

TEAM UP FOR IMPACT – THE AO EXPLORATORY RESEARCH CONCEPT

S. Steiner, AO Foundation, Davos, Switzerland

To ensure scientific and clinical relevance of its musculoskeletal research and to maintain an impact on this field, the AO Foundation (AOF) has conducted a strategic review of its research and development activities.

Resulting from this process is a strong commitment of AOF to encourage and support exploratory research activities in two specified focus fields of musculoskeletal research.

A proposal for AO Exploratory Research (AOER) focus fields has been elaborated with a group of expert scientists and clinicians in a roadmapping workshop and recommendations have been submitted by the AOER board to AO decision bodies. A decision related to the AOER focus field is expected to become available by the time of the ECM congress.

The mission of AOER is to foster and expand a network of scientific professionals that focus on novel approaches and theories and to translate emerging knowledge and expertise to the benefit of the AO mission.

The AOER concept is based on the assumption that most impact can be achieved when scientific expert groups with complementary skill sets are teaming up. Accordingly, and by way of consortium funding, AOER is encouraging the AO Research Institute (ARI) and its collaborative research centers (CRCs) to team up and to work collaboratively on a peer-to-peer basis with an interdisciplinary network of scientific experts.

To foster the process of scientific exchange and to intensify interactions between researchers and clinicians AOER is providing, on a regular basis, platforms for sharing emerging knowledge and for networking with members of our organization.

For more information please visit us on: www.aofoundation.org/funding/exploratory_research