



# The 8th Annual Raymond G. Tronzo Lectureship



University of Pennsylvania  
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery Grand Rounds  
October 6, 2011

Guest Lecturer: Thomas P. Vail, MD  
Professor and Chairman, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery  
University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

Covered By: Stephen Y. Liu, MD



Dr. Thomas P. Vail

The University of Pennsylvania Department of Orthopaedics was pleased to have Dr. Thomas P. Vail as the distinguished guest of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Raymond G. Tronzo lectureship.

Dr. Raymond Tronzo, a native of Punxsutawney, PA, received his BS and MA from Penn State. After graduating medical school at Jefferson Medical College he completed his orthopaedic training under the mentorship of doctors Anthony DePalma and John Royal Moore at the Philadelphia General Hospital. He was appointed Chief of Orthopaedic surgery at the Medical College of Pennsylvania before joining the Orthopaedics staff at the University of Pennsylvania in 1968.

As a pioneer, innovator, and educator Dr. Tronzo established the first hip clinic at HUP in 1971 and published what many consider the first textbook of the hip titled *Surgery of the Hip Joint*, a pre-eminent work of its time. Dr. Tronzo's acclaim permeates the orthopaedic community not only from his written work, but through his design of the Tronzo prosthesis, which utilized press fitting and a sintered surface to provide enhanced biologic fixation through bone growth in an era that pre-dated cement. It was perhaps the first device of its kind in the United States.

Despite his renown, Dr. Tronzo was perhaps best known to the Department of Orthopaedics at the University of Pennsylvania for his excellence as a surgeon and passion as a teacher. In 2003, the Tronzo lectureship was founded by Dr. Tronzo and his wife, Diana, to bring leaders in arthroplasty to the University of Pennsylvania as a stage to exchange ideas and provide an unmatched resident educational experience.

This year's invited speaker, Dr. Thomas P. Vail, was an obvious choice to be the speaker at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Raymond G. Tronzo lectureship. As the Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedics at the University of California in San Francisco and Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Dr. Vail stands alongside Dr. Tronzo as an exemplary surgeon dedicated to research,

resident education, and innovation. He has published hundreds of abstracts, articles, and book chapters. He has quickly risen through the ranks of the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons and was recently named a member of the prestigious American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. He was personally sought after and recruited to his current position by Dr. Kessler, once commissioner of the FDA, to take the helm of one of the nation's premier academic Orthopaedic programs.

His background as a mechanical engineer drives his research interest in hip and knee biomechanics, biomaterials, as well as cartilage restoration. He has an unparalleled passion for healthcare delivery, outcomes measurement, and the use of conservative hip reconstruction options in younger patients. His dedication and enthusiasm for total patient care in orthopaedic arthroplasty and understanding of future healthcare limitations provides powerful insight for tomorrow's orthopaedic surgeon.

During the first half of Dr. Vail's visit he tentatively listened to resident case presentations about complicated hip and knee revisions, metal-on-metal arthroplasty, and periprosthetic fractures. His feedback emphasized the importance of pre-operative preparation, appropriate skeletal fixation, and the balance between constraint and functionality. He also discussed the current evidence surrounding management of post-operative pain in patients with Metal-on-metal hip implants.

Dr. Vail's grand rounds lecture titled "A Case Study in Quality: Unicompartmental Knee Replacement" comprised the second half of his visit. He shared many pearls from his extensive experience as an arthroplasty surgeon, particularly championing the critical value of monitoring one's individual experience and its utility when making treatment decisions. He emphasized the necessity to explicitly define quality measurements and the importance of transparency.

His trip was concluded with a tour of the Penn Orthopaedic Human Tissue Laboratory, the second of its kind, where he demonstrated his approach to the hip on a fresh frozen cadaver to attendings and residents alike.

We are truly grateful to Dr. Vail for spending time to share his experiences and insights with the Penn Orthopaedic program, and for honoring the memory of Dr. Raymond Tronzo.