

Academy President Letter
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From the Desk of
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Good Morning Doctor,

The Academy has had a productive year. Some of the areas that have seen changes:

- Membership has grown. We have members now that have never had membership with the Academy since they completed their orthopedics program. The common theme among those orthopedists has been the development of a meaningful re-certification process for them. Managed care, medical-legal areas and other entities that being re-certified is helpful. Other orthopedists are recommending friends and colleagues to have a look at what has been done over the last few years. They see a positive change in the specialty from its status 10 years ago. They see value in being a member.
- We have been reaching out to disenfranchised doctors who have taken post-grad orthopedics and had an unpleasant experience with past examinations. Since the Academy began its Diplomate examination process we have had nearly 130 doctors that have obtained their Diplomate. New Diplomates are the life blood of our specialty. Many of these doctors had completed their orthopedics classes over 7 years ago. The comments vary from "a great experience to a very fair examination".
- There are significant changes in the re-certification process. It has been published for all to see and it has been expanded. We have made it easier for the Fellow to be voluntarily re-certified. The process culminates in an open book examination every 5 years. The re-certification committee has been put in place and has members from all the orthopedic Coalition stake holders (American College of Chiropractic Orthopedists -ACCO, Council on Chiropractic Orthopedists -CCO and Texas Council of Chiropractic Orthopedists -TCCO). You will be hearing more about this in the upcoming months.
- The Academy has developed a "Biographical Page" for the membership. It is like a "mini" website for patients searching our membership for a doctor. It's a great tool for Fellows who have patients traveling or moving to a new area to help them find a new doctor. I urge you to complete your bio page. If you have trouble with the process, contact me and I will make sure you get help with your page.
- Grant monies have been given this year to the colleges, universities and organizations that support post graduate orthopedics.
- The Journal of the Academy of Chiropractic Orthopedists (JACO) has continued to improve and there has been an expansion of the Editorial Review Board (ERB). Diverse contributors have contributed to its success. The ERB has a mentoring process for doctors wishing to contribute an article. Contact the

Editor or myself that you have a case or research you would like to publish. Someone will contact you and offer to help you through the process. I have seen how they help new authors, it's impressive, I hope you will contact them with a case to write up. You are helping all of us when you contribute.

I would like all of you to go to the membership tab on the website (www.dorthoacademy.com) and check to see you are listed. We are still shaking out some of the problems we had on the site since we left FCER early this year. FCER was our webmaster, handling dues, renewals and much of our correspondence. If your name is not of the list, we will correct it immediately. We apologize to anyone that isn't on the membership list.

The Academy is pleased to announce that there will be no dues increase for 2011. You have read in the past that I have said we are a frugal organization, and we are husbanding our funds to remain strong into the future. We have instituted a "Retired" category of membership. This is affective on 01/01/11.

Academy definition of a retired member:

"To maintain membership and support the Academy of Chiropractic Orthopedists, dues are \$50 USD per year. Retirement is defined as full and complete absence of clinical work. Full time instructors who are not in clinical practice are considered to be in active practice. Retirement from teaching would qualify the Fellow for retirement dues."

The end of the year brings me thoughts of all the Academy members who have stepped up and volunteered to help in one way or another. Thank you each and every one of you. It's your effort that makes us a strong organization.

I am anticipating some big announcements in 2011. With your help, we will have strength and be able to help our specialty advance.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May you have joy this Hanukkah season! May your wishes and dreams come true.

The moment of enlightenment is when a person's dreams of possibilities become images of probabilities. Vic Braden

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