

News from

The Osteopathic Research Center

Fostering nationwide collaborative OMM research

Change of Venue, NIH-NCCAM Sponsorship Highlights March International Research Symposium on Somato-Visceral Interactions



With the interdisciplinary, international research symposium on *Somato-Visceral Interactions and Autonomic Mechanisms of Manual Therapy* a few weeks away, key updates include a change in venue and the announcement of sponsorship from the National Institutes of Health-National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NIH-NCCAM).

Registrations for the symposium have exceeded the original expectation for the conference, which means the symposium has outgrown the space available on the campus of the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth (UNTHSC). The symposium will now be held at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Fort Worth.

“Since the majority of the conference participants are already staying at the Hilton, this change in venue makes it easier for attendees,” said Hollis H. King, DO, PhD, conference co-chair and associate executive director of The Osteopathic Research Center (ORC).

As originally planned, bus transportation will be provided on Sunday, March 30, from the American Academy of Osteopathy Convocation in Dallas for those individuals who are also attending the international research symposium in Fort Worth.

In addition, because the UNTHSC President’s Dis-

tinguished Speaker Series presentation by Christine Goertz Choate, DC, PhD, had already been scheduled for Monday, March 31 in Luibel Hall on the UNTHSC campus, bus transportation will be provided to the event and back to the Hilton for attendees of the international research symposium.

This week, the ORC received word that a R13 conference grant that was submitted to NIH-NCCAM in August was awarded to help sponsor the symposium.

NCCAM joins the many other organizations sponsoring this world-class symposium including the American Academy of Osteopathy, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, the American Osteopathic Association, the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, the Massage Therapy Foundation, NCMIC Insurance, the Orthopaedic Section of the American Physical Therapy Association, the Osteopathic Heritage Foundations, the Osteopathic Research Center, and the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

Dr. King concluded saying, “We have a nice mix of people registered for the symposium, and we are looking forward to welcoming all of the attendees to Fort Worth at the end of the month.”

From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The Osteopathic Research Center (ORC) has been very busy the last few weeks preparing to host the upcoming interdisciplinary, international research symposium on Somato-Visceral Interactions and Autonomic Mechanisms of Manual Therapy.

We are excited to host this symposium, and believe it is representative of the type of scientific interaction that is needed to advance not only the osteopathic manipulative medicine research agenda, but also the broader research mandate from the National Institutes of Health to all manual therapy disciplines to work together across professional lines to document the health benefits of manipulative and body-based practices and to explore their mechanisms of action.

To address such a broad mandate requires an interdisciplinary approach to research. American-trained osteopathic physicians have a unique role in guiding this research. We are the ones who are trained to practice the full-scope of medicine, to make life and death decisions relative to patient care, and, most importantly, to use our hands to diagnose and heal the human body. Who better to work closely with the other manual and body-based practitioners to help facilitate dialogue among the disciplines to pursue a research agenda that benefits all of us as well as the general public.

We are pleased to have been awarded the R13 conference grant from NIH-NCCAM to support the symposium at the full amount requested. Congratulations to Hollis H. King, DO, PhD, associate executive director of the ORC, who is the principal investigator for the grant. Dr. King, Cathleen Kearns, administrative director for the ORC, and Catherine Mobley, administrative assistant, have put in countless hours of effort to ensure a successful conference.

In other ORC news, if you are attending the upcoming American Academy of Osteopathy Convocation in Dallas, Texas, or the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine/Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators in St. Louis, Mo., remember to stop at our exhibit to learn more about the ORC, and to let us know about your research efforts. I look forward to seeing many of you at one or both of these meetings.

Annie Allison, clinical research coordinator, Carol Knisley, administrative specialist, and Cathy Kearns have been working to update the website for the center. The new website is now live and features information about the ORC, its organizational structure and its research studies. Please visit our site at <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/orc/> to learn more about current initiatives at the ORC. A copy of our new organi-

zational chart is included in this newsletter on page 3. A number of new features and functions will be added over the next several months. If there is specific information that you would like to see included on the site, please contact me at licciar@hsc.unt.edu or Cathy Kearns at ckearns@hsc.unt.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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



Licciardone

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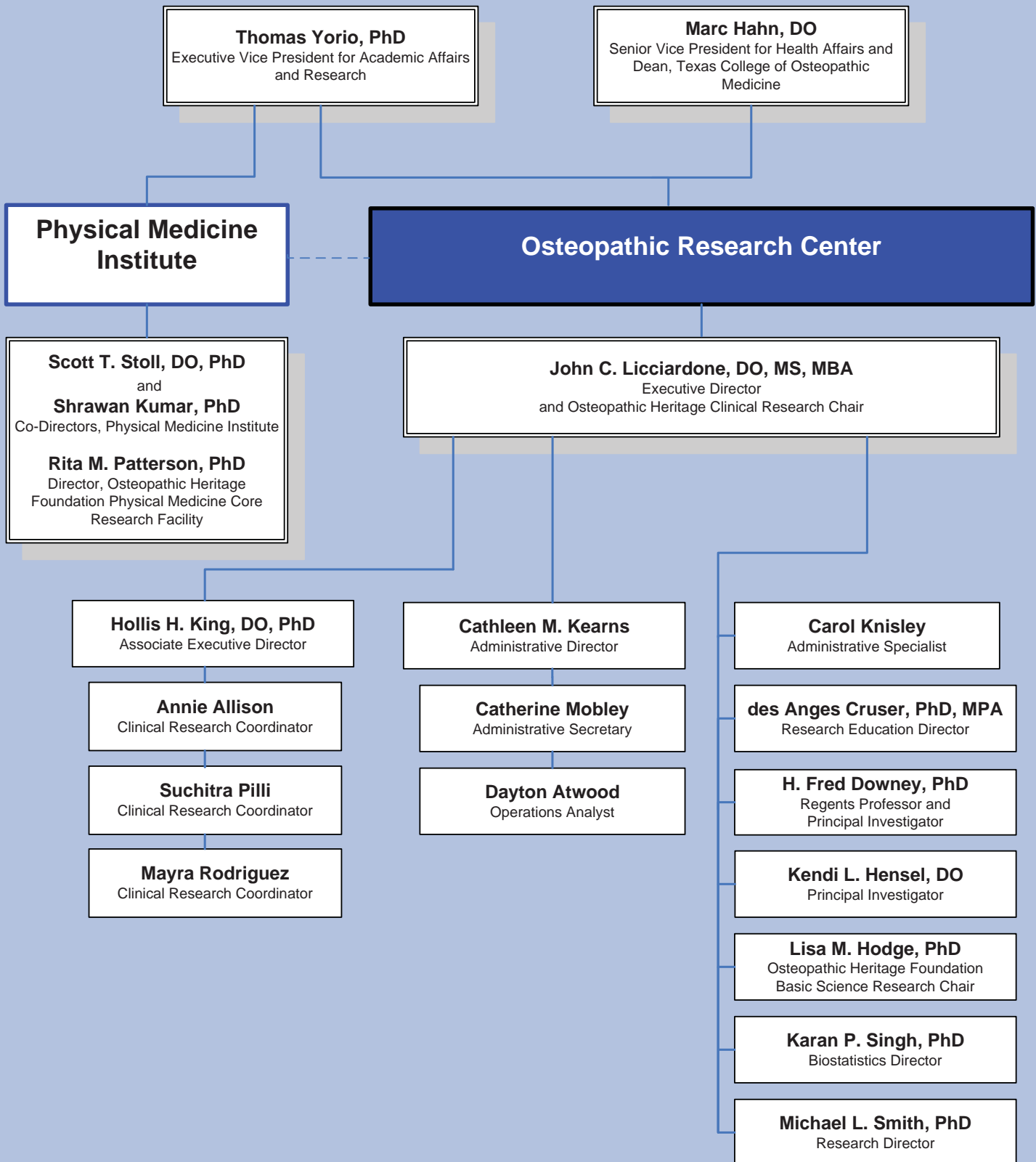
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The ORC Organizational Chart with University Reporting Lines

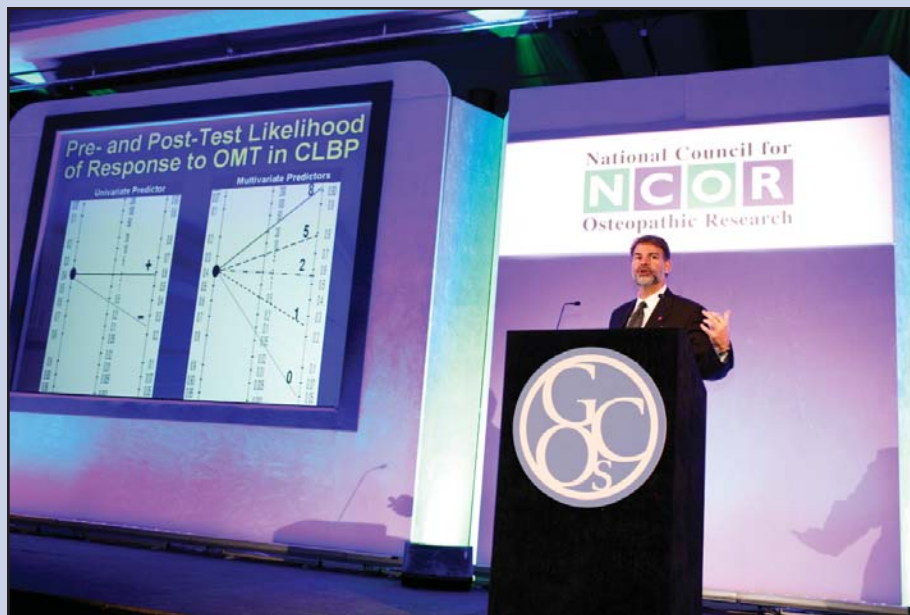


Licciardone Presents Keynote Address at London Conference

John C. Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA, executive director of The Osteopathic Research Center (ORC), delivered the Keynote Address to open the Advancing Osteopathy 2008 Conference in London, England on February 1.

The international conference was held in conjunction with the General Osteopathic Council meeting February 1 through February 3 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the United Kingdom Statutory Register of Osteopaths. The showcase event attracted over 1,000 delegates, including American osteopathic physicians and other osteopathic practitioners, researchers, and educators from around the globe.

Dr. Licciardone's presentation, sponsored by the National Council for Osteopathic Research, was entitled "What's the Evidence? Osteopathy Answers Back." The presentation applauded the achievements of osteopathic researchers and offered suggestions for future research directions. The presentation slides can be viewed at: <http://www.hsc.unt.edu/orc/Files/Licciardone%20-%20NCOR%20Keynote%20Address%202008.pdf>. Dr. Licciardone also gave another presentation entitled "Educating Osteopaths to be Researchers – What Role Should Research Methods and Statistics have in an Undergraduate Curriculum?" on February 3 as part of the symposium on Criticality, Research, Scholarship, and Teaching. His presentation focused on the integration of research methods, statistics, and evidence-based medicine in the osteopathy curriculum, and will be published as an upcoming article in the *International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine*.



News and Notes

Prince of Wales Advised on ORC Research

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales spoke on global health issues at the General Osteopathic Council reception on January 31, prior to the opening of the Advancing Osteopathy 2008 Conference. The reception was held in the historic Drapers' Hall.

John C. Licciardone, DO, MS, MBA, executive director of the ORC, met with Prince Charles as part of a small group that focused on evidence in practice, and delivered the message that osteopathy's integration within the wider primary healthcare community in the United Kingdom will be assisted through further reliable evidence of the health benefits of osteopathic care.

As part of the meeting with Prince Charles, Dr. Licciardone provided information about the research being conducted at the ORC and how it would help provide the evidence to further promote osteopathy

internationally. Details about the reception, including a link to Prince Charles' speech are available at: http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/speechesandarticles/a_speech_by_hrh_the_prince_of_wales_at_a_reception_for_the_g_2146218430.html.

New Faculty Awarded Seed Grant

Rita M. Patterson, PhD, has been awarded a UNTHSC-UNT Joint Institutional Seed Research Program grant on Hand Kinematics in Piano Players. The aim of this project is to describe finger and palm kinematics during piano playing. Co-investigators are Shrawan Kumar, PhD, and Kris Chesky, PhD. The one-year grant in the amount of \$12,087 began March 1.