Bringing People Together

The Role of AACOM in Organizing American Osteopathic Medical Educators

Tyler Cymet, DO
Associate VP for Medical
Education



American DO's

- The problems of success:
 - Fully trained physicians
 - Licensed in all 50 states in the United States

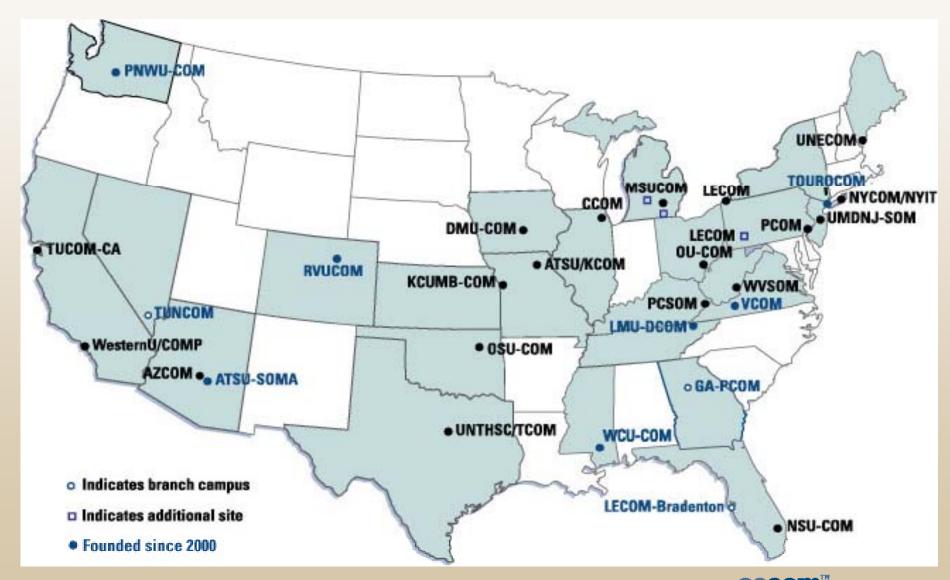
 In search of identity and equality at the same time



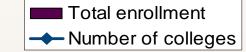
How did Osteopathic Medicine in America get to where it is?

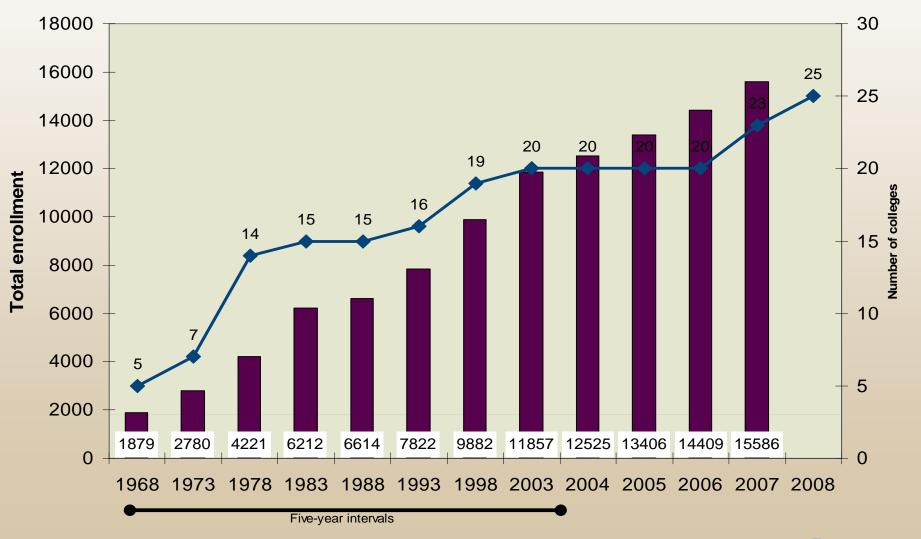


Location of Osteopathic Medical Schools



Total Enrollment and Number of Colleges





History of Osteopathy

- 1874 Principles of Osteopathy Published
- 1892 American School of Osteopathy opens
- 1896 Vermont Licenses DO's
- 1897 American Osteopathic Association founded
- 1898 Science established as guiding principle of osteopathy



1898

- Osteopathic schools were being started without capital, equipment, brains, experience, or purpose, except to make money.1
- Private Practitioners trained osteopaths in an apprentice model
- Osteopathy training was being "boiled down" to a few "movements" with 300 treatments constituting complete training

^{1.} Booth, ER History of Osteopathy and Twentieth-Century Medical Practice 1905 Press of Jennings and Graham page 271-272

 The public face of osteopathy become advertisements that offended many practitioners.

 Many felt that a concerted effort would be necessary to establish and maintain a satisfactory standard.



- The American School of Osteopathy sent out a letter calling for other schools to join them in starting a college organization.
 - American School of Osteopathy (Kirksville)
 - Western Institute of Osteopathy (Denver)
 - Northern Institute of Osteopathy (Minneapolis)
 - Pacific School of Osteopathy (Los Angeles)
 - Milwaukee Institute of Osteopathy
 - Still College of Osteopathy (Des Moines)



- **1899**
 - Boston Institute of Osteopathy
- **1900**
 - Southern School of Osteopathy (Franklin, KY)
 - Northwestern College (Fargo, ND)
- **1901**
 - Philadelphia College of Osteopathy
 - Atlantic School of Osteopathy (Wilkes-Barre, PA)
 - California College of Osteopathy (San Francisco)



- Early Issue Addressed
 - Uniform Curriculum at the colleges
 - Uniform rate of tuition
 - Student Matriculation to be limited to once/ year
 - Training time increased from four terms of five months of three years of nine months



- **1904**
 - Debate on length of study
- **1916**
 - agreement on a need for a four year curriculum

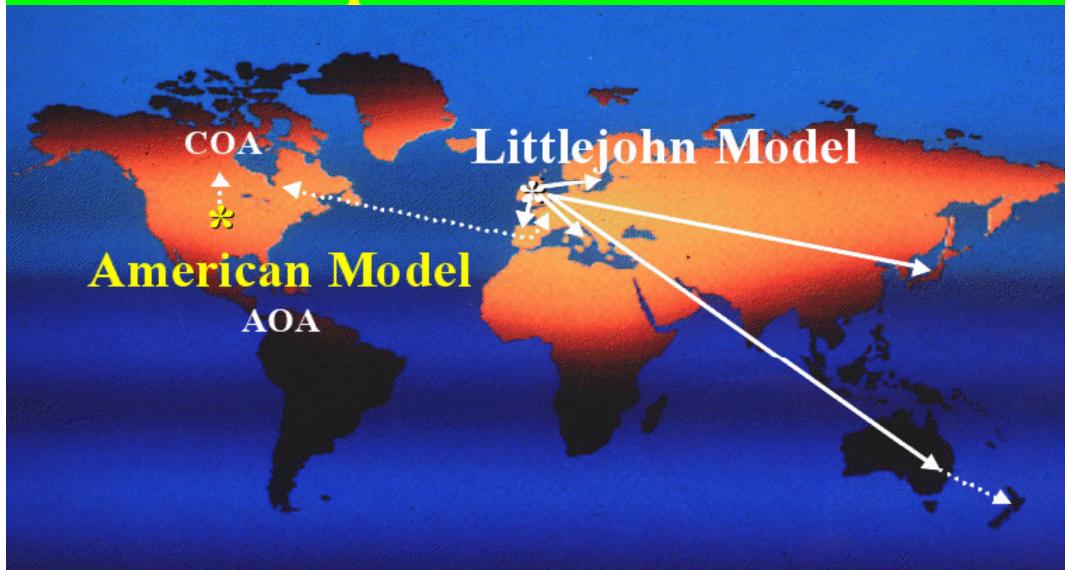


John Martin Littlejohn

- 1901 Started the American College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery
- 1909 Name changed to the Littlejohn College and Hospital
- 1913 Littlejohn College goes out of business
- 1917 Started the British School of Osteopathy



Divergent Evolution: 2 "Osteopathic" Practitioners



- 1929-Pharmacology to be taught in osteopathic medical schools
 - Unclear on role of AOA vs AACOM



Standardized undergraduate requirements

 1938-One year of undergraduate education required

 1940-Two years of undergraduate education required (this was the requirement for allopathic medical school at the time)



 1951 Internship and Residencies for DO graduates started to become established



 1960's American Medical Association opened up membership to DO's

 1960's ACGME Internship and Residencies open to DO's



Present Growth

- 1985-Growth of Osteopathic Professionrotations allowed in Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education hospitals
- 1992-National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners allows candidates to sit for boards even if they do first year in MD program
- 1998-2008 Second growth spurt in DO schools. Rotations become commodity



Cooperation to Advance Profession

- Represent the profession externally
 - Not to all, but to other national organizations
- Provide a neutral place for schools to meet and share information

 Reward Excellence: National Academy of Osteopathic Medical Educators and provide opportunity for national service

AACOM-Who we are?

- 26 Colleges at 33 sites in 23 states
 - Every college is a member
 - 25 use our common application process
- Centralized service for data collection and analysis
- Unifying voice for the profession to outside agencies
- Promote the development of academic leaders and medical educators



AACOM's Revenue Sources

- Dues from each college
- Income from Annual Meeting
- Application Fees



Applicant Data & Trends

Nearly one in five US Medical Students attend an Osteopathic Medical College



Projected that by 2019 one in four US Medical Students will be attending an Osteopathic Medical College



AACOM's Application Service

- Applicants undergraduate transcripts verified
- Applications for each college 'packaged' in uniform way
- Application data compiled and shared



AACOM's Application Service

- Applicants undergraduate transcripts verified
- Applications for each college 'packaged' in uniform way
- Application data compiled and shared



AACOM's Annual Meeting



Where do we cooperate?

- Meet once a year
- Councils across the colleges
- Impartial source to collect and share data on the profession.
- Representing the profession to political and funding organizations
- Create communities for people with similar experiences and concerns.
- Research grants that encourage collaboration



Collect and Share Data

Making it work on a larger scale

Tuition rates

Applicant numbers

Facilities information size, hours, resources



Conclusion

• If you're locked in a room with your clone, do you end up fighting or friending?

 It's easier to teach others what a DO is and does, rather than correct, retrain or argue.

You have to stock the shelves with a product, and always have inventory, in order to be successful.



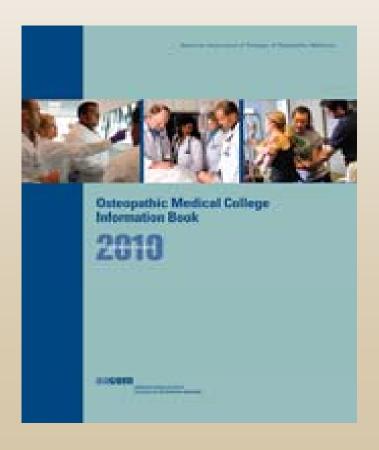
Osteopathic Medicine: A Profession in Transition

- Regional to National
- Separate hospital system gone
- Separate GME system changing
- Separate health care system to integrated systems and practices
- Primary care under challenge
- OMM specialization
- Private to public
- Implementing a research mission and culture



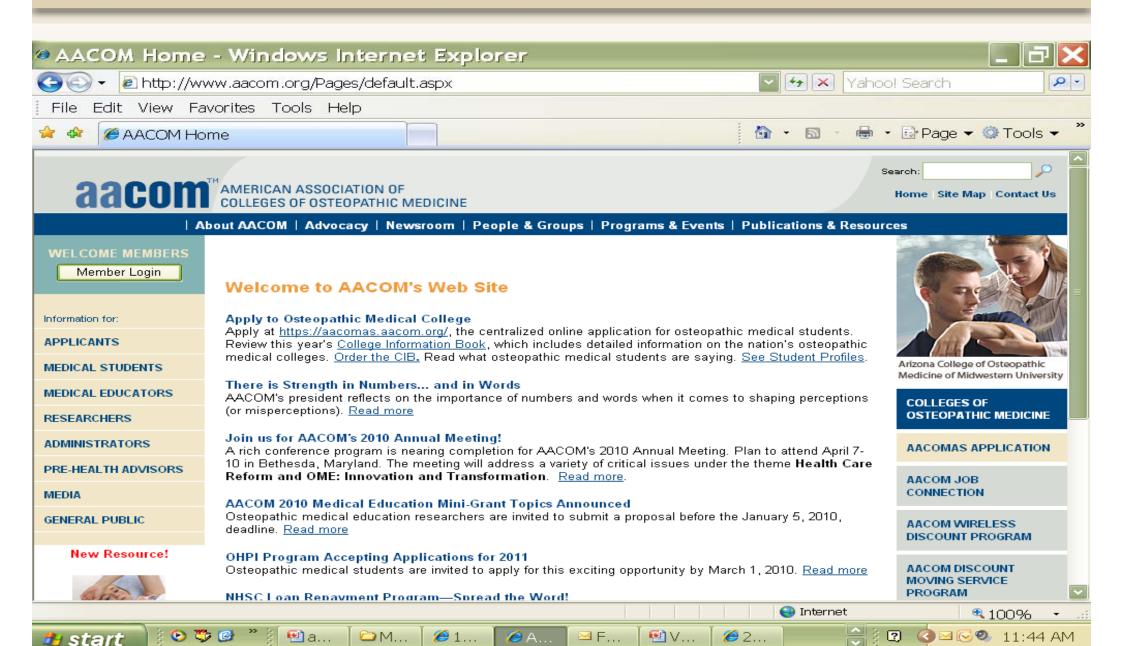
AACOM National Recruiting

- Regional Events
- Publication of College Information Book





AACOM Web site



Copyright © 2009, AACOM. All rights reserved.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF

COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Conclusion

