FUNCTIONAL METHODS IN OSTEOPATHIC PALPATORY DIAGNOSIS
AND TREATMENT

A PROPOSAL FOR BASIC COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTION IN THE
APPROACHES DEVELOPED BY WILLIAM L. JOHNSTON DO, FAAO

Course Description

Osteopathic physicians have always focused on structural components of
health and disease to deliver optimum health care to their patients. They
consider the relationship between body structure and function to be
complementary and reciprocally interactive.

While various approaches to structural diagnosis and treatment have been
favored, few have presented a biomechanical problem solving and treatment
method that considers the function of the neuromusculoskeletal system as a
whole...Traditionally, our theoretical framework is grossly refined to the
segmental and the positional configuration of the joint and its surrounding
tissues. The function of the system as a whole is thought to be enhanced by
the proper diagnosis and treatment of these local disturbances.

But if we begin to think about these local disturbances as reflections of
system-wide dysfunction or disturbed motor programs, then we can
appreciate how different parts of the body are inter-related and working
together to reinforce body-wide patterns of dysfunction. The functional
approaches of William L. Johnston DO, embraced just this type of problem
solving focus and palpatory development. The segmental disturbance
reflects imbalances within the system as a whole that can be palpated in
response to functional motion demands placed on the entire body. When
treated in light of these functional inter-relationships, entire motor chains of
primary and secondary disturbances, resolve in one treatment procedure.

In this series of two 20-hour courses, participants will learn palpatory testing
procedures for identifying primary motor system disturbances and their
resolution using Functional treatment methods. Both regional and segmental
motion tests will be presented with the emphasis on active "responses" of
the tissue to passive motion testing "demands". Body regions will each be
presented in a different section of the course, each one uniquely considered
in light of its functional and anatomical relation to the rest of the body. They
include cervical, thoracic, lumbar, and sacral spine, pelvis, costal cage and
appendages. Treatment approaches taught will generally employ an indirect
technique, bringing tissues into a state of dynamic balance and ease to
affect an optimal treatment response.
Course instructor is Harry D. Friedman DO, FAAO, co-author of the book "Functional Methods, A Manual for Palpatory Skill Development in Osteopathic Examination and Manipulation of Motor Function", now in its second edition. Dr. Friedman is the co-founder of San Francisco International Manual Medicine Society (SFIMMS), and has published other books through SFIMMS Press. He also is engaged in ongoing research in functional diagnosis and treatment methods, specifically studying inter-examiner agreement. Table trainers will also be present to enhance the learning experience.