

ministère. Ils disposent de 6 mois suivant l'entrée en vigueur de la réglementation pour se mettre en conformité avec les nouvelles modalités et devront donc disposer d'une autorisation d'exercer pour le 31 mars 2019 au plus tard.

“La réglementation de la profession d'ostéopathe procure tout d'abord au patient une plus grande sécurité. La priorité absolue de la réglementation de cette profession de santé consiste ainsi en l'accès au patient à un ostéopathe ayant suivi une formation rigoureuse et sérieuse, puisqu'en l'absence d'une telle réglementation, tout le monde pourrait se déclarer ostéopathe”, souligne la ministre de la Santé, Lydia Mutsch.

#### Points clés de la réglementation:

À travers la réglementation publiée en ce jour, l'exercice de la profession d'ostéopathe est désormais soumis à l'acquisition d'un diplôme de master en ostéopathie ou d'un titre d'enseignement supérieur de niveau équivalent au grade de master.

Concernant les dispositions transitoires, les ostéopathes qui ne disposent pas d'un master en ostéopathie, doivent disposer, au moment de leur demande, d'une autorisation d'exercer la médecine, ou la profession de masseur-kinésithérapeute, d'infirmier ou de sage-femme ainsi que d'une pratique d'ostéopathie d'au moins 8 années sur la période allant du 1er octobre 2008 au 1er octobre 2018. S'ajoute à cela l'obligation de faire preuve d'un titre de formation spécifique en ostéopathie d'au moins 2.000 heures respectivement 800 heures pour les médecins, datant de plus de 8 ans.

La réglementation prévoit également les techniques auxquelles l'ostéopathe est habilité (manipulations remédiant à des troubles fonctionnels du corps humain, notamment les manipulations de nature musculo-squelettiques et myo-fasciales) ainsi que les actes d'intervention qui nécessitent un diagnostic médical préalable (manipulations du crâne, de la face et du rachis chez le nourrisson de moins de six mois ; manipulations du rachis cervical).

De plus, l'ostéopathe sera obligé d'orienter le patient vers un médecin lorsque les symptômes



nécessitent un diagnostic ou un traitement médical, lorsqu'il est constaté une persistance ou une aggravation de ces symptômes ou que les troubles présentés excèdent son champ de compétences.

“Grâce aux nouvelles modalités, les critères de qualité et de sécurité des prestations en matière d'ostéopathie sont davantage renforcés, puisque l'accès à un ostéopathe ayant suivi une formation rigoureuse et sérieuse peut désormais être garanti. Le bien-être et la sécurité du patient sont l'objectif primordial de la reconnaissance et de la réglementation de la profession d'ostéopathe”, conclut Lydia Mutsch.

Pour plus d'informations, veuillez-vous adresser à la Division des professions de santé du ministère de la Santé, par téléphone au (+352) 247-85525 ou consultez le portail [www.sante.lu](http://www.sante.lu).

Communiqué par le ministère de la Santé : <http://sante.public.lu/fr/index.php>

Association Luxembourgeoise des  
Ostéopathes (ALDO) :  
<http://www.osteopathie.lu/>

Dans notre édition de septembre, un rapport de l'EFFO décrivait une sombre image de l'ostéopathie en France. Quand j'ai rencontré à nouveau Philippe Sterlingot, président du Syndicat Français Des Ostéopathes, à la conférence Emirates Osteopathic à Dubaï et que je l'ai confronté à ce rapport, j'ai entendu une histoire complètement différente. Nous ne voulons évidemment pas dissimuler «ces faits alternatifs» à nos lecteurs.

In onze septemberuitgave schetste een EFFO rapport een somber beeld van de osteopathie in Frankrijk. Toen ik Philippe Sterlingot, voorzitter van het Syndicat Français Des Ostéopathes, na lange tijd weer eens ontmoette op de Emirates Osteopathic Conference in Dubai en hem met dit rapport confronteerde, kreeg ik een heel ander verhaal te horen. We willen onze About-lezers deze “alternatieve feiten” uiteraard niet onthouden.

PATRICK VAN DUN

## IS THE SITUATION OF OSTEOPATHY AND OSTEOPATHS IN FRANCE SO TERRIBLE?

PHILIPPE STERLINGOT, DO



A recent paper issued by the EFFO gives a very dark understanding of the situation of osteopathy and osteopaths in France. However, another, more positive vision, should be supported.

Having initially studied biology, Philippe graduated as a physiotherapist in 1987, and in 1996 as an osteopath from the Collège International d'Ostéopathie – CIDO Saint-Etienne. In 2002 he was elected Chair of the Syndicat Français Des Ostéopathes, and in 2007 gained a Masters in Law (Université de Droit et Sciences Politiques de Rennes I) focusing on health.

As national representative of French Osteopaths, he has been closely involved throughout the process of osteopathic recognition and regulation in France, which began in 2002.

Philippe has been a member of the American Academy of Osteopathy since 2003 and the Osteopathic Cranial Academy since 2011. He has also been vice-chair of the Forum for Osteopathic Regulation in Europe (FORE), an office he has held until 2018. He is currently member of the board of the Osteopathic International Alliance (OIA, since 2017).

Philippe shares his time between his practice and his national and international activities.

Sixteen years ago, practicing osteopathy when you were not a doctor might have taken you to court. Osteopathy is now regulated, and more and more closely integrated in the healthcare system. One has to complete a five-years

training (4,860 hours) in a college accredited by the French health minister to register as an osteopath by the French health authorities, unless he or she is for example a physiotherapist, in which case he or she will need to complete a 1,894 hours training. In both cases he or she will have to go through a robust clinical education and treat a few hundred patients.

French Osteopaths are allowed to treat patients without any medical referring, and may address all clinical situations. However, an osteopath shall refer a patient to a physician if the patients' clinical condition needs further medical investigation. They have the right to decide whether or not they should refer the patient to another medical practitioner. They are allowed to practice manipulations and mobilisations on all somatic tissues of the patient, except manipulations of the cervical spine and manipulations on babies younger than 6 months (in those cases, they need a medical prescription from a physician). They are however, allowed to use mobilisations without any restriction.

Osteopathy is very popular in France: 20% of the citizens told they had been to an osteopath during the previous 12 months in 2010 - 40% during their whole life ; in 2015 these percentages were 27% and 49% respectively.<sup>2</sup>

The last survey in 2015 showed that 88% of the citizens have confidence in osteopaths for safely relieving patients' pain.

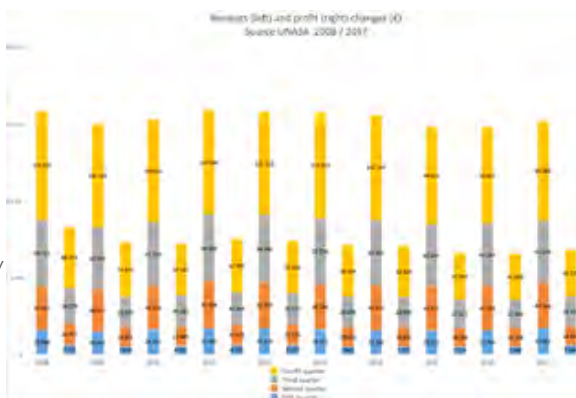
French osteopaths treat approximately 22 millions patients each year, with an average of 1,6 sessions per patient.<sup>3</sup> More than 60% get reimbursed from their health insurance companies. Considering the number of patients treated each year, osteopathy is currently the second or third largest medical profession.

The growth in the number of graduate osteopaths is quite amazing, which shows that the profession is very popular among young people who want to start an education in osteopathy in one of the 31 officially accredited colleges. In 2010, 11,600

osteopaths were registered, 5,400 of whom were only registered as osteopaths, the other osteopaths were mainly supplementary registered as physiotherapists. In 2018, these figures are respectively approaching 30,000 and 20,000. The osteopaths solely registered as such weighted 50% of the total number of registered osteopaths in 2010. Currently, this is two thirds of the total number of registered osteopaths. The proportion of osteopaths who are also registered as physiotherapists, physicians, midwives, etc. is decreasing year after year.

Nevertheless, this growth could lead to great concern if we didn't have access to strong data showing that the income of osteopaths does not decrease. These data come from chartered accountants associations, and are based on more or less 20 to 40 % of the whole osteopathic profession (depending on the year showed in the graph).

This graph shows a quite stable economic situation among self-employed osteopaths.



If we consider both economic and demographic data, we understand that the balance between osteopathic care supply and demand didn't change up till now. It is possible to consider that one of the reasons of the success of osteopathy in France comes from its strong demographic growth and that osteopaths brought about their own activity, leading French authorities to give a stronger education system to our profession and encouraging them to facilitate the integration of

osteopathy in the healthcare system. 22 millions patients is not something authorities can ignore.

However, 2,000 new osteopaths graduate each year and it is difficult to predict whether the needs of osteopathic care will continue to increase. Nevertheless, these conditions might be a fantastic opportunity for French osteopathy to be what it is designed for: a modern medical profession that contributes to health, deals with illness and fulfills a clear preventive function.

**Referentielijst**

1. OpinionWay survey for SMMOF in 2010 sample of 1,000 people older than 18.
2. Odoxa survey for SFDO in 2015 sample of 1,002 people older than 18.
3. T. Dubois, J. Berthiller, J. Nourry, G. Landurier, F. Briere, S. Chardigny, et al. Douleurs en cabinet d'ostéopathie : étude prospective descriptive des motifs de consultations des patients consultant en cabinet d'ostéopathie. Douleur. 2012; Volume 13; Pages A59–A60.

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