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For further information contact: Lynne Pratt  
Marketing Manager  
Rockford Orthopedic Associates, Ltd.  
815-381-7382 phone  
lynnep@rockfordortho.com

**Local Victim and Surgeon to Speak at National Press Club in  
Washington, D.C. on Dangers of Mobile Phone Usage and Texting While Driving**

**ROCKFORD, IL** April 6, 2011 ... The impact of a campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving will become even more meaningful when **Aaron Brookens**, 20, and orthopedic trauma surgeon **Marc A. Zussman** of Rockford Orthopedic Associates, address the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. at 9:30 this morning. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons will be hosting the press conference to launch its "Decide to Drive" campaign. ([www.decidetodrive.org](http://www.decidetodrive.org))

April is National Distracted Driving Month and also marks the one year anniversary since Brookens collided into the back of a semitrailer truck on Interstate 90/39 near Beloit while texting his girlfriend. The accident almost took his life and left him with serious injuries. Brookens and Dr. Zussman, who operated on Brookens' extensive lower extremity injuries after he was airlifted to Rockford Memorial Hospital, will provide personal testimony demonstrating the tragic impact of even the briefest distractions while driving.

Each year, an average of 500,000 people are injured in crashes caused by drivers making cell phone calls, texting, attending to children or pets, and even engaged in "innocent" distractions like adjusting the radio, retrieving a dropped item and drinking a cup of coffee while on the road. The "Decide to Drive" Distracted Driving Awareness Campaign will be a multimedia public service program including television, radio, and print advertisements to educate that these distractions are a significant threat to the safety of the driver, passengers, and others sharing the road.

As a board-certified surgeon, Dr. Zussman's practice at Rockford Orthopedic Associates is focused on trauma, and pelvic and limb reconstruction. He is a co-site Director for the Rush University Medical Center Residency Program in Rockford, and serves as a Clinical Professor at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

Rockford Orthopedic Associates, Ltd. serves the Northern Illinois region in multi-specialty orthopedics and offers a full range of orthopedic care including the specialties of podiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and rheumatology. Rockford Orthopedic offers the ancillary services of physical therapy, MRI, workers' compensation, prosthetics and orthotics, and an out-patient surgery center. #

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