The IFOPA maintains a longstanding collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1989, Jeannie Peeper, founder of the IFOPA, collaborated with Drs. Michael Zasloff and Frederick Kaplan at the University of Pennsylvania to initiate the FOP Collaborative Research Project.

In 1991, The FOP Laboratory at The University of Pennsylvania was founded by Eileen M. Shore, PhD and Frederick S. Kaplan, MD.

In 1997, the Center for Research in FOP and Related Disorders was established by Drs. Kaplan and Shore, with the generous support of The Cali Family.

Today, the Center is led by Dr. Kaplan and Dr. Shore who work together with many post-doctoral fellows, scientists, students and staff. The IFOPA is proud to continue our long-standing relationship and support of the FOP Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania.

**International FOP Association’s Research Support at the University of Pennsylvania**

Funding basic research to grow knowledge of FOP and translational research to develop treatments and, one day, a cure for the disease are at the core of the IFOPA’s mission.

2016 Funding

- **Characterization of animal models for classic FOP**
  - Principal Investigators: Eileen Shore, PhD and Fred Kaplan, MD
  - IFOPA funding: $81,000

- **Developmental biology of FOP**
  - Principal Investigators: Eileen Shore, PhD and Fred Kaplan, MD
  - IFOPA funding: $72,000

- **Development of in vitro and in vivo models for FOP**
  - Principal Investigators: Eileen Shore, PhD and Fred Kaplan, MD
  - IFOPA funding: $106,000

- **Functional analysis of ACVR1 mutations in classic and variant FOP**
  - Principal Investigators: Eileen Shore, PhD and Fred Kaplan, MD
  - IFOPA funding: $81,000

- **HO initiation and progression: Biomechanical signaling in the tissue microenvironment**
  - Principal Investigator: Eileen Shore, PhD
  - IFOPA funding: $60,000

- **HO initiation and progression: Immune and injury response in FOP**
  - Principal Investigators: Eileen Shore, PhD and Fred Kaplan, MD
  - IFOPA funding: $40,000

- **Molecular mechanisms of endochondral bone formation in FOP**
  - Principal Investigators: Eileen Shore, PhD and Fred Kaplan, MD
  - IFOPA funding: $43,000

- **Pre-clinical drug testing in an FOP mouse model – RARγ agonist inhibition of heterotopic ossification**
  - Principal Investigators: Eileen Shore, PhD and Fred Kaplan, MD
  - IFOPA funding: $46,000

- **The role of hypoxia in early FOP lesions**
  - Principal Investigator: Fred Kaplan, MD
  - IFOPA funding: $25,000

An additional $330,000 was raised by family and friends of Ashley Martucci to support the FOP Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania during the years 2016 and 2017.