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September 26, 2007

Osteopathic Research Center Announces Leadership Change

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I would like to share some important and exciting news with you regarding a change in the leadership here at the Osteopathic Research Center at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (ORC at UNTHSC).

The ORC has grown rapidly in the first six years of its existence (2002–2007). The \$2.1 million invested collectively by the American Osteopathic Association, the American Osteopathic Foundation, and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine has been leveraged toward the acquisition and investment of more than \$13.5 million in total funding to the ORC over this time frame in support of the osteopathic profession's research goals. These funds, which have grown to more than six times the amount invested by the profession thus far, come from diverse sources including UNTHSC local funds, private foundation support and competitive federal research grants, and are expended to advance collaborative OMM research projects and research education. Since its inception, the ORC has collaborated in a wide range of ways with 21 colleges of osteopathic medicine to foster OMM-focused research. The ORC has also worked with residency programs and several military sites to develop OMM research projects.

In response to our successes, UNTHSC has invested an additional \$1 million to support the hiring of two world-class biomechanical engineering researchers, Drs. Shrawan Kumar and Rita Patterson, who have just begun work this month as full professors in the department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM). Recruitment of a third biomechanist is underway. The Osteopathic Heritage Foundation (OHF) generously invested in these new hires by donating \$1.5 million to support the construction of the named Osteopathic Heritage Foundation Physical Medicine Core Research Facility slated for completion Spring 2008. These OHF funds were matched by an additional \$1.5 million from UNTHSC to enable the finish out of this key facility designed to help evaluate and quantify the effects of OMM on human performance.

In order to optimally manage this expanding research operation, the top administration at UNTHSC-TCOM, in consultation with our funders, has made the following organizational and leadership changes effective October 1st, 2007 (see attached organizational chart). I will advance from the position of Executive Director of the ORC to Executive Director of the Physical Medicine Institute (PMI) at UNTHSC and will remain the Chairman of the OMM Department of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM).

John Licciardone, D.O., M.S., M.B.A., will become the new Executive Director of the ORC (see his attached NIH Biosketch). Dr. Licciardone will also continue to serve as the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation Clinical Research Chair. Dr. Hollis King will remain as the Associate Executive Director, Cathy Kearns the Administrative Director, Dr. des Angles Crusier the Research Education Director, Dr. Michael Smith the Research Director, and Dr. Karan Singh the Biostatistics Director.

As always, I have ambitious plans for our OMM research agenda here at UNTHSC and at all of our colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs). I am truly humbled by the opportunity I have been given to serve and you have my promise that I will do everything in my power to ensure the future research success of the ORC in service to our profession and the world.

Sincerely,



Scott T. Stoll, D.O., Ph.D.