

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY



Larry A. Wickless, DO, President, American Osteopathic Association



The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) installed Larry A. Wickless, DO, an AOA board-certified internist and gastroenterologist, as its 113th president at its annual business meeting in Chicago in July 2009.

"Having spent my childhood within 50 miles of the nation's first osteopathic medical school in Northeastern Missouri, where just about every family was familiar with osteopathic physicians, I knew long ago what type of doctor I wanted to be," said Dr. Wickless. "I am honored and excited to have this opportunity to lead the AOA and help advance osteopathic medicine into a new era of health care for our nation."

A native of Kirksville, Mo., Dr. Wickless has practiced gastroenterology in Farmington Hills, Michigan, for more than 35 years.

As an educator and mentor, Dr. Wickless is a clinical professor of medicine at the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) in East Lansing and has served continuously as either director or associate director of the gastroenterology training program at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, which has trained 50 fellows since Dr. Wickless co-founded the program in 1977. In addition, he served for nine years on the Board of Trustees for the A.T. Still University-Kirksville (Mo.) College of Osteopathic Medicine (ATSU-KCOM).

Dr. Wickless joined the AOA Board of Trustees in 2000. While serving on the Board, he has chaired the AOA Department of Educational Affairs, the Bureau of Membership and the Bureau of AOA Constitution and Bylaws in addition to serving as vice chairman of many task forces related to training and certification. He also began serving in the AOA House of Delegates in 1989.

Devoted to the unification and advancement of osteopathic medicine throughout the world, Dr. Wickless was instrumental in establishing the Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA), which he chaired since its incorporation in 2005 until 2008.

At the state and local levels, Dr. Wickless is a past president of the Michigan Osteopathic Association and the Oakland County Osteopathic Association. He is also a past president of the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI).

Dr. Wickless is the recipient of many honors and awards, including MSUCOM's highest honor, the Walter F. Patenge Medal of Public Service in 2005, and the Botsford Hospital Distinguished Service Award in 2000. He is also a fellow of the ACOI and was an inaugural AOA health policy fellow in 1994-95.

After earning his osteopathic medical degree (DO) from ATSU-KCOM in 1967, Dr. Wickless completed a one-year internship at Doctors Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, and trained for three years in the internal medicine residency program at the former Zeiger Hospital in Detroit and Botsford Hospital. He returned to Michigan to practice gastroenterology after completing a gastroenterology fellowship at what is now the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

Dr. Wickless and his wife, Carole Crosby Wickless, JD, have two sons, Scott Wickless, DO, and Kevin Wickless, JD.