

Osteopathic Recognition Milestone Professionalism

Professionalism within the profession

Program directors should first start with the Culture. Does your program itself promote a professional attitude toward Osteopathic Medicine.

Often times we are our own worst enemy

The culture, or as in ACGME lingo, the learning environment, within our programs can be void of or even hostile to toward the Osteopathic medicine learner. Remember that culture always trumps strategy.

Examples

- Start with self-examination of the osteopathic culture environment within your institution

- Survey students about resident and staff attitudes towards osteopathic medicine

- Explore ways to promote a "safe" osteopathic environment where ideas can be expressed and respected.

- Set metric for improved integration in discussion at didactics.

- Coach faculty on the value of respecting and integrating osteopathic ideas especially for those that you identify who have devalued OMM over the years.

Professionalism with the patient

Nothing replaces observation of the resident as he/she interacts with the patient especially during a session involving OMM

This offers the opportunity to evaluate their professionalism in practice

Observe the resident in regards to:

- Ability and enthusiasm by which they articulate the benefits of an OMM treatment

- Professional appearance and attitude

- Respect of the patient

- Respecting boundaries and patient dignity with personal touch

- Emotional intelligence perceiving patients receptiveness of the treatment

Professionalism within the community

Evaluating and promoting residents ability to articulate the concepts and values of Osteopathic Medicine.

Attorneys have a subtle technique for destabilizing expert witnesses (they have lots of them BTW). They frequently will ask them to describe their profession or their degree. This usually plays negatively with the arrogant physician. My attorney colleagues have pointed out to me that Osteopathic physicians often fall victim to this by simply not being able to concisely describe osteopathic distinctiveness or the osteopathic degree.

Help residents develop technique for personal professional promotion

- Ask resident to develop their own "elevator speech", a clear, concise message that describes or promotes the osteopathic profession. This technique can be used for promoting other high value education points in Doctor-patient discussions as well.

- Promote incorporating Osteopathic values in didactic presentations