



Dear Friends,

The American Osteopathic Foundation is finishing the year stronger than we started. With the steadfast leadership of our Board of Directors, generosity of our donors and sponsors, and the strength and vision of our partners, we continued to advance the Foundation's mission, making a positive, impactful difference on hundreds of lives.

2021: A year of building...

January marked the launch of our new five-year strategic plan. It is, in a word, ambitious. It encompasses the energy, optimism, and leadership of the Board of Directors, and the strength and dedication of our professional staff.

Soon thereafter, we launched the **LGBTQIA+ Health Equity and Inclusion Initiative** to undertake the work of better understanding and addressing the healthcare needs of the LGBTQIA+ communities. We listened and learned through virtual events and, in partnership with national healthcare experts, the Foundation produced an LGBTQIA+ Health Equity CME training that premiered at OMED. I was honored to work with the Foundation to bring focus to the health equity needs of this critically underserved population. This initiative has been a long-held dream of mine and I have personally **invested in its success.**

We grew our partnership with Scripps Research Institute on its **DETECT Study**. The goal of the DETECT Study is to identify areas with viral outbreaks (COVID-19) through the use of fitness wearables, knowing that an early warning might give public health officials more time to take action.

The Foundation, and its network of physicians, industry benefactors, and affiliates continue to engage a wide audience about participation in the study.

And we forged new partnerships this year. One of the most rewarding was our integration of the **SOMA Foundation**. Our professional support and strategic guidance have allowed the leadership of the SOMA Foundation to focus on activities central to its philanthropic mission and to better serve the growing needs of its constituents while remaining student-led and student-governed.

This fall, when the decision was made to move OMED to an all-virtual conference, we quickly transitioned our annual **Honors Gala** to a virtual platform as well. With the steadfast support of our sponsors and our volunteer leaders, we created an online event that fostered the high level of impact, emotion, and feeling of community that you have come to expect from us. I would be remiss if I didn't give a personal shout out to Dr. Joseph Zammuto, the Honors Gala committee, and to the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association, who despite the virtual setting, never faltered, but doubled down on their investment to ensure the Gala was a success. Not by coincidence, the 2021 Honors Gala was one of the organization's biggest and most successful events to date.

We celebrated the successes of so many that evening, setting milestones such as nearly doubling the number of minority scholarships awarded thanks to the generosity of the Heatherington Foundation for Innovation and Education in Health Care. I invite you to view a **recording of the program** and learn more about the **evening's honorees**.

Rounding out the year, and after several months of hard work, I am excited to share our newly redesigned **website**. Whether searching for grants and scholarships, reading about our latest news and events, or investing in our work, this robust platform offers a rewarding user experience. I hope you'll check it out.

As our profession continues to grow, so too does its needs, personally and professionally. As we all plan for our futures, for ourselves and our loved ones, the Foundation is honored to offer access to **FreeWill** an online tool to write a **no-cost**, legal will quickly and easily. The Foundation has partnered with our friends at FreeWill to bring this benefit to our Osteopathic family.

Through this year, I have been continually impressed by the resilience, innovation, and impact of the Foundation. Now on the cusp of the New Year, I am pleased to be passing the torch to the indomitable Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee and look forward to her passion, energy, and commitment for continued growth.

In closing, I want to thank all of you. To our donors, partners, volunteers, and friends thank you. Your investment and your commitment to the American Osteopathic Foundation position us for a banner year in 2022. Our success depends entirely on your faith in our abilities and your generosity of spirit and resources.

From the bottom of my heart, on behalf of the entire organization, thank you.

To all of you and your families, I wish you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Happy holidays,



Jeffrey S. Grove, DO, FACOFP *dist.*

Stay connected with the AOF!

Stay updated on our work throughout the year through our e-communications and social media channels.



American Osteopathic Foundation

142 East Ontario Street, Suite 1450 Chicago, IL 60611

P: 312-202-8234 E: info@aof.org

Unsubscribe
