

Coming Up/On Deck:

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Keep Up with the Latest with the NIH Dashboard



Amid a wave of policy changes, shifting priorities, and political pressure, it is hard to keep track of everything that is going on at the NIH. Fortunately, former NIH NIGMS director and longtime science policy advocate Jeremy Berg has been maintaining a valuable public dashboard that brings some clarity. His online dashboard offers visualizations of NIH Award Timing to help contextualize delays or shifts in funding activity, upcoming NIH Advisory Council meeting dates, and a series of “Bluetorials” explaining how the NIH functions behind the scenes. This dashboard is a powerful tool for staying informed and keeping orthopaedic research advocacy efforts grounded in facts.

[View the Dashboard](#)

The [Advocacy Tip of the Week](#) is produced by Ryan Tomlinson, PhD and Sade Williams Clayton, PhD of the ORS Public Outreach Committee. This regular feature will provide you with quick and simple actions you can take to advocate for and

[AND FELLOWSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[REGISTER FOR THE
ICORS 2025 WORLD
CONGRESS](#)

[ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS
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AVAILABLE](#)

[FIND YOUR NEXT
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ORS CAREER CENTER](#)

[FIND OR POST EVENTS
ON THE ORTHOPAEDIC
EVENTS CALENDAR](#)

promote scientific research. If you have a tip you would like to contribute, please email ryan.tomlinson@jefferson.edu.

Join Us for These Webinars



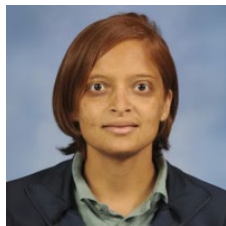
Join us for a webinar which will provide an overview of large and small animal models for tendon research. The discussion will compare and contrast existing models in the context of replicating the clinical disease process, in both veterinary and human settings, and will show how selecting an animal model relies heavily on specific research questions. Webinars are free for ORS members.

**Animal Models for Tendon Research:
Comparative Considerations for Optimizing Translational Validity**

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Central

The Speakers:

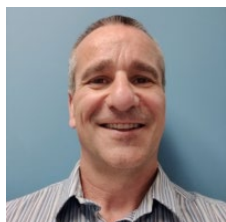


Sushmitha Durgam, BVSc, PhD, DACVS-L

Associate Professor of Equine Surgery

College of Veterinary Medicine

The Ohio State University



Keith Baar, PhD

Professor of Molecular Exercise Physiology

Department of Physiology and Membrane Biology

University of California, Davis School of Medicine

Organized by:



Brad Nelson, DVM, PhD, DACVS

Associate Professor of Equine Surgery

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Colorado State University



Bruno Menarim, DVM, MS, PhD

Associate Professor of Musculoskeletal Sciences

Gluck Equine Research Center, University of Kentucky

Organized by:

The ORS Preclinical Models Research Section

[Register](#)

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Also Coming Soon:

**Navigating the New Normal:
Strategies for Success in a Shifting NIH Landscape**

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Central

As many have experienced firsthand, and heard echoed across our research community, there is a growing concern over the unpredictability of funding decisions (i.e., grants being withdrawn, not funded, funding abruptly terminated, budget issues, etc.), evolving review criteria, and the psychological toll this current landscape has taken on investigators. This focused, solution-oriented webinar discusses demystifying recent shifts in NIH/NSF priorities and processes, practical strategies for preparing resilient grant applications amid uncertainty, and exploring how US-centric changes affect the global research landscape. We aim to foster candid discussion about setbacks and perseverance and encourage members of all career stages, especially early and mid-career researchers, to attend and join the conversation.

Organized by:
The ORS Spine Research Section

[Register](#)

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**A Tendon-cy to Heal:
Regenerating Tendons and Ligaments in Zebrafish**

Wednesday, September 24, 2025
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Central

This webinar will present state-of-the-art research in tendon and ligament regeneration using the zebrafish model system. Thomas Schilling, PhD will introduce zebrafish as a model system and the advantages it offers to studying the intricacies of tendon and ligament cell biology. Jenna Galloway, PhD and Joanna Smeeton, PhD will present on tendon and ligament regeneration.

Organized by:
The ORS Tendon Research Section

[Register](#)

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Biostatistics Webinar on Novel Methods in Musculoskeletal Research

Wednesday, October 29, 2025
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Central

Rigorous application of biostatistics in reliable clinical research ensures that conclusions drawn are valid, reproducible, and useful for improving care in orthopaedics. Xiaoxiao Sun, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Arizona, and Joel Gagnier, MSc, PhD, Associate Professor, Western University Canada will present on applied biostatistics in orthopaedic studies. They will lead a discussion on propensity score analyses in clinical research and statistical and machine learning approaches for modeling longitudinal multimodal data.

Organized by:
The ORS Strategies in Clinical Research Section

[Register](#)

Be a Part of the ORS 2026 Annual Meeting



The ORS 2026 Annual Meeting will take place March 27-31 in Charlotte, NC, and will bring together attendees of all career levels and disciplines to connect and explore the latest innovations in orthopaedics. The call for abstracts closed last week, and we had over 2,100 submissions. Those that are accepted will be notified on November 5. If you missed out on the opportunity to submit your abstract, please note that the call for late-breaking abstracts will be October 13 - November 10. Registration information will be provided later this year.

The call for submissions is open for the Business Innovation Competition (BIC) at the ORS 2026 Annual Meeting. The Business Innovation Competition will provide the opportunity for those with a great idea in the field of musculoskeletal research to validate the market potential of their technology and develop a commercialization plan through expert mentorship and feedback to assist in translating their ideas from bench to market. This program is ideal for early-stage companies, clinicians, researchers, and students of all levels. All participants are required to submit an **Executive Summary, which will be due October 10.**

[Submit Your Executive Summary](#)

Award Opportunities



The following awards are now open for submissions. Keep an eye on this space in future issues of *ORS Connect*, as we will be updating the opportunities regularly. Please note that all submissions are due at 11:59 PM Central on each listed due date.

[The ORS/OREF Distinguished Investigator Award](#) honors an individual who has significantly contributed to the field of orthopaedic research, to the ORS, and OREF through their outstanding scientific achievements and their commitment of time and service.

Nominations are due September 12.

[The Farshid Guilak Outstanding Achievement in Mentoring Award](#) celebrates the commitment of outstanding mentors in the ORS community who promote the success of new investigators in the pursuit of independent orthopaedic research. This *Outstanding Achievement in Mentoring Award* was renamed in recognition of Dr. Guilak's vast contributions in helping musculoskeletal researchers to advance their careers. **Nominations are due September 26.**

[The Marshall R. Urist, MD Award](#) is a \$5,000 award that honors an investigator who has a sustained ongoing body of focused research in tissue regeneration as it relates to the musculoskeletal system. **Submissions are due September 26.**

[ORS Fellows](#) have demonstrated exemplary service and leadership, substantial achievement, expert knowledge, and significant contributions to the ORS, its governance,

and the field of musculoskeletal research. Fellows will represent ORS as the thought leaders and topic experts in their respective disciplines. **Submissions are due September 30.**

The ORS Meniscus Section proudly presents the inaugural [ORS Meniscus Momentum Award](#) to honor a mid-career investigator who has demonstrated impactful research contributions to the meniscus field, as well as excellence in collaboration, mentorship, innovation, and service to the ORS Meniscus Section. **Submissions are due November 10.**

[Read About All Awards](#)

Local Outreach and Networking



The ORS Ambassadors promote our organization and musculoskeletal research by hosting and attending various networking events throughout the world. The Ambassadors are currently involved with numerous events. Click on any of the following for more information or to register (where applicable).

Sundance, UT - [ORS Ambassador Regional Symposium Poster Session](#)

This is part of SOARS, held in conjunction with the co-located annual Summit hosted by Summit Brain, Spine and Orthopedics.

September 12, 2025, 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Sundance Resort, 8841 N. Alpine Loop Road, Sundance, UT 84604

Host: Anton Bowden, PhD - Chair, ORS Ambassadors

There is no charge for registration or to attend the SOARS symposium poster session. (There is a charge of \$199 to attend the full Summit conference.)

New York, NY - [New York City Networking Event](#)

A networking event in NYC with rooftop views, drink tickets, free food, and giveaways.

September 18, 2025, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Bella Union Rooftop Bar, 411 3rd Ave, New York, NY 10016

Hosts: Irina Heggli, PhD - ORS Ambassador, and Gabriella Bond, MS - ORS Member

The RSVP list has reached capacity, however, you can still join the waitlist.

Aurora, CO - [7th Annual D'Ambrosia Orthopedic Symposium](#)

This event will include pre-and post-doctoral trainee presentations, two poster sessions, keynote lecture, and awards.

October 22, 2025, 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, 1890 N. Revere Ct., Aurora, CO and via Zoom.

Hosts: Michael David, PhD - Associate Chair, ORS Ambassadors, and Honey Hendesi, PhD - ORS Ambassador

Registration is required and a virtual attendance option is available.

[Learn More](#)

The Call for Abstracts is Open for the PSRS Symposium

Philadelphia Spine Research Society (PSRS) Symposium

Friday, November 7, 2025 | University of Delaware, Newark, DE

The call for abstract submissions is now open for the 2025 Philadelphia Spine Research Society (PSRS) Symposium. The event will be held on Friday, November 7, 2025, at the University of Delaware, FinTech Innovation Hub in Newark, DE. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Philadelphia Spine Research Society's founding. The program will include keynote talks from clinicians, research leaders, scientists, and students. The meeting will cover all areas of spine research, from basic to clinical, and encompass the broad areas of development, pathophysiology, aging, pain, diagnostics, and therapeutics.

[Submit Your Abstract for PSRS](#)

OREF Grant, Award and Fellowship Opportunities



OREF has a variety of funding, educational and award opportunities available, including support for NIH K Award recipients, recognition for outstanding research, and leadership skill development. Visit the OREF website for more information.

[Learn More](#)

Register for the ICORS 2025 World Congress



Registration is open for the International Combined Orthopaedic Research Societies (ICORS) 2025 World Congress. The event will take place October 8-11 in Adelaide, Australia. ICORS is an alliance of societies that promotes basic, translational, and clinical musculoskeletal research worldwide. The ICORS World Congress takes place every three years. A range of primary fields of research will be represented, including: biology, biomechanics, clinical, imaging, and tissue engineering.

[Register](#)

Article Submissions for *JOR* Special Issue



The *Journal of Orthopaedic Research (JOR)* has an open call for a special issue:

Tendon from Mechanism to Therapy – Emerging Technologies and Therapeutic Outcomes

This special issue will build on the ORS Tendon Conference 2024 Mechanism to Therapy – Emerging Technologies and Therapeutic Outcomes hosted by Mayo Clinic on May 30-June 1,

2024. The issue will contain perspectives, reviews, and original research papers that developed around the Tendon Conference and recent Tendon Section areas of interest. This issue will serve as a valuable resource for researchers, trainees, and investigators new to tendon research, while also fostering collaborations between experts in the field. The guest editors for this issue will be Anne Gingery, PhD (Mayo Clinic) and Karin Grävare Silbernagel, PT, ATC, PhD, FAPTA (University of Delaware). **The deadline for submissions has been extended until December 31, 2025.**

You can submit your article for the special issue via the link below. Be sure to answer “yes” to the question, “Is this submission for a special issue?” Then select "Tendon from Mechanism to Therapy" from the drop-down menu.

[Submit Your Article](#)

ORS Sweaters Available



This beautiful, blue, cozy 1/4 zip ORS sweater is now available. Perfect for cool evenings, the sweater is also a great way to share your support for the organization and your enthusiasm for musculoskeletal research. You can order your own sweater now via the link below.

[Order](#)

Find Your Next Opportunity at the ORS Career Center



Check out the ORS Career Center to post jobs, post a resume, create a profile, find jobs, apply, or sign up for job alerts. The Career Center offers: Career Coaching, Resume Writing, Reference Testing, and a Career Learning Center. Check out this important resource today.

[Visit the ORS Career Center](#)

Find or Post Events on the Orthopaedic Events Calendar



The Orthopaedic Events Calendar on the ORS website lists events that are of potential interest to those in the orthopaedic community. ORS Members are welcome to submit

applicable events at no charge through the Submit Event button at the top of the calendar on the site. This is an excellent opportunity to spread the word about your orthopaedic-related events, ensuring they reach a wider and engaged audience.

[Find or Post Events](#)

Mark Your Calendar!

[Webinar: Animal Models for Tendon Research - Comparative Considerations for Optimizing Translational Validity](#)

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12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Central

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Sundance, UT

[Webinar: Navigating the New Normal - Strategies for Success in a Shifting NIH Landscape](#)

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[Webinar: A Tendon-cy to Heal - Regenerating Tendons and Ligaments in Zebrafish](#)

September 24, 2025
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Central

[ORS 2025 Clinician Scholar Career Development Program](#)

October 2 - 4, 2025

Rosemont, IL

[International Combined Orthopaedic Research Societies \(ICORS\) Congress 2025](#)

October 8 - 11, 2025

Adelaide, Australia

[Executive Summaries Due for the Business Innovation Competition at the ORS 2026 Annual Meeting](#)

October 10, 2025

[ORS 2025 Young Investigator Initiative \(YII\)](#)

October 17 - 19, 2025

Rosemont, IL

[ORS Ambassadors Event: 7th Annual D'Ambrosia Orthopedic Symposium](#)

October 22, 2025, 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Mountain

Aurora, CO

[Webinar: Biostatistics - Novel Methods in Musculoskeletal Research](#)

October 29, 2025

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Central

[The 2025 Philadelphia Spine Research Society \(PSRS\) Symposium](#)

November 7, 2025

Newark, DE

[Submissions Due for JOR Special Issue: Tendon from Mechanism to Therapy – Emerging Technologies and Therapeutic Outcomes](#)

December 31, 2025

[ORS 2026 Annual Meeting](#)

March 27 - 31, 2026

Charlotte, NC

[Dates, Events, and People in Orthopaedic History](#)

We would like to continue to note important people, dates, and accomplishments in the history of orthopaedics in *ORS Connect*. If you have something or someone that should be recognized, particularly around days, weeks, or months of a specific dedication, please [click here](#) to submit your information.



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