

News from The Osteopathic Research Center

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Faculty and staff at The Osteopathic Research Center (ORC) have had a busy month.

In addition to hosting the international research symposium on somato-visceral interactions in Fort Worth on March 31-April 1, the ORC helped coordinate the University of North Texas Health Science Center Distinguished Speaker Series presentation featuring Christine Goertz Choate, DC, PhD, on March 31.

Faculty and staff provided information about the ORC at exhibits at the American Academy of Osteopathy Convocation March 26-30 in Dallas, Texas, and at the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine/Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators in St. Louis, Mo., April 9-12. It was a pleasure to see so many of you at these meetings and at the international research symposium.

One other major event in March was the debut of the new ORC website. We think you will enjoy the updated content, fresh look and easy navigation of the new site. Over the next several months, we will be developing additional content for the site. You can see a snapshot of the home page of the new site on page 4 of this newsletter.

Watch for the release of our 2007 Annual Report in the next few weeks to see what was accomplished by the ORC last year.

Sincerely,
John C. Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA
Executive Director



Licciardone



Joel Pickar, DC, PhD, from the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research, speaks at the international research symposium. Photo by Tommy Hawkes.

International Research Symposium Boasts Record Attendance

The international, interdisciplinary research symposium on *Delineating the Evidence Base for Somato-Visceral Interactions and Autonomic Mechanisms of Manual Therapy*, boasted a record attendance of 133 people March 31-April 1 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Part of the Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiatives Conference (OCCTIC) series in which a research or research education conference is held each spring, this broad-based symposium added significant depth to the knowledge base of how manual therapies, including osteopathic manipulative treatment, influence somato-visceral interactions and autonomic mechanisms, said Hollis H. King, DO, PhD, associate director of the ORC and conference co-chairperson. Attendance for previous conferences in this series has not exceeded 100 participants in the past.

Photos from the conference are included on page 3 of this newsletter. Be sure to watch the ORC website at <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/ORC/> for updated information on the availability of conference DVDs and proceedings.

As a bonus for conference attendees, the University of North Texas Health Science Center President's Distinguished Speaker Series presentation was held the evening of March 31. Bus transportation was provided to the presentation on the UNTHSC campus for conference attendees. Christine Goertz Choate, DC, PhD, executive director of the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research, was the featured speaker.

Sponsors of the symposium were: the American Academy of Osteopathy, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, the American Osteopathic Association, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapists, the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, the Massage Therapy Foundation, NCMIC Insurance, the National Institutes of Health-National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, the Orthopaedic Section of the American Physical Therapy Association, the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, The Osteopathic Research Center, and the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

Licciardone Updates Surgeon General on Research at ORC

John C. Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA, executive director of the ORC, attended the Preventive Medicine 2008 Conference sponsored by the American College of Preventive Medicine in Austin, TX on February 20-23. During the conference, Dr. Licciardone attended an informal dinner in honor of the Acting Surgeon General, Rear Admiral Steven K. Galson, MD, MPH. Dr. Galson was at the conference to participate in a panel discussion on Priorities of the Office of the Surgeon General and how the Department of Health and Human Services can work with the preventive medicine community to advance these priorities. Dr. Licciardone provided the Surgeon General with an update on ORC research and other issues relevant to the health care provided by osteopathic physicians in the United States. Dr. Licciardone is a fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine.

King Appointed to Lead Bone and Joint Decade Committee

Hollis H. King, DO, PhD, associate executive director at the ORC, was recently appointed to lead the Research Program Portfolio of the United States Bone and Joint Decade (USBJD). Following discussions with USBJD President Edward Puzas, PhD, and Executive Director Toby King, it was determined that Dr. King will focus on three key portfolio initiatives. These initiatives include:

- The Young Investigators initiative, which provides workshop and mentoring opportunities for young investigators;
- The Burden of Musculoskeletal Diseases in the United States text. The latest edition of this text has just been published, and is available online at <http://www.usbjd.org>. Dr. King points out that the data are very useful for both research and advocacy purposes;
- The Rare Bone Disease Network, an initiative that supports meetings to exchange knowledge, provide mentoring and to determine priorities for expanding awareness, research, and advocacy for individuals and families who are dealing with rare bone diseases.

Dr. King's charge is to develop new initiatives in the research arena and begin plans to continue these programs beyond the end of the USBJD in 2011.

Financial support for Dr. King's travel to participate in USBJD activities comes from the American Academy of Osteopathy.

Ajluni Letter Cites ORC Publication in Support of OMT

AOA President Peter B. Ajluni, DO, wrote a Letter to the Editor that appeared in the March 15 issue of the American Family Physician, the journal of the American Academy of Family Physicians, regarding spinal manipulative therapy in the treatment of low back pain. In his letter, Dr. Ajluni encouraged physicians to review the article published by John C. Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA, executive director of the ORC, in the November 2004 supplement of the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association. Dr. Ajluni's letter and the JAOA article are both available online at <http://www.aafp.org/afp/20080315/letters.html#11> and http://www.jaoa.org/cgi/reprint/104/11_suppl/13S, respectively.

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ORC Executive Committee

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International Research Symposium:

Delineating the Evidence Base for Somato-Visceral Interactions and Autonomic Mechanisms of Manual Therapy



Top Left: Michael Patterson, PhD, professor of osteopathic principles and practices at the Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine and conference co-chair, introduces Robert Schmidt, MD, PhD, from the University of Würzburg, Germany, who spoke at the conference.

Top Right: Thomas Yorio, PhD, executive vice president for academic affairs and research at UNTHSC, Joel Pickar, DC, PhD, from the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research, Partap Khalsa, DC, PhD, NCCAM program officer, and Marc Hahn, DO, dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, talk after the Distinguished Speakers Series Presentation at UNTHSC.



Middle Left: William Morris, DO, chair of the OMM department at the Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine - Harlem, and Janet Burns, DO, assistant professor of family medicine at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, network during a break.

Lower Left: Boyd Bowden, DO, AOA board member, Martha Felini, DC, PhD, MPH, assistant professor in the UNTHSC School of Public Health, John Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA, executive director of the ORC, Christine Choate, DC, PhD, executive director of the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research, and Scott Stoll, UNTHSC OMM department chair and co-director of the Physical Medicine Institute, lead the panel discussion following Dr. Choate's presentation as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series at UNTHSC.

Lower Right: Joel Pickar, DC, PhD, from the Palmer Center for Chiropractic Research, and Wilfred Jänig, MD, PhD, from the Universität Kiel, Germany, network during a break. Both were speakers during the conference.

Photos by Tommy Hawkes



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At no other time in the history of medicine has there been so much attention focused on the contributions osteopathic medicine makes to health care. The Osteopathic Research Center (ORC) plays a critical role in planning, conducting, and disseminating results of the clinical research to demonstrate the efficacy of OMT and of the mechanistic studies that explain how OMT exerts its beneficial effects.

[This site best viewed with Internet Explorer 7. Click here to download](#)

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