Executive Summary

The University of Wisconsin Orthopedic Funds are part of the University of Wisconsin Foundation and are not-for-profit charitable funds founded in the year 2011. The Funds have been created to advance the essential research, educational and development initiatives of the University of Wisconsin Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation. Of critical importance is that the funds support the basic science and clinical research focused on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of musculoskeletal disorders in patients of all ages and activity levels. The translation of this basic science research into the clinical care of patients is at the forefront of our mission as a program. The University of Wisconsin Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation is in a unique position to foster this type of research due to the collaborative resources that are available on campus at the University of Wisconsin and beyond. The general public, medical providers and our students all benefit substantially from the research and educational efforts supported by the generous donations made to the University of Wisconsin Orthopedic Funds.

Mission

To advance the scientific body of knowledge within the field of orthopedics via collaborative and translational research efforts that focus upon the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of musculoskeletal injuries and conditions.

Vision

The University of Wisconsin Orthopedic Funds facilitate the development of the research and educational components of the University of Wisconsin Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation. Initiatives supported by the Funds will extend the reputation of our nationally recognized program by translating basic science and clinical research into the best possible care for patients.

Strategic Priorities

The University of Wisconsin Orthopedic Funds will support three strategic priorities that will guide our decisions and investments and allow us to target tomorrow’s orthopedic needs today and translate what we learn into clinical practice as rapidly as possible. These priorities include the promotion of orthopedic research, the advancement of learning, and the extension of the Wisconsin Idea to orthopedic research and education.
I. Promote Orthopedic Research

Innovative and prolific scholarly investigation is virtually synonymous with the University of Wisconsin - Madison. It should come as no surprise, then, that the University of Wisconsin Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation has a strong commitment to research excellence. Our program must be vigilant in upgrading its physical and financial resources, our faculty and staff, and our technical infrastructure; we must invigorate and expand the research and educational opportunities for students; and we must seek to expand the application and benefit of the orthopedic research that we conduct. To achieve these objectives, we need to be flexible and adaptive to new, as well as established research opportunities.

Upgrading Orthopedic Resources, Faculty and Staff, and Infrastructure. Outstanding orthopedic faculty and staff are pivotal to our academic success, as are adequate resources and a reliable physical and technical infrastructure. We must continue to recruit and retain the very best people. We must support their efforts through effective research administration, modern facilities, equipment, and innovative approaches to collaborative opportunities.

Expand Student Educational Opportunities in the Area of Orthopedics. Just as the nature and conduct of research changes with time, the needs and expectations of students mature and expand. Today, our students require increased research opportunities as a component of their primary education.

Expand the Application and Benefit of Our Research. The University of Wisconsin - Madison is a public university and the research conducted here is for the benefit of society. We require the trust and support of the public, and we have an obligation to inform our supporters of our work.

II. Advance Learning in the Area of Orthopedics

The University of Wisconsin Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation has a genuine commitment to advancing the educational experiences provided to medical students, residents, fellows and other allied health professionals. To this end, it is paramount that we prepare future health care professionals in new and innovative ways to meet the needs of tomorrow.

The quality of the educational experience is directly proportional to the commitment of our faculty and the resources that are available to them. The commitment of our dedicated faculty has always been strong and our educational history is very rich, but an even more promising future lies ahead. The enduring legacy of the University of Wisconsin Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation is dependent on the excellence of the providers that are trained within the walls of our institution. We must set our sights on training some of the very best professionals in the State of Wisconsin and our nation.

III. Applying the Wisconsin Idea to Orthopedics

The premise behind the Wisconsin Idea has always been a distinguishing characteristic of the University of Wisconsin and the people of Wisconsin. The Idea emphasizes the commitment of the University of Wisconsin to the geographic boundaries of the State of Wisconsin. It is an integral part of our character as a University and has provided direction to our efforts and guided
our decisions. However, the changing world we live in indicates a need to extend the Wisconsin Idea to our nation and our world.

Our University of Wisconsin Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation desires to extend what it learns to the people and clinicians throughout the State of Wisconsin, but also to our nation and our world.

For more information on the University of Wisconsin Orthopedic Funds, Annual Fund for Orthopedic Innovation or other giving opportunities within the UW Department of Orthopedics and Rehabilitation, please contact Joe Greene, Program Manager for Outreach and Development at 608-265-8382 or jgreene@uwhealth.org or go to www.ortho.wisc.edu/giving.