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Local Resident Participates in National Capitol Hill Event

Orthopaedic surgeons, patients, researchers advocate for medical research

Hometown, ST — On March 19, 2009, YOUR NAME, joined nearly 70 orthopaedic surgeons, researchers, and patients at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons 2009 annual Research Capitol Hill Days in Washington, DC. Research Capitol Hill Days offers patients with musculoskeletal conditions the opportunity to meet with U.S. Senators and Representatives on Capitol Hill to share their personal struggles and triumphs while highlighting the need for continued advancements in musculoskeletal research to develop innovative techniques and procedures to treat these often debilitating diseases.

Following the \$10.4 billion investment in the National Institutes of Health and National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), participants urged Congress to continue to build on this investment with predictable and sustained long-term funding.

“Research Capitol Hill Days is an opportunity to demonstrate to Members of Congress how critical medical research funding is to improving the lives of patients and empowering physicians with the tools to treat them,” said YOUR NAME. “I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to educate legislators about the impact of musculoskeletal conditions and the need for greater research.”

[Fill in a short blurb about yourself here].

Musculoskeletal conditions have an enormous impact on Americans and on the United States health care system:

- The annual direct and indirect costs for bone and joint health are **\$849 billion** – 7.7% of the gross domestic product.
- Musculoskeletal conditions represent the greatest cause of medical bed days and lost work days in the United States. One in six working Americans reported missing work as a result of musculoskeletal conditions – totaling nearly **437.6 million lost work days** in 2005.
- Musculoskeletal conditions accounted for 50% of bed days and lost work days in 2005.
- Nearly **one in every three Americans** has a musculoskeletal condition requiring medical attention.

For more information on the AAOS Research Capitol Hill Days, please visit www.aaos.org/researchdays.

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