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Orthopaedic Patients Advocate on Capitol Hill

Orthopaedic surgeons, patients, researchers discuss need for increased funding

WASHINGTON, DC — Following President Bush's recent budget proposal to level funding for the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), more than 115 orthopaedic surgeons, researchers and their patients joined the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons at the 2008 Annual Research Capitol Hill Days today in Washington DC to ask for additional funding for these critical medical research bodies. More than 115 orthopaedic patients, physicians, and researchers urged Members of Congress to appropriate **$548 million** in fiscal year (FY) 2009 for NIAMS - a **6.5 percent increase** from the FY 2008 level.

Research Capitol Hill Days offers patients with musculoskeletal conditions the opportunity to meet with targeted U.S. Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill to share their personal struggles and triumphs while stressing the importance of patient access to innovative techniques and procedures to treat these often debilitating diseases.

Musculoskeletal conditions have an enormous impact on patients and on the American health care system:

- Musculoskeletal disorders cost the United States **$849 billion annually** in healthcare services and lost economic productivity.
- In the year 2003, musculoskeletal conditions and injuries accounted for **157 million visits** to physicians' offices, **15 million visits** to hospital outpatient departments and **29 million visits** to emergency rooms.
- Nearly **one in every three Americans** is treated for chronic musculoskeletal impairment or musculoskeletal injury each year.

For more information on Research Capitol Hill Days
https://www.aaos.org/researchdays

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