

**Archival & Historical Committee
Baltimore, Maryland**

**Interview with
Duane G. Koehler, DO, FCOFP *dist.*
(ACOFP President 2018-2019)**

1 Committee Chair: Good morning, Dr. Koehler. Today is Saturday, October 26th. We are in
2 Baltimore. So tell us what was your presidential theme this year?

3 Dr. Koehler: Survival.

4 Committee Chair: Survival. Can you define survival?

5 Dr. Koehler: Interestingly, I considered a number of things before that... Well actually
6 Congress in '17 wanted me the president-elect to kick around ideas and it
7 almost constituted a look to the future based on the past or something to
8 that effect. And then went to a meeting, Dr. Wiseman, Pete and myself
9 were at a meeting in Chicago. This was in mid-August of '17. My first
10 thought was: okay, there's something going on in the office he needs to tell
11 us about, so we sat down, he said, "I decided to retire," and that's when the
12 idea of survival really kicked in because the point at which the profession
13 is right now, so many things are riding on who we chose as the next
14 executive director that it was like: Wow, this is big. We didn't come to an
15 agreement with Bob until the OMED meeting in San Diego and we went
16 from San Diego to family medicine extravaganza for AAFP, which is where
17 we finally signed the documents that brought Bob onboard, so it really was
18 just a matter of survival. And then the magnitude of the decisions we made
19 last year really didn't strike me until sitting in a meeting with AOBFP
20 Executive Committee. Dr. Knapp puts his hand on my right shoulder and

21 said, "Now it's your responsibility." So that was his fear when he hired
22 Pete and stayed with us for 18 years Wow. So to the association, there
23 really wasn't a thing. It was really making decisions to guide us into the
24 future.

25 Committee Chair: What do you see as your greatest accomplishment this past year?

26 Dr. Koehler: That's a hard one because there were so many things going on. Hiring an
27 executive director was one of those things. The board had requested that
28 we reconsider who could chair the departments working on the early
29 entry pathway with the AOBFP and then the AOA has their decoupling
30 issue and the loss of revenue decoupling, but the downstream effects have
31 been lost revenue to affiliate societies, especially colleges to the point that
32 it challenged. There was Dr. Ron Burns and Adrienne in a board meeting
33 in San Diego and the AOA is making decisions that has huge impact on all
34 the affiliate societies. The loss of revenue from the royalties on certain
35 patient fees to the ACOFP was a six-figure impact and that's not pocket
36 change. And then at our board meeting in Florida, they come up with the
37 idea of unlimited online CME and it's like standing in front of this
38 reference committee, pointing out that the AOA continues to make
39 decisions that financially destabilizes the affiliate societies. At some point,
40 you're either going to cripple your society so there is no one, which I think
41 will have an impact on the AOA too, or you're going to have to stop making
42 bonehead decisions. And so, of those four things and out of that, I was
43 asked to rewrite a resolution that was being considered. And when I sat
44 down to rewrite, there were five specialty colleges around helping me and
45 out of that there's a specialty college taskforce that met for the first time in

46 Chicago and is going to meet again this afternoon. So, of those four things,
47 probably the most important was finding the right executive director, but
48 it's kind of hard to pick the greatest accomplishment. The thing that I
49 pointed out to that taskforce is that the members that have shown up and
50 have been consistently part of those meetings represents 70 to 75 percent
51 of AOA's membership. I think there's some opportunities there. Truly the
52 opportunities to some of the resolutions that as a group who provide a
53 testimony to the various reference committees that several of the
54 resolutions from the board of trustees that were seen as being a negative
55 impact on the affiliate societies. Hard to choose. It was a crazy year.

56 Committee Chair: So just going on talking about the CME and where to get your CME, as we
57 become more human beings and barricade ourselves at home and do
58 everything online, what are your thoughts and ideas for the future? How
59 do we continue the camaraderie at these events and get people out of their
60 house and off their computers?

61 Dr. Koehler: I don't know that we're ever going to succeed at that. There are some
62 things that you simply cannot experience sitting at your laptop or PC
63 simply because you are in social isolation basically. That's a society-wide
64 problem. We've got kids that don't know how to have a conversation
65 anymore starting in elementary school and starting to learn how to text.
66 We got kids that don't know how to spell because of the abbreviations
67 used for texting. Do I have a solution? Probably because it's something that
68 everybody struggles with and I think the best solution that I can offer right
69 now is continue meetings whether it's a medical staff meeting, it's a
70 committee even a zip code-wide meeting to get together and have coffee,

71 discuss issues so people start to experience that kind of social interaction.
72 I see that we're probably going to be having increasing challenges
73 definitely. Brilliant solutions and brilliant ideas? I don't know, but there is
74 a loss.

75 Committee Member: What was your biggest disappointment this year during your presidency?

76 Dr. Koehler: Going to say that I'm not sure that I had time for much of a
77 disappointment. Honestly, there are limitations to how much you can get
78 done in a year. We've now got in excess of 50 COM campuses. We've got
79 somewhere around 40 state societies. There isn't enough time in the year
80 to be able to visit every place and that's probably the biggest
81 disappointment.

82 Committee Member: You weren't able to go every week?

83 Dr. Koehler: It's physically impossible. Fifty-two weeks in a year to visit 50 plus COMs
84 and do the other business that needs to be done (inaudible) because we
85 fully aimed with the working party, now the Family Medicine Leadership
86 Council, which is to two meetings a year (inaudible), annual meeting.
87 We've got a winter board meeting. We've got some strategic planning
88 trips. That knocks off about eight trips, eight site visits, and that doesn't
89 count the trips to Washington for business on the Hill or, so it's just not
90 possible to go everywhere and see everything. It was exciting to get to see
91 what it is, but it's just not possible to see everything.

92 Committee Member: What do you see are the biggest challenges facing the ACOFP the coming
93 year or years?

94 Dr. Koehler: We alluded to that earlier and that is continuing to engage the younger
95 members. There's kind of a double-edge sword. It would be nice to be able

96 to spend more money to recruit students. Unfortunately, we don't have the
97 pharmaceutical industry support that we've had in years past, so those
98 dollars are drying up. The National Student Executive Board has a goal of
99 having 100 percent normal student societies for ACOFP, but the numbers
100 are that only 27 percent of the graduates right now are choosing family
101 medicine as a specialty and so we have to look at: Is it one out of four
102 recruitment a good investment, and especially as resources continue to
103 dwindle? It's a challenge.

104 Committee Chair: So why do you think that students are not interested or as interested in
105 family medicine as other specialties? Do you think it's just pay or do you
106 think it's the overwhelming amount of information they have to retain?

107 Dr. Koehler: I think it's more insidious than that. Being number one, students come into
108 our office. We spend 40 percent of our time dealing with bureaucratic
109 things for less than the same pay basically that we were giving 20 years
110 ago with costs having risen and few among us has a (inaudible) student
111 about those things and then we have them doing specialty rotations with
112 the cardiologist, gastroenterologist, general surgeon. You're too smart to
113 do family medicine, so I think it's a combination of all those things. Are
114 you smart enough to do family medicine? Because it's really easy to focus
115 on a kidney, a lung, a heart. Those are (inaudible). Are you smart enough?
116 But I think that's the biggest problem is in recruiting is: One, the
117 grumbling that students hear. And from a surgical perspective, from the
118 procedure's perspective, decent livestock that are (inaudible), there's far
119 more disposal income than anybody (inaudible). And then what they see
120 modeled in during the office or on the floor is damn paperwork from

121 (inaudible). Until we can stifle those compliance and convince students
122 that they're not too smart to do family medicine, we're going to continue
123 to see things declining.

124 Committee Member: Do you think that direct primary care will have an impact on that?

125 Dr. Koehler: The thing that direct primary care in (inaudible) is some bureaucracy,
126 okay, but it still doesn't overcome that. Jim, you're too smart just to do
127 family medicine. And when you keep hearing that from the
128 ophthalmologist you rotate with, the general surgeon you rotate with, the
129 obstetrician you rotate with, pretty soon: Yeah, maybe I am too smart for
130 family medicine.

131 Committee Chair: On the board (inaudible) committee (inaudible) ask the question
132 (inaudible). So with your presidency, you came in as president kind of
133 (inaudible) system had been laid out and most of the programs were going
134 through that transition throughout your presidency, what have you seen
135 throughout your presidential year as positives and negatives (inaudible)
136 accreditation? And when you look long-term, what impacts, if any, do you
137 think that's going to have on osteopathic family medicine years for the
138 long-term?

139 Dr. Koehler: I may have you ask that again as I start talking just so you keep me focused
140 and on point, but a couple things that I notice. The answer (inaudible) as
141 president and I'm answering part as more than (inaudible) ACGME system
142 as a DIO, okay, and I got to admit, I was not a fan of seeing accreditation
143 okay. One of my first site inspections, the inspector was actually a PhD and
144 it was a pediatrics' program was being inspected and she sits back: So
145 what do you think about the single accreditation system? It's like: Wow, I

146 can really unload here and blow this, but as I thought about the question
147 it's like: The thing that I see different about some of the accreditation is
148 that the site inspectors are not of the discipline that's being inspected,
149 okay, which in the osteopathic world, a family medicine physician
150 inspected a family medicine site, pediatricians inspected pediatric site,
151 inspectors are nice folks. The inspectors we have (inaudible). Do you
152 know a lot of (inaudible) program kind of fall short (inaudible) doing your
153 job, work on that? We'll look at in a couple three years. In the ACGME
154 world having (inaudible) establish the PhD, ACGME world looks at the
155 standards, looks at the answers and looks at the documentation and the
156 standard is met or it's not and so there is a much higher level I think than
157 accountability in the ACGME world, which I think is a positive because I
158 think (inaudible) committee world is quality education. The downside,
159 (inaudible) launched I think was something around 34 minutes of
160 programs that chose not to go through the process. Some of those are
161 programs that hadn't matched in years. Some of those programs that are
162 not filled for years and some of those decisions were based simply upon
163 financial considerations. The new family medicine standards, there's a
164 (inaudible) requirement for a program director. There's an additional 0.4
165 FTE for an associate program director. In the osteopathic world, you had a
166 family medicine physician with a full panel of patients doing admissions
167 and still doing administrative work and now ACGME is requiring almost an
168 FTE, a full FTE, not to mention the cost, not to mention the program
169 coordinator required, the (inaudible) time that's required, so I think we've
170 seen costs going up but so is the accountability. Long-term, I truly was

171 amazed at the first - - I think it was the first ACGME convention that I went
172 to to sit on a session on osteopathic recognition to find the number of
173 traditional ACGME programs represented that were trying to figure how
174 to do osteopathic recognition fill out and recruit even more osteopathic
175 (inaudible). And so Robert's report yesterday (inaudible) board meeting
176 that 27 percent of our graduates go in family medicine. Giving a
177 (inaudible) from congress (inaudible) NAFP* who has about 7 to 8 percent
178 of their graduates go into family medicine, I think they're seeing
179 osteopathic family medicine as an opportunity for growth. I think the
180 board sees that as an opportunity to continue growth, especially the
181 increasing numbers of campuses. In the early entry pathway, that much
182 more encouraging to me, residents graduating into the AOBFP re-
183 certification pathway.

184 Committee Chair: I want to ask a question (inaudible). (Inaudible) recertification obviously
185 is a big thing this year that we really pushed for and thankfully has come
186 to fruition. What do you see that a strategic plan should be from the board
187 level and continuing to promote that? And I guess the next question would
188 be: What do you think the outcomes of that will be long-term? Do you
189 think there'll be a lot of residents who will take that path or what do you...
190 If you could project, what do you think is going to happen (inaudible)?

191 Dr. Koehler: I think it's an opportunity if we can get the residents into the in-service
192 exam (inaudible) to allow them the early entry pathway track, so we can
193 actually see an increasing numbers of AOBFP certified family physicians. I
194 truly think that those residents graduating from an osteopathic recognized
195 residency, even with OMT, it's an opportunity to expand on those

196 (inaudible). There's already a discussion about (inaudible)
197 demonstrations on (inaudible) classes, OMT bootcamp actually, in the
198 AAFP meeting as an opportunity to continue to demonstrate to that group
199 of folks the benefits of OMT. I think Robert's comment yesterday when a
200 number of the AAFP congress stands up and said, "These guys have some
201 tricks to make up to solve the AOBFP crisis," surprise.

202 Committee Member: If I can just interject, what is your personal feelings about bringing in MDs
203 onboard as members in the ACOFP with parity and how do you see that in
204 the future?

205 Dr. Koehler: My gut feeling is, and I don't mind my gut feeling when I heard about the
206 lawsuits against the Boy Scouts of America and being forced to allow girls
207 to join the Boy Scouts, most of us made a career choice into osteopathic
208 medicine. Most of those folks made a career choice into (inaudible)
209 medicine. You've got your own folks. That's my gut instincts, okay.
210 Conversations with presidents of AAFP and actually one of the EMT
211 physicians in Tulsa who's an MD has been adjunct faculty has published a
212 number of articles on the benefit of OMT and the resolution of (inaudible),
213 I feel pretty comfortably and in fact it was interesting talking with Mike
214 Munger who visited us in Austin as president of the AAFP, (inaudible)
215 from Des Moines in which (inaudible) osteopathic medicine and so they're
216 starting to be recognition that there may be some benefits that the
217 allopathic world has ignored to the point of deciding 60 years or so ago
218 that osteopathy is a cult that has... That thinking has since been reversed
219 and we've got past president of AAFP (inaudible) manipulation is off two
220 years. Munger is (inaudible) one to appreciate the benefits of

221 manipulation secondhand from his son, so I think there is a shift in that
222 world. And if we try to keep it to ourselves, they'll get it from someone else
223 and as a founder (inaudible) shared with the world and I think it is an
224 opportunity to increase membership, which is a nice (inaudible).

225 Committee Chair: I like your reference to our (inaudible).

226 Committee Member: Something you just mentioned, we are bringing this up at the House of
227 Delegates in March about allopathic physicians being members, so we will
228 be voting on that. What is your gut feeling and how do you see the house?

229 Dr. Koehler: You know this conversation started, what, three years ago. Well it started
230 in (inaudible) with the amendments to the constitution three years ago.
231 My gut was it's not a good (inaudible). It's true to that to all of the state
232 societies and was pretty interesting on the three-way split (inaudible)
233 preference to the state societies. As we discussed it over the last two years
234 in the open house, I've got a sense that the younger components of the
235 membership are really going to be the drivers to push for approval. It's
236 like I told the congress in March - how many times have we heard that the
237 definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over and it's making
238 a different outcome. Maybe it is time to consider a change (inaudible), but
239 that didn't happen. I'm not a fan of having made the manipulation upon
240 the certification option, but realistically if you're a third-year resident
241 making slightly above minimum wage basically the work that's done,
242 saddled with the \$4 million of debt that you've been servicing the interest
243 on at least during the residency, where are you going to come up with an
244 additional \$2-to-3,000 even for an overnight trip to a resort to take a test
245 that I don't have to take if I go the ABFM route? Why do the same thing

246 over and over expecting a different outcome? So short answer to your
247 question: I think it will probably pass. Am I a huge fan? Not necessarily,
248 but I see it as an opportunity for a different source of (inaudible).

249 Committee Member: I'd like to, if you would, give us your personal observation, your point of
250 view of how the transition went in the AOA side as they hired their new
251 executive director and how the ACOFP was in that?

252 Dr. Koehler: ACOFP was not in behind process at all, never consulted. Quite frankly, I
253 went to Chicago in July with a fair amount of trepidation. I left Chicago
254 feeling far more comfortable about the future of the AOA than (inaudible).
255 We have gone from what at times seemed to be a big tutorial CEO to one
256 who is very approachable, very comfortable in his own skin and willing to
257 talk with anybody to the point that, I don't know (inaudible), in the House
258 of Delegates on the floor makes public his cellphone and that kind of
259 access (inaudible). John Crosby was approachable, but I'm pretty sure I
260 never had his cellphone number.

261 Committee Member: How about Dr. Burns, your interactions?

262 Dr. Koehler: My first lengthy interaction with Dr. Burns was actually at the Board of
263 Society meeting when I installed a new state society president and then
264 the executive committee of course at ACOFP who retired to the president
265 suite, myself, Dr. Burns, and it was one of the educators from Orlando that
266 was in the room, and we had basically the question-and-answer sessions
267 with our executive committee. They asked our first questions. One of the
268 questions I asked - - (inaudible) questions and we shared information
269 back and forth and really being a whole different level of respect for one
270 another and (inaudible).

271 Committee Member: Was that FOMA or was that State Society of ACOFP?

272 Dr. Koehler: State Society of ACOFP. (Inaudible) with that particular (inaudible) state
273 society and so you still have a good (inaudible). And when we're on
274 (inaudible) meeting in April, interact with (inaudible) because those
275 (inaudible). The State (inaudible) society is immediately after the
276 Osteopathic Association Meeting, so all of those meetings kind of run
277 together and social functions continue to (inaudible).

278 Committee Member: Make any trips to Washington DC?

279 Dr. Koehler: Actually yeah, the week of the fly in, you guys were there Thursday and
280 Friday. The American Association Teaching (Inaudible) had a fly in
281 Tuesday and Wednesday the same week, so I was there Tuesday and
282 Wednesday, came home Wednesday night. You guys came in Thursday
283 morning or Wednesday night. I would've done the same thing.

284 Committee Member: What were the officials? Who were the officials you met with as far as the
285 Washington machine goes?

286 Dr. Koehler: The entire... Well because our fly in was one of those things that we heard
287 about two weeks beforehand, I think we met with two members of
288 (inaudible) delegation and the staff from the other (inaudible). We had
289 five members of congress and two (inaudible), so it was strictly the
290 (inaudible) on that trip. The year before as president (inaudible), I think I
291 had eight meetings and I lost track of (inaudible) five years, but that trip
292 which was last year ago in August met with - - the one meeting that I
293 (inaudible) a meeting with (inaudible) and we had talked about
294 (inaudible). And he's got one of the bills on the senate side (inaudible). His

295 bill actually is 192, I think it is, that does not allow for expansion.

296 (Inaudible) running for five years.

297 Committee Member: Our decision to hire AMB, Austin (inaudible), think it's been a good
298 investment?

299 Dr. Koehler: For the ACOFP and the ACOFP's issues, I think that (inaudible) because,
300 number one, if there's a team of folks that (inaudible) coming out of the
301 bureaucracy, they have a way of distilling it and making it so busy
302 (inaudible) physicians can read it and make sense of it. I think the access
303 they have and (inaudible) last year speaks to the kind of (inaudible) that
304 they care and it is, so Robert and Nicole talked with the ACOFP not talking
305 for: We're here from the AOA (inaudible). Even though we're paying for
306 representation, they still work with the AOA and really was not that
307 (inaudible) recognition on (inaudible).

308 Committee Chair: So question about helping support family medicine as a career choice. So
309 the hospital system I work for has taken a different approach to
310 supporting family doctors and helping them get the salaries that they
311 deserve, which is kind of nice. I was wondering if from the ACOFP
312 perspective instead of having communications with students that are still
313 undecided (inaudible) with hospital systems of the importance of family
314 medicine to them.

315 Dr. Koehler: I think that's an uphill battle and I say that because sometime within the
316 last two years, it's come to my attention that one of the leading proponents
317 of unlimited practice rights from nurse practitioners and VAs is actually
318 American Hospital Association. And when you are doing battle with that
319 large of a group that (inaudible) health centers with the hefty sums of

320 money they are deriving from CMS (inaudible) education, there's a lot
321 more money coming from the AHA than the ACOFP and AOA (inaudible).
322 The only hope that we're going to have is to conquer one of those hospital
323 systems at a time with the information about the quickness of the training,
324 with information about the increase cost of deferrals because of that lack
325 of training that family medicine physicians can actually serve the purpose
326 if they were (inaudible). The other argument would be: You look at a rural
327 hospital (inaudible) care, prenatal care, for the cost of one family physician
328 to take care of the prenatal patient, the perinatal patient, and the newborn,
329 which is actually going acquire at least two (inaudible) providers to do the
330 same care because you're going to have to have a nurse midwife do the
331 prenatal care in the room. Then you're going to have to have (inaudible)
332 nurse practitioner to do the (inaudible) care and you still don't have
333 anybody taking care of the (inaudible), so now we're up to three
334 (inaudible) to do the job of one family physician. And until we start
335 (inaudible) those numbers and looking at the (inaudible), which is the
336 nurse practitioner (inaudible), we're going to spend that.

337 Committee Chair: So why aren't we making efforts to (inaudible)? Because I think with
338 anybody when you're trying to not necessarily sell something, but when
339 you're trying to convince somebody that they need some things, how do
340 they explain to them why they need it?

341 Dr. Koehler: We're in a bad route society and there's only so many boulders that you
342 can push uphill at a time.

343 Committee Chair: I would say the one that's holding up all the rest of the boulders first.

344 Committee Member: (Inaudible) that the nurse practitioner is in physician's assistant with
345 (inaudible) to try to have practice rights independent of the supervising
346 physician and certainly we've been able to hold off at this point here. The
347 problem is that their training is not equal to physician's training.

348 Dr. Koehler: No question.

349 Committee Member: Their experience is not and the public needs to be educated on a national
350 basis because the nurse practitioners have a national campaign that
351 they're the (inaudible) putting up there. The problem is right now when
352 you have the midlevel people involved with care, patients are misguided
353 that these people are physicians because they see them wearing a white
354 coat.

355 Dr. Koehler: (Inaudible).

356 Committee Member: They call them doctors and the mid-levels are not correcting that
357 situation. We see it in our hospitals, in our facilities and I think we need to
358 do - - obviously both the AOA and the ACOFP need to jump on a
359 bandwagon on a national basis, which we do it a state level, but it's a
360 national problem.

361 Dr. Koehler: Coupled with the AAFP, but again - - and there's really two different issues
362 and the dynamic, okay. Most of them they've talked about. The other issue
363 is that you have one dynamic (inaudible) who have a very different
364 dynamic than the rural ones. The argument from those folks in those kind
365 of states is we're providing care where no physician will go, but the data
366 show different and it's a matter of... And I don't know - - the solution I
367 suggest is going to be an unnamed, not an unnamed, a dummy
368 organization founded by AMA, AAFP, ACOFP, AOS for educational

369 purposes to show the things that we've been talking about, differences of
370 training, actually going to (inaudible) urban and suburban areas instead of
371 the rural areas the three FTEs to provide care for a mom and a newborn
372 because it comes from ACOFP (inaudible). If it comes from AOA, AMA,
373 protecting (inaudible). This dummy organization over here, even if it
374 means resurrecting family medicine for America's health, to put that
375 publicity out is what it's going to take because you're fighting now with
376 nurse practitioners. You're fighting with (inaudible).

377 Committee Member: Just to make this fun because you're living the moment particularly, talk
378 about medical marijuana - it's history, how it's going. And I'll point out that
379 you're in Oklahoma where it just became legal last year.

380 Dr. Koehler: It's a year ago. First of all, the bill that - - or the state (inaudible) passed a
381 year ago has nothing to do with it. It has more to do with recreational
382 marijuana. If you read the (inaudible), if you read the question, okay. No
383 matter how you slice it, marijuana since 1970s, early 1970s, (inaudible).
384 There are three exceptions. There are two THC derivatives that'll be used
385 for (inaudible) disease to increase appetite. Marinol is one of those. And
386 there has been in March the cannabidiol derivative for seizures, okay, and
387 that's the guys under which most states are passing this stuff (inaudible)
388 recreational. My thoughts on it: I find it interesting that cannabidiol is
389 now used to treat seizures. Some of (inaudible) brings it back under the
390 control of the FDA. That's not anyone's (inaudible), okay, which means
391 that the sale of cannabidiol on the street corner is medicine. Legal is
392 selling (inaudible). It is (inaudible). There's - - while the Department of
393 Justice chooses not to prosecute folks prescribing, folks selling drugs right

394 now because racketeering issues (inaudible) for not taking (inaudible) of
395 money from these folks, so they had (inaudible) large sums of cash on
396 (inaudible). The other thing that kind of bothers me looking at investment
397 opportunities, there's tons of investment opportunities, but the access for
398 (inaudible) thing that the Department of Justice has used for folks that
399 have been convicted of trafficking drugs strikes me as a (inaudible).

400 Benefits: I think CBD has some benefits, true. Obviously the seizures. I
401 think there's a growing body of literature about chronic pain, but the
402 regulation at the state level is confusing. Just because it's legal for me in
403 Oklahoma, (inaudible) CBD or THC doesn't mean I can go 10 miles across
404 the state line in Kansas and 15 across the state line in Missouri or
405 (inaudible) cross the state line into Arkansas, it's still illegal. (Inaudible).
406 Potentially those three state laws in federal (inaudible) and so there's little
407 things that people aren't thinking about.

408 Committee Member: Like Colorado gummies in Texas.

409 Dr. Koehler: And (inaudible).

410 Committee Chair: I had a question about mentorship because as a young leader in ACOFP,
411 that's one of the things that attracted me to ACOFP and that I really
412 appreciate. Can you share with us, because I think this is important from a
413 historical perspective, as you were coming up through the board, kind of
414 what has past presidents or governors or other leaders mentored you,
415 what helped prepare you (inaudible) president and what advice would
416 you pass on as a mentor to those that are coming after?

417 Dr. Koehler: For those coming behind me, if you really want to get into a leadership
418 position, eliminate no from your vocabulary, okay, because you don't get

419 onto a board. Whether it's the state level or national level if you keep
420 telling folks asking if you'd like to be involved in a committee or two or
421 three committees or a task group, if you say no enough, you're stricken
422 from the list. So if you really want to be involved and just really want to do
423 it, be prepared to say yes and do your homework and do the job well. If
424 you're taking up a seat, you're depriving somebody else the opportunity to
425 get involved (inaudible). As far as mentors, there's a pretty lengthy list
426 actually. You'll be surprised to hear that probably top on the list
427 (inaudible). Behind him, Terry Nickels is still on his phone calls that I get
428 from time-to-time (inaudible) change it every time. From there on down,
429 interacting with presidents since Nickels, even (inaudible) for god's sakes.

430 Committee Chair: Is there anything particular that one of them or someone shared with you
431 that kind of sticks out that stuck with you when you were serving as
432 president that you took that advice and utilized it and thought: Gosh, I'm
433 really glad someone told me that?

434 Dr. Koehler: Between the advice and between what I had read and what I read as one of
435 the very few things in happen by accident and the stories about the smoke
436 filled back rooms, probably more truth to that than. 21st Century, the
437 smoke has probably disappeared. Again, I'm talking not just in societies,
438 I'm talking 30 miles down the road (inaudible), okay. Probably the most
439 prominent comment that I have received was that you really shouldn't
440 take a vote in a meeting unless you know what the outcome's going to be.
441 If you have a pretty good idea the sense of the board, you know how long
442 to let conversation go before you take a vote. If you sense that there's
443 some level of decision, you'll have a conversation continue (inaudible). If

444 everybody has a pretty good idea which way it's going to go, take the vote.
445 (Inaudible) on the line, (inaudible). I think that's one of the lessons in
446 2016 (inaudible). Up until 2016 when we heard statistics about which
447 candidate had the lead, you will hear this percentage plus or minus 3 to 5
448 percent margin of error. And up until election day in November 2016, it
449 was still 50 percent either way and nobody mentions margin of error in
450 2016. It was a 50/50 shot.

451 Committee Chair: So, as we develop the ACOFP moving forward, have we ever thought about
452 developing a leadership academy, some way to train our young family
453 docs who have a decent voice, but it's hidden, it's not being presented, to
454 help grow them as leaders and as advocates for the ACOFP?

455 Dr. Koehler: Who would you like to be on that committee?

456 Committee Chair: With family medicine, like you say, you hear the grumblings of people at
457 their offices when they're mentoring students, we have no control over
458 that and we definitely want a more positive outlook, , which is what we are
459 so good at to begin with.

460 Dr. Koehler: To provide a serious response to your question, okay, that's one of the
461 reasons future leaders, is in conjunction with the winter board meetings,
462 okay, and I think that's one of the functions that could be served with the
463 Young Physicians Committee. We actually had a concerted effort to do a
464 leadership institute with them at content. About half want to chair that
465 committee and who you want on it, but I think that's an idea that's worth
466 exploring, worth sharing with Robert and Nicole and see about the
467 delegates and those resources.

468 Committee Chair: If we knew how to better teach our teachers to lead, it's more than just
469 getting nominated for a committee and being in charge of it. It's about how
470 do you communicate in a more emerging way and help people follow you.

471 Dr. Koehler: Having done this with first in a (inaudible) organization, two state
472 organizations, now at this level, I realize that the state level is those who
473 reach this physician, those who reach the board position have been chosen
474 by folks who have the leadership skills themselves and by recognizing
475 those leadership skills in others, developing mentorship relationships,
476 being (inaudible) to the board, so it's not like myself, Ron or Brian or
477 anybody else who's reached this by living in a vacuum. It has been
478 recognized that there are some leadership skills in the individuals that
479 have brought to (inaudible) and further developed that (inaudible).

480 Committee Chair: So we'll talk about that later. I think we're going to come upon it in other
481 meetings.

482 Committee Member: I have a question for you. Family medicine has changed a lot now since
483 family docs become employees and not going into private practice, a lot of
484 them don't do hospital work. It's hospitalists now. How are you seeing the
485 trend now? Or let's put it this way: How do we encourage the young
486 people to go into family medicine knowing that these changes are there,
487 knowing that they don't have to do hospital work like we do? Paradigm's
488 changed tremendously. What are your feelings on it?

489 Dr. Koehler: I think if we're going to reach that population, our message is: Your
490 association is looking after your best interests. Your employers looking
491 after your employer's best interest, and your employer's best interest is
492 driving to the point for which you continue to make them money.

493 Committee Chair: One last question, what is your fondest memory as president?

494 Dr. Koehler: Since that I might've stricken a chord in telling a reference committee at
495 the AOA House or the board meeting that they continue to make decisions
496 affecting the affiliate societies and having five other affiliate societies
497 standing around helping to rewrite resolutions.

498 Committee Chair: Well, thank you again for your service.

499 Dr. Koehler: Thanks. It was a fun ride. Crazy, but fun.

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502 [https://zoom.us/recording/share/pksWi9oqPeuZUhd0txg28D30-R53-V4jZGkh-
yRgwAKwIumekTziMw?startTime=1572091072000](https://zoom.us/recording/share/pksWi9oqPeuZUhd0txg28D30-R53-V4jZGkh-
503 yRgwAKwIumekTziMw?startTime=1572091072000)