Dear Faculty, Residents, Staff and Students,

Saturday, July 19, 2014 was a historic day in the history of osteopathic medicine as the AOA House of Delegates voted to support a decision by the Board of Trustees of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) to support a single Graduate Medical Accreditation (GME) system. This new approach to accrediting Graduate Medical Education brings together the strengths of the AOA and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) creating a unified voice in preparing future generations of physicians. The House of Delegates’ Resolution supporting the Single GME Accrediting System is attached.

The newly merged system will be fully implemented in July 2020. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the AOA, ACGME and AACOM calls for both the AOA and AACOM to be organizational members of the ACGME and has DO representation on the ACGME Board and the Residency Review Committees. Additionally, a new Residency Review Committee will be established creating standards for accreditation of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine residencies. The new system preserves osteopathic emphasis programs within the ACGME and will allow for the principles and practices of osteopathic medicine to have wider reach in improving the health of the American public. It will also ensure that osteopathic medical students have access to a full range of Graduate Medical Education opportunities. The new system will provide a strong and unified voice greatly needed as our nation confronts a physician shortage and the need to expand Graduate Medical Education. More information about the Single Graduate Medical Education Accreditation System can be found on the AOA website: www.Osteopathic.org/singleGME

While the unified system offers tremendous opportunity for the future, there is no doubt that the integration will pose challenges which lie ahead. The strong Graduate Medical Education programs and hospitals that comprise the RowanSOM Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution of New Jersey (RowanSOM OPTI of NJ) are poised to confront these challenges and we look forward to the tremendous opportunity this new system will bring as we work together to improve healthcare for New Jerseyans and beyond. Over the next several months we will be learning more about the next steps as we transition into this new Single GME Accreditation System and we will keep you updated. I would like to take this opportunity to thank so many of you for your guidance and support during a period of uncertainty but I am confident that as we work together we can build on our success in Graduate Medical Education.

My best,

Thomas A. Cavalieri, D.O., FACOI, FACP
Dean