ANNOUNCEMENT

Introduction to the special issue on osteopathic education

The call for papers for our special issue on osteopathic education was put out in September 2012. We have been delighted by the volume, range and quality of submissions. As a consequence of this, we have elected to publish the papers in two issues. The current issue forms the first part of our education special issues. This brief introduction will be followed by a full editorial in the next issue in the New Year where the context and implications of the submissions will be considered as a whole.

Submissions received reflect educational issues and practice across the world of osteopathic education. There are distinct differences between the process and nature of education in the USA and elsewhere in the world and this is reflected in the content of the submissions. Some readers may not be familiar with educational processes in different parts of the world and this will be discussed in more detail in the forthcoming editorial. We anticipate that the collection of papers will enable readers to appreciate the strengths of the different approaches to education in different settings. In addition, it is clear that some issues are transnational, and educators and clinicians alike will benefit from the academic discourse on topics concerning clinical skills, assessment of competence, curricula content, learning methods and minimum criteria for entry into an osteopathic programme of learning. Each of the two issues contains commentaries, original research and reviews.

We hope that this is the beginning of regular submissions to our new section of the journal which seeks to publish papers that focus on osteopathic education in the clinical/practice environment and in academia. Papers from academics involved in the teaching of students in the classroom are welcomed alongside those from clinical staff involved in the education of osteopaths in practice, through post-qualifying education and training initiatives. It is essential that the evidence-base to education is developed and this is reflected in papers submitted for publication. In alignment with the journal’s overall aims and scope, papers submitted for consideration of publication should be relevant to an international audience, even if they are national in scale of study. We are keen to publish further papers that demonstrate:

- Innovation and development of education
- Creativity in teaching and learning strategies
- Evaluation and quality assurance of academic standards
- Advancement of practice-based education
- Collaborative interdisciplinary education initiatives
- Delivery and evaluation of education within osteopathic and related services.

We commend this and the forthcoming issue to you, express gratitude to the authors and reviewers for their time and diligence and very much hope to receive correspondence related to the special issues.
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