For more than 20 years, I have been intimately involved in research in our profession. We have come a long way. The amount of original investigation being presented at our national meeting continues to increase and become more powerful and important in content. Nearly every college of osteopathic medicine (COM) has enthusiastically embraced research as an important goal. Our profession must continue to ask important questions concerning osteopathic principles and practice, and these questions must be answered by well-designed and controlled research.

As in previous years, JAOA—THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION publishes abstracts produced by COM students and faculty, as well as independent osteopathic physicians. This issue contains numerous abstracts published by American Osteopathic Association (AOA) research fellows and the content of the poster presentations involving osteopathic medicine and clinically important issues. These research topics will be presented at the 44th Annual AOA Research conference in Orlando, Florida, October 30 through November 1.

Part 2 of the abstracts will be published in the September issue and will include information that will be presented concerning a variety of basic sciences and medical education.

I am enthusiastic about the osteopathic research published in this issue. I encourage every member of our profession to at least review the topics, many of which relate strongly to osteopathic medicine, as the following list of titles included in the poster presentation abstracts in the current issue illustrates:

- “Effects of osteopathic manipulative treatment on knee osteoarthritis”
- “Cranial strain patterns in Parkinson’s disease”
- “Motion characteristics of a typical cervical vertebral unit: a palpatory diagnosis of sidebending and rotation of C3 on C4”
- “The effect of paravertebral manipulation on the sympathetic nervous system”
- “A sham treatment protocol to blind nursing home residents to group assignment”
- “A pilot study using OMT to reduce antibiotic use in nursing home residents”
- “Quantitative analysis of elderly immune responses to influenza vaccination with osteopathic manipulation”
- “Osteopathic manual medicine and acute injuries”
- “A summary of studies comparing physical and pharmacological treatment parameters using an animal model of arthritis”
- “Myoelectric patterns in the mid-thorax during clinical rotation tests”

Yes, Dr Still, original investigation is alive and well in our profession. Obviously, a great deal more original research, particularly focusing on issues that are specifically osteopathic, are needed. Any original investigation, however, is important because it uplifts our role as a profession in the world today.

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