



Letter from the Program Director

Craig L. Israelite, MD



It is with great pleasure, pride, and honor that I provide an update of the current University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program for this academic year. This past year as Residency Director has been one of the most fulfilling and exciting during my many years of clinical practice.

Last year culminated with our annual graduation dinner in which faculty and many former residents were in attendance. Our program will once again be represented in some of the most prestigious fellowships available. All eight graduating residents went on to do further training at the following fellowship programs.

Dr. Derek G. Dombroski is doing a trauma fellowship at Parkland Health Systems/University of Texas-Southwestern, while Dr. James S. Melvin is also doing a trauma fellowship at the Carolina Medical Center. Dr. Julia A. Kenniston is doing a hand fellowship at Brown University. Dr. Nirav K. Pandya is doing his pediatric fellowship at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego. Sports Medicine garnered three of our graduates with Dr. Stephan G. Pill at Steadman-Hawkins Carolinas Sports Fellowship, Dr. Jonathan Van Kleunen at the Mississippi Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center, and Dr. Meira Yeger-McKeever at Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. All eight graduating residents did a superlative job and we have no doubt that they will represent the University of Pennsylvania well and continue with very strong and fulfilling careers. As always, the program was under the capable resident leadership of our two academic chiefs whose hard work and skills enabled us to achieve continued outstanding success. A special thanks goes out to Drs. Pandya and Pill who provided such capable leadership skills. Although they could never be replaced, our current chief residents, Drs. Andrew Kuntz and Derek Donegan have continued the strong history of outstanding chief residents and continue to perform in an exemplary manner.

A short synopsis of academic success will hopefully give you an idea of how prolific our residents have been. There have been 111 resident research publications with 12 resident book chapters. Abstracts at national and international conferences totaled 99. Special recognition is for the following resident awards, which were again quite numerous include the following.

The Vernon Nichol Award at the ORA meeting in 2009 went to Drs. Derek Donegan and Keith Baldwin. The second prize for their presentation at Pennsylvania Orthopaedics Society in 2009 went to Drs. Derek Donegan, Nic Gay, and Keith Baldwin. The Young Investigator presentation at AAOS/ABJS/ORS Musculoskeletal Health Care disparities research symposium was given to Dr. Atul Kamath and Gabe Horneff. The Jacqueline Perry Research Award at 2010 AAOS annual meeting went to Drs. Surena Namdari and Amun Makani. The outstanding scientific e-poster at POSNA was co-authored by Dr. Keith Baldwin. Third place presentation at Philadelphia Orthopedic Society was awarded to Drs. Min Jung Park and Amit Patel. Additionally, Dr. Roshan Shah was awarded first place and Dr. Mara Schenker second place in the basic science competition at the ORS/OREF Resident Research Symposium. The Jacqueline Perry research award at the 2011 AAOS annual meeting was awarded to Dr. Surena Namdari.

One of the stellar performances this past year included sponsored participants at the AAOS/ORS/OREF Clinician Scientist Development Program, in which there were four residents from Penn selected to participate (out of a total twelve selected across the country). The following residents were awarded this prestigious honor: Drs. Oke Anakawenze, Atul Kamath, Surena Namdari, and Mara Schenker.

Therefore, in summary, the resident program remains strong as ever under the stewardship of Dr. L. Scott Levin, MD. Further expansions of academic and clinical rotations are underway. At our recent interviews for upcoming residency there were almost 800 applicants for 8 spots of the finest young physicians in the country. I have no doubt that the next year's update will be as strong as ever.