



To advance the orthopaedic profession by supporting fellowship and residency programs through the transparent administration of educational grants.

OMeGA  
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January 17, 2020

Dear Musculoskeletal Healthcare Leader,

For decades, the relationship between industry and orthopaedic surgeons has been cooperative and constructive. We have strived to promote our mutual goals of education and innovation, and ultimately define, enhance, and sustain quality, cost effective surgical care to patients around the world.

In recent years, our interactions to support and grow our key missions of education and research have been impacted by increasing oversight and regulation by the government, such as Open Payments reporting. Through the resulting restrictions, burdensome reporting requirements, and increasing downward budgetary pressures, these events have had the unintended consequence of jeopardizing or decreasing the ability to educate the next generation of orthopaedic surgeons.

Established in 2008 to ameliorate the effects of these reforms, OMeGA is recognized as an important third-party grants administrator for orthopaedic graduate medical education (GME) across all subspecialties. OMeGA's goals are to:

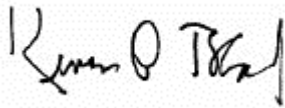
- promote innovation and sustain high quality orthopaedic GME,
- award graduate medical education grants through an accessible, merit-based process, and
- safeguard against conflicts of interest, maintain regulatory compliance, and ensure transparency in the allocation of resources, and
- ensure a consistent funding application that can be customized to align with subspecialty priorities, to provide a simple solution for both orthopaedic programs and donors.

The goal of educating the very best orthopaedic surgeons for the future remains paramount. Unfortunately, dwindling institutional budgets are at odds with this goal. Additional funding is greatly needed to support every worthy orthopaedic GME program in North America.

We must properly train enough specialists to provide the care that is needed, no matter what happens on a short-term, political basis in Washington. The cost of healthcare made up 17.9% of US GDP in 2017 and is predicted to increase in the coming years<sup>1</sup>—while the number of uninsured Americans has also risen. This behooves the orthopaedic community, including providers, industry, and professional associations, to efficiently work together to ensure that the needs of musculoskeletal patients are met and that the correct number of properly trained orthopaedic surgeons are educated. Please join us in reinforcing the viability of the best orthopaedic educational system in the world by supporting OMeGA and orthopaedic GME. If your company already supports education with OMeGA, thank you.

OMeGA continues to receive many meritorious grant requests that go unfunded; please carefully consider your contribution to ensure that the number of surgeons trained in the future and the quality of this training is maintained. This is critically important given the uncertainty in the US healthcare system, increasingly fractured payment and provision systems, and the growing number of patients with musculoskeletal problems.

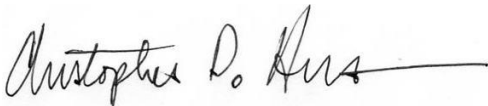
Our best regards,



Kevin P. Black, MD, President  
**OMeGA Medical Grants Association**



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**American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons**



Christopher D. Harner, MD, FAOA, President  
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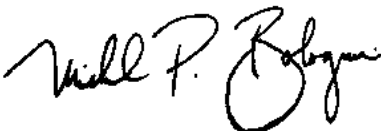
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<sup>1</sup> “NHE Fact Sheet,” Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, <https://www.cms.gov/research-statistics-data-and-systems/statistics-trends-and-reports/nationalhealthexpenddata/nhe-fact-sheet.html>, (October 31, 2018)

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