With Foundation’s support, Campbell’s historic residency program is among nation’s best.

Campbell Clinic will celebrate 100 years of orthopaedic practice in Memphis in 2009. Dr. Willis C. Campbell opened his practice in 1909 on Madison Avenue and went on to achieve national and international recognition as a pioneer in many areas of the young field of orthopaedics.

One of Dr. Campbell’s greatest accomplishments was the establishment of the nation’s first orthopaedic residency program. The Campbell Clinic program, established in conjunction with the University of Tennessee medical school, began in 1924 with four residents. The program enabled a select group of young physicians to continue their education and training in this emerging specialty.

Today, the Campbell Clinic-University of Tennessee Orthopaedic Residency Program, which is supported by The Campbell Foundation, ranks in the top eight percent of orthopaedic residency programs in the nation.

The following passage, published in The Campbell Journal: The Legacies and Legends of the Campbell Clinic, 1920-1941, documents Dr. Campbell’s conviction that specialized training is critical to the advancement of orthopaedics. In his presidential address at the annual meeting of the American Orthopaedic Association in Memphis in 1931, Dr. Campbell said:

“There should be an organized effort on our part to standardize the training of orthopaedic surgeons, which at present is entirely in the hands of the candidate himself. As is well known, there are no legal requirements regulating specialists in any field and many have entered the various specialties of medicine totally unprepared.

Those more conscientious have given sufficient time and study to the subject, but in the absence of proper guidance, their program and training is often unbalanced. Other specialties have made material advances by making definite requirements of a more systematic manner of training.”

Beginning as a three-year program, the residency program now encompasses five years of study and training focusing on the development of surgical skills, research, and unsurpassed patient care.

A total of 40 full-time residents participate in the program, with eight residents enrolled in each year’s class. More than 400 top medical school graduates apply annually for the eight open positions. The Clinic’s residency program has trained over 450 physicians practicing in the United States, Canada, South America and Europe.

Your support of The Campbell Foundation’s educational programs will help us prepare surgeons of the highest caliber to serve patients today and in the years to come.

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Graduates praise residency program

“When I began my residency at Campbell Clinic, the staff was the who’s who of orthopaedics, led by Chief of Staff, Dr. Spencer Speed. Then and now, the staff is recognized nationally and internationally for outstanding excellence.

— Dr. Robert Tooms, Campbell resident 1961-64

“With each passing year, I grow more appreciative of the invaluable training I received as a Campbell resident. The skills I learned and the friendships I made... have been most special to me throughout my 26 years of practice.”

— Dr. Charles Hubbard, Campbell resident 1978-81

“With a Foundation that provides such great support — from textbooks, journals, and supplies for research to seminars and presentations — this residency program is set apart from the others. I feel I’ve had the opportunity to learn from the best in the field... On behalf of the residents and fellows, thank you for your generous support and investment in our training. Nothing we have accomplished would have been possible without your support.”

— Dr. Matt Mayfield, Campbell resident 2003-07

Campbell Clinic Staff and Fellows, 1941