

Media Contact:
Sara Thigpen
847-421-1824
sarajthigpen@comcast.net

For Immediate Release:

American Orthopaedic Association Launches Medical Education Grant Association
Zimmer Holdings donates significant amount to further orthopaedic fellowship education

ROSEMONT, IL – NOV. 6, 2008 – The American Orthopaedic Association (AOA) announced today the establishment of the OMeGA Medical Grants Association. OMeGA’s purpose is to provide a clear and fair mechanism to distribute available funds through industry to advance orthopaedic medicine and support graduate medical education. Zimmer Holdings (NYSE and SWX: ZMH) is the first company to contribute to OMeGA with a Platinum pledge to fund orthopaedic training programs in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Approximately 90 percent of orthopaedic residents seek fellowship training. Traditionally, the medical device industry has been the leader in funding these programs but with intense government scrutiny of relationships between physicians and the health care industry, financial support could diminish. The AOA recognized the impact this could have on the orthopaedic profession and patient care and as a leadership organization, took steps to meet the new transparency needs of the industry by creating OMeGA as an independent entity for grant allocations.

“Without continued industry financial support there is the risk that education, research and the continued development of subspecialty clinical skills could suffer. OMeGA was developed to provide companies and educational programs with a fair and objective method to disperse funds for advancing orthopaedic education. Zimmer is a true leader in their commitment to transparency and their generous donation has established the company as the Founding Supporter of OMeGA,” said Louis Bigliani MD, President of AOA. “We are proud to collaborate with Zimmer to further develop the skills and training of orthopaedic surgeons.”

Zimmer and others in the orthopaedic industry historically have provided funding directly to institutions to support fellowship programs. Under the OMeGA structure, funds from the orthopaedic industry will be pooled and allotted objectively and transparently to selected institutions, eliminating potential conflicts of interest.

OMeGA will be managed by a Board of Directors that has no current relationships with the orthopaedic industry and who have received no compensation from this industry in the past two years. Multiple orthopaedic subspecialties will be eligible to receive grants establishing OMeGA as a single source of funding for orthopaedic graduate medical education. Donor companies may direct their contributions to a specific orthopaedic subspecialty but they will play no further role in directing funds to specific institutions or programs.

“We are proud to collaborate with the AOA to create a vehicle that will allow us to maintain our long-standing, substantial support for post-graduate medical education while establishing safeguards to assure the confidence and trust of all stakeholders,” said David Dvorak, Zimmer Holdings President and Chief Executive Officer. “As public and non-corporate private funding for fellowships has declined, we believe it is vital to patients that industry be able to continue to advance the medical profession. We join with the AOA in seeking to foster the development of the next generation of physicians who will conceive of new ways to improve patient outcomes.”

For more information on becoming a donor or applying for a grant please send your inquiry to info@aoassn.org.

#

About the AOA

The American Orthopaedic Association, founded in 1887, is the oldest national orthopaedic association in the world. The AOA’s mission is to identify, develop, engage and recognize leadership to further the art and science of orthopaedics. For more information visit www.aoassn.org or call 847.318.7330.