



Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children
Orthofix, Inc. Conference
November 12, 2009

Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (TSRHC) hosted 27 orthopedic surgeons and podiatrists from throughout the country on November 12, 2009, for a conference hosted by Orthofix, Inc. Drs. Mikhail Samchukov of TSRHC and Vladimir Schwartsman of Park City, Utah, trained the surgeons and podiatrists on the TRUE/LOK™ Ring Fixation System, a versatile, lightweight system that is designed to correct limb deformities, treat bone fractures and lengthen limbs using a simpler frame developed by TSRHC. At the conference, doctors received hands-on training and provided feedback about the surgical technique.

Since June 2008, Orthofix, Inc. and TSRHC have worked together in a 10-year exclusive license agreement to extend their collaborations to the global orthopedic market. Orthofix, Inc., develops, manufactures and distributes fixation devices for the \$350 million global external fixation market.

Researchers at TSRHC first developed the TRUE/LOK™ Ring Fixation System in 1993, which is a modified design of the device created by Dr. Gavril Ilizarov of Russia. Having studied under Dr. Ilizarov, researchers at TSRHC were able to create TRUE/LOK™, which is considered one of the most advanced circular fixators. In 2003, the hospital formed the Center for Excellence in Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction (CELLR), directed by Drs. John Birch and Mikhail Samchukov. The center focuses on improving current external circular fixation systems and distraction osteogenesis techniques. The center's 31 successfully completed research projects place the hospital in a leadership position in the field of limb reconstruction research and development in the United States and worldwide.

Orthofix, Inc. first obtained the rights to market TRUE/LOK™ in 2006. Since that time, the company and TSRHC have trained an extensive number of surgeons in the U.S. and around the world in the use of the device through both the hospital's training programs and the Orthofix Training Academy. TSRHC holds five U.S. and international patents on the TRUE/LOK™ system, and results of these accomplishments have been presented at more than 100 national and international meetings and published in 19 papers and more than 100 abstracts.

**View photos on the TSRHC photo gallery from this event at:
<http://www.tsrhc.org/photo-gallery.htm?gid=589>