



▲ A. Seth Greenwald, D.Phil.(Oxon)

A SERENDIPITOUS JOURNEY— DESTINATION: ORTHOPAEDICS

Had **A. Seth Greenwald, D.Phil. (Oxon)** listened only to his boyhood pals, he might have joined them at Camp Lejeune following high school, or perhaps become a nuclear power expert. Fortunately, Dr. Greenwald was open to other possibilities.

Dr. Greenwald, founder of the Current Concepts in Joint Replacement (CCJR) meetings and director of Orthopaedic Research Laboratories in Cleveland, is a nationally known researcher and educator who has greatly impacted the field of joint arthroplasty. In 1979, in recognition of his studies of comparative mechanics of the hip and ankle, Dr. Greenwald earned the Kappa Delta Award, which honors achievements in orthopaedic research. Last year, he became a member of OREF's **Alfred R. Shands Jr., MD Circle** with a cash donation that established the CCJR/OREF Scholarship Fund. The fund will allow orthopaedic residents and fellows from around the world to enhance their training by attending CCJR meetings, now in their 28th year.

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY ADVENTURE

As a teenager growing up in New York City, Dr. Greenwald was, in his words,

“a lackluster student” who planned to serve in the military after high school. But on a trip to New Brunswick, Canada, he struck up a conversation with the admissions officer at Mount Allison University, who advised him to consider college instead. He listened. He earned a degree in physics and engineering and soon after began working in the American aerospace industry, on projects that ranged from the Saturn Moon Rocket to the F-105, then a state-of-the-art fighter bomber.

He later obtained graduate degrees from Columbia University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and went on to Oxford University as a National Science Foundation fellow. His intended project—how to compensate for the vibrations in nuclear power plant cooling towers—stalled when his advisor left on sabbatical. Sitting in a pub, wondering what to do, Dr. Greenwald began a discussion with two professors from the Oxford University orthopaedics department, who were pondering how to determine the weight-bearing locations of the hip, and their correlation with observed cartilage degeneration. Dr. Greenwald agreed to help solve the problem, a search

that led to his becoming the first at Oxford to earn a doctorate in orthopaedic and engineering sciences. He then returned to the United States, joined the Cleveland Clinic and established a biomechanics laboratory, which continued his research on hip joint degeneration.

Throughout his serendipitous journey, Dr. Greenwald has evolved a multi-disciplinary approach that contributes to the ongoing education of surgeons and others involved in orthopaedic health care, particularly in joint arthroplasty, inclusive of members of the medical device industry. In 1982, he welcomed 17 attendees to the first CCJR conference; today, two annual meetings host 3,000 attendees from all over the world to discuss contemporary issues, procedures and devices, and view real-time, live surgeries. The conferences are known for their lively debates and demonstrate the importance of research—a fact which Dr. Greenwald frequently raises along with the importance of supporting OREF.

EDUCATION IS KEY, GLOBALLY

Dr. Greenwald finds it impossible to separate his research from his passion to teach. “Education is a part of the whole. You acquire a profession, you work at it, and then you realize there are a lot of people who come after, and you have an obligation to provide support,” he explained.

This philosophy motivated Dr. Greenwald's decision in 2008 to underwrite the OREF/CCJR Clinical Award, which recognizes excellence

in translational research that has immediate clinical impact on the diagnosis and treatment of patients, and on their outcomes as well as health care policy. The recipient is awarded \$2,000 and an opportunity to present findings at the next CCJR conference. The award is given twice yearly, with the second 2010 award going to **Gaurav Khanna, MD**, whose investigation of "Patient-reported versus clinician-assisted outcomes following TKA" led his project team to conclude that patient questionnaires, coupled with teleradiography, may represent an option for the future of long-term joint surveillance.

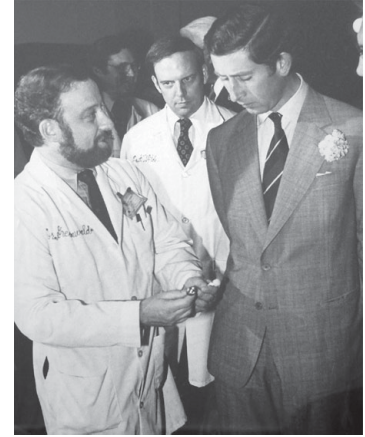
Dr. Greenwald views joining the Shands Circle as a demonstration of

his personal commitment to OREF's mission as well as his commitment to the education of orthopaedists who come after. "Joining the Shands Circle by making a major gift in support of the CCJR/OREF Scholarship Fund is a good way of giving back what OREF gave to me when I started, and I would encourage others to consider the same."

For more information about Shands Circle membership, please contact Ed Hoover, OREF's vice president, development, at hoover@oref.org or (847) 384-4354. ■

Photos courtesy of Dr. Greenwald

British Orthopaedic Association President ► **Clare Marx, CBE, FRCS**, presents the Presidential Medal for Contributions to Orthopaedic Education and Research to Dr. Greenwald in 2009.



▲ Prince Charles visits the Biomechanics Laboratory in 1979 and is shown a wrist replacement implant developed at the Cleveland Clinic by Dr. Greenwald (left) and his staff.



GIVING WITH PRESTIGE

Ask members of the Shands Circle why they decided to become part of OREF's most prestigious donor recognition society, and they almost always point to the mentor or colleague who encouraged them to join.

B. Sonny Bal, MD, JD credits **Ramon L. Jimenez, MD** for his introduction to the elite group. Still, he had additional reasons for becoming a Shands Circle member.

"OREF is unique in being an orthopaedic-research 'pure play' organization; it supports inquiry and investigation into a health care specialty that touches nearly all Americans at some point in their life, and is related to a significant percentage of emergency room visits daily," Dr. Bal said. "Investing in such an endeavor is a worthwhile exercise, and those within the profession can set an example for others by supporting orthopaedic research and investigator development. No other organization fulfills that role so well."

WHAT IS THE SHANDS CIRCLE?

Founded in 1994 to secure permanent funding for research and education, the Shands Circle is reserved for those who make a minimum \$20,000 cash contribution or a deferred gift of \$50,000 or more. Shands Circle member contributions fund the OREF Endowment, which consists of a general fund for OREF that is directed by its board of trustees, and more than 40 other funds that benefit the spectrum of subspecialties on diseases and injuries of bones, joints, nerves and muscles. Today the Shands Circle has more than 600 members.

Each year, during the AAOS Annual Meeting, OREF holds a reception, giving Shands Circle members an opportunity to catch up with old friends and colleagues, and meet the newest recruits.

"I discovered that many Shands Circle members are respected leaders and statesmen in orthopaedics—people I would be honored to associate with and learn from," said Dr. Bal.