

YONKERS HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE STUDENTS LEARN TO MEND BROKEN BONES

EVENT: Twenty-five students from Gorton High School in Yonkers, New York participated in a ground-breaking program at the Greenwich, Connecticut based Orthopaedic Foundation for Active Lifestyles (OFALS). Under the supervision of nationally renowned Orthopaedic surgeon and Greenwich resident Kevin Plancher M.D., these students learned how to bolt, pin together and insert supportive plates into broken forearms.

"This is one in a series of school-based community outreach education events hosted by the Orthopaedic Foundation for Active Lifestyles," said Kevin Plancher M.D., Chairman of the Foundation. "Broken limbs in active children is a common occurrence and so this provides a really useful hands-on opportunity to learn the skills needed to repair broken bones."

The students that attended the lab are members of the Independent Science Research Program at Gorton High School. With support from SUNY / Albany, the program affords students the opportunity to participate in the community of scientific research and scholarship as part of their high school experience. It furthers excellence in performance and achievement while drawing from the developing scientific capabilities in a broad spectrum of the student body. In keeping with the students' demonstrated abilities and the Foundation's high standards for such labs, the program educated the participants on current surgical techniques for repairing broken forearms. The students used actual surgical drills, plates and screws to mend broken bones in realistic but synthetic forearms.

Please note: These broken limbs are 'sawbone models' - synthetic parts of the body used by physicians and surgeons to practice the kind of skills these students will be learning.

The Lab reflects the Foundation's Mission of education in orthopaedics and sports medicine and further supports its goal of providing students with an understanding of surgical techniques and encouraging students to consider a career in medicine. The Orthopaedic Foundation for Active Lifestyles www.ofals.org, is proud to partner with Synthes Corporation and Pacific Research / Sawbones and received funding support from the Bert and Betsy Pulitzer Family and is honored to host Gene Wurth, President/CEO-Orthopaedic Research & Education Foundation.

The students were guided by Kevin Plancher M.D., the Chairman of the Board of the Orthopaedic Foundation for Active Lifestyles and a nationally renowned orthopaedic surgeon. Accompanying Dr. Plancher and assisting the students was Michael Schwartz M.D., Jessy Sekhon M.D. and Mary Ann Gardner M.D.