

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Susan M. Hendrix  
The American Orthopaedic Association  
Email: [hendrix@aoassn.org](mailto:hendrix@aoassn.org)  
Telephone: (847) 318-7481  
Website: [www.aoassn.org](http://www.aoassn.org)

**The American Orthopaedic Association Announces Participation In Preference Signaling**

*Rosemont, IL, March 30, 2022* - The American Orthopaedic Association (AOA) Executive Committee has endorsed participation of the orthopaedic surgery specialty in the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Supplemental ERAS® application for the upcoming ERAS 2022-2023 cycle, which includes preference signaling for orthopaedic surgery residency applicants.

Dr. Serena Hu, president of the AOA, said, "A signaling process for orthopaedic surgery residency applicants provides significant benefits during the selection process. A candidate's preference signal is an additional component for residency program consideration, among factors such as the applicant's academics, experiences, attributes, and contributions toward teaching and learning."

Led by the AOA's Council of Orthopaedic Residency Directors (CORD) Academics Committee (CAC) Chair Tessa Balach, MD, FAOA and CORD Workgroup Leads S. Trent Guthrie, MD, FAOA and Paul Dougherty, MD, FAOA, the AOA thoroughly researched and vetted the idea of program signaling and supplemental applications. "Our goal is to help students find the best orthopaedic residency programs. We also hope that preference signaling will help programs review applicants who have a genuine interest in their program and who may have otherwise been overlooked, especially with regard to overcoming barriers to equity, diversity, and inclusion in the residency application process" stated Dr. Balach.

Additional details will be communicated through the AAMC and the CORD/Academics Committee.

###

**About The American Orthopaedic Association**

*Founded in 1887, and the first orthopaedic association in the world, The American Orthopaedic Association is a small, select organization of elected orthopaedic leaders.*

*Membership in The American Orthopaedic Association is an earned membership that comes at the end of a stringent peer-reviewed process. Fewer than 10% of practicing orthopaedic surgeons have achieved AOA Membership. Members of The American Orthopaedic Association are referred to as Fellows of The American Orthopaedic Association (FAOA). This designation after a surgeon's name means that the surgeon has achieved recognition for exceptional accomplishments and leadership in the orthopaedic specialty.*

*Our programs are designed to provide leadership education for surgeons from residency through retirement. The AOA helps orthopaedic surgeons gain and enhance skills and concepts not taught during residency. This includes leadership development courses, content, and training for academic orthopaedists, and providing thought leadership on and solutions for critical issues facing the broad orthopaedic community. Find out more at [www.aoassn.org](http://www.aoassn.org), follow us on Twitter @aoa1887, or on LinkedIn.*

