The Advancing Osteopathy 2008 - Celebrating UK recognition & Progress was held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Center, February 1-3, 2008, in Westminster, London. The three-day conference was organized by the National Council for Osteopathic Research, the General Osteopathic Council, the British School of Osteopathy and the Osteopathic International Alliance. More than 1,300 delegates from more than 20 countries attended this event.

Christian Fossum, D.O. (Europe), associate director of the A.T. Still Research Institute (SRI) and assistant professor in the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine at KCOM and Gary Fryer, Ph.D., B.Sc. (Osteopathy), N.D., research associate professor at the A.T. Still Research Institute and adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine at KCOM were invited speakers at this conference.

Dr. Fryer’s presentation was entitled, Teaching critical thinking in osteopathy—integrating craft, knowledge, and EBM approaches, and Christian Fossum’s presentation was entitled, Osteopathic education and professional identity: are we lost in the Atlantic Ocean? More than 30 research posters were presented from various institutions.

In addition, the Still Research Institute participated in two presentations on collaborative projects with the European School of Osteopathy. One of these presentations entitled, Monitoring self-reported adverse events in a U.K. teaching clinic: preliminary findings from a prospective survey (pilot study), was awarded second place as the best research poster based on impact of research and publishable work.

Representatives from organizations such as the American Osteopathic Association, the Osteopathic International Alliance, the A.T. Still Research Institute, and the Osteopathic Research Center participated in this landmark event for the United Kingdom and the United States.

Following this conference, Stephen Tyreman, Ph.D., Dean of Osteopathic Education Development, British School of Osteopathy, traveled on to Kirksville, Mo., February 12-13, 2008, to visit the Still Research Institute and KCOM. As a leader in the academic discipline of osteopathy, Dr. Tyreman was the driving force behind the creation of a Bachelor of Osteopathy program at the British School of Osteopathy. Dr. Tyreman is also an active member of the European Society for Philosophy, Medicine, and Health Care. During his visit, meetings were held with administrators and faculty of SRI and KCOM and discussions were had in regards to development of a professional doctorate, development of an exchange program, and potential for collaborative research.