As the premier scholarly publication of the osteopathic medical profession, JAOA—The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association encourages osteopathic physicians, faculty members and students at osteopathic medical colleges, and others within the healthcare professions to submit comments related to articles published in the JAOA and the mission of the osteopathic medical profession. The JAOA’s editors are particularly interested in letters that discuss recently published original research.

Letters to the editor are considered for publication in the JAOA with the understanding that they have not been published elsewhere and that they are not simultaneously under consideration by any other publication.

All accepted letters to the editor are subject to copyediting. Letter writers may be asked to provide JAOA staff with photocopies of referenced material so that the references themselves and statements cited may be verified.

Readers are encouraged to prepare letters electronically in Microsoft Word (.doc) or in plain (.txt) or rich text (.rtf) format. The JAOA prefers that letters be e-mailed to jaoa@osteopathic.org. Mailed letters should also be sent electronically, in one of the aforementioned electronic formats on an IBM-compatible compact disk or a 3 1⁄2-inch diskette, and addressed to Gilbert E. D’Alonzo, Jr, DO, Editor in Chief, American Osteopathic Association, 142 E Ontario St, Chicago, IL 60611-2864.

Letter writers must include their full professional titles and affiliations, complete preferred mailing addresses, day and evening telephone numbers, fax numbers, and preferred e-mail addresses. Authors are responsible for disclosing financial associations and other conflicts of interest.

Although the JAOA cannot acknowledge the receipt of letters, a JAOA staff member will notify writers whose letters have been accepted for publication. Mailed submissions and supporting materials will not be returned unless authors provide self-addressed, stamped envelopes with their submissions.

All osteopathic physicians who have letters published in the JAOA receive continuing medical education (CME) credit for their contributions. Writers of original letters receive 5 hours of AOA Category 1-B CME credit. Authors of published articles who respond to letters about their research receive 3 hours of Category 1-B CME credit for their responses.

Although the JAOA welcomes letters to the editor, readers should be aware that these contributions have a lower publication priority than other submissions. As a consequence, letters are published only when space allows.

Navigation in Neurologic Localization: Web Site Launch

To the Editor:
In the spirit of teaching, and on behalf of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, I am pleased to announce a new resource for educating medical students about neurology. We have created a Web site called Brainlocation.com (http://www.brainlocation.com) to help simplify the concepts of neurologic localization.

For the past two years, I’ve listened to the frustrations of medical students on neurology rotations. They have repeatedly indicated that there is not a concise source for learning neurologic localization.

The new Web site is our attempt to correct this oversight. We hope to make the world of neurology more understandable for medical students and other health professionals.

We encourage all interested parties to log on and see what you think. I welcome questions and comments regarding this new site via e-mail at the following address: hoegerl@hotmail.com.

CARL HOEGERL, DO
Resident and Clinical Assistant Instructor of Neurology
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, New York

Plans for New Conjoint Certificate of Added Qualifications in Hospice and Palliative Medicine

To the Editor:
On behalf of the American Osteopathic Association End-of-Life Care Advisory Committee, I would like to advise the osteopathic medical profession of plans to create a new certification board in hospice and palliative medicine. Formal approval is expected in September 2006 to move the current certification board—the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine—under the auspices of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and the American Board of Medical Specialties, shutting off certification opportunities for osteopathic physicians.

In October 2005, a group of osteopathic physicians met in Orlando, Fla, to discuss creating a conjoint Certificate of Added Qualifications in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. The End-of-Life Care Advisory Committee believes that this action would help protect certification opportunities for the osteopathic medical profession.

We will be providing more details on these plans in the coming months.

KAREN J. NICHOLS, DO
Chair
End-of-Life Care Advisory Committee, American Osteopathic Association
Downers Grove, Illinois

Reference

Editor’s note:
The members of the American Osteopathic Association’s End-of-Life Care Advisory Committee are: Katherine E. Galuzzi, DO (vice chair); Bruce P. Bates, DO; Cianne Cass, DO; Benneth A. Husted, DO; Jimmie P. Leleszi, DO; Marcella L. Cherry-Pavlic, DO (resident); and John F. Manfredonia, DO (observer).