



ABC News - The View
47 West 66th Street
New York, NY 10023
ATTN: Brian Teta, Executive Producer, The View

Dear Mr. Teta,

We are reaching out on behalf of the American Osteopathic Association, which represents more than 186,000 doctors of osteopathic medicine (DOs) and medical students in the U.S. We've heard from many of them regarding misleading remarks made by Sunny Hostin on the Monday, Nov. 27th episode of The View. Comments implying that DOs are not medical doctors could not be further from the truth. Regardless of opinions about Trump and his medical care, Dr. Bruce Aronwald is a fully licensed medical doctor with legitimate credentials.

There are two types of fully licensed physicians in the United States: doctors of osteopathic medicine (DOs) and doctors of medicine (MDs). DOs currently make up approximately 11% of the nation's physician workforce and 25% of all U.S. medical students. The osteopathic medical profession has grown 63% in the past decade and nearly 300% in the last 30 years. Osteopathic physicians hold high-ranking positions in our nation's top government, academic and medical institutions and are responsible for the health and well-being of millions, including our nation's astronauts, President Biden and former President Trump.

DOs complete four years of study at an accredited medical school, including two years of clinical sciences, just like MDs, followed by two years of clinical rotations, just like MDs. DOs and MDs alike complete comprehensive licensing exams. DOs then train side-by-side with MDs in residency and fellowship programs for three to seven years, depending on specialty. DOs can choose to train and practice in all the same specialties as MDs. As practicing physicians, DOs are held to the same standards as MDs by state licensing boards and specialty certifying boards.

To help set the record straight and provide your viewers with an accurate impression of osteopathic physicians and the critical role they play in the medical community, we would appreciate the opportunity to have a DO interviewed as a guest on your show. The president of our organization, Dr. Ira Monka, DO, is a board-certified family physician who has dedicated nearly four decades of his career to treating patients through New Jersey's Atlantic Health System.

Hosting such a dialogue would help ensure that future discussions on your show present a more authentic depiction of DOs and the care they provide to millions of patients across the nation.

Sincerely,

Ira P. Monka, DO, MHA, FACOFP
President, American Osteopathic Association

Kathleen S. Creason, MBA
CEO, American Osteopathic Association