

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

To: Kevin B. Johnson M.D., M.S., FAAP
Associate Professor and Vice Chair Biomedical Informatics
Associate Professor Pediatrics
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee 37232

Fm: Byron B. Oberst M.D., FAAP
10322 Pacific Street Apt 206
Omaha, Nebraska 68114

Dear Dr. Johnson,

It was with a great deal of surprise to me that you called me last night. My conversation must have seemed a bit disjointed. You are only the second person to ever call concerning the Oberst Award. You tapped into many, many memories and struggles that occurred during my many years of being active within the Academy.

I began my private practice in Omaha in 1951 and retired after 37 years in 1988 so my wife and I could spend some healthy and active years together. This was a wise decision as now that we both are 85 it is hard for her to physically get around.

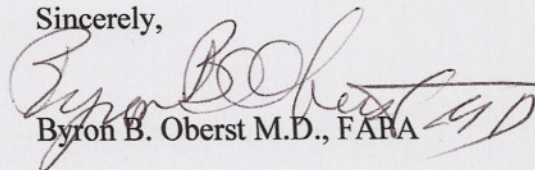
I became interested in computer in Pediatrics in the 1970's when everything was main frame. My interest in Pediatric Office Practice Management began about the same time and in parallel tracts. At that time, no one knew the scope and capabilities of computer applications in medicine; so we were all sort of pioneers trying to find our way in both tracts.

Because you inquired about the history behind the Section on Computers, I have taken the liberty to enclose both my Curriculum Vitae as it traces the evolution of computer activity via papers, seminars, and lectures that I was involved in during those formative years. Before the Section on Computers, the Academy was in the dark ages regarding knowledge and potential.

Of all of the honors I have received, The Byron Oberst Award is one of those closest to my heart as it denoted a major change in direction for the Academy and demonstrated that someone in Private Practice could make a major contribution to Pediatric Medicine. As you can tell from my curriculum vitae, I have always been a fiddler and diddler enjoying exploring the vast intriguing mysteries of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine.

I had Staples E-mail a picture today. Let me know if it arrived. Thank you again for your kind interest in my Award.

Sincerely,


Byron B. Oberst M.D., FARA