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MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED 1912

348 MAPLE STREET

BANGOR, MAINE

Telephone Bangor 945-9343

Office of ROSWELL P. BATES, D. O.
Executive Secretary

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PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION
MILTON R. REDLITZ, D. O.
1375 CONGRESS ST., PORTLAND

April 13, 1972

Manu Chatterjee, M.D.
Program Coordinator
295 Water Street
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Dr. Chatterjee,

For over two years I have been given the opportunity to observe the developing concept of the Maine Medical School or College of Physicians which you have so dedicatedly espoused. My colleagues and I, serving on the various physician's advisory committees, have frequently sat with tongue in cheek choosing not to create confusion with a specifically Osteopathic oriented outlook. We did so in order not to be obstructive to the development of a program which was ideally aimed at the greater good of our State and its health needs.

However, we feel as an independent school of medical thought, it is time for a concrete determination of our role in the program. Several questions arise, among them being:

1. A basic question of need in the light of an expanding program at the Maine Medical Center of medical student externships, and in light of the success of the Osteopathic profession in supplying young general practitioners to our State.
2. Precisely how will accreditation of this school, said in conversation to be planned to offer D.O. as well as M.D. degree, be accomplished by American Osteopathic Association accrediting bodies (there has been no mention of consultation from this direction in the concept)?
3. Where will instruction of Osteopathic philosophy fit into the curriculum (there is mention of Medical problems in space, as indicative of detail, but nothing of Osteopathic manipulative diagnosis and technique which is certainly more practical to the generalist than medical problems in space or underwater, or etc.)?

These are but three specifics among many questions we have as to what exactly will be our role as Osteopathic Physicians and as to advisability in our continued participation in this program. A thorough reading of "A Rationale And Program For A College Of Physicians In The State of Maine, December 1971" seems to have placed us in the position of merely supplying background material for development of the "Rationale".

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The Osteopathic Profession has for years been outstanding in its providing of primary care physicians in the State; it has continuously served the health needs through a vigorous and dedicated intern-residency training program at the Osteopathic Hospital of Maine. These considerations (when coupled with the efforts of the Maine Medical Center) appear to be overlooked as alternatives in providing physicians now.

The foregoing is presented to you in friendship knowing the ideals and hopes you have for improving health care in our State. Much as we respect your personal devotion to that goal, the Board of Directors of the Maine Osteopathic Association hopes you can better clarify the practical value of a medical "school without walls" in Maine and our real role, as Osteopathic Physicians, in its development.

Sincerely yours;

William F. Bergen, D.O.,
Immediate Past President
Maine Osteopathic Association

CC: Lawrence Bailey, D.O., Chairman MOA Legislative Committee
Roswell Bates, D.O., Executive Secretary, MOA
Charles DiPerri, D.O., President, MOA
Donald MacFadden, D.O., President Elect, MOA
M. Carman Pettapiece, D.O., Chairman, MOA Committee to Meet with other professions.

cc

*Dr. Rand, Chase J,
Laurence Newth
Marshall Lennie*