

**NEWS RELEASE  
UNIVERSITY ORTHOPEDICS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Amy Zaffino  
401-435-4875 ex.215  
[azaffino@trainoronline.com](mailto:azaffino@trainoronline.com)

**University Orthopedic Physician to Head Amputee Research Project**

**Providence, RI -- March 14, 2005** - University Orthopedics Physician Dr. Roy K. Aaron has been appointed head of a major research project engaging in groundbreaking work with amputees and is applying these new technologies to help veterans of the Iraq War. The research will develop ways to improve the use of prosthetic limbs by stimulating tissue and cartilage growth and establishing a connection between the nervous system and the limb itself.

Although this project intends to conduct research for the benefit of the Iraq war amputees, the research will also benefit all amputees and enable them to discover a more functional and productive life. "These are people who have their whole lives ahead of them," said Dr. Aaron. "We owe a lot to them. This research will bring forth medical and technological advances that will change the lives of the people that they help."

Brown University in Providence has been selected by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs to head a research-based consortium. This groundbreaking project will bring five different research programs together; four of these programs will be conducted at Brown University and one will be conducted at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This consortium will focus on researching and creating breakthrough technology benefiting those who have suffered amputations due to injuries occurring during the Iraq War.

The research that will be conducted in this facility will be unlike any research that has come from the institution in prior years. The research will cover areas such as robotics, brain sensors, tissue engineering, melding tissue with metal, measuring outcomes and limb lengthening.

Dr. Michael Ehrlich, Brown's Chairman of Orthopedics and President of University Orthopedics, along with Dr. Aaron, will be researching limb lengthening. These doctors will research a way to lengthen the patient's limb to better fit a prosthetic. This process has already been used on children but will be further perfected for use on adults.

University Orthopedics, Inc. (UOI) is the state's largest group of orthopedic surgeons. Each physician on the University Orthopedics staff is a member of the Brown Medical School faculty. This allows the UOI physician to participate in new research opportunities and technological advances in the field of Orthopaedics. The research will improve the outcome of care for patients of University Orthopedics physicians.

###