

OMeGA mission

OMeGA Medical Grants Association is committed to supporting orthopaedic graduate medical education and advancing the orthopaedic profession by reducing conflicts of interest and promoting transparency. This was true when OMeGA was established in 2008 and continues to be a guiding principle in 2022.

The OMeGA Board is held to high standards

The OMeGA Board annually pledges to:

- have no “financial interest” in any orthopaedic medical device, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. “Financial Interest” shall mean ownership or personal compensation arrangements such as employment, consulting, speaking, gifts, or development relationships. Ownership of less than 5% in publicly traded securities and mutual funds in orthopaedic medical device, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies will not be considered a “financial interest.”
- not participate in developmental/financial negotiations with medical industry for education or research funding on behalf of the orthopaedic department of an institution. OMeGA board members are the ultimate determining body for orthopaedic program grants and participation in these negotiations could raise conflicts of interest.
- disclose any other financial or other personal considerations that may compromise, or may have the appearance of compromising, their ability to serve as an objective evaluator of graduate medical education programs.

The same standards apply to the Review committee; however, they may hold leadership roles within their institution. These roles must be disclosed, and they too must recuse themselves from consideration of grant applications made by institutions with which they have been associated, currently and in the last two years.

Due diligence

Given OMeGA’s focus on being conflict-free and unbiased, we annually review the CMS Open Payment site for payments to our Board and Review committee members. Although we understand that reports of payments are not necessarily indications of improper relationships, Open Payments Reporting is intended to create a more transparent environment while disclosing information about health care providers to the public. From the CMS website (<https://www.cms.gov/OpenPayments/About/Open-Payments-Data-in-Context.html>): “Transparency will shed light on the nature and extent of these financial relationships and will hopefully discourage the development of inappropriate relationships.”

For the 2021 year

Board investigation

- Dr John A Glaser received \$16.66 in the Food and Beverage category from Globus Medical, Inc.
- Dr Robert D Bronstein received \$1,200 in the Education category from Prodigy Surgical Distribution, Inc. Dr Bronstein went to the company local office to for education on the use of their nanoscope on a cadaver knee. Dr Bronstein drove himself, there was no payment made to him, and no food or beverage consumed. Dr Bronstein has been in contact with Arthrex (of which Prodigy is a part of) to dispute this disclosure.

Advisory board investigation

There were no entries for Advisory board members for 2021.

Review committee investigation

- Dr Jaime R. Denning received a \$1,500 one-time consulting fee from OrthoPediatrics Corporation. The payment was a result of a talk Dr Denning did at IPOS 2021. Dr Denning was not aware that she would be paid for the presentation until completion, and there is no ongoing relationship or obligation to OrthoPediatrics. Dr Denning also received a \$1,200 one-time payment in the Education category and \$8.50 in one payment in the Food and Beverage category from Legacy Ortho LLC. These payments were related to visits Dr Denning took to the local cadaver lab. The education payment was in the form of cadavers and equipment to practice surgical techniques.
- Dr Catherine A Humphrey received \$179.00 in one payment in the Travel and lodging category and \$205.39 in the Food and Beverage category from Zimmer Biomet Holdings, Inc. Both payments were reimbursements for a trip Dr Humphrey made to Zimmer Biomet for the purpose of evaluating an OR integration system. The payments represent one night in a hotel and food for the trip. There was no reimbursement for time. Dr Humphrey is not a consultant for Zimmer Biomet Holdings.
- Dr William Obremesky received \$371.25 in two payments in the Honoraria category from Synthes GmbH. Dr Obremesky is a member of the AO Foundation international Anti-Infection Task force. The payments are for attending meetings or for food provided during the meeting.
- Dr Maureen A O'Shaughnessy received \$2,400 in 2 payments in the Education category from Legacy Ortho LLC. These payments were for an educational cadaveric lab for Dr O'Shaughnessy's resident and fellow education. Dr O'Shaughnessy received \$128.21 in 1 payment in Compensation in the form of sawbones from Skeletal Dynamics Inc which was also part of the resident and fellow education. Dr O'Shaughnessy received \$88.33 in 1 payment for Food and beverage from Heron Therapeutics, Inc. and \$16.20 in 1 payment for Food and beverage from Ossio Inc.
- Dr Amelia A Sorensen received \$353.80 in 4 payments in the Food and beverage category from Stryker Corporation. Dr Sorensen is the residency program director for the University of Missouri and these payments relate to a number of sponsored educational journal clubs and labs with Stryker Orthopedics. Dr Sorensen received \$157.78 in 2 payments in the Entertainment category and \$76.27 in 1 payment in the Education category from TriMed, Inc. These payments are related to an educational journal club TriMed hosted for the UMKC residency which Dr Sorensen attended in her capacity as program director.
- Dr David Walton received \$1,200.00 in 1 payment in the Education from Pinnacle, Inc. relating to an arthroscopic course that Dr Walton did at Pinnacle, Inc. The payment was in the form of cadavers and instruments for the course and not a stipend for doing the course.

Food & beverage

While it is not easy to remember to ask whether an event is industry funded and to avoid reportable items, there has been a noticeable reduction in reported items since the CMS Open Payment site opened. The Board and the Review Committee have been asked to continue to be vigilant of even minor items, as they are all tracked and reported on the CMS site.

Clarity for OMeGA grant recipients

OMeGA reports the portion of support for each grant to the applicable manufacturers in accordance with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Open Payments reporting guidelines, providing the amount, institution name, and program director name. For clarity, we have asked companies to add the following note to their entries: "Grant made to OMeGA Medical Grants Association, an independent third-party organization which provides a transfer of value to a Covered Recipient free from donor influence."

Email info@omegamedicalgrants.org with any questions

Contact us with any questions or for clarification.

12/27/2022