

# News from

# The Osteopathic Research Center

*Fostering nationwide collaborative OMM research*

## From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of 2007, it is a privilege to be able to share with you some of the ORC's major accomplishments this year.

This has been a year of transition for the ORC. In September, Scott T. Stoll, D.O., Ph.D., stepped down as founding executive director of the ORC to focus on his responsibilities as executive director of the Physical Medicine Institute at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth. I officially became the executive director of the ORC on October 1.

Other significant personnel changes in the ORC this year include des Anges Crusier, Ph.D., M.P.A., moving into the research education director position and Cathleen Kearns moving into the administrative director position.

These changes better position the ORC for future growth and help meet the research needs of the osteopathic profession.

In 2007, the ORC was awarded a R25 education grant by NIH to develop a complementary and alternative medicine research curriculum for medical students. Dr. Crusier is the principal investigator for this project.

The ORC has made significant progress on several of its NIH-NCCAM



**Licciardone**

## Registration Opens for March 2008 International Research Symposium

Online registration is now open for an international, interdisciplinary research symposium on somato-visceral interactions that will be held March 31-April 1, 2008 at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas, which is home to The Osteopathic Research Center (ORC).

This conference, "Delineating the Evidence Base for Somato-Visceral Interactions and Autonomic Mechanisms of Manual Therapy," will feature leading researchers in this area from the United States, Japan, Germany and Canada.

The symposium, which is part of the Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiatives Conference (OCCTIC) series, immediately follows the American Academy of Osteopathy Convocation, which will be held in Dallas, Texas March 26-30, 2008.

"Somato-visceral reflexes are central to osteopathic philosophy and to the osteopathic approach to patient care," said program co-chair Hollis King, D.O., Ph.D., who also serves as the associate executive director for the ORC. "This conference has the potential to be a watershed event for osteopathic medicine and the ORC is proud of its role in bringing this long awaited event to fruition."

For more information about the symposium, please visit the ORC website at <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/orc/services/occtic.asp> or contact Cathleen Kearns by email at [ckearns@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:ckearns@hsc.unt.edu) or by phone at 817.735.0515.



## ORC Prominently Featured in JAOA Articles

The Osteopathic Research Center was prominently discussed in two articles on research in the osteopathic profession in the November 2007 issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*.

The ORC was founded in 2002 with an initial \$1.1 million investment by the American Osteopathic Foundation, the American

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Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and the American Osteopathic Association. The ORC also receives a substantial amount of funding each year from the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation in addition to the funding received through grants from multiple sources including the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Since 2002, the ORC has grown the initial \$1.1 million investment and subsequent additional \$1 million investment by the profession into a \$13.5 million research center.

To read the articles, visit the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* website at <http://www.jaoa.org/current.shtml>.

To learn more about the ORC, watch for the updated website to debut in January at <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/orc/>.

**Standley Mentioned in Science Article**

Paul Standley, Ph.D., a vascular physiologist at the University of Arizona in Phoenix and a co-investigator on the ORC’s U19 Mechanisms of Manual Medicine Developmental Research Center grant, was mentioned in a *Science* article about the fascia research conference held in Boston, Mass., in October. The article was published in the November 23 issue. To read the article, visit <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/318/5854/1234>.



**Standley**

Dr. Standley spoke at the fascia conference, which was held at Harvard University, about his work on the U19 grant that studies the impact of strain patterns on cells that have been placed on flexible collagen. The cells are first stretched in a way that mimics injury or repetitive strain motion, which kills many of the cells. When strain patterns were applied that mimic manipulation, more cells survived, noted the article in *Science*.

Dr. Standley and his team also discovered that one minute of simulated indirect counterstrain can reverse the proliferation of pro-inflammatory cytokines caused by eight hours of repetitive strain using their in vitro fibroblast model that mimics fascia and connective tissue.

Michael Smith, Ph.D., research director for the ORC and chair of the University of North Texas Health Science Center Department of Integrative Physiology, is the principal investigator on the U19 grant.

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funded research projects this year. The ORC is currently conducting three NIH-NCCAM funded clinical trials on OMT in the treatment of carpal tunnel syndrome, OMT in the treatment of low back pain and on OMT and its impact on gait and low back pain in the third trimester of pregnancy.

As of December 17, the ORC has enrolled 72 out of 138 subjects needed in the carpal tunnel study, 128 out of 488 subjects in the low back pain study and 24 out of 400 in the pregnancy study. The ORC is also conducting an OMT in pregnancy substudy that measures several physiological parameters.

Looking forward to 2008, the ORC will be implementing a number of new communication mediums in the first few months of the new year including a quarterly newsletter, an updated website, and other projects that share news from the ORC and that foster communication about and collaboration on OMM research across the profession.

It has been my pleasure to work with each of you in 2007, and I look forward to continuing our work together in 2008. May you and your family have a restful, joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy new year.

Sincerely,  
John C. Licciardone, D.O., M.S., M.B.A.

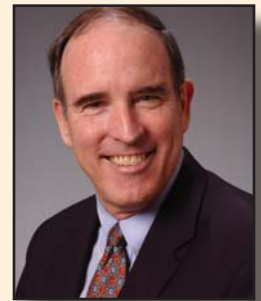
## King Represents Osteopathic Medicine at World Health Organization Conference

Hollis H. King, D.O., Ph.D., associate executive director of the Osteopathic Research Center, represented the American osteopathic profession at a World Health Organization (WHO) meeting in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on December 10-12.

This diverse working group of international health care representatives were convened to discuss key technical issues and draft new guidelines relating to the design and evaluation of clinical studies of traditional medicine. These guidelines, based on current standards for clinical trials, will help form a benchmark for conducting quality clinical trials in the future.

Dr. King was selected by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) to represent American-trained osteopathic physicians at the meeting.

Since he began his tenure at the ORC in July 2005, Dr. King has worked closely with the AOA on a number of projects including spearheading two Focused Research Forums on the safety and efficacy of manipulation of the cervical spine. Osteopathic physicians and chiropractors attending the forums, which were held at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, Texas, drafted two white papers on this key topic. Dr. King has also spearheaded the ORC efforts to plan the Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiatives Conference for the past two years.



King

### Licciardone Serves as WHO Consulting Expert on Osteopathy

John C. Licciardone, D.O., M.S., M.B.A., executive director of the ORC, was invited by the World Health Organization to serve as a consulting expert on osteopathy. He attended the WHO Consultation on Osteopathy in Milan, Italy, in February. The meeting involved development of WHO guidelines on basic training and safety in osteopathy.

The purpose of the guidelines is to: provide minimum requirements of basic training in osteopathy; present contraindications to the use of specific forms of osteopathic manipulative treatment; serve as a reference for national authorities to establish systems for education, examination, and licensing to ensure the qualified practice of osteopathy; and provide different models of training programs for the target trainees with different backgrounds.

Other U.S. osteopathic representatives who served as part of this group include Jane Carreiro, D.O., and Kenneth Johnson, D.O., from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine; Boyd Buser, D.O., from the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine; Reza Nassiri, D.Sc., from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; and John Crosby, J.D., and Peter Ajluni, D.O., representing the American Osteopathic Association.

### LECOM Announces International Research Conference in Fall

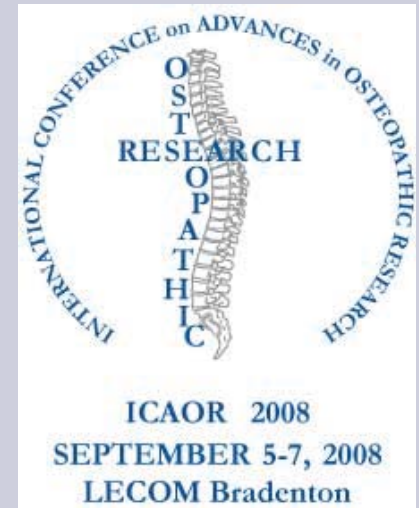
The Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and the British College of Osteopathic Medicine invite global leaders in osteopathic medicine research to attend the 2008 International Conference on Advances in Osteopathic Research on the LECOM-Bradenton Campus.

The conference is scheduled for September 5-7, 2008.

The deadline for abstracts is March 30, 2008.

Dr. John Licciardone, executive director of the ORC, will be the U.S. keynote speaker for the conference.

To learn more or to register for the conference, please visit <http://www.lecom.edu/news.php> or contact Reza Nassiri, D.Sc., at LECOM at [rnassiri@lecom.edu](mailto:rnassiri@lecom.edu).



## Cruser Receives OHF Grant

The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation has granted des Anges Cruser, Ph.D., M.P.A., \$180,000 over four years to help improve research training across the osteopathic profession. This is one type of public/private partnership to enhance the impact of the ORC's ongoing R-25 NIH research training grant. The ORC has been working with NIH, OHF and other osteopathic foundations to develop these types of projects.

Dr. Cruser received the \$758,000 four-year Research Education Project Partnership Grant (R25) in August.



Cruser

## King Presents Northup Lecture

Hollis H. King, D.O., Ph.D., associate executive director of the ORC, delivered the Thomas L. Northup lecture during the American Academy of Osteopathy meeting at the American Osteopathic Association convention in San Diego, Calif., in October.

Each year, the American Academy of Osteopathy selects an osteopathic physician to deliver this memorial lecture. Dr. King is a past AAO president.

His lecture, "Osteopathy: In Good Hands," focused on the strengths of the osteopathic profession from the perspective of a physician who integrates osteopathic manipulative medicine into patient care and who conducts research to document the clinical efficacy of OMM and that explores the underlying mechanisms of action.

## Licciardone Receives Research Award

John C. Licciardone, D.O., M.S., M.B.A., executive director of the ORC, received the Gutensohn-Denslow Research Award at the American Osteopathic Association Convention in San Diego, Calif. in September. The award was presented as part of the American Osteopathic Foundation's 6th Annual Honors Ceremony.

The award was established in honor of J. Stedman Denslow, D.O., a noted researcher in viscerosomatic reflexes and biomechanics, and Max T. Gutensohn, D.O., a gifted educator, for their devoted service and contributions to research and education within the osteopathic profession. The purpose of the award is to honor an osteopathic investigator in the areas of research, education, and service.

Dr. Licciardone was also a recipient in 2005 of the AOA's Louisa Burns Memorial Lecture Award, which recognizes leadership and contributions in osteopathic research and education.

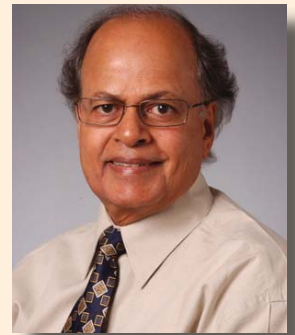
## Two New Faculty Members Join Research Team

### Shrawan Kumar, Ph.D.

Shrawan Kumar, Ph.D., has been hired as a researcher for the Health Institutes of Texas (HIT). He serves as a professor of manipulative medicine and as Director of Research in the Physical Medicine Institute (PMI).

The mission of PMI is to promote research, education and clinical practice in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of neuromusculoskeletal disease of all ages.

Kumar received a doctorate in human biology and an honorary doctorate in sciences in recognition of his lifetime work from University of Surrey in Guildford, U.K., and a post-doctoral research fellowship in engineering sciences from University of Dublin, Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland.



Kumar

### Rita M. Patterson, Ph.D.

Rita Patterson, Ph.D., has joined the faculty as a researcher for HIT. She also serves as a professor of manipulative medicine, and as the Director of the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation Physical Medicine Core Research Facility.

Dr. Patterson earned a doctorate in biomedical sciences from the University of Texas Medical Branch, a master of engineering degree in bioengineering from Texas A&M University, and a bachelor of science degree in engineering sciences from Baylor University.



Patterson

### Tell Us What You Would Like to Know About Efforts at The ORC

Contact John C. Licciardone, D.O., M.S., M.B.A., executive director, at [licciar@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:licciar@hsc.unt.edu)

or

Cathleen Kearns, administrative director, at [ckearns@hsc.unt.edu](mailto:ckearns@hsc.unt.edu)