



**Thank you,  
Shands Circle  
Members**

OREF proudly recognizes Platinum- and Gold-level Shands Circle members and welcomes new members to date in 2011. Also, THANK YOU to our Silver-, Bronze-, and Copper-level members.

Platinum—\$1 Million & Above

- Drs. Behrooz Akbarnia and Nasrin Owsia
- Michael J. Axe, MD
- Mr. and Mrs. Leander D. Beard
- Mr. John W. and Mrs. Rosemary Brown
- Dr. John and Mrs. Kim Callaghan
- Dr. and Mrs. James C. Chow
- Dr. Richard and Mrs. Stephanie Coutts
- Alvin H. Crawford, MD
- Daryll C. Dykes, MD, PhD
- Dr. Zachary B. Friedenberg♦ and Mrs. Kathleen Friedenberg
- Dr. Freddie H. and Mrs. Hilda P. Fu
- Dr. and Mrs. Jorge O. Galante
- Dr. Victor and Mrs. Harriet Goldberg
- Dr. Lawrence G. and Mrs. Elizabeth A. Lenke
  
- Dr. Adolph V. and Mrs. Anne T. Lombardi Jr.
- Dr. William and Mrs. Lynn McMaster
- Dr. Dane and Mrs. Mary Louise Miller
- Dr. and Mrs. Mahendra R. Patel
- Dr. Timothy and Mrs. Helen Payne
- David W. Polly Jr., MD and Shirley M. Polly, MD
- Chitranjan S. Ranawat, MD
- Mr. Frank Raymond♦ and Mrs. Carol Raymond
- Dr. and Mrs. Charles Rockwood Family
- Jeffery L. Stambough, MD, MBA
- In honor of the Stambough and Eakins Families*
- Ms. Ronda E. Stryker and Mr. William D. Johnston Foundation
- Dr. and Mrs. Stuart L. Weinstein

♦deceased

**ALFRED R. SHANDS JR., MD CIRCLE**

Founded in 1994 to secure permanent funding for research and education, the Shands Circle is OREF’s most prestigious donor recognition society, reserved for those who have contributed \$20,000 or more in cash gifts (within five years) or \$100,000 or more through deferred giving arrangements. 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. As of Aug. 19, 2011, the Shands Circle included more than 600 members—17 who have joined in 2011 so far.

We can ensure those benefits are realized by delivering on our Shands Circle commitments, giving to the 2011 Annual Campaign at the Order of Merit level (\$1,000+), and inviting at least two colleagues to join the Shands Circle in 2011. ■



▲ Orthopaedics appealed to Dr. Bal because of its mechanical aspects. Outside of orthopaedics, he works on his small plane, a Piper Cherokee Warrior that’s been upgraded to a constant speed propeller and an Archer-class engine.

▶ (l-r) Dr. Bal with his sons Himmat and Andy in his 1971 Ford Torino GT convertible



Gold—\$500,000 – \$999,999

Dr. and Mrs. Oheneba Boachie-Adjei  
 Mr. John C. Herklotz  
 Ken N. Kuo, MD  
*In memory of Angela S. M. Kuo*  
 Baron S. Lonner, MD  
 Dr. and Mrs. Herbert J. Louis  
 Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Mary Anne Marberry  
 Dr. Jack C. and Mrs. Patricia Nichols  
 Javad Parvizi, MD  
 Mr. Sydney and Mrs. Ann Pond  
 Dr. and Mrs. William J. Robb III  
 Dr. Garth S. and Mrs. Jane D. Russell

New members—2011 to date

Michael C. Albert, MD  
 Dr. Greg and Mrs. Sandra Anderson  
 Matthew S. Austin, MD  
 Christopher J. Bergin, MD  
 Dr. Paul A. and Mrs. Pam B. Broadstone  
 Dennis G. Crandall, MD  
 Dr. and Mrs. John M. Cuckler  
 Dr. and Mrs. Stephen B. Gunther  
 Munish Gupta, MD  
 Lawrence I. Karlin, MD  
 Andrew G. King, MD  
 Charles F. Leinberry, MD  
 Dr. Todd Milbrandt and Ms. Mary Beth Magyar  
 James J. Purtill, MD  
 Dr. and Mrs. Suken A. Shah  
 Dr. Kit M. Song and Kwi Y. Lee  
 Dr. Daniel and Marilda Switlick

As of August 19, 2011

# NEVER FORGET . . .

## ONE SURGEON REMINDS US THAT ORTHOPAEDIC INNOVATION REQUIRES DETERMINATION, PLUS EVERYONE'S SUPPORT

Although he was already a significant supporter of OREF, **B. Sonny Bal, MD, JD, MBA** was recently reminded that ongoing support for orthopaedic research is something he can never take for granted.

Dr. Bal is an associate professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of Missouri School of Medicine in Columbia and chief of its hip and knee division. In 2008, he applied for an OREF Career Development Award, hoping to explore bioactive glass as a platform for bone substitution.

Unfortunately, by early 2009, he received a letter from OREF stating that, due to the recession, the foundation had limited funds and was setting aside certain grant applications and not reviewing them at that time. Eventually, Dr. Bal was able to find alternate funding, but the experience deeply affected him.

"I thought, 'That's not good; we need more, not less,'" he recalled. "We, the orthopaedic community, are all we've got. We all need to step up to the plate and contribute."

## DEEP RESPECT FOR INNOVATION

As a surgeon, Dr. Bal specializes in total joint surgery and hip and knee replacement. As a researcher, along with examining the potential of

bioactive glass, he is exploring tissue engineering using bone marrow stem cells. Surgery would not be possible without research, Dr. Bal said, and he tells all of his patients about how the two are connected. He tries to remind every patient that the implants he uses today are far more reliable than those used just five years ago, and that is thanks to years of research, trial and error, and eventual success. Dr. Bal tells his patients that the high quality of health care—particularly orthopaedic care—in the United States didn't develop by chance.

"There's a sense in this country that innovation is automatic, that it's a birthright," he said. "But somebody has to lose money, someone has to lose sleep, someone has to take risks. If a hip replacement is more stable than it was

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in the past, it is because somebody did the research to get there.”

## CREATING PARTNERSHIPS

Already an **Alfred R. Shands Jr., MD Circle** member and longtime contributor to OREF’s Annual Campaign, Dr. Bal wanted to convince others—both those within the field and the vast number of those who benefit from it—to join him. He recently agreed to become part of OREF’s Orthopaedic Partners Committee, which seeks to establish innovative new partnerships to help support orthopaedic research and education.

“We need to work toward asking our patients, directly and in a respectful and discrete manner, to contribute to research,” he said. “Many want and can afford to give.”

Dr. Bal also sees vast potential in partnerships with organizations or companies that cater to clientele who are in some way involved in orthopaedics. He is acutely aware that support of OREF research is too important to depend merely on government or foundation support for its continued growth. Although he just joined the committee, Dr. Bal already has a list of organizations that he feels can be convinced of the difference OREF can make in all lives.

## INSPIRED TO GIVE

Dr. Bal said he was first inspired to “leave something on the table” when he joined the University of Missouri more than a decade ago. There was little money available in his department for start-up faculty funds. So, he and his wife, anesthesiologist **Dana S. Bal, MD,**

established a fund that supports graduate students from all over the world.

He also contributed to OREF, thanks to a department-wide annual gift. But two fellow surgeons—one who became an official mentor, and another who mentored by example—influenced Dr. Bal’s decision to support OREF at his current level.

**Ramon L. Jimenez, MD** quickly became an inspiration for Dr. Bal when he met him at a conference. Dr. Jimenez, who has dedicated substantial effort to the development of other surgeons, served as Dr. Bal’s mentor in the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons’ (AAOS) Leadership Fellows Program.

Dr. Jimenez urged Dr. Bal to become a member of OREF’s Shands Circle, which is open to those who demonstrate a long-term commitment to advancing orthopaedics with a cash contribution of \$20,000 or more, or a deferred gift of \$100,000 or more.

When Dr. Jimenez invited Dr. Bal to be his guest at a Shands Circle celebration during an AAOS Annual Meeting, Dr. Bal saw that his colleague **Peter K. Buchert, MD** of the Columbia Orthopaedic Group was present. Dr. Bal recalled seeing for many years Dr. Buchert’s name listed as a Shands Circle member, not to mention as a donor for other local charitable organizations, and he became even more inspired.

Dr. Jimenez’s and Dr. Buchert’s examples cemented Dr. Bal’s resolve to support OREF. They illustrated for him “how a private professional can choose to contribute and advance the science and understanding that makes our

profession fun and exciting.”

Dr. Bal said OREF is unique because it has maintained a reputation as a respected organization dedicated to the advancement of orthopaedic research and education. He decided to give an undesignated cash gift, trusting OREF leadership to select the greatest needs for support.

“OREF is the one credible, central, reputable organization that furthers the interest of my profession, and therefore my interest,” said Dr. Bal. “You can follow, year by year, the research that they’re funding, and see the results in your own practice.”

## READY TO SPREAD THE WORD

Mechanics originally attracted Dr. Bal to orthopaedics, and when he is not in surgery, he is tinkering with mechanical devices he has at home, including several old American cars that he has rebuilt. He is currently working on a ‘68 Ford Mustang and his own small airplane (which he can, indeed, fly.)

The cars and airplane are yet more reminders to Dr. Bal of the value of hard work and innovation. He hopes to continue to remind his patients, colleagues and others how fortunate we are to benefit from world-class innovation in orthopaedics. He plans to do with others what Drs. Jimenez and Buchert did for him: Spread the word about how essential OREF is to quality orthopaedic care.

“The things we enjoy in this nation didn’t just happen,” Dr. Bal said. “They reflect investment year after year, and it’s up to us to invest as well.” ■