A National Leader in Orthopaedic Surgery and Research

Dr. Stephen L. Kates is one of the nation’s top orthopaedic surgeons. He performs joint replacement and arthritis surgery of the hip, knee, and shoulder primarily for middle-aged and elderly patients, and cares for the elderly with fragility fractures and orthopaedic infections.

Kates’ goal for more than a decade has been to improve all aspects of care for geriatric fracture patients, which includes managing the continuum of care as part of the Geriatric Fracture Center. Since the program was founded in 2004 by Kates and geriatrician Daniel A. Mendelson, M.S., M.D., it has improved patient outcomes and become a model for other hospitals across the country. A hallmark of the Geriatric Fracture Center is its co-management of patients, by orthopaedic surgeons who repair fractures and collaborate with geriatricians, and by internal medicine specialists who focus on the overall health of patients.

He is also principal investigator on an ambitious research program designed to prevent, diagnose, treat, and better understand the basic science of orthopaedic infections, particularly the drug-resistant superbug, Methicillin–Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, known as MRSA. MRSA is now so pervasive that in 2008, it surpassed HIV as the leading cause of infectious death in the U.S. In the context of orthopaedic surgery, infections are rare and yet, when they do occur, they’re often serious, costly, and cause long-term health problems for patients. Failure rates to repair surgery-related bacterial infections approach 50 percent. Kates is also overseeing seven other research projects, each directed at combating infection.

Going forward, both private and government funding will continue to pump life into the Center for Musculoskeletal Research Center (CMSR), part of the University of Rochester Medical Center’s Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation. Endowed gifts for research opportunities are a particularly essential tool because they attract the best faculty and offer stability to the most promising scientists. As the National Institutes of Health’s second-ranked orthopaedics research team, the Department has become synonymous with better patient results through research. The new Kates Research and Faculty Fund in the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation will support a full time faculty member in the Department to conduct research that advances the care and treatment of musculoskeletal diseases.
Drs. Seth Zeidman and Eva Pressman are talented, dedicated, caring physicians who are making a significant impact on the lives of patients in our community, today, and for future generations.

In 2009, Zeidman had first-hand experience as a patient of Dr. Stephen L. Kates’ at Highland Hospital after a serious biking accident while riding along the Erie Canal. In addition to a broken arm and significant blood loss, he suffered a heart attack. Zeidman credits Kates, who cared for him that day, with discovering the heart attack, saving his life, and helping him regain his mobility in order to continue his career as a neurosurgeon.

The couple, who joined the University in 1999, is committed to supporting the pioneering work being done by in the Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation. Their ultimate goal is to fund the Department’s Stephen L. Kates Professorship, in which the Center for Musculoskeletal Research (CMSR) is ranked second in the nation in National Institutes of Health funding, ahead of Johns Hopkins and University of Pennsylvania.

The gift is meant to inspire additional gifts that, when added to Pressman’s and Zeidman’s commitment, would ultimately total at least $1.5 million, the amount required to create an endowed professorship in Kates’ honor.

What is a professorship?

Professorships recognize and foster excellence, and are among the most coveted and defining rewards that a faculty member can receive. They honor acclaimed leaders who perform groundbreaking research, mentor Ph.D. candidates and junior faculty, and attract talented medical students and residents. They also provide a dependable, uninterrupted source of funding for the work of our talented scientists, clinicians, and educators to focus on particular problems or issues, and spur advances in those areas.

Your gift to the Stephen L. Kates Research & Faculty Fund in Orthopaedics will help ensure that we continue to lead the nation in orthopaedic research and care.

If you are interested in contributing to the Stephen L. Kates Research & Faculty Fund in Orthopaedics, please call Peggy Martin, Senior Director, URMC Advancement at (585) 273-5946 or e-mail her at Peggy.Martin@rochester.edu