



## Letter from the Chairman

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I would like to begin by extending my sincere congratulations to the editorial staff of the 2008-2009 University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal. The UPOJ, born from a commitment to distinguish our Department academically, has continued to be a great source of pride. Volume 19 is evidence of the extraordinary efforts and contributions of our residents who have collaborated to collect a valuable record of academic activity. The residents again have organized the sponsorship necessary to bring this publication to press. As such, I would like to acknowledge our industry colleagues whose support is most appreciated. The commitment of our residents to a quality academic publication through organization, creativity, collaboration and team work has continued to “raise the bar” for the future of the UPOJ.

One of the strengths of our program continues to be our orthopaedic surgery residency. Last July, we welcomed our newest class of eight residents to Penn. This group is arguably one of, if not the best, in the entire country. Our ongoing success in recruiting the highest caliber individuals continues to strengthen our program and set us apart as one of the preeminent training programs. The residents have also continued to excel academically as the program scored in the 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile of all programs on the Orthopaedic In-Training Examination.

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We have recently matched our new intern class who will join our family in July and I feel confident that we continue to build our reputation by having recruited another stellar class. These residents will follow in the footsteps of excellent individuals who have preceded them. **Jesse Torbert, MD**, a current fourth year resident, has recently been selected for the prestigious 2009 AAOS/OREF/AOA Clinician Scientist Development Program. **Harish Hosalkar, MD**, a current fifth year resident, is the recipient of the 2008 Vernon Nickel Award from the Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Association for his paper: “Surgical Treatment of Heterotopic Ossification: Predictors for Outcome.”

Our faculty has continued to be honored in both the research and clinical arenas. **Louis J. Soslowky, PhD**, was recently appointed to the Fairhill Endowed Professorship at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. **Robert L. Mauck, PhD** was recently recognized as the recipient of the 2009 American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Y.C. Fung Young Investigator Award. This is an outstanding accomplishment for an individual who is truly worthy of such an honor. His work with fellow researchers, faculty, residents, and students is absolutely exemplary. **John Dormans, MD**, Chief of Orthopaedics at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, has been elected into the Presidential line of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA) and will serve as President during 2009-2010.

In addition, I would also like to proudly welcome several new faculty members to the Department. **Drs. John Kelly** and **Fotios Tjoumakaris** joined the Sports Medicine Service this past September 2008. John joins us as an Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and spearheaded our medical school education initiatives immediately upon joining the department. John served as Vice-Chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery at Temple University and was an integral part of their sports medicine program and residency education. Fotios joins us as an Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery after having completed his residency at the University of Pennsylvania and sports medicine fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. Fotios then spent several years in private practice prior to returning to PENN to pursue his academic career. His energy, research interest, and clinical acumen have been welcomed by staff and residents. Both faculty members are excellent additions as they are fantastic physicians, educators, and individuals.

Time and change affect all of us, and our Department is not exempt. We are currently in the

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process of interviewing for a new Chairman for the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. In August 2008, **Richard Lackman, MD** announced his decision to step down as Chair of Orthopaedics as he was named the Director of the Sarcoma Center of Excellence and Associate Director for Patient and Family Services in the Abramson Cancer Center. We owe Dick a great amount of thanks for his tireless energy, dedication, guidance, and leadership. Dick will continue to serve as Director of the Residency Program. The chairman search committee, chaired by Dr. John Glick, has made good progress in identifying a number of excellent candidates and is almost complete. We anxiously await the remainder of the selection process and announcement of our future Chairman. We hope to have our new chairman in place by the end of the summer. During this transition period, I have been asked to serve as interim chair while continuing my clinical practice providing care for athletic knee and shoulder disorders.

As we are all aware, our lives are filled not only with joy and accomplishments, but also sadness and tragedy. Unfortunately, the PENN family has also experienced great tragedy in the past year. **Enyi Okereke, MD** was an integral part of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania for over two decades since 1987, both as a resident and an attending surgeon. Enyi passed away on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008 while serving his fellow man in Nigeria. Enyi had taken a one-year hiatus from his clinical practice to advance the medical conditions of his native countrymen. To quote Neil Sheth, MD who is one of our residents and who spoke at Enyi's Memorial Service, "if we have the good fortune of being able to touch the lives

of 1/1000<sup>th</sup> the number of people as Dr. Okereke has with such sterling character and grace, we will have lived our lives right". Many of us could not have stated our sentiments better. An OREF traveling fund for orthopaedic residents traveling abroad to aid underserved regions of the world is currently being established. Contributions can be directed to the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation in Dr. Okereke's name. Unfortunately, tragedy struck twice as **Fran Reilly** passed away unexpectedly on December 2, 2008. Fran was an integral part of the hand surgery service and was a long time employee of the Department, having been hired in 1990. She was an extremely devoted worker who worked tirelessly. Her positive attitude was always enjoyed and appreciated. Both Enyi and Fran will truly be missed!

As you can gather from this letter, our Department remains on a path of continued growth and achievement, while dealing with both change and tragedy. As an alumnus of the program, it is an honor to be part of the rich and significant history of the oldest free standing Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the nation. We are blessed with the best and brightest young residents in the nation as well as a dedicated faculty, strong staff and our many alumni.

I am sure it is clear that working with such outstanding and talented faculty members and residents is a distinct privilege. In closing, please accept my invitation to learn from and enjoy the 2008-2009 University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal.

--Brian Sennett, MD

