

# THE JOURNAL *of the* AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION



The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA) encourages osteopathic physicians, faculty members and students at colleges of osteopathic medicine, and others within the health care professions to submit comments related to articles published in the JAOA and the mission of the osteopathic medical profession. The JAOA's editors are particularly interested in letters that discuss recently published original research.

Letters must be submitted online at <http://www.osteopathic.org/JAOAsubmit>. Letters to the editor are considered for publication in the JAOA with the understanding that they have not been published elsewhere and are not simultaneously under consideration by any other publication. All accepted letters to the editor are subject to editing and abridgment.

Although the JAOA welcomes letters to the editor, these contributions have a lower publication priority than other submissions. As a consequence, letters are published only when space allows.

## Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment in Tarsal Somatic Dysfunction: A Case Study

To the Editor:

Thank you to Joshua Batt, DO, and Michael M. Neeki, DO, MS, for their excellent case report on osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) for a patient with tarsal somatic dysfunction.<sup>1</sup> This very useful and effective technique is easy to learn, is effective, and can provide instant relief to patients who have pain as a result of this common foot disorder.

Some may know this technique as the "Hiss whip technique." I am sure there was no disrespect intended by Drs Batt and Neeki, but I think it is appropriate to acknowledge the historical contributions of those who developed and invented such OMT techniques. Although the authors did

refer to the *Foundations of Osteopathic Medicine* textbook,<sup>2</sup> they did not reference John Martin Hiss, DO, who was the originator of the Hiss whip technique. The Hiss whip technique was mentioned in the first edition of the *Foundations* textbook in figure 52.40, but Dr Hiss is not mentioned in the reference section.<sup>3</sup> It appears that Dr Hiss's contribution to osteopathic medicine would have been lost completely were it not for the outstanding osteopathic historian Georgia Warner Walter. In her book *The First School of Osteopathic Medicine*, Ms Walter gives reference to Dr Hiss and eloquently describes him and H.R. Bynum, DO, presenting "demonstrations each day on establishing a foot practice" and conducting "a special course of foot technic following the close of the [American School of Osteopathy] convention" in 1911.<sup>4(p174)</sup>

Thank you for publishing this useful

article. It is wonderful to have these young authors revitalize the original contributions of Dr Hiss to the colorful history of the osteopathic medical profession. (doi:10.7556/jaoa.2014.20)

Dale E. Alsager, DO, PhD

Osteopathic Medical Services, Inc, Maple Valley, Washington

## References

1. Batt J, Neeki MM. Osteopathic manipulative treatment in tarsal somatic dysfunction: a case study. *J Am Osteopath Assoc*. 2013;113(11):857-861.
2. Kuchera ML. Lower extremity. In: Chila AG, executive ed. *Foundations of Osteopathic Medicine*. 3rd ed. Baltimore, MD: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins; 2011:602-639.
3. Kappler RE, Johns HM III. High-velocity low-amplitude thrust techniques. In: Ward RC, executive editor. *Foundations for Osteopathic Medicine*. Baltimore, MD: Williams & Wilkins; 1997.
4. Walter GW. *The First School of Osteopathic Medicine*. Kirksville, MO: The Thomas Jefferson University Press; 1992.

© 2014 American Osteopathic Association