

OREF/NIAMS/OP Forum

March 14, 2014 - Hilton Riverside, New Orleans

Meeting Summary

Introduction

On March 14, 2014, in New Orleans, Louisiana, the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation (OREF) hosted a meeting with the leadership from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) and various Orthopaedic Specialty Societies (see attached roster of participants).

The meeting served as an opportunity to gather key organizations' stakeholders in orthopaedic research to meet with the Director of NIAMS, Dr. Stephen I. Katz. Dr. Katz agreed to meet with OREF and its Orthopaedic Partners to further the conversation on how all parties can collaborate and move the field of orthopaedic research forward.

Background for Meeting

This meeting was a direct result of OREF's outreach to Dr. Katz and his NIAMS colleagues. In December 2013, OREF leadership met with NIAMS to discuss potential ways that OREF could better engage NIAMS as OREF moves forward with Vision 2015 – a comprehensive plan that will return OREF to its original mission of supporting orthopaedic research and education that supports research. Dr. Katz expressed support for OREF's new direction and was very enthusiastic about finding collaborative opportunities to work with OREF and the other Orthopaedic Specialty Societies collectively. He was especially interested in exploring ways OREF and the societies could support NIAMS K-awardees as well as other outstanding investigators who, without funding, might elect not to pursue research careers.

NIAMS Perspective

Dr. Katz shared that NIAMS is open to partnering with other organizations and looks for opportunities that benefit everyone. Two objectives that would be important to NIAMS applicants include providing matching funds for K-awardees [particularly the Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Investigator Award (K08; <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-14-046.html>) and Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23; <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-14-049.html>) recipients] and funding investigators who have received a favorable review but were just beyond NIAMS' payline (http://www.niams.nih.gov/About_Us/Budget/funding_plan_fy2014.asp).

Some of the participants voiced concerns regarding the time commitment for the K-awards. NIAMS leadership informed the group that the percentage of effort requirements for surgeons had recently been decreased from 75 percent effort to 50 percent (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AR-07-001.html>). It is up to the grantee institution to determine whether that is equal to 20 hours per week.

OREF Mentored Clinician Scientist Grant

OREF Research Grants Committee Chair Dr. James Heckman mentioned that OREF's Mentored Clinician Scientist Grant supplements a K-award recipient's salary by \$20K a year. This grant is renewable based on the duration of the K-award and OREF's review of the applicant's research progress. Dr. James Panagis, Orthopaedic Program Director for the Division of Musculoskeletal Diseases at NIAMS, informed the group that NIAMS is currently funding six K-awards to orthopaedic surgeons and asked OREF if it was offering its grant to

new grant recipients only; Dr. Heckman replied no, but did share that the 2014 recipient for 2014 happened to have just started his K-award. It was noted that OREF only received one application this year.

Other Opportunities for Collaboration

Other forum participants inquired as to whether NIAMS was considering new ways to provide funding (e.g., smaller amounts to help fund other members of the research team). NIAMS leadership made it clear that the majority of the NIAMS budget supports investigator-initiated research (see <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/funding/r01.htm> for more information about the R01 grant mechanism).

One participant asked NIAMS if the orthopaedic societies' advocacy efforts were effective and/or beneficial in garnering additional federal government attention to the field of orthopaedics. NIAMS leadership indicated that patients are effective messengers, although the broad public support for biomedical research could not be attributed to any one activity or event. Growth has been the result of a combination of efforts with everyone working together and leveraging each other's strengths.

The final topic of discussion addressed how the societies could highlight important questions for future NIH priorities. The discussion focused on clinical trials with NIAMS leadership indicating that proposed clinical trial questions must make a difference and that the specialty societies played an important role in identifying these questions. It was expressed that the societies are particularly effective at keeping NIAMS informed of trending topics and new developments that will make the biggest impact on the field of orthopaedics. The societies can further help shape the research agenda by working together to identify the most important questions and assembling groups to apply for grants to address them. Dr. Katz reiterated that the community needs to come together, however "community" is defined. Additionally, NIAMS leadership stated their belief in the value of the public helping to identify research opportunities by participating in the Institute's annual planning process and its Advisory Council.

Future Proceedings

All participants agreed that they would like to convene another meeting during next year's AAOS Annual Meeting. It was suggested that the meeting include leadership from Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Additionally, it was agreed that for the next meeting, everyone should be prepared to discuss concrete ideas for collaboration that are feasible and will take minimum time to implement and introduce to the public. OREF will take the lead role in convening everyone for the 2015 OREF/NIAMS/OP Forum in Las Vegas, Nevada.



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