

# A.T. Still Research Institute

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

**June 2007**

*Still Research Institute  
receives  
ATSU's Largest  
Research Endowment!*

Center for Osteopathic Palpatory Diagnostic  
and Therapeutic Studies (C.O.D.E.S.)

The Still Research Institute announces establishment of a \$2 million Osteopathic Heritage Foundation endowment in honor of John C. Auseon, D.O. and Boyd W. Bowden, D.O., graduates of Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine and Directors of the Foundation, in order to advance the work of the Center for Osteopathic Palpatory Diagnostic and Therapeutic Studies (known as CODES) under the leadership of center director, Brian F. Degenhardt, D.O., C-SPONM, C-OFP, assistant vice president for osteopathic research. The University has agreed to match the \$2 million gift in the same permanent endowment to help fund this important research.

*This endowment gift from the Foundation signifies the first time in history that the University has made such a commitment. The completion of a \$2 million gift from the Foundation in collaboration with a \$2 million match creates the University's largest research endowment.*

In 2001, the Still Research Institute was established with the mission to advance patient care and wellness through the development and support of premier osteopathic research. To achieve this mission, the Center was developed within the Institute and is directed by Brian Degenhardt, D.O., C-SPONM, C-OFP. One goal of the Center is to establish reliable, objective, and valid methods to evaluate and report the diagnostic and therapeutic value of palpation. Primarily through the consistent financial commitment to the Institute from the University, significant advances have been achieved in the Center's research and development.

Work performed at the Center is directly relevant to clinical skills, since this work includes establishing methodologies investigating the performance of osteopathic palpatory procedures performed by osteopathic physicians or students on real patients.

By partnering with the Foundation, matching resources will increase the effectiveness of this Center by facilitating the achievement of the following long-term goals.

- Determine the validity of the osteopathic palpatory diagnostic process and determine if there are objective structural changes associated with a therapeutic benefit from osteopathic manipulative treatment.
- Disseminate outcomes and the objective testing methodologies developed at this Center to osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal medicine researchers through training programs and certification processes so that future osteopathic clinical research utilizes reliable and accurate palpatory skills.
- Improve the skills of current clinicians utilizing osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal medicine so that their input into national databases regarding the use, observations, and outcomes associated with osteopathic palpatory diagnosis and treatment will be meaningful.
- Through the activity at this Center, advance the palpatory skills of future osteopathic physicians by incorporating throughout the profession's training programs instruments and protocols used to objectify palpation.



*The establishment of the  
Center for Osteopathic Palpatory Diagnostic and  
Therapeutic Studies (C.O.D.E.S.) will provide  
the necessary resources to conduct sustained,  
productive osteopathic research.*