

# WHO Global Survey update



**CHARLES HUNT DO TASK FORCE CHAIR**

**OIA**



BREXIT MEANS...

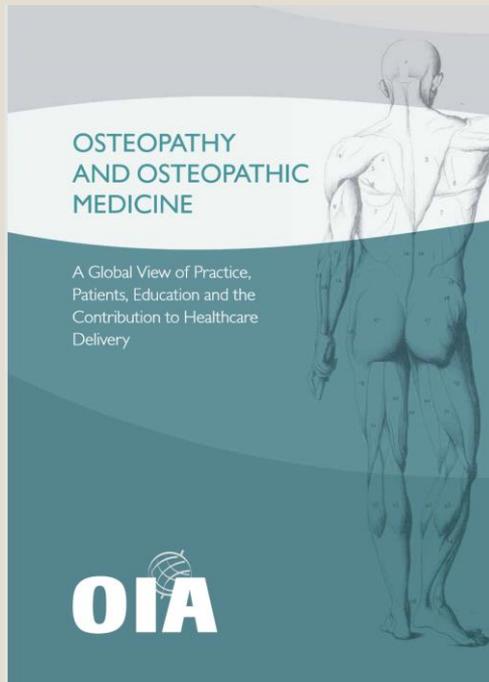


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# Global Survey



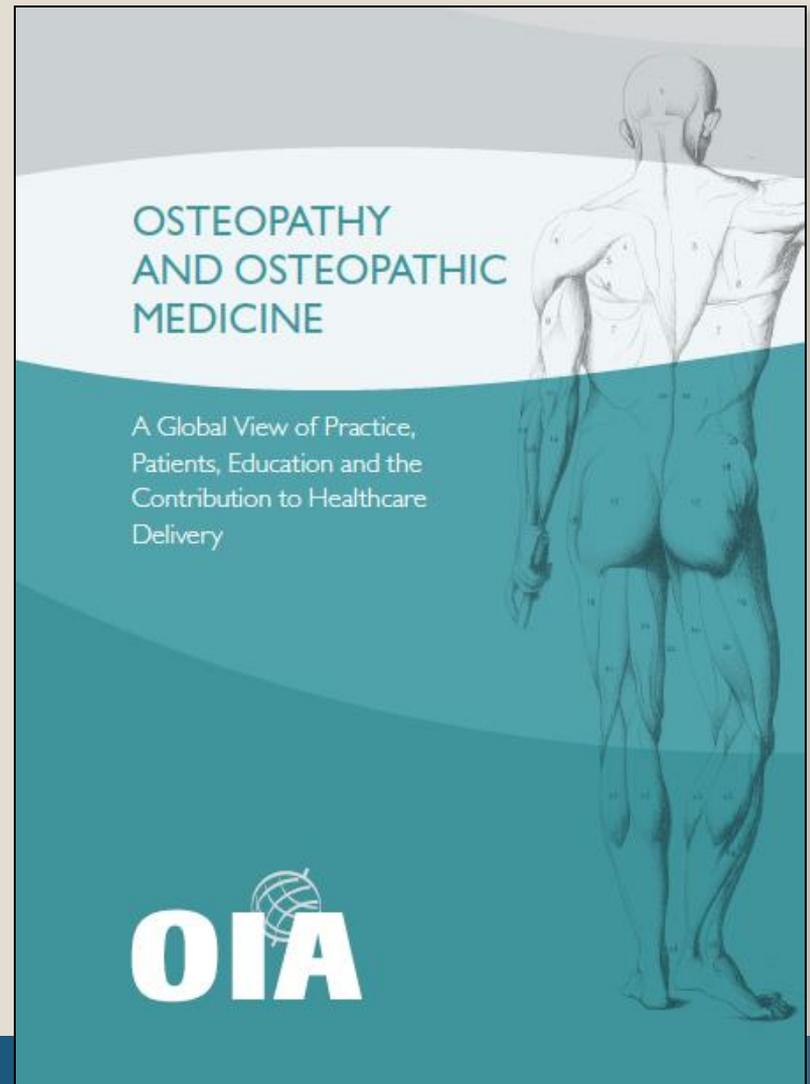
- Produced by the OIA in January 2014 launched at Austin conference.



# Global Osteopathic Report, Stage 2



- The OIA completed Stage 2, ***Osteopathy and Osteopathic Medicine: A Global View of Practice, Patients, Education and the Contribution to Healthcare Delivery.***
- The document describes the current state of osteopathy and osteopathic medicine globally and how these disciplines interact with national health systems across a range of countries
- Available in hard copy or PDF, full length or summary, on the OIA website



## FOREWORD

The World Health Organization has set out three key objectives in its Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023:

- To build the knowledge base for active management of traditional and complementary medicine through appropriate national policies
- To strengthen quality assurance, safety, proper use and effectiveness of traditional and complementary medicine by regulating products, practices and practitioners
- To promote universal health coverage by integrating traditional and complementary medicine services appropriately into national health service delivery and self-healthcare.

This report from the Osteopathic International Alliance is an important achievement for the osteopathic profession in collating and reporting baseline data regarding the state of the profession worldwide. It provides useful information for policy makers to consider the contribution to the healthcare sector made by the osteopathic profession; the development in education and regulation standards; and the efforts on safety and quality of service delivery. The report is also helpful in the implementation of the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023 and the WHO Benchmarks for Training in Osteopathy.

**Dr Zhang Qi**  
Coordinator of Traditional and Complementary  
Medicine Programme  
World Health Organization

This report from the Osteopathic International Alliance is the culmination of several years work on behalf of the international profession. A profession that now has a global presence, being practised on every continent except Antarctica.

After the publication of the World Health Organization Benchmarks for Training in Osteopathy in 2010 the OIA Board was given a strong mandate to demonstrate the profession's international contribution to healthcare delivery.

All member organisations have contributed to this report from various sectors of the profession including national professional associations, regulators, accreditation authorities and educational institutions.

The result is an affirmation of the success of the coming together of both streams of the profession, from both regulated and unregulated countries, under the unifying umbrella of the OIA.

Particular thanks goes to:

Mr Clive Standen, Past Chair OIA Board, NZ  
Dr John Heard, Vice President Research, AT Still University, USA  
Dr Johannes Meyer, Past Chair OIA Board, Germany  
Dr Jane Carreiro, Chair OIA Editorial Committee, USA  
Mr Tim Walker, OIA Editorial Committee, UK  
Mr Simon Fielding, OIA Editorial Committee, UK  
Ms Teresa Poole, medical and technical author, UK  
The National Council for Osteopathic Research, UK

**Michael Mulholland-Licht**  
Chair, OIA Board of Directors



- It brought together data from a range of international sources including a survey of international practice and a census covering 33 countries.

### SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

**Once considered complementary or alternative, osteopathic medicine and osteopathy now make a global contribution to patient-centred, evidence-informed, integrated healthcare.**

**The concepts, history and spread of osteopathic healthcare (Chapter 1)**

- Osteopathic healthcare is based on the principle that the structures and functions of the body are closely integrated, and that a person's well-being is dependent upon the neurological, musculoskeletal and visceral structures working in balance together.
- The approach was established in 1874 in the US by Andrew Taylor Still; over the first half of the 20th century osteopathic practice rapidly spread globally.
- Osteopathic healthcare is now provided in every continent except Antarctica and is practised in more than 50 countries.
- Globally, two professional streams have emerged, largely due to different legal and regulatory structures around the world: osteopathic physicians (practising osteopathic medicine) are doctors with full, unlimited medical practice rights and can specialise in any branch of medical care; osteopaths (practising osteopathy) are primary contact health providers with nationally defined practice rights, and may not for example prescribe pharmaceuticals or perform surgery.

**Practitioners, patients and the scale of osteopathic practice (Chapter 2)**

**Practitioners**

- The OIA 2013 survey of 33 countries identified at least 87,850 osteopathic physicians worldwide, a 70% increase over the past decade. The vast majority (82,500) are in the US, where in 2012 osteopathic physicians accounted for 7.2% of US physicians.
- The survey identified approximately 43,000 osteopaths worldwide, nearly triple the number a decade ago. The countries with the largest number are France, Germany, Italy, UK, Australia, Belgium and Canada, which together accounted for almost 38,000 practitioners.
- The total number of students enrolled at US osteopathic medical schools has risen from 14,409 in 2006-7 to 21,741 in 2012-13. The OIA 2013 survey identified 25 countries with osteopathy training schools or universities; the countries where data were available reported 14,750 enrolled osteopathy students, of whom 10,000 were in France.



- Some facts (2013)
- 87,500 Osteopathic Physicians
  - 82,500 based in the US
- 43,000 Osteopaths
  - 38,000 based in France, Germany, Italy, UK, Australia, Belgium, Canada
  - Osteopathy emerging in other countries

Training occurring in 25 countries with 30,000 students



- Dr Dawn Carnes BSc (Hons) PhD



- **Proposal**

We would like to propose an update to the Global Report in collaboration with the OIA. We suggest the following:

1. In collaboration with the OIA conduct a survey of OIA members to update numbers and demographics of the professions in each representative country.
2. Description of osteopathic practice
3. Update of the evidence and safety chapter.



**Questionnaire design:** The study team in consultation with the OIA will design an online questionnaire. The questionnaire will cover:

- Nature and type of registration/regulation in member country (statutory, voluntary, key requirements for registration with organising body)
- Demographics of practicing osteopaths (number, sex, age distribution of practicing and/or registered osteopaths over the last 5 years)
- Education system for osteopathic training (eg description of level of education for practicing osteopaths, number of schools delivering osteopathic education)
- Continuing professional development requirements (hours, formal and/or informal arrangements, how managed)
- Sources of information and/or literature about osteopathic practice in the member country

## **2. Description of osteopathic practice worldwide**

**Study design:** Literature review. Since the last report there have been a number of published national surveys profiling osteopathic practice.

**Literature search:** Search on PUBMED and osteopathic relevant journals for any articles reporting questionnaire surveys and audits about osteopathic practice nationally. We also use peer networks to identify relevant data. Review suggested data from member countries as outlined in the questionnaire survey.

**Inclusion criteria:** Surveys and audits must be conducted at a national level to be included. Individual or practice surveys and audit data will not be included.

# BMJ Open The role of osteopathy in the Swiss primary health care system: a practice review

Paul Vaucher

**To cite:** Vaucher P, Macdonald RJD, Carnes D. The role of osteopathy in the Swiss primary health care system: a practice review. *BMJ Open* 2018;8:e023770. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2018-023770

► Prepublication history for this paper is available online. To view these files, please visit the journal online (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2018-023770>).

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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives** The role of osteopathy in the current and future Swiss primary healthcare system. **Design** A questionnaire-based, record-based, cross-sectional survey. **Setting/population** (n=1086) were osteopaths in the Swiss through their professional network. **Questionnaire** A questionnaire based on previous surveys of osteopaths and their practice. **Results** The survey was completed between April and June 2018. The majority of osteopaths reported information on the treatment they managed to provide (521/1171). D

Adams et al. *BMC Health Services Research* (2018) 18:352  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-018-3158-y>

BMC Health Services Research

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### A workforce of osteopaths represents the Osteopathy Network (ON)

Jon Adams<sup>1</sup>, David S

#### Abstract

**Background:** Limited osteopathy workforce, representative sample

**Methods:** Data was collected from the practitioner, their questionnaire was distributed. Research and Innovation

**Results:** A total of 992 average age of the practitioners was higher degree qualified practicing in an urban area with a range of relationships with a range of providing multi-

**Conclusions:** A total of approximately 3.0 million



#### OPEN ACCESS

**Citation:** Cerritelli F, van Duin G, Consorti G, Sciomachen P, Iannace G, et al. The Italian Osteopathic Practitioners (OPERA) study: A cross-sectional survey. *PLOS ONE* 14(1): e0211353. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0211353

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Alvarez Bustins et al. *BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine* (2018) 18:129  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12906-018-2190-0>

BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Open Access



### Profile of osteopathic practice in Spain: results from a standardized data collection study

Gerard Alvarez Bustins<sup>1,2,4\*</sup>, Pedro-Victor López Plaza<sup>3,4</sup> and Sonia Roura Carvajal<sup>1,4</sup>

#### Abstract

**Background:** There is limited research regarding patients' profiles and consumer attitudes and habits of osteopathy in Spain. The purpose of this study was to profile patients who regularly receive osteopathic care in Spain using an internationally developed standardized data collection tool.

**Method:** During the period between April 2014 and December 2015, a UK-developed standardized data collection tool was distributed to Spanish osteopaths who voluntarily agreed to participate in this cross-sectional study.

**Results:** Thirty-six osteopaths participated in this study and returned a total of 314 completed datasets. Of 314 patients, 61% were women and 39% were men, with a mean age of 40 years (SD 17.02 years, range 0 to 83 years). Forty-four percent were full-time salaried workers, and in 78% of cases, receiving osteopathic treatment was the patient's own choice. Chronic spinal pain presentations were the most frequent reasons for consultation. Seventy-five percent of patients presented with a coexisting condition, mainly gastrointestinal disorders and headaches. The main treatment approach consisted of mobilization techniques, followed by soft tissue, cranial and high velocity thrust techniques. Improvement or resolution of the complaint was experienced by 93% of patients after a small number of sessions. Adverse events were minor and occurred in 7% of all cases.

**Conclusion:** This is the first study carried out in Spain analyzing the profile of patients who receive osteopathic care. The typical patient who receives osteopathic care in Spain is middle-aged, presents mainly with chronic spinal pain, and voluntarily seeks osteopathic treatment. Osteopathic treatment produces a significant improvement in the majority of cases with a low rate of minor adverse events reported.

**Keywords:** Osteopathy, Osteopathic medicine, Cross-sectional survey, Standardized data collection, Scope of practice, Clinical presentations

### **3. Update of evidence and safety chapter**

**Study design:** Literature review. There have been a number of reviews about osteopathic and other manual treatments and care in recent years that are relevant to osteopathic practice. Potentially, these would be useful to include in the chapter about evidence and safety of osteopathic care. The aim is to highlight where evidence exists to support practice. We will update the chapter as presented on: Clinical guidelines on low back pain, Evidence of the outcomes of osteopathic care for commonly treated conditions, Safety of osteopathic practice, Cost-effectiveness of osteopathic practice, Future research directions. The literature review will take the form of an editorial, considering and appraising the evidence in the context of osteopathy, as opposed to a rigorous systematic review of all literature.

- Timeline of 4 months
- Budget £10,000





**ANY QUESTIONS ?**