

Dr. James Beaty continues in proud tradition as new president of AAOS

Dr. James Beaty, chief of staff of Campbell Clinic and a member of the Board of Trustees of The Campbell Foundation, has been installed as president of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the nation's most prestigious provider of musculoskeletal education to surgeons and others in the orthopaedic field.

Dr. Beaty is the sixth Campbell Clinic physician to lead AAOS. The Academy was founded in 1932 by Dr. Willis C. Campbell, founder of Campbell Clinic, and he served as president of AAOS in 1933. Other Campbell Clinic physicians who have led AAOS are surgeons Harold Boyd, Hugh Smith, Rocco Calandruccio and Terry Canale.

"It is a privilege and an honor to follow in the footsteps of men who have been great mentors and role models for me," Dr. Beaty said. "Campbell Clinic has a long tradition of encouraging its physicians to actively participate in AAOS. We see it as a way of giving back."

A specialist in pediatric orthopaedics, Dr. Beaty joined Campbell Clinic in 1982. He is director of pediatric orthopaedics at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center and a former president of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America.

Dr. Beaty has been a member of AAOS since 1984. "I've served in a number of positions and built a knowledge base about the primary issues facing our

field, which should help me be effective in working on these issues," he said.

Physician education is likely to be a major issue during his term. "AAOS has always been proud of its leadership role in determining how physicians should learn," he said. "There have been a lot of changes, and it's time we took a look and asked if there is a better way. In the future, there may be less one-size-fits-all teaching in groups, and more self-assessment."

The AAOS will also be looking at complex questions regarding the on-call status of residents and surgeons during orthopaedic emergencies, as well as the proper role for AAOS in the introduction of new technology and new products.

Dr. Beaty anticipates a busy year traveling to AAOS headquarters near Chicago and to Washington, D.C., where he will meet with congressmen to advocate AAOS positions.

"Serving in this position is an opportunity to make a difference, to try to make the field of orthopaedics better for physicians and for patients," Dr. Beaty said. "AAOS has always served an important role in helping people in our field network and establish personal relationships. The more collaboration you see, the stronger we all are. Partnerships help us achieve the foremost goal of AAOS and all of us, which is to improve patient care."



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