Hospital accreditation pounds another 'nail' in the 'smoking' coffin

As regular readers of the *JAOA* will recall, we have consistently called for a smokeless society. We have encouraged the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the colleges of osteopathic medicine, the osteopathic hospitals, and individual osteopathic physicians to join the cause against smoking by leading the way through example.

We have had the pleasure of reporting the progress made in the establishment of "smoke-free" campuses at many of the colleges of osteopathic medicine. We have told you of the numerous osteopathic hospitals that have restricted or have prohibited smoking in their facilities. Even the central offices of the AOA became "smoke-free" more than 1 year ago. Yet, we can and must do much more in the battle against the number 1 cause of cardiovascular and pulmonary disease and cancer among Americans.

An example of this added effort occurred at the annual convention, held this year in New Orleans. The AOA Board of Trustees approved the recent revision of the Accreditation Standards of the AOA Committee on Hospital Accreditation. The previous policy issued by the committee required that hospitals establish a smoking policy that permitted smoking in designated areas only. The new policy limits patient smoking to strict circumstances. Furthermore, the new policy reads as follows:

The hospital must have, disseminate, and enforce a hospital-wide no-smoking policy.

A. The policy shall prohibit smoking and the use of tobacco products by hospital patients, medical staff, hospital employees, visitors, and volunteers within the hospital buildings.

B. Hospitals may develop medical exceptions to their policy, but only for patients currently under treatment at the facility where abrupt cessation of smoking would be detrimental to the patient.

1. The policy shall prohibit smoking by patients

unless authorized to smoke by the attending physician.

2. The hospital will segregate, where practical, patients authorized to smoke from nonsmoking patients.

This strengthened accreditation standard represents another "nail" in the "smoking" coffin.

THOMAS WESLEY ALLEN, DO
Editor in Chief

Changing of the guard at the AOA

"To remain young one must change," wrote Alexander Chase in *Perspectives*. As the American Osteopathic Association prepares to celebrate a centennial of service to America, change is taking place at our helm. John P. Perrin, executive director since 1982, has assumed the duties of president of the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (UHS-COM) in Kansas City, Mo.

As the search committee seeks an appropriate replacement for Mr Perrin, AOA President Gilbert S Bucholz, has assumed the duties of acting executive director.

During Mr Perrin's tenure as executive director, the profession has grown substantially in number and in strength. Although this growth was the result of a concerted effort by many, it was Mr Perrin's leadership that provided the catalyst for our advancement.

As the first non-DO executive director, Mr Perrin helped to improve the unity of the profession by promoting open dialogue among the divisional societies and the practice affiliates. With the augmentation of the internal public relations department, Mr Perrin played a vital role in enhancing the public's understanding—and acceptance—of osteopathic medicine.