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Rhode Island Society of Osteopathic Physicians & Surgeons

President

Karl Felber, DO

August 15, 2010

Vice-President &
Treasurer

James Griffin, DO

RE: Brown & Lifespan Situation

Dear Fellow RI DO's:

Secretary

Charles Cronin, DO

This is an update on the situation with Brown and Lifespan. Since there was no response from Lifespan to the last RISOPS letter, on 7/19/10 my office stopped using Lifespan Labs. Soon thereafter, I received a request to meet with officials from Lifespan. On August 12, a meeting was set up between Dr. Kathleen C. Hittner, Senior Vice President of Community Health and Dr. John B. Murphy, Vice President of Medical Affairs & Chief Medical Officer, along with George Pasquarello, and me.

Board Members

Gregory Allen, DO

Robert Dinwoodie, DO

Sue Ferranti, DO

David Hunt, DO

Dave A. Johnson, DO

Robert T. Leonard, DO

Jessica C. Manyan, DO

George Pasquarello, DO

Donald R. Banik, DO

Resident

During this meeting, they brought a proposal from Brown that will allow DO students both from Rhode Island, and those non-RI students doing osteopathic training in New England through UNECOM to set up clinical rotations. There have been some restrictions that are proposed which include: limiting rotations from January 1st till May 1st, and confirmation of these rotations won't occur until 4 weeks prior. According to them, Brown is trying to ensure that the needs of their students are met before opening up the rotations to non-affiliated students. The question remains; is this a legitimate answer or just another loophole to dismiss the requests of osteopathic students? Time will certainly tell. The board of RISPOS will be meeting to discuss a possible counter-proposal to make this more workable for students.

The second issue is the restriction on DO's, boarded by NBOME, applying for privileges to Rhode Island Hospital. Currently, privileges are granted at the discretion of the executive committee after consultation with the chief. Lifespan is presently in the process of creating unified bylaws for all of their affiliated hospitals. John Murphy MD, who appears to be an advocate for DO equality, is a major contributor in this process.

He stated that he is working to correct this restriction with the new bylaws. This is a slow process, and the current estimate on the time to resolve it is approximately one year. Once again, the RISPOS Board will be meeting to discuss this time-frame, and will be closely monitoring its progress.

Finally, Michael J. Dacey, MD, Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs Chief Medical Officer Kent Hospital is in discussions with John Murphy about re-establishing rotations for the Kent residents at Lifespan facilities next year. He has been instrumental in assisting RISPOS in resolving our issues. We look forward to a continued partnership with him and the Kent residency programs.

There seems to be co-operation at this time between RISOPS, Kent, Lifespan, and Brown. There will need to be further negotiations and close follow-up on our part. The RISPOS Board remains cautiously optimistic about these latest developments. The progress made to this point is a direct result of a unified membership working together.

We need your continued support to finish the job. We still have much work to do! We will keep you informed, and hope to see you at the RISOPS general meeting at 9:00 AM, Saturday, August 20th during the upcoming Yankee Conference, in Newport.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karl Felber D.O.".

Karl Felber, D.O.
President, RISOPS