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## **OREF Refocuses on Research, OMeGA Renews Commitment to Education**

### **Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation**

Today the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation (OREF) announces that in order to more strategically support research it will discontinue its Clinician Development Program. Started in 2008, the Clinician Development Program provided a pathway for industry to support graduate medical education and residency enhancement programs while complying with best practices for independence and transparency.

OREF has committed to awarding its final fellowship and residency grants for the 2013-2014 academic year. Grant-making operations at OREF will concentrate on supporting research, in line with OREF's refocused priorities.

Since its founding in 1955, OREF has awarded more than \$132 million in grants and awards for orthopaedic research and education. OREF has a wealth of experience in mentoring new researchers and supporting established researchers to answer the critical questions in orthopaedics and ultimately improve patient care.

In 2012, OREF examined how it could allocate funding for maximum impact in its grant-making. The OREF Board of Trustees determined that refocusing the organization on research would best serve that purpose.

"OREF is transitioning to a new research agenda comprising three areas: investigator-driven, topic-driven and donor-directed research," OREF Board President Ramon Jimenez, MD, said. "By being more strategic in our support, OREF will be better positioned to elevate the practice of orthopaedics and improve patient care through research. We support OMeGA's efforts as the only independent organization that provides GME funding across all orthopaedic sub-specialties."

### **OMeGA Medical Grants Association**

Established in 2008, OMeGA Medical Grants Association (OMeGA) is an independent legal entity with the mission to award and administer grants for orthopaedic graduate medical education through a merit-based process designed to safeguard against potential conflicts of interest and to ensure transparency in the allocation of resources.

The cost of educating residents and fellows continues to escalate and the need for third party support has never been greater. Focused solely on education, OMeGA renews its commitment to support orthopaedic fellowship and residency programs across all orthopaedic sub-specialties.

“Our profession needs a steady influx of orthopaedic surgeons to conduct research to flourish for the long-term,” OMeGA Board President C. McCollister Evarts, MD said. “OREF, taking up the flag as the foundation whose sole purpose is to fund collaborative orthopaedic research, and OMeGA, leading the charge as the funding vehicle for GME, is the most efficient use of resources and in the best interest of all orthopaedic sub-specialties.”

OMeGA collaborates with academic programs, sub-specialty societies and donors to respond to the needs of the profession. For instance, OMeGA’s fellowship grant schedule aligns with the fellowship match process to allow grant recipients to indicate funding on the match application. OMeGA’s electronic grant management system tracks applications and grants, and also delivers an ever-expanding database of educational trends and funding outcomes to help advance the profession.

OMeGA has awarded 256 fellowship grants in nine sub-specialty categories and 120 residency grants in two categories over 13 grant cycles.

For more information, contact

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