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**National Awards for OU-COM Students, CORE Researchers**  
*CORE-supported research dominates ACOFP Research Competition*

**Athens, OH** – The American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians' 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and Exhibition became a showcase for research supported by the Centers for Osteopathic Research and Education (CORE).

Lisa Phelps, D.O., placed first among 15 resident competition posters with her case report, *"Dengue Fever —A Major Health Concern for World Travelers."* Phelps is a resident at Firelands Regional Medical Center.

Second-year student Christopher Selinsky received first place for his research poster, *"The Incidence of Nash in a Diabetes Center,"* and family practice fellow Amanda McConnell received second place for her research poster, *"The Prevalence of Disease in Soyapango, El Salvador."* Fourth-year student Lisa Light received first place for her case presentation, *"Congenital Melanocytic Nevus: A Case Report."*

"In recent months OU-COM/CORE students and residents have dominated the awards for research posters and papers at AOA events. These top honors advance that record," said D. Keith Watson, DO, FACOS. "CORE hopes this will challenge other OPTIs and colleges of osteopathic medicine to an ever higher expectation for trainee research education," Watson is the associate dean for graduate medical education at OU-COM and chairman of the CORE board.

Five OU-COM students – Selinsky, McConnell, Light, second-year student Patrick Nduaguba, and fourth-year student Melanie Bortell — presented five of the nine student posters at the conference, which took place in Denver, Colo., March 12 to 16.

CORE clinical professor Ron Russ, D.O. ('98), served as mentor for the case reports by Light and Bortell. The paper of the case presentation by Light and Russ has been accepted for publication in *Cutis*<sup>®</sup>, a peer-reviewed clinical journal for dermatologists, allergists, and general practitioners.

William Burke, D.O. ('88), director of Doctors Hospital Family Practice Clinic at Grove City placed second for his poster, *"The Value of Family Medicine Residency to an Academic Institution: Short-Term Gain, Long-Term Loss."* Burke and CORE clinical professor Donald Furci, D.O., represented two of the three faculty posters at the conference. Burke Furci received an honorable mention for his poster.

"All of the student and resident presentations were supported through the CORE Research Office," said Grace Brannon, Ph.D., CORE research director. "The research projects and case reports received many kinds of assistance as need or requested. This included seed funding for the research; methodological, statistical, and editorial support; poster editing and printing; as well as funding to attend the convention."

"We're so proud of our researchers," added Brannon.

Students at the CORE training sites distant from OUCOM and residents in CORE GME programs are supported by the CORE Research Office with research education, design, statistical analysis and editorial support as they learn research methods. Watson explained that this 'research education' function is designed to help young physicians learn or expand on research basics while completing a meaningful project. "Many of these projects have won top honors in competitions such as the ACOFP, the AOA Convention and the Annual Clinical Assembly of Osteopathic Specialists," Watson added.

"Research and research education are key initiatives in the CORE vision for 'raising the bar in osteopathic education'. The CORE board and the entire CORE membership congratulate each of these winners for a job well done," Watson said.

*The Centers for Osteopathic Research and Education (CORE) is a statewide medical education consortium including the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine and 19 teaching hospitals in Ohio, as well as other colleges of osteopathic medicine nationwide. CORE accommodates more than 500 postdoctoral trainees throughout more than 90 internship and residency programs. For more information, please visit our Web site at [www.ohiocore.org](http://www.ohiocore.org).*