

President
Canadian Osteopathic Association

March 12, 2011

For Immediate Release

RE: World Health Organization “Benchmarks for Training in Osteopathy”

After a number of years in development and consultation, the World Health Organization released the above document towards the end of 2010. In spite of the consultation process, the document fails to recognize the model of Osteopathic medicine as practiced in Canada and the United States. The Benchmarks clearly state in the Introduction that “Osteopathy is sometimes called osteopathic medicine”, yet the standards published in Section 2 “Training of osteopathic practitioners” do not meet the standards recognized by the Canadian Osteopathic Association or Canadian regulatory authorities which are required for registration as an osteopath with a College of Physicians and Surgeons in this country. Furthermore, standards for osteopathic registration are already well established in Canada and COA Policy does not support the establishment of secondary or alternative non-physician osteopathic standards for osteopathic registration in Canada.

Accordingly, the Canadian Osteopathic Association has no choice but to reject the “Benchmarks for Training in Osteopathy” as promulgated by the World Health Organization.

For further information, officials of the COA can be contacted at: info@osteopathic.ca

Sincerely,

Dr. Ted Findlay

TF/lkc