

Orthopedists start research nonprofit aiming to do more research in orthopedic injuries

Greenwich-based Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery Specialists PC (ONS) has launched the ONS Foundation for Clinical Research and Education Inc., a registered not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization devoted to understanding the causes and optimal treatments of orthopaedic injuries and musculoskeletal conditions.

The ONS Foundation was formed by orthopedic specialists, neurosurgeons, concerned residents and community leaders who recognized the need to continually improve treatments for musculoskeletal injuries and conditions, to explore the potential benefits of emerging treatments and to develop effective injury prevention programs. The foundation has a three-pronged focus: clinical research, public and physician education, and community outreach.

Dr. Paul Sethi is president of the board of directors, and Vicki Leeds Tananbaum is vice president.

"With people of all ages leading increasingly longer and more active lives, musculoskeletal problems will affect every individual in some way," said Dr. Sethi, sports medicine specialist and former assistant team physician to

the Los Angeles Dodgers, Lakers and Angels. "By seeking a better understanding of the physical needs of children, athletes and active seniors, and by conducting key research studies on treatments of and surgical procedures for common orthopaedic conditions such as arthritis, the ONS Foundation for Clinical Research and Education will work toward advancing standards of excellence that will further medical science and facilitate life-long healthy, active living in people everywhere."

The ONS Foundation research initiative centers on clinical studies of surgical and non-surgical treatments of injuries and conditions affecting the shoulder, elbow and knee, and for spinal disorders. The foundation will carry out clinical research studies on a broad scale. The program is enhanced through an alliance with Greenwich Hospital. Surgeries are performed at Greenwich Hospital and the foundation receives support from the Hospital Institutional Review Board.

Research projects

Projects are based on ONS Foundation criteria and physician committee goals. A comprehensive database will track study results from surgical procedures in order to analyze patient outcomes over time. Current projects include:

- Biomechanical performance of triceps tendon repair;
- Rotator cuff integrity after suture bridge repair;

- ACL tear prevention project;
- A pitching study on the development of safe parameters for youth curveball mechanics;
- A comparison study of open and minimally invasive posterior spinal fusion procedures;
- Observation of outcomes in children with traumatic lumbar spondylolysis, and
- A comparative outcome and cost analysis for treatment of unstable odontoid fractures in the elderly.

The ONS Foundation education initiative communicates research findings to the medical community and to the public at large. Study findings will be published in the leading peer reviewed medical journals and publications. The education department coordinates the development and production of study results into articles, videos, DVDs and presentations.

Foundation development is being overseen by Ms. Tananbaum, who has 40 years of experience leading fundraising efforts for nonprofit organizations.

Other members of the ONS Foundation Board of Directors are Nathaniel Barnum, Frank Corvino, David Hirsch and Tina E. Mikkelsen.

The foundation physician committee includes Dr. Mark Camel, Dr. Gloria C. Cohen, Dr. Jeffrey Heftler, Dr. Seth R. Miller, Dr. Sethi, Dr. Scott L. Simon.