



Letter from the Chairman

L. Scott Levin, MD



It is now 21 months since I began my tenure as the Paul B. Magnuson Professor and Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania.

I have previously shared with you my vision for the future of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at The University of Pennsylvania based on the teachings of Jim Collins described in his book *Good to Great*. The lofty goal of going from good to great is what I described as my “BHAG” (big hairy audacious goal): becoming a “Top Five” Orthopaedic Department in five years. At the time, I wrote my first entry into the 2010 University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal, I had no data points on the curve that would demonstrate that this could be possible. Defining a goal is one thing. Reaching it is another. I am pleased to report that the rankings of the Department, according to *U.S. News and World Report* have improved from # 29 prior to my arrival, to # 14 in the country.

U.S. News and World Report Rankings for Departments of Orthopaedic Surgery	
2008 – 2009:	# 29
2009 – 2010:	# 25
2010 – 2011:	# 14

While some may argue that this is an arbitrary barometer, it does have weight and suggests by reputation and quality of patient care that we are at least going in the right direction. In addition to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania Department of Orthopaedic Surgery being ranked among the top 14 orthopaedic departments in the United States, in the McKay Lab under the directorship of Lou Soslowsky, our basic science partners and research scientists collaboratively have moved the Penn Department of Orthopaedics NIH ranking to #4 in the United States. This is up from #5 a few years ago. I have enjoyed the opportunity to watch these industrious researchers push the frontiers of science and achieve the recognition they deserve. This past year both Dr. Robert Mauck and Dr. Dawn Elliott were invited to Singapore to present their basic science research as invited guests (Dr. Elliott was the keynote speaker) of the 6th World Congress on Biomechanics. Dr. Elliott was also the seminar speaker at Singapore General Hospital and a plenary speaker at the Japanese Orthopaedic Research Association in Kyoto Japan in October 2010. This past January, 2011, Dr. Elliott was the Spotlight Speaker at the Orthopaedic Research Society meeting in Long Beach California. Dr. Ling Qin was an invited speaker at the 2010 International Conference on Osteoporosis and Bone Research in Shenzhen, China. She has also presented several seminars

locally, nationally and internationally. She was the recipient of the Alice L. Jee Memorial Young Investigator Award from the International Bone and Mineral Society and the Noa Schwartz Siris Research Award from the Paget, Bone and Cancer Foundations. Dr. Robert Mauck was promoted to Associate Professor of Orthopaedics and Dr. Eileen Shore to Professor of Orthopaedics – honors well-earned and deserved.

Continuing this pathway of research excellence, we have hired Dr. Sherry Liu from Columbia to join our research faculty. We were recently approved by Dr. Arthur Rubenstein to add an additional Ph.D. This research faculty expansion will help us to keep raising our rankings in musculoskeletal research in the United States.

The Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Disorders had another outstanding research symposium this year, attended by 180 scientists within and outside the Penn Campus. This spring we will honor Dr. Carl Brighton with an 80th birthday party, as a tribute to his commitment to surgical scholarship and science. All of you are invited to attend this.

I am pleased to say that the Department endorsed and encouraged the transition of Dr. Maurizio Pacifici from Thomas Jefferson University back to the University of Pennsylvania, specifically to the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr. Pacifici and his collaborators, Dr. Eiki Koyama, Dr. Masahiro Iwamoto and Dr. Motomi Enomoto-Iwamoto are considered faculty in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and we are pleased and honored to have them as part of our Penn Orthopaedic faculty. Our ties to CHOP continue to strengthen; Dr. John Dormans is a tremendous partner and asset to our mission.

We have engaged in an active clinical research program, and Annamarie Horan, Ph.D. was hired last spring and is working with all of the surgical sections to expand our clinical research efforts.

The clinical engine at the University of Pennsylvania Department of Orthopaedic Surgery has never been stronger. We have recruited into CPUP and the Department of Orthopaedics Drs. Keith Wapner and Wen Chao. Dr. Wapner is currently serving as President of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society and is a leader internationally in foot and ankle surgery. Dr. Chao, as his long standing partner, adds a dimension of expertise in care for the ballerina and women’s foot issues, and again is nationally and internationally recognized for her contributions to foot and ankle surgery.

We have initiated the DeForest Willard Alumni Society and at the AAOS this year we had a tremendous showing of almost 100 alumni that came to support the inauguration of our alumni group. The DeForest Willard Society is being modeled after the Piedmont Orthopaedic Society, and it is an opportunity for alumni to continue the camaraderie they develop during residency, reconnecting them with classes above and below them, as well as the entire Penn Orthopaedic alumni community. Proceeds from the Society will go towards supporting resident education and resident research and

hopefully lead to further creation of endowments to support the Department, despite our success in federally funded grants.

In the field of adult reconstruction, Dr. Eric Hume, a long-standing and well-respected practitioner in the Delaware Valley, has joined our ranks. Eric brings administrative skills and long standing clinical experience to the Department. He also will be leading some of our quality assurance efforts at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. There is currently a search underway for a director of Adult Reconstruction, and this position will be filled shortly.

My previous communication described my plans for the Human Tissue Laboratory. This is a learning facility not only for Orthopaedics, but also for the entire institution. It will serve as a fresh cadaveric research center that will appeal to not only our residents and faculty, but be able to provide a platform and a beautiful venue for CME, for our alumni as well as surgeons from the Northeast corridor. We have had several inquiries from industry that want to use this laboratory for product development and teaching. I believe this will be the greatest single educational resource that we will have added in quite some time. You are all welcome to use the laboratory at any time if anatomic questions develop. If you want to brush up on procedures, don't hesitate to contact me.

Dr. Craig Israelite has done a tremendous job in our resident education. Our resident awards through the AOA, the OREF and other national organizations continue to be overwhelming totaling nine awards for 2010. Scholarly activities amongst the residents included a total of 111 research publications, 12 book chapters and 99 abstract presentations at national and international conferences. We did extremely well in the match last year, and we had no less than 800 applications for 8 positions, interviewing almost 80 men and women with a large diverse work force as potential applicants to our residency.

Plans are underway to start building the Penn Orthopaedic Institute, which will be part of a \$200 million dollar investment that will include new clinic space, operating rooms and outpatient surgery areas that will be built on the Presbyterian campus.

In 2010, we completed an affiliation agreement with Bay Health in Dover, DE. The University of Pennsylvania Department of Orthopaedics is expanding its reach around the Delaware Valley. Hopefully, in the next year or so, we are going to be sending residents to Bay Health to provide a private sector experience for them with superb practitioners, several of whom trained at Penn. These include: Steve Tooze and J. Hamilton Easter.

Our presence at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania continues to increase. Our trauma team, led by Dr. Samir Mehta, works many days around the clock, providing the best in orthopaedic trauma care along with our Trauma Department partners at HUP.

We have been blessed this year with a variety of visiting professors that have included: Dr. Ricardo Pietrobon (Duke), Dr. John Sperling (Mayo), Dr. Marc Philippon (Steadman-Philippon Research Institute), Dr. Thomas Thornhill (Brigham and Women's Hospital), and Dr. Mohit Bhandari (University of Toronto).

I want to particularly acknowledge our clinical outcomes as it relates to our adult reconstruction program. Penn Orthopaedics had the lowest infection rate in the Delaware

Valley. Penn Presbyterian Medical Center won the 2010 Delaware Valley Healthcare Council's Patient Safety Award. This award recognizes healthcare professionals whose innovative approach to patient safety has advanced that cause dramatically within their own organizations. Winners of this award have worked to ensure their innovations can be duplicated by other hospitals and health care systems, thus enhancing the safety of patients beyond their own doors.

Perhaps the most exciting news is the fact that the Department of Orthopaedics in partnership with the Institute of Transplantation at Penn, and the Division of Plastic Surgery, is now poised to perform Penn's first hand and upper extremity transplant. Penn will join only a few institutions in the country and will be the only program in the Delaware Valley to have a composite tissue allotransplant hand transplant program. The media coverage of this has been fair and positive, and the entire institution is buzzing about this potential new frontier in reconstructive surgery that is being led by the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. I want to acknowledge David Steinberg and David Bozentka for being part of this team. We hope that at the time of publication that this will be a reality.

Finally, there are always transitions in personnel and leadership with people coming and going into an institution. Dr. Arthur Rubenstein who recruited me to Penn will be stepping down after ten years as Executive Vice President and Dean. You may know that he won the Abraham Flexner Award last year and is considered the "Dean of Deans" in the United States. He will be replaced by Dr. Larry Jameson, who is an M.D., Ph.D. endocrinologist from Northwestern. Dr. Jameson is enthusiastic about his new position. I know that he will find a strong and capable clinical and research faculty, who will continue to lead Penn during this time of transition.

I am committed to continued excellence across all missions: clinical care, education and research. I am no longer the "new guy on the block", having been followed as a new chair by a new chair in Ophthalmology, and a new chair in Dermatology. Several searches are underway for other chairs such as in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Pathology. I am part of Penn and it is part of me now. It is my home and you represent my family. I trust that this next year will again bring recognition, accomplishments, superb patient care, scientific discovery and continued education that makes us among the best, if not the best program in the country.



Penn Ortho hand team presenting at the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand In Seoul, South Korea (November 2011) as part of international panel on nerve compression