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For Immediate Release
December 15, 2009

AAOS and OREF Announce a Strengthened Working Relationship

ROSEMONT, Ill. — The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation (OREF) have announced a formalized collaboration. The two organizations have signed an agreement that makes OREF the official fundraising arm for AAOS' orthopaedic education programs. Under this agreement, OREF will provide amplified services and support for the Academy.

The new agreement strengthens the existing working relationship between the two organizations and broadens the scope of OREF's educational fundraising efforts for the Academy. OREF will now actively seek individual donations in addition to its ongoing efforts to generate corporate support and will introduce an annual grant to support AAOS orthopaedic education programs.

"We believe it is important for those in the medical industry and all orthopaedic surgeons to see us designate OREF as the official fundraiser for the Academy's orthopaedic education programs," said AAOS President Joseph D. Zuckerman, M.D. "Continuing education is a patient-safety best practice, and should be a top priority for all orthopaedic stakeholders. Bringing together the AAOS and OREF for this important endeavor is a win-win for all of orthopaedic surgery and further emphasizes the role of OREF as the leading orthopaedic-fundraising organization."

The announcement also reflects the changing — and challenging — nature of securing industry support in the current environment. OREF will continue to encourage corporations and industry partners to make contributions in support of educational programs at the Academy and now will seek individual stakeholder support as well. OREF provides similar fundraising support for approximately 40 other orthopaedic organizations.

"This is a challenging fundraising environment, and it makes sense to collaborate both strategically and tactically for scarce funds," said William P. Cooney III, M.D., Chair of the OREF Board of Trustees. "The companies with which we have spoken seem to like the concept of 'one-stop shopping' where they can work with OREF to provide funding for a wide range of orthopaedic programs, including those Academy funding priorities we together identified."

Under the new agreement, the OREF Educational Grants Committee will conduct a review of all AAOS funding proposals, evaluating them for quality. Additionally, OREF will:

- Provide staff exclusively dedicated to raising funds for AAOS education programs;
- Administer annual grants to AAOS for use in its education programs;
- Work with the AAOS to develop tailored fundraising proposals;
- Identify and prioritize a variety of projects with AAOS staff members; and
- Seek support for specific projects and programs from corporations and individuals.

OREF raises more than \$10 million each year from individuals, academic centers, hospitals, practice groups and industry to support orthopaedic research and education. Through its Corporate Associates Program, OREF has secured industry support from more than 60 corporate entities whose contributions range from \$2,500 to more than \$2 million. OREF receives individual gifts from \$100 to \$1 million.

About the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

With more than 35,000 members, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (www.aaos.org or www.orthoinfo.org) is the premier not-for-profit organization that provides education programs for orthopaedic surgeons and allied health professionals, champions the interests of patients and advances the highest quality musculoskeletal health. An orthopaedic surgeon is a physician who treats the musculoskeletal system, including bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, muscles and nerves.

About the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation

OREF is an independent, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization created in 1955 to receive donations from individuals and industry to foster research and education in orthopaedics. Through August 2009, OREF has made more than 3,500 grants and awards totalling \$98 million to individuals, academic institutions, group practices and orthopaedic organizations. For more information, please visit www.oref.org.

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