



CANADIAN ORTHOPAEDIC  
RESEARCH SOCIETY

SOCIÉTÉ DE RECHERCHE  
ORTHOPÉDIQUE DU CANADA

**April 2020**

## **CORS POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The Orthopaedic Research Community is greatly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Clinicians and researchers share similar risks and challenges from both a personal and professional standpoint. Specifically, clinicians in the front line have an increased risk of contracting the virus and are currently not afforded the usual access in outpatient clinics and operating rooms to provide routine but essential orthopaedic care. Musculoskeletal care is particularly vulnerable due to practice restrictions due to the high volume of seemingly less urgent cases which make up a bulk of most orthopaedic practices. Furthermore, academic clinicians and researchers have restricted access to their laboratories, research staff and colleagues, subject recruitment and access to contemporary grant cycles which together represent an existential risk to the continuity of established and emerging musculoskeletal research programs.

The CORS executive strongly support the adoption of the musculoskeletal research themes related to the COVID-19 crisis to advocate for safe clinical care, highly relevant cutting-edge research and the security of musculoskeletal research programs of our members.

### *Clinician and Researcher Safety*

- What are the risks for COVID transmission in orthopaedic specific care and research activity i.e. bone drilling, burring/spine, arthroscopy, joint replacement, oncology, patient testing in a laboratory?
- What is the optimal PPE for orthopaedic surgical procedures?

### *Patient Care and Research*

- Safe screening of patients for elective surgery and study participation.
- Impact of surgical delay on disease progression, pain, disability and mental health.
- The timing of resumption of elective care and research activity.
- Planning and preparedness for future care and research during infectious disease outbreaks?
- The study of potential increases in domestic violence and non-accidental injury in children during social isolation
- A request for additional assistance from the granting agencies to support research programs disadvantaged by the pandemic.

### CORS Executive 2019-2020

Rizhi Wang, President

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