

September 22, 2010

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Richard Whitley, MD, FIDSA
President
Infectious Disease Society of America
1300 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Dr. Whitley,

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS/Academy), representing nearly 18,000 Board-certified orthopaedic surgeons, supports the efforts of the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) in the launch of “*The 10 x '20 Initiative*.” The Academy shares the IDSA’s concern for the immediate development of additional antimicrobial drugs to effectively treat existing and emerging resistant pathogens. The creation and testing of drugs requires substantial resources, but it is crucial to patients and physicians that novel antibiotics are made available.

While this initiative is ongoing, efforts should be taken to maintain the effectiveness of the shrinking pool of available antibiotic drugs. We believe professional organizations have a responsibility to provide education, enhance stewardship, and promote effective prevention and control mechanisms. AAOS members treat patients with devastating infections from resistant pathogens. To address our members’ needs and potentially decrease the incidence of resistant organisms, the Academy has created a number of resources to educate and inform members of best practices of antibiotic use. AAOS efforts include the [“Recommendations for the Use of Intravenous Antibiotic Prophylaxis in Primary Total Joint Arthroplasty Information Statement,”](#) which mirrors the Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) guidelines, and online education modules addressing surgical site infections. Academy publications such as *AAOS Now* and the *Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (JAAOS)* feature articles discussing antibiotic duration, timing and selection. The Academy will continue to educate our members on techniques for the responsible use of antibiotics and advocate for additional antimicrobial drugs to aid in the effective treatment of drug-resistant infections.

The Academy commends the IDSA for undertaking “*The 10 x '20 Initiative*.” The joint efforts of government, industry, healthcare providers, and scientists will assist in the initiative’s success. We support the efforts of the IDSA to maximize resources by collaborating with the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration. Stakeholders must work toward a shared goal of creating and bringing new antimicrobial drugs to market, practicing antibiotic stewardship, and implementing infection control interventions that will assist in combating resistant organisms. In light of the limited antibiotics in the pipeline and increasing incidence of resistant organisms, the AAOS will continue to provide fellows with the most

current information on proper antibiotic use to adequately treat patients. “*The 10 x '20 Initiative*” is a remarkable endeavor and the Academy looks forward to working with you to accomplish this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Callaghan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

John J. Callaghan, MD

President, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons