



**Orthopaedic Research  
& Education Foundation**



**Finding answers. Improving lives.**

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## ABOUT OREF

### OREF Overview

The Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation (OREF) is the one foundation serving the entire orthopaedic community.

In 1955, leaders of the major professional organizations in the specialty — the [American Orthopaedic Association](#), the [American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons](#) and the [Orthopaedic Research Society](#) — established OREF as a means of supporting research and education toward building the scientific base of clinical practice. Since 1955, the Foundation has raised more than \$100 million and holds a unique place in American medicine.

### Our Mission

OREF is an independent, 501(c)(3) organization that raises funds to support research and education on diseases and injuries of bones, joints, nerves, and muscles. OREF-funded research and education enhance clinical care, leading to improved health, increased activity, and a better quality of life for patients.

### How do we fund research and education?

Through gifts from orthopaedic surgeons, practice groups, medical centers, patients, and industry we support research and education initiatives funded by OREF and by partner organizations.

### Governance

The [Board of Trustees](#) consists of approximately twenty individuals: orthopaedic surgeons and lay persons. The board is responsible for the governance of the foundation, while foundation personnel are responsible for daily operations.



**Thomas A. Einhorn, M.D.**

"OREF is the only independent, surgeon-driven organization supporting research in the musculoskeletal area. With more funding, we can increase the number of grants awarded. There is nothing more disappointing than when we are unable to fund worthy grant applications because we do not have the resources."