

8-6-2007

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### Recommended Citation

Chapman University Media Relations, "Researchers Receive \$500,000 Grant to Study Bone Health in OC" (2007). *Chapman Press Releases 2003-2011*. Paper 234.

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## Researchers Receive \$500,000 Grant to Study Bone Health in OC

### **Osteoporosis not confined to aging females, can strike anyone, researchers say**

**ORANGE, Calif.** Three Chapman University faculty members have been awarded a research grant for \$500,000 from the Irvine Health Foundation, entitled "Characterization of Bone Health in Orange County Residents." Frank Frisch, Ph.D., Scientific Director of the Chapman School of Education's Science Teaching and Research (STAR) Institute, has teamed with Fred Caporaso, Ph.D. and Kenneth Sumida, Ph.D., members of Chapman's Wilkinson College of Letters and Sciences, to identify populations of Orange County residents with osteoporosis. The three will develop comprehensive and specific strategies for treatment of the bone disorder.

Osteoporosis is not a disorder confined to the aging female, the researchers state, but is a multifaceted disorder that effects all age groups, operates across socioeconomic and racial lines and appears in both genders. It is a ubiquitous, complex and varied disorder.

The grant will fund Phase I of a three-part study. This phase, to be conducted over three years, will involve characterizing the bone health of specific groups, ranging from postmenopausal females to adolescents, mature males, female athletes and various ethnic populations.

Future phases will include the development of nutritional, exercise and pharmacologic strategies specifically for each group, and evaluation and testing to determine the efficacy of each strategy.

Interestingly, the three researchers come from varied scientific backgrounds. Caporaso is a food science and nutrition professor, and Sumida and Frisch are on the biological sciences faculty. Sumida's prior research has focused on chronic alcohol consumption and the differences between males and females on its impact on glucose production capacity in the liver, and he has partnered with Frisch on several studies of the effects of testosterone propionate on serum lipids.