

The Foundation Profile

The Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that advances the AOFAS mission by funding and promoting essential education, research, and humanitarian endeavors.

Research: Discovering new treatments to improve patient care

The [AOFAS Research Grants Program](#) provides vital start-up funding for promising foot and ankle research projects. Grants of up to \$5,000, \$20,000, and \$60,000 are awarded annually on a competitive basis. Since its inception in 1997, The Foundation has awarded more than \$1.2 million in grant funding, with grant recipients going on to publish articles in peer-reviewed journals, present at professional meetings, and earn subsequent funding from outside sources.

In an expanded commitment to research, the [Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Outcomes Research Network \(OFAR\)](#) was established to track patient-reported outcomes for foot and ankle treatments across populations and gender. By expanding the breadth, quality, and availability of real-world foot and ankle data, OFAR is poised to improve patient care.

Educational Outreach: An investment in the future of the profession

AOFAS programs funded by the Foundation enrich resident education and encourage early interest in the orthopaedic foot and ankle specialty. Programs include [Resident Scholarships](#) to the Annual Meeting and a [Visiting Professor Program](#). Annually, the AOFAS awards [Traveling Fellowships](#) to selected young members to attend the Annual Meeting and travel to leading institutions of foot and ankle care and research. In addition, the new [Women's Leadership Initiative and Awards Program](#) provides mentoring and support for female foot and ankle orthopaedic surgeons.

Humanitarian Service: Opening doors for volunteer service and professional growth

The [Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam](#) offers life-changing surgery and challenging professional experiences. Since its inception in 2002, volunteer surgeons have performed surgery on more than 1,400 disabled children and adults and evaluated more than 3,200 patients in clinics. AOFAS member volunteers work side-by-side with Vietnamese orthopaedic surgeons in cities and villages in northern Vietnam.

Governance

The Foundation is governed by an elected Board of Directors. The 2018-19 Board members are: President Scott J. Ellis, MD; President-Elect Eric M. Bluman, MD, PhD; Secretary Christopher W. DiGiovanni, MD; Treasurer Bryan D. Den Hartog, MD; and Members-at-Large J. Chris Coetzee, MD; Bruce E. Cohen, MD; Peter G. Mangone, MD; Jeremy J. McCormick; and William C. McGarvey, MD.

Elaine M. Leighton, MPH, CAE, is the executive director.