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ONS Orthopedic Surgeon Mark Vitale, MD, Receives Award for Hand and Wrist Research

GREENWICH, CT – The American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH) has named **ONS (Orthopaedic and Neurosurgery Specialists) orthopedic surgeon Mark Vitale, MD, MPH** as the 2014 Ronald Linscheid-James Dobyns Excellence in Wrist Surgery honoree. The annual award honors the legacy of Drs. Linscheid and Dobyns, two pioneers of wrist surgery, by recognizing the best wrist research paper presented at the ASSH annual meeting. As the primary author of the winning manuscript, Dr. Vitale has been invited to present the Lincheid-Dobyns Excellence in Wrist Research Instructional Course at the 70th ASSH Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA in September, 2015.

Dr. Vitale's paper "Intra-articular Fractures of the Sigmoid Notch of the Distal Radius" was presented during the 2014 American Society for Surgery of the Hand Annual Meeting in Boston, MA. It examined a sometimes overlooked joint in the wrist which allow the forearm to rotate – the Distal Radioulnar Joint (DRUJ). The study sought to determine how fractures of the wrist involving the DRUJ cartilage surface may create risk for later arthritis of this joint and lead to disability in the upper extremity.

As winner of the award, and Chair of this Instructional Course, Dr. Vitale will receive a \$5,000 honorarium. Dr. Vitale plans to donate the honorarium to the ONS Foundation for Clinical Research and Education with the goal of furthering this research in future study. Dr. Vitale elaborates: "As hand and wrist specialists, we can treat arthritis of the wrist years after an injury that led to the condition. Ideally we want to identify if conditions exist that might lead to arthritis during our initial treatment of injuries. The study results are promising. They indicate that the DRUJ rarely becomes arthritic after wrist fractures, but given the relatively small sample size, the results must be interpreted with caution. Further work is necessary to better identify the effect of DRUJ incongruity on patient outcomes and the development of post-traumatic arthritis. We hope to continue future collaborations with other centers for wrist surgery in the country. The honorarium will go toward developing a research program at the ONS Foundation."

ONS is an advanced multi-specialty orthopedic and neurosurgery practice serving patients throughout Fairfield and Westchester Counties and the New York Metropolitan area. ONS physicians provide expertise in the full spectrum of musculoskeletal conditions and injuries, sports medicine, minimally invasive orthopedic, spine and brain surgery, joint replacement and trauma. For more information, visit www.onsmd.com, or call (203) 869-1145.