Proposal for DO/MPH Fellowships in International Osteopathic Medicine Development

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Abstract

Worldwide, approximately 85,000 osteopathic physicians and osteopaths practice in as many as 30 countries. Admissions requirements vary greatly, as do training standards, degrees granted, practice rights, reimbursement issues, specialty status, and governmental registry and recognition.

Regardless of differences in training, international osteopathic health professionals supply much-needed primary care in an efficacious and cost-efficient manner.

Worldwide our profession currently displays a paucity of osteopathic physicians trained in International Osteopathic Medicine Development (IOMD), despite a burgeoning need for osteopathic physicians and osteopaths abroad to share expertise and despite the recent surge of interest among US DO students, residents, and physicians in international osteopathic medicine.

This project offers specific avenues for professional development in the field of IOMD:

• Combined DO/MPH programs in International Osteopathic Medicine Development among the 13+ US schools of Osteopathic Medicine that offer MPH and other dual degrees, with national coordination of projects, initiatives and outcomes.

• Post-doctoral and post-graduate Fellowships in International Osteopathic Medicine Development for osteopathic physicians and other health professionals, with the option of earning an MPH.

• Collaborative projects and partnerships in academics, research, and administration between US schools of osteopathic medicine, US national and international osteopathic professional societies, and foreign national and international osteopathic medical schools, schools of osteopathy, and professional societies.

Rationale for Training in International Osteopathic Medicine Development (IOMD)

IOMD is the study of international educational, clinical, administrative, and managerial systems of osteopathic medicine and osteopathy in all stages of international development (See Figure 1).

Most evolving patient care systems pass through similar developmental stages, and the sequence of development in advanced systems is useful as template for development in other countries. Development often follows a commonly shared structure regardless of national or cultural differences.

Figure 1: Current State of International Osteopathic Medicine Development

IOMD would improve access to training opportunities in medical education, clinical care, and management systems.

IOMD would help contain health care costs by increasing access to training in comprehensive primary and preventative care & efficacious non-invasive medical management.

IOMD would improve health care quality by improving educational and professional standards.

Stakeholders

AOA, specifically members of the AOA-Osteopathic International Alliance, express support for and interest in the development of the IOMD.

AACOM supports the exploration of the feasibility of a Fellowship as a nationally coordinated project, and has encouraged this presentation of this project and its dissemination at AACOM Education Committees.

US DO Schools

• 23 US COMs
• 13 with at least one dual degree program

DO/MPH

PCOM

NSU-COM

UMDNJ

TCOM

UNECOM (on-line)

World Osteopathic Health Organization (WOHO) has expressed interest in IOMD.

• WOHO will initiate a committee on International Osteopathic Medicine Development.

• WOHO will encourage its member schools and societies to develop similar professional fellowships in International Osteopathic Medicine/Osteopathy Development as their systems mature.

Foreign schools of osteopathy / osteopathic medicine have expressed great interest in international collaboration with any US Fellowships in International Osteopathic Medicine Development, and are considering similar Fellowships:

• The European School of Osteopathy, Paris
• The Institute of Osteopathic Medicine, St. Petersburg, Russia
• The British College of Osteopathic Medicine, London, UK

References


