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Dear Osteopathic Physician,

Simply put, we NEED YOU to join MAOP in 2010.

With landmark legislation effecting who receives medical care and who delivers it, we need to step up and have OUR voices heard! Now is the **right time** for you to be a member of MAOP. With so much at stake, you need to be informed and involved-- **you have to belong.** We have an ambitious mission: *To promote osteopathic medicine through a coordinated effort of professional education, professional advocacy, member services, and public awareness campaigns in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of the State of Maryland.*

MAOP has made tremendous strides since its official formation as a non-profit organization in 1992. Our accomplishments belie the small number of volunteer physicians and part-time staff that make MAOP work—for its members and for all of Maryland's osteopathic physicians. We have always provided a forum for **professional networking.** Additionally we were instrumental in establishing a **permanent DO position on the Maryland Board of Physicians** ensuring fair representation for all Maryland DOs. And we continue to serve as a **referral base** for student rotations and for patients seeking osteopathic care. In addition, since 1999 MAOP has **raised over \$4,500 in its student scholarship fund and has awarded nearly \$4,000** of that to worthy students and residents.

One of our primary goals has always been to provide **local and affordable CME.** In fact, since 1992, MAOP has offered **over 560 hours of AOA Category 1-A credits.** To that end, we are pleased to announce that MAOP and the AOA have partnered to host the Regional Osteopathic Medical Education (ROME) Mid-Atlantic Conference to be held July 29-31, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, MD.

We know that the changing health care climate has been difficult for our practices. What you may not know is that it has presented **enormous challenges for MAOP** as well. In the first half of this decade pharmaceutical sponsorship accounted for nearly 50% of MAOP annual revenue. Since then, drug companies on average provide less than 20% of the money MAOP receives annually. MAOP is committed to providing our services at as low a cost to you as possible. We have not had a membership fee increase since 2005 and our conference registration fees have increased minimally, not actually covering our increased costs in this difficult economy.

Therefore, MAOP is counting on increased membership to make up our budget shortfall. Does your membership make a difference? The answer is simply, YES. If you are already a member, thank you for your past and continued membership. If you are not a member, we **NEED YOU** to ensure the future of osteopathic medicine in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Darleen Won
Executive Director

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