

December 11, 1984

William F. Bergen, D.O.  
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24 Portland Road  
Kennebunk, Maine 04043

Dear Bill:

In response to your letter of November 20th, I quite agree that it is important for many reasons to have an accurate and documented historical compilation of the events and circumstances which led to the development of the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Such a compilation, in my opinion, should incorporate the initial formulation of the concept that such a college could be established in Maine. Obviously, such beginnings started with a few well-intentioned, well-motivated and intensely dedicated D.O.'s who benefited from the counsel of some involved in higher education. This group must be credited with having both the courage and tenacity to overcome what could rightfully be considered overwhelming obstacles.

Probably the most serious obstacles were inadequate financial resources and absence of sufficiently documented quantity and quality of clinical staff and hospitals to be eligible to meet the standards for accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. The efforts to meet the standards were unquestionably complicated by the frustrations associated with the intervening events encountered by the A.O.A. in its struggle to maintain the right to serve as the recognized accrediting agency for osteopathic education. Had the A.O.A., through its Committee on Colleges and the Bureau of Professional Education, not been able to convince the Division of Eligibility of the U.S. Office of Education that the A.O.A. could, and would, enforce its standards of education for Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, I seriously doubt that a separate and distinct profession of Osteopathic Medicine would be in existence today.

At the same time the A.O.A. was negotiating with the U.S. Office of Education, the St. Francis College was being threatened with loss of its accreditation by the New England Regional Accrediting Association (largely due to its serious financial status). Since the College of Osteopathic Medicine and any funds contributed to it by voluntary or governmental sources were so closely tied to the

success or failure of St. Francis College, it was necessary to provide a mechanism to assure that failure of St. Francis College would in no way preclude the continued operation of the College of Osteopathic Medicine. This was successfully achieved by a legal document drafted by the General Counsel of the A.O.A. and untimately approved by the officials of St. Francis College.

Too frequently (probably in haste to beat the deadline for acquiring "start-up" funds) the officials of the college presented evidence of "their good intentions to meet the standards" rather than documentation of what had been accomplished in meeting the standards. Absence of such documentation created untold frustrations for the officials of the college as well as the A.O.A. Committee on Colleges, Bureau of Professional Education, and the U.S. Office of Education.

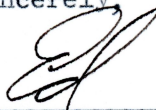
Despite the frustrations, the obstacles were overcome and the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine exists today, and all parties concerned can justifiably be proud.

Please understand, Bill, that this synopsis, although typically too long, is strictly from my memory and deserves the close scrutiny of such individuals as Drs. Mike Richardson and Joseph Namey as well as Douglas Ward, Ph.D. who were important officials serving on the A.O.A. committees closely involved in the accrediting process. The documentation for this synopsis can be obtained either in the A.O.A. Office of Education or in the official files of the college and its officers.

I hope this will be of some help in your efforts.

With best personal regards.

Sincerely,



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Edward P. Crowell, D.O.