

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 1, 2008
CONTACT: Sally Frank, Public Relations
(914) 584 6292
sfrankpr@optonline.net

ONS Celebrates Ten Year Anniversary of Merger that started National Trend to Combine Orthopaedics and Neurosurgery

GREENWICH, CT – On October 1, 1998, three medical practices in Greenwich merged to form Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery Specialists PC, known as ONS. Two of the practices were orthopaedic groups led by Seth Miller, M.D. and John Crowe, M.D. The third was the solo practice of neurosurgeon, Mark Camel, MD. The idea of a group composed of orthopedists and neurosurgeons was brand new, but to Drs. Miller, Camel and Crowe- colleagues at Greenwich Hospital- a practice made up of specialists to treat the full spectrum of musculoskeletal injuries and disorders made good sense. The biggest benefit would be to patients who could go to one source for diagnosis, treatment and follow up, instead of being referred from one practice to another to resolve a problem, which is often the case.

Today, ONS occupies the three-story building at 6 Greenwich Office Park on Valley Drive— and has a satellite office in Tully Health Center in Stamford, CT. The facilities include 38 exam rooms, digital x-ray, an MRI suite, a state-of-the-art fluoroscopy suite to perform therapeutic injections, and a full-service physical therapy clinic.

Ten years ago, the trend in orthopaedics and neurosurgery practices in major metropolitan areas was beginning to move towards sub-specialty care. After performing their residencies, many doctors were receiving advanced “Fellowship training”; one or two additional years of training within their field of study. Statistics were indicating that physicians who performed a greater number of a procedure or surgery, had the best success rates. Experts advised that if you need a hip replacement, it’s best to go to someone who has done hundreds of hip replacements rather than a general orthopedist who performs many different procedures, less frequently.

Discussion among the three Greenwich doctors about the concept of the combined practice began in fall, 1994, but it took four years to develop and implement the plan. Their practice model specified that all physicians have impeccable credentials and that they have advanced training from the most respected universities and teaching hospitals in the country. The founding doctors own training includes degrees

from Dartmouth, Cornell, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, Harvard and Washington University School of Medicine.

“We didn’t have a specific number of doctors in mind,” said Dr. Camel. “Instead, our focus was on the breadth of specialties we would cover and the quality of the physicians.” ONS opened with nine doctors and a staff of 30. They moved into 14,000 square feet on the first floor at 6 Greenwich Office Park.

“In our first ten years, we have more than doubled our services and the number of physician specialists in order to accommodate the needs of the growing population in and around Greenwich,” said Dr. Miller.

“Our combined orthopaedic and neurosurgery practice was literally the first of its kind. We have since spoken and met with many other groups around the country who wanted to understand our model and set up similar practices. {quote from another doctor}

Today, ONS has 18 physicians including four neurosurgeons, eleven orthopaedic surgeons and three non-surgical doctors. Within the team of physicians are specialists in the spine, shoulder, upper extremity, hand and wrist, hip and knee, foot and ankle, as well as joint replacement, physiatry, sports medicine and trauma. Doctors frequently work as a team. For example, if a patient comes in with hip pain and the joint specialist believes the problem actually emanates from the back, he can ask a neurosurgeon for an opinion on the spot without having to refer the patient to another doctor, which can take days or even weeks. Physicians use the latest technology to perform computer-assisted joint replacements, image-guided therapeutic injections, and can also offers patients treatment with Cyberknife®, a noninvasive, image-guided robotic surgery system for the removal of tumors. In total the ONS staff of over 90 serves more than 40,000 patient visits annually from the tri-state area.

Although most patients’ problems are successfully resolved with non-surgical, conservative methods, ONS specialists perform thousands of procedures each year including joint replacements, arthroscopic shoulder and knee surgeries, minimally invasive spinal surgery and complex spine, bone and even brain surgeries.

Sports medicine has become a special focus of ONS and a number of physicians have past and current affiliations with professional sports teams including the New York METS, Los Angeles Dodgers and Texas Rangers as well as local college and high school teams. Motivated by the reality that a large segment of the population wants to remain physically active well into their 60s, 70s and even 80s, doctors are called upon to help people maintain their strength and flexibility well into their senior years. Many advances, developed to address the demands of high performance professional and recreational athletes, are being applied to active people of all ages.

In addition to manning the practice with exemplary physicians, the founders wanted to create an environment with the patients’ comfort and convenience in mind. “At the center of our mission is providing care for our patients in a supportive and compassionate way from the first visit, through

diagnosis and recovery,” said Dr. Crowe. “This is a core value that is carried out, not just in the exam room or hospital, but by every person at ONS who interacts with patients.”

ONS physicians are proud that their patients receive personalized care, diagnostic and treatment expertise that is competitive with the most respected New York City practices. Now the practice also benefits from its association with the new ONS Foundation for Clinical Research and Education. Spearheaded by ONS sports medicine specialist Dr. Paul Sethi, the Foundation was established earlier this year to study and develop state of the art surgical techniques and treatment modalities as well as injury prevention programs.

“In our first ten years, we have successfully fulfilled our vision to create an orthopaedic and neurosurgery practice that is unsurpassed in the region,” said Dr. Miller. “Over the next ten years, we will be looking for new ways to help our patients maintain active healthy lifestyles, while we maintain the standards that have always set us apart.”

Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery Specialists PC (ONS) is the largest multi-specialty orthopaedic and neurosurgery practice in Fairfield and Westchester counties. For more information, please visit www.onsmd.com or call (203) 869 1145.

###