

Research Matters

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OrthoCarolina
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

New OrthoCarolina Outcomes Registry: A Powerful Tool for Research

The OrthoCarolina Research Institute (OCRI) is collaborating with OrthoCarolina (OC) physicians and administration to build a new practice-wide health outcomes registry. These data will facilitate new investigator initiated research studies by allowing researchers to explore important orthopedic issues and underlying differences in treatment options to improve patient outcomes.

OC consists of more than 60 physicians that practice in 16 clinical and 12 surgical centers. The registry will be divided into six specialty areas: Foot and Ankle, Hand, Pediatrics, Spine, Sports Medicine and Adult Hip and Knee Reconstruction. The plan is to sequentially implement each specialty area's registry component in order of preparedness over the course of a year.

A committee consisting of a physician project-leader along with members of the administrative staff and the research institute reviewed various software vendors before selecting Ortech Data Centre, Inc. Ortech Data Centre, Inc. is an internationally recognized company that specializes in web-based applications of orthopedic data compliant with FDA and HIPAA regulations.

Representatives from Ortech visited OC in March to observe the daily clinic work flow and data flow. This critical information provides foundation for a registry design that meets the specific needs of the physicians, nurses, re-



searchers, and administration. The database has been structured and will be governed in compliance with all state and federal legislation on privacy.

Implementing a practice-wide registry is a major step toward enhancing current and future research programs. It is an example of OC's and OCRI's commitment to excellence in patient care. The registry will enhance and streamline the conduct of scientific research with more efficient collection and retrieval of quality data. Additionally, it will provide a basis to measure treatment outcomes and insure that patients receive the best possible care. It is an exciting and challenging project – the ultimate beneficiaries are our patients.

An extended version of this article is scheduled for publication in the October edition of the [Monitor](#) magazine published by the Association of Clinical Research Professionals

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sixth Annual Joint Celebration, April 18, 2008	2
OCRI Participates in Arthritis Walk	2
Scientific Outcomes Highlights	3
Physician's Corner: Patricia L. McHale, MD	4
Support the Institute	4
Contact Information	4

Save the Date: 28th Annual Oscar Miller Day Symposium

The OrthoCarolina Research Institute (OCRI), in partnership with OrthoCarolina, is pleased to announce a unique opportunity as part of its 2008 Educational Programs and Events. The **28th Annual Oscar Miller Day Symposium, "Advances in Operative and Non-Operative Treatments of Foot and Ankle Disorders,"** will be held on Friday, October 17, 2008. In addition, the **OrthoCarolina Foot and Ankle Institute's Fourth Bi-Annual Fellowship Conference** will take place on Saturday and Sunday, October 18-19, 2008.

Oscar Miller Day has been consistently praised as an outstanding opportunity to meet with a vast number of regional orthopaedic surgeons and other healthcare professionals. Over 300 physicians, therapists, vendors, and other healthcare professionals from seven southeastern states annually attend the conference.

The **Foot and Ankle Fellowship Conference** will include 25 former Fellowship trained specialists, representing 17 states plus the District of Columbia, and Australia. At the conclusion of the conference, a consensus paper will be published and disseminated by OCRI addressing specific issues and new technologies presented and discussed at the conference.

This year we are pleased to include Dr. Mark S. Myerson, Director, Institute for Foot and Ankle Reconstruction, Mercy Medical Center, Baltimore, MD as our guest professor.

Community Educational Event—Joint Celebration, April 18, 2008

The *Sixth Annual Joint Celebration* was held on April 18, 2008 at the Ballantyne Resort in Charlotte. The purposes of *The Joint Celebration* are to raise awareness of how successful total joint replacement has become and to highlight a returned *quality of life* for total joint patients. The all day event also provides a rare opportunity for one-on-one interactions and informal discussions among orthopedic physicians, orthopedic patients, and event sponsors.

Over 200 people attended the morning community seminar to learn about living with arthritis and recent advances in total joint replacements. Topics also included alternative medical treatments and how to “live well” with a total joint replacement. Attendees included current and future patients and other orthopedic healthcare professionals.

The afternoon activities included the Bionic Open Golf Tournament, a Wellness Walk, a silent auction, and an awards ceremony/reception dinner. Monies raised from the event are used for future research and educational programs that give orthopedic patients a chance to live happier, healthier, and more productive lives.

Fun Facts from the *Bionic Open*

- One-hundred and eight (108) out of the 132 players had at least one total joint replacement.
- Two (2) golfers played with only one arm and with a total shoulder replacement in the opposite shoulder.
- One (1) player was only six weeks post surgery.
- The youngest bionic golfer was 36; the oldest was 88.
- Two foursomes tied for the most bionic joints with 11 total joint replacements between them



Community Seminar Panelists (left to right): Walter Beaver, MD; Jeffrey Mokris, MD; William Griffin, MD; John Masonis, MD; Bryan Springer, MD; Russell Greenfield, MD; Alan Tyson, PT; Patrick Connor, MD



2008 “Bionic Golfers”

EVENT SPONSORS

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- Joe Gibbs Racing
- Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation
- Sharon Luggage
- Walt Disney World Company



OCRI Participates in 2008 *Arthritis Walk*

Five members of the OCRI staff participated in the 2008 Arthritis Walk on Saturday, May 31st. Proceeds benefit the Arthritis Foundation.

Team OCRI raised a total of \$620 and was ranked 15th in fundraising out of 39 teams that participated. Participants were: Anne Schwoebel, Amanda Phillips, Anne Dennon, Amy Eshelman, and Caryn Thompson



AMERICAN ORTHOPAEDIC
FOOT & ANKLE SOCIETY

About The American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (AOFAS):

The American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society is a medical specialty society whose members are orthopaedic surgeons specializing in surgical and medical treatment of injuries, diseases, and other conditions of the foot and ankle.

Members of the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society have completed medical school and five or more years of orthopaedic residency training, including training in surgical and medical treatment of diseases of the foot and ankle.

AOFAS members are board-certified in orthopaedic surgery and hold membership in the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.



Research Projects Accepted to the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society 24th Annual Summer Meeting in Denver, CO, June 25-28, 2008.

Orthopedic foot and ankle surgeons from around the world submit a short scientific description, or abstract, of their research. After a thorough peer-review process, a selected number are chosen to be presented at the annual meeting. This year, the physicians of OrthoCarolina, P.A and the staff of the OrthoCarolina Research Institute, Inc. are honored to have 3 projects accepted as scientific papers/podium presentations and 1 scientific e-poster and multimedia presentations.

E-POSTER PRESENTATION

Comparison of opening wedge metatarsal osteotomy to proximal chevron metatarsal osteotomy for moderate to severe hallux valgus correction

Authors: Alexander J. Pappas, MD; Robert B. Anderson, MD; Bruce E. Cohen, MD; W. Hodges Davis, MD; Carroll P. Jones, MD

PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

Results of Dorsal Cheilectomy for the Treatment of Advanced Stage Hallux Rigidus

Presenting: Alexander J. Pappas, MD

Additional Authors: Robert B Anderson, MD; Pedro Cosculluela, MD; Florian Nickisch, MD; Bruce Cohen, MD; W Hodges Davis, MD

Lateral Ankle Ligament Reconstruction in Cavovarus feet: The Effect of Ankle Arthritis on Clinical Outcome

Presenting: Todd A Irwin, MD

Additional Authors: Robert B. Anderson, MD; W Hodges Davis, MD; Bruce E. Cohen, MD; Carroll P. Jones, MD

Outcomes After Fixation of Ankle Fractures with Syndesmotic Injuries: Should the Syndesmotic Screw be Removed?

Presenting: Nady Hamid, MD

Additional Authors: Bryan Loeffler, MD; Whitt Brady, MS; James Kellam, MD; Stephen Sims, MD; Robert B. Anderson, MD; W. Hodges Davis, MD; Bruce Cohen, MD; Carroll Jones, MD; Michael Bosse, MD

Awards and Grants

AWARDS

In May, the Spine Arthroplasty Society awarded the "Best Overall Paper" of 2008. Authors from OrthoCarolina include: Drs. Dan Murrey and Bruce Darden.

Results of the Prospective, Randomized, Multi-Center FDA IDE study of the ProDiscC Total Disc Replacement vs. Anterior Discectomy and Fusion for the Treatment of 1-Level Symptomatic Cervical Disc Disease.

GRANTS

Winkler Orthopaedic Fellowship Fund: Comparison of Clinical and Radiographic Outcomes of Total Wrist Arthroplasty (TWA) vs. Wrist Arthrodesis

Principal Investigator: R. Glenn Gaston, MD

Purpose: To evaluate the intermediate and long-term clinical results (pain, ability to lift objects, grip strength, repeat surgery, etc) of total wrist replacement surgery (TWA) and wrist arthrodesis (fusion) at a single center, OrthoCarolina.

Winkler Orthopaedic Fellowship Fund: Deformation Measurements of Precision Acetabular Cup for Total Hip Articulations

Principal Investigator: William L. Griffin, MD

Purpose: Studies have demonstrated that deformation of the acetabular component may occur with press-fit fixation and may cause fractures with ceramic inserts, and increased wear. This study characterizes the degree of deformation that occurs with acetabular shells and metal inserts implanted in cadaveric bone and measures how this deformation behaves over time.

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Our mission: To promote, develop and conduct state-of-the art scientific research and educational programs for the advancement of orthopedic care.

Physician's Corner: Patricia L. McHale, MD **"Women in Orthopaedic Surgery"**

There has been increased attention recently highlighting the fact that women are underrepresented in the field of Orthopedic Surgery. Currently, only 11% of all orthopedic surgery residents are women, a slight increase from 7% in the late 1990s, but still far less than most other medical specialties (30% of general surgery residents are female). Orthopedic Surgery has traditionally been thought of as a "brawn over brains" specialty, despite the fact that orthopedic residencies are extremely competitive and most applicants are in the top 10-15% of their medical school class. The perception that orthopedics is a "good old boys club," and the reality that limited numbers of female orthopedic surgeons are serving as solid role models and mentors, may discourage some women from considering orthopedics when planning a career specialty.

As a practicing female orthopedic surgeon, with a special interest in sports medicine, I have a unique perspective on this topic. I decided to go into orthopedics long before medical school – based on a personal experience. While in high school, an orthopedic surgeon said to me that it "was not a good specialty for women." His comments actually heartened and challenged me

to do exactly the opposite by pursuing a career in orthopedics! Why couldn't a "girl" do what the "boys" could do? With knowledge of injury mechanics and appropriate planning, there is very little in orthopedics that requires simple brute force.

There remains a need for women in orthopedics. The number of female athletes has increased exponentially over the last 36 years since the passage of Title IX requiring equal opportunity for women's sports in schools. In addition, there are women's health issues, such as osteoporosis, that are important to orthopedic specialists (i.e., one in two women over age 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in her lifetime).

Orthopedics is a wonderful profession and an exciting, rewarding field for both men and women. Patient relationships, tangible results, challenging cases, diversity and flexibility, and a medical specialty with a real "hands on" approach are all very satisfying. I encourage and welcome young women who are preparing for a career in medicine to consider the "road less traveled."



Patricia L. McHale, MD

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The OrthoCarolina Research Institute is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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