Welcome to the 2017 New York State Academy of Physicians Congress of Delegates and our celebration of all that we achieve together. There is little that is more rewarding than doing meaningful things in the company of passionate, hardworking, and-to use the simplest of adjectives-good people. Just as the breadth of what we do as physicians defines us, the breadth of what we do as an Academy is impressive. Think about it. We do effective advocacy for our profession and directly for our patients. I can confidently say more than half of our advocacy is directly patient focused. We raise the bar for the rest of organized medicine. We include and inspire physicians in training in all we do. We justifiably consider them peers, as some of the best ideas and work come from them. We put together excellent educational conferences with opportunities for collegiality and recreation. We represent our specialty and state vigorously and take leadership roles with other medical societies, including the Medical Society of the State of New York and the AAFP. We produce a first rate journal.

It has been gratifying and humbling to get an in depth and firsthand look at the work of our commissions, committees and delegations. And we have a staff team that is as devoted to our mission, above and beyond the duties of their “jobs,” as the most passionate of us.

I have been honored to serve as President of the Academy this past year. I am most grateful.

Robert J. Ostrander M.D.

Pres. 2016-2017