm at the Broadmoor Hotel prior to the AAO Convocation. The meeting time and location was set up to make it easy for members attending the Convocation to come in a little early and participate in the DO-Touch.NET Annual Meeting.

Let's make 2017 a golden year for research in osteopathic medicine. There has been no better time for incorporating research into your practice. Just see how easy it is to participate by giving our network manager, Lisa Norman, a call.

We also are looking forward to seeing you at the Convocation and especially at the Annual Meeting.

Brian F. Degenhardt, D.O.



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

DO Touch.NET Annual Meeting

When planning your travel to the AAO Convocation in Colorado Springs, CO, make time to attend the DO-Touch.NET Annual Meeting. This event, titled “Building a Research Culture in OMM: Advances, Limitations, and Opportunities,” will be held from 1:00—5:00 PM on March 22 at the Broadmoor and will focus on the past, present, and future directions of OMM Research (current agenda below, updates will be forwarded to members as they become available). Additionally, we will coordinate with the CE department to offer 4 hours of AOA category 1-A credits. There will be no charge for any DO-Touch.NET member that has participated in a research study and those not wanting CME. Any non-active members wanting CME will be charged \$50. Watch your email for registration information.

We encourage all DO-Touch.NET members to attend this program for updates on the “Use and Effectiveness of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine in the Clinical Setting” study and the AAO funded “Patient-Reported Adverse Events from Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment” study. This program will give you the most up-to-date information on how to become a successful clinician researcher and allows you to help guide future research within DO-Touch.NET.

New to this years event, we will host an awards ceremony for those clinicians that have participated as an active research clinician in any of our DO-Touch.NET studies. We are looking forward to recognizing those individuals who have committed both time and resources to the advancement of the network and the profession. For those DO-Touch.NET members that are part of our Pediatric Research Alliance please watch you in-box for more details regarding an Alliance event during Convocation.

DO-Touch.NET Annual Meeting Agenda

The Broadmoor Resort

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 from 1:00—5:00 PM

Building a Research Culture in OMM: Advances, Limitations, and Opportunities

Past –

Advances: Review of the literature

Limitations: Weaknesses in the current literature: research designs, conclusions, unanswered questions

Present –

Advances: Ongoing research in OMM

Limitations: Barriers to current research activities

Opportunities –

NIH Strategic Plans: Opportunities for OMM Research

Review of AOA grant opportunities

Review of LBORC grant opportunities

“Grant-free” opportunities

Future Directions for OMM Research –

Short and long range plans



REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE MARCH 22, 2017, 1:00-5:00 PM



Patient-Reported Adverse Events from Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment Study

For those members who have not yet participated in the Patient-Reported Adverse Events from Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment Study, **NOW IS THE TIME! WE NEED YOU**

It is critical that all DO-Touch.NET members that can contribute to the study do so now! To date, we have only received half of the required surveys to satisfy the goals of the study and there are only a few recruitment months remaining.

The type of research being conducted by DO-Touch.NET is being prioritized within the NIH strategic plans. Receiving funding at this level would allow us to increase our support to research sites and improve the evidence-base for the safety and effectiveness of OMM. However, we will not be competitive for future funding if we do not successfully complete this project. As the only PBRN focused on OMM, it is crucial that we sustain this research and expand the data warehouse.

The Adverse Events Study is easy to administer and requires little staff or physician time. The process in general is as follows:

1)	Clinician or office staff hand out a survey packet to patients who receive OMT.
2)	Participant completes 24-hour, mid-week, and 1-week survey, either electronically or on paper.
3)	Clinician completes an OMT Documentation Form on each survey that has been returned.

Sites that do not require their own IRB approval will be covered by the ATSU IRB. Training is minimal and we can review all office procedures in about an hour. Contact Lisa Norman at lnorman@atsu.edu to begin your participation today!

CALENDAR THIS EVENT!

DO-Touch.NET Site Meeting

**January 20, 2017
1:00 PM Central**

member spotlight



Sheldon C. Yao, DO

DO-Touch.NET would like to introduce you to Sheldon C. Yao, DO, Chair and Associate Professor of the Department of OMM at the New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (NYITCOM). Dr. Yao participated in our Patient-Reported Adverse Events from Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment study and was able to complete the study requirements in only 3 months. He also fills the role as Site Director assisting with IRB approval and guiding other clinicians through the study process. He continues to assist DO-Touch.NET by attending Adverse Event Study meetings and offers help and suggestions to other sites who are going through the recruitment process. We appreciate his dedication to the network and willingness to help at all levels.

Dr. Yao has been working at NYITCOM since 2006. He is trained in family medicine/OMT and is NMM/OMM board certified. His research started with very basic studies as he pursued trying to scientifically demonstrate the efficacy and application of OMT on Parkinson Disease subjects and sports concussion.

He believes that *“it is important for everyone to be involved with DO-Touch.NET as we all need to contribute and help with establishing OMM as a safe and effective treatment modality for our patients. Without OMM research and data to show our patients, colleagues, insurance companies, and government it is hard for us to obtain the recognition we all deserve in the medical community. Everyone needs to help contribute in order to preserve and advance our osteopathic profession.”*

Dr. Yao also enjoys the challenges of teaching and trying to impart on the new generations of young physicians the importance and distinctiveness of their osteopathic training and motivate them to utilize their hands, heads, and hearts when treating their patients.

We are proud that Dr. Yao is an active DO-Touch.NET member!



German Collaboration

Many thanks to the Verband der Osteopathen Deutschland e.V. for allowing us to present and host a booth at the 19th International VOD Congress held in Bad Nauheim, Germany, September 30-October 2, 2016. We are excited to report that during the Congress over 30 new osteopaths signed up to become DO-Touch.NET members and many have already committed to participate in the Patient-Reported Adverse Events From Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment study. Twenty-one osteopaths became active members by enrolling participants into the study and 6 of these members have completed the recruitment process. Since there is a significant deficit in the evidence regarding the safety of osteopathic manipulative treatment, those clinicians participating in this unique study are pioneering osteopaths striving to build the evidence-base for OMM.

In coordination with Fresenius University of Applied Sciences, the A.T. Still Research Institute (ATSRI) set up a Advancing Skills in Osteopathy assessment during the Congress. Attendees were able to rotate through the human simulation palpatory models developed by the ATSRI used to test and evaluate manipulation skills. Participants were tested on their localization and diagnostic accuracy and the top two performers were recognized during the formal evening ceremonies held at the end of the Congress. Those top performers were Undine Hopp and Stefano Borzone. Additionally, as the top performer of the testing process, Undine was given the 1st Annual A.T. Still Research Institute Excellence in Palpation Award and received artifact reproductions donated by Jason Haxton, M.A., D.O. (Hon.), Director of the Museum of Osteopathic Medicine .



Our heartfelt appreciation to Marina Fuhrman, M.Sc., DO, MRO. Ulrike von Tümping, DO, MRO, Ctirad Kouček, Kerstin Ceglie, and the entire VOD team for making our stay in Germany both memorable and productive. Special thanks to Markus Weslowski and Steffanie Witt for their dedication and help with the model assessment testing held during the Congress.



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

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