

# A.T. *Still Research Institute*

*"Advancing patient care and wellness through development and support of premier osteopathic research"*

**December 2007**

*Researchers from the  
Still Research Institute  
attend the First International  
Fascia Research Congress!*

The Still Research Institute (SRI) director, Dr. Brian Degenhardt, associate director, Christian Fossum and associate research professor, Dr. Gary Fryer along with two basic scientists from KCOM, Dr. Melissa Stuart, associate professor in microbiology, and Dr. George Carlson, professor in physiology, attended the First International Fascia Research Congress held at the Harvard Medical Center in Boston, MA, on October 4-5, 2007. The Still Research Institute cosponsored this event.

This landmark event was conceived and organized by a multidisciplinary committee of science researchers and practicing health care professionals (including Dr. Brian Degenhardt) whose respective fields share a common focus and interest in the human body's soft connective tissue matrix. This event was intended to be a catalyst for showcasing the latest and best scientific fascia research.

Professionals from the separate domains of basic research and clinical practice had an unprecedented opportunity to learn from one another, gain insights that informed and enriched their respective areas of work, and will hopefully lead to new areas of scientific inquiry and improvements in applied methods.

The program schedule consisted of presentations of recent research and reviews in soft connective tissue science at all levels (i.e., molecular, intracellular, histological, neurological, anatomical, and biomechanical). Keynote speakers provided sessions on Mechanotransduction, Myofibroblasts, Fascia Anatomy and Biomechanics, and Fascia Pain Mechanisms.

As cosponsors, Dr. Brian Degenhardt and Christian Fossum, along with Dr. Donald Noll, professor in geriatrics at KCOM, were members of the Fascia Research Congress Executive Program Committee and were

heavily involved in the development of the program for the event.

The congress also included a Clinical-Scientist Panel Discussion Session in order to offer an opportunity for interaction, dialogue, and the sharing of information between two groups, Clinicians and Scientists. The panelists represented a variety of backgrounds including: education, acupuncture, osteopathy, medicine, chiropractic, naturopathy, physical medicine, massage therapy, Rolwing/structural integration, and pure science. Dr. Degenhardt was a member of this discussion panel.



For the benefit of those who could not attend, the proceedings were recorded. As a cosponsor of the proceedings, the Still Research Institute has taken the leadership in assisting with the recruitment and facilitation of host sites for replay of the FRC presentations. A total of 45 host sites around the world have been recruited to facilitate the replaying of this program. To date, host sites include 18 domestic institutions and 27 international institutions in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

*Watch the SRI website for Details!*

**The Still Research Institute  
and the  
KCOM Department of  
Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine  
will be hosting a replay of this event  
the first of 2008!**