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## Letter from the Editor

Justin Guthier  
PCOM, JustinGu@pcom.edu

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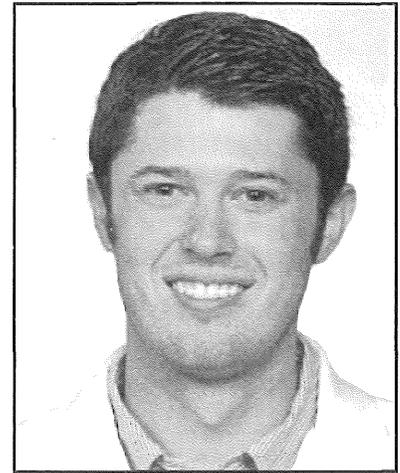
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January 2010



Dear Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Community,

Our collective expectations of medicine both as physicians and patients have evolved over the past decades from an emphasis on palliative to now curative treatments. Research is fueled by the hope that science will ultimately outsmart nature. As physicians, we are influenced by the patient's expectations that our ability to prescribe and perform tests and procedures are our most powerful tools in our armamentarium against disease. Despite current emphasis on objective testing, we must never underestimate the impact simple gestures of humanism can have upon a patient's disease – gestures which are engrained within the principles of osteopathy.

In choosing a career in the healthcare profession, our days are, and will often, be hectic and filled with serious decisions. Yet, rarely are we afforded the opportunity to reflect upon the impact our decisions have on patients and their families. To promote constant growth and development as physicians, we have a responsibility to self-reflect upon our choices and the manner in which we treat our patients and our colleagues.

It is out this responsibility that I have reopened the PCOM anthology *Voices from the Floor*, a collection of stories and lessons in medicine and education from members of our community. This publication will be dedicated to a common goal – to promote a greater sense of self-awareness both as a student and a professional.

If you have a story you would like to share or a piece you would like to submit, do not hesitate to contact me.

Very Truly Yours,  
Justin Guthier, OMS-III

