Presidents report 2016-2017

It is my privilege to report to the 2017 Congress of Delegates on my tenure as President of the New York State Academy of Physicians. I attended all the cluster meetings, where I served as a member at large of each commission. I was a guest at the Ohio and Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians annual meetings. I participated in numerous conference calls of the Executive Committee and with other members around specific issues. I served on the Task Force for Advanced Primary Care, which I initiated, headed by Dr. Robert Morrow. I attended Winter Weekend. I attended the 10 State meeting in Chicago. I attended the AAFP Congress of Delegates, and filled in briefly as a substitute Alternate Delegate, speaking to our resolution on Insurance Coverage for Medical Foods on the floor, resulting in its passage instead of referral as the reference committee had recommended.

Along with my partner and son Dr. Geoffrey Ostrander, I recorded a podcast and broadcast for the local NPR station in Syracuse, New York about rural primary care and the shortage of primary care physicians. I reviewed and provided feedback on Dr. Brilliant’s recommendations about our position on various bills of interest presented to us by Reid, McNally and Savage. I continued my service as the Organizational Representative for the AAFP on the Advisory Committee on Heritable Diseases of Newborns and Children of the US Department of Health.

I would encourage the Congress and President-Elect Nosal to continue the Task Force on Advanced Primary Care. I was disappointed in the lack of willingness on the part of the payers with whom we spoke to consider a commitment to move our healthcare system toward a Primary Care centric system. Although there was lip service to primary care, most of the executives with whom we spoke seem to be preoccupied with navigating the immediate situation, and to have little understanding or appetite for developing truly Primary Care-based systems, which have been so effective in other developed countries. Dr. Morrow has produced an excellent summary white paper that will be useful to our leadership and members in understanding the current changing environment. It is important that we continue to interact with the New York State government, payers and other medical organizations like the Medical Society of the State of New York and the AAFP, sharing our vision. It is important that they, as well as we, resist solutions that are complex and require practices to use consultants or complicated “toolkits.”

It has been my privilege to serve the Academy as President this past year, and I look forward to continued involvement and a successful year ahead for the Academy and President Nosal.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J Ostrander, M.D. FAAFP

NYSAFP President 2016-2017