



Orthopaedic educational grants to fellowship and residency programs—with independence and transparency.

[omegamedicalgrants.org](http://omegamedicalgrants.org)

## Donor FAQs

### About OMeGA

*There are several options available to us right now to fund orthopaedic graduate medical education (GME). Why should we choose OMeGA?*

The OMeGA process was approved by a U.S. Department of Justice monitor and ensures an arms-length separation between industry and academic programs to eliminate bias.

In addition, the on-line OMeGA grant management system provides easy access to aggregate information. Characteristics of the funded fellows, use of funds, and research, presentations and papers generated by funding are some of the information we provide to help with donor needs assessment reporting.

*Doesn't the fact that AOA established OMeGA mean it is not independent?*

The American Orthopaedic Association (AOA) is an organization of the orthopaedic profession's leaders, and they recognized that the GME funding problem was not being solved by existing organizations. OMeGA was established as a separate company governed by its own board of directors without influence or control by the AOA. OMeGA is the only orthopaedic grant administrator focused solely on GME, across all orthopaedic sub-specialties. This unique situation has the additional benefit of starting up without pre-conceived agendas or processes.

*My company is serious about meeting industry compliance standards. How do we know that OMeGA and its grant recipients are equally concerned?*

Compliance is the foundation of OMeGA, and all processes have been created to disclose, eliminate and/or reduce bias. All grant recipients agree to abide by the AdvaMed Code of Ethics, PhRMA guidelines and the Anti-Kickback

Statute, 42 U.S.C. § 1320a-7b(b), as part of the Grant Agreement.

*What is OMeGA's legal status?*

OMeGA is currently incorporated as a not-for-profit limited liability company, so your donations and administrative fees are eligible as charitable contributions.

### Funding specifics

*Can we direct where our donations are used?*

Your company can choose between ten different funding categories—nine sub-specialty fellowships categories or residency/general education. Donors do not have any input into the specific institutions that will be funded, providing your company with the assurance of a conflict-of-interest-free environment.

*Are all funds that we donate directed to the sub-specialty we request?*

Yes, except for 5% of supporter level donations which OMeGA directs to unfunded or under-funded categories.

*What are the funding levels?*

There are four funding levels. Companies who donate \$2 million and above are recognized as platinum supporters; \$1 million to \$1,999,999 as gold supporters; and \$200,000 to \$999,999 are recognized as silver supporters. Those who donate up to \$199,999 are recognized as contributors. Specific benefits are associated with each of these different levels. Please contact OMeGA at [info@omegamedicalgrants.org](mailto:info@omegamedicalgrants.org) to discuss how your company can be involved.

### Benefits and recognition

*How does my company benefit?*

OMeGA promotes the development and use of new products and surgical techniques by facilitating training in

graduate medical education within a conflict-of-interest-free environment that will stand up to the toughest scrutiny. Grants facilitate ongoing discussions, increased access to knowledge and advanced training, and continue the orthopaedic sub-specialty training needed to maintain and improve patient care.

*Is funding needed in all sub-specialties?*

OMeGA awarded 44 fellowship grants and 21 residency grants for the 2009-2010 academic year, and there were many more meritorious applications that were unfunded. In fact, only 29% of requestors received OMeGA grants, so we know the need for additional donors is great. Grants as a percentage of total amount requested by category ranged from 2 to 59%; Sports Medicine, Hand & Upper Extremity, Foot & Ankle and Pediatrics are the sub-specialties where OMeGA was only able to fund a small percentage of the applications received.

*What kind of recognition can my company expect?*

Donors are acknowledged on the OMeGA website with other donors in each category as a group; OMeGA does not assign a specific grant to a specific donor. Donors are also recognized in orthopaedic communications like *AAOS Now*, *AOA Community of Leaders* and sub-specialty newsletters.

Recipient programs may also acknowledge OMeGA and donors in their academic/hospital communications following specific OMeGA guidelines.

Go to  
[omegamedicalgrants.org](http://omegamedicalgrants.org)  
for more information.

Zimmer is the Founding Supporter of OMeGA.