



Letter from the Chairman

L. Scott Levin, MD, FACS



The past academic year has marked a tremendous period of growth for Penn Orthopaedic Surgery. Of the 23 department chairs, I am no longer the “new kid on the block.” My recruitment has been followed by new department chair recruits in ophthalmology, emergency medicine, oral surgery, dermatology, neurology, radiology, and physical medicine and rehabilitation. Despite the changes in health care economics, influence of the

Federal and State Government on health care legislation and funding, reimbursement with third-party payers and insurance companies, Penn Medicine has remained strong, and Penn Orthopaedics is yet again stronger compared to this time last year.

The concepts of Jim Collins - hoping to bring a very good department to greatness - continue to influence my thoughts as leader of Penn Orthopaedics. This year has been a time of key faculty recruitment both in the McKay Orthopaedic Research Laboratory with the addition of a third PhD scientist since 2009, and the recruitment of Dr. Kristy Weber, former Professor of Orthopaedics at Johns Hopkins University who was recruited to Penn to become the new Director of Orthopaedic Oncology, Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs, and have a leadership role in the Sarcoma Program at the Abramson Cancer Center. With the support of the ACC and the Abramson family, we have been able to provide an endowed chair for Dr. Weber who is deserving of this honor.

Dr. Weber will be joined this academic year by Drs. Andrew Kuntz, Keith Baldwin, Derek Donegan and Neil Sheth. All of these faculty members were prior Penn orthopaedic residents. Drs. Kuntz, Baldwin and Donegan started their faculty positions this past August and have had a huge impact on teaching, education, and research within the department. Dr. Sheth started this past September and has already made an impact on our global health program. Neil has also been granted a senior scholar position at the Leonard Davis Institute and serves as Director of Joint Replacement Surgery at the VA Hospital.

Further growth in the department of spine surgery has occurred with the appointment of Dr. Harvey Smith. Just over a year after Dr. Vincent Arlet (Chief of Spine Surgery) arrived, we have been fortunate to recruit Dr. Smith, continuing our trend of appointing surgeon-scientists to join our faculty. Dr. Smith comes from the New England Baptist Hospital in Boston, MA, where he had a thriving practice. His desire to be in a more academic institution has allowed us to recruit him to Penn Medicine and he will assume the role of Assistant Professor on the clinical educator track, he will also serve as the Director of the VA Spine Service.

Our most exciting news is the initiation of construction of the Penn Center for Advanced Care, a facility which will house the Penn Musculoskeletal Institute. The new Penn Shock Trauma hospital is also under construction. Our Musculoskeletal Institute groundbreaking ceremony for this was held this past fall. These new

homes of Penn Orthopaedics will provide bookends on the western and eastern part of the city with a full complement of orthopaedics at Pennsylvania Hospital and at the new facilities at PPMC.

This January 2013 marked a significant milestone in the history of the department. The 3B Orthopaedic Group, which had been part of the Penn Health System but not part of CPUP or the Department of Orthopaedics, has departed from the Penn health system to a different health system. Under Pennsylvania Hospital CEO Michael Buckley, we have been embraced. All orthopaedic specialties are represented at Pennsylvania Hospital, and we have expanded our operative and leadership roles there considerably. We have moved into the first floor Cathcart space, and transformed the clinic into a model for musculoskeletal medicine with implementation of our EPIC Medical Record System, providing efficient, cutting-edge clinical care.

Our Press Ganey scores within the health system, particularly at HUP, have gone “through the roof” in a positive way. I would like to recognize Lori Gustave, (COO), Fabian Marechal (Director of Service Line Operations), and Jasmine Kain, (Chief Operating Director and Practice Manager) for implementing quality care improvement measures along with our support staff. Our patients are greeted with a smile and courteous dialogue, which ultimately results in a better experience for them at Penn Medicine and Penn Orthopaedics.

The strength of our institution, and moreover our department, is that we maintain a passionate commitment to our research mission. While many academic departments and private enterprises are hiring physicians for the purpose of providing primarily patient care; we are able to hire individuals who not only provide superb patient care, but have dedicated time to contribute to our educational and research missions in our operating rooms, our conference rooms and most importantly promote orthopaedic science in our research laboratories. Drs. Sheth, Kuntz, and Baldwin have all submitted research grants to the VA and to the OREF for faculty development, which has been encouraged by Dr. Soslowsky and myself in order to support their academic careers and the research mission of the department. Despite declining rates for reimbursement, our clinical enterprise remains strong.

As testimony to our robust academic orthopaedic mission, our ORS performance remains outstanding. There were 35 ORS abstracts presented at this year's ORS meeting amongst Dr. Lou Soslowsky, Dr. Rob Mauck, Dr. Ling Qin and Dr. Sherry Liu. Dr. Lou Soslowsky was also honored for his Spotlight presentation, and Dr. Qin's group received a New Investigator Recognition Award. The McKay Orthopaedic Research Laboratory and Dr. Lou Soslowsky, are currently ranked #5 in the nation in terms of NIH funding, with four additional VA Merits, and four more in review. Our further academic performance at the 2013 AAOS included several instructional courses lectures and multiple podium presentations by faculty and residents. We have further hired a database information technology manager, Dexin Li, to continue to help our clinical research efforts with a Penn Orthopaedic database.

This year in the Human Tissue Laboratory we have hosted the Foundation of Orthopaedic Trauma course, the hip International Congress for Joint Reconstruction course, the Face and Hand Transplant course for the American Society of Reconstructive Transplantation, and a number of other CME and industry sponsored courses. These education programs only begin to demonstrate the huge educational boom to Penn Orthopaedics provided by the Human Tissue Laboratory. Next May, we are proud to host an AAOS course within the Penn Human Tissue Laboratory facilities.

Our hand program continues to expand with development of new technologies for vascular disorders of the upper extremity, microsurgery, brachial plexus, and modern non-operative management of conditions such as Dupuytren's disease as well as other disorders. Highlights within our divisions include international presentations by Dr. David Bozentka, Dr. David Steinberg and myself at the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand in India. The hand transplant program continues to thrive with our team effort and national leadership in this unique focus of transplant medicine, and was recently highlighted on ABC Nightline. We have further instituted a number of new clinical programs based on our surgical innovations in order to give us an edge both regionally and nationally. We have performed our first vascularized fibular graft to the hip for avascular necrosis. This procedure was popularized by my mentor Dr. James Urbaniak at Duke, and has allowed our microsurgical armamentarium to expand. Dr. Urbaniak was present for our inaugural case in a 26-year-old lawyer who had Stage III AVN and was treated with a vascularized fibula and continues to do quite well.

Our sports medicine department has recently been granted approval by our Dean, Dr. Larry Jameson, to establish a Type I center - the Penn Cartilage Center under the direction of Dr. Jim Carey. This provides a tremendous opportunity for us to have a recognized center of excellence within our ranks. The department is dedicated to cartilage disorders and this center will link our tissue engineering research led by Dr. Robert Mauck and others, to our clinical enterprise. We will be hosting our second annual cartilage symposium with international faculty this spring.

Our spine program continues to flourish under Dr. Vincent Arlet and is now attracting patients from the Caribbean as well as the Middle East because of Dr. Arlet's international reputation. The collaboration with CHOP and our neurosurgery colleagues has been outstanding. This clinical recognition and multi-disciplinary cooperation will only continue to flourish with the addition of Dr. Harvey Smith.

Our adult reconstructive program has expanded and we have recruited Dr. David Nazarian to join us. Dr. Nazarian is a regional expert in hip and knee replacement and has a well established practice. His role in education and clinical care will add a tremendous amount to our adult reconstruction group. My tenure began with three total joint surgeons and now we have seven.

The foot and ankle division continues to thrive under Keith Wapner's direction. Over the past eight months the program has had two peer-reviewed publications, five book chapter publications, nine national lecture presentations and international lecture presentations in China, Thailand, Germany, England and the Netherlands. Dr. Wapner and Dr. Chao serve as reviewers for Foot

and Ankle International, the official journal of the American Foot and Ankle Society. Furthermore, Dr. Wapner serves as a reviewer for the JAAOS, JBJS, CORR and the American Journal of Sports Medicine, as well as serving as the past president of the American Orthopedic Foot and Ankle Society, a member of the Managerial Board of Foot and Ankle International, and a member of the American College of Surgeons Advisory Council for Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Chao acts as the Foot and Ankle consultant for the Philadelphia Ballet Company.

The orthopaedic trauma and fracture service recently added Dr. Derek Donegan to its complement, bringing the number of operative orthopaedic trauma and fracture surgeons to four. Dr. Donegan has quickly developed a robust trauma and fracture practice at Pennsylvania Hospital. The trauma and fracture service continues to serve all three missions via outstanding clinical, research, and educational contributions. The trauma faculty serves in leadership roles in several orthopaedic academic organizations including MSIS, OTA, AOA, AAOS, as well as several journals including JBJS, CORR, JOT, COP, JAMA and NEJM. The practice continues to expand to include a wider breadth of clinical services including deformity correction, limb lengthening, surgical hip dislocations, and complete periprosthetic fracture management. In addition, the service continues to participate in several multi-center, multi-national prospective studies and has obtained federal and foundation funding for its own studies.

Our relationship with CHOP both on the research side, under the direction of Dr. Maurizio Pacifici, as well as the clinical side with Dr. John Dormans has never been stronger. CHOP's orthopaedic faculty continues to expand and is currently comprised of 21 providers, including 18 specialty trained pediatric orthopaedic surgeons (13 operative and 5 non-operative), and 3 pediatricians with sports medicine training. The CHOP faculty addition this year is Keith Baldwin, MD, MSPT, MPH, who completed his clinical fellowship at CHOP in 2011-2012. CHOP has also recently developed a partnership with Virtua Hospital to provide pediatric services at Virtua's facilities in Voorhees and Mount Holly. CHOP Orthopaedics currently has 4 clinical fellows, 4 research fellows, 2 medical students doing a year-long research fellowship, and multiple visiting international scholars. The CHOP Division of Orthopaedic Surgery is currently conducting 93 ongoing, active clinical research and basic science projects. Investigators within the division have been awarded funding from both internal and external sources to conduct these studies. In the past two years, the division has published over 100 articles in major orthopaedic journals. In addition to clinical research, the Orthopaedic Basic Research Program, led by Maurizio Pacifici, PhD, has contributed to research initiatives related to a number of skeletal pathologies, including Multiple Hereditary Exostoses (MHE).

Since Dr. Keith Baldwin's appointment, he has rekindled the legacy of Dr. Mary Ann Keenan in the unique field of neuro-orthopaedics. Dr. Baldwin is dividing his time between CHOP and the adult service at HUP and is providing excellent care for patients with spasticity, spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury.

Our shoulder and elbow group has been joined by Dr. Andrew Kuntz who is leading shoulder research efforts both clinically and experimentally. The service has 10 publications and 14 abstracts

presented nationally and internationally. Dr Huffman was inducted into the ASES and served as a moderator for the AAOS and served as member of the AAOS Shoulder and Elbow Subcommittee. Dr Huffman also had the privilege of participating in the Japanese Traveling Fellowship program this past year. Dr Glaser served as the AAOS course chair, as well as a moderator for the AOA and AAOS.

On a personal note, I have had the opportunity to visit a number of institutions as a visiting professor this past year including: St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, PA; Mount Sinai in NYC; UC Irvine, CA; Penn State Hershey Bone and Joint Institute, PA; Medical University of South Carolina, SC; UC San Francisco, CA; and the University of Utah, UT as the graduation speaker. I am currently serving as World Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery president and was elected to the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons. I served as the American Society for Reconstructive Transplantation president and was reelected to the American Society for Surgery of the Hand counsel and to the AOA nominating committee.

We have embedded non-operative physicians, Dr. Kate Temme and Dr. John Vasudevan into our Sports Medicine and Spine Clinics creating an integrative musculoskeletal care delivery model, which will be essential in our new institute. Our orthopaedic anesthesia colleagues have also continued to provide excellent regional care, and a number of outstanding initiatives and peer-reviewed papers have occurred in collaboration with the anesthesia department.

Our senior faculty have always deserved recognition. Dr. Marvin Steinberg continues to be an effective senior statesman for Penn Orthopaedics and is involved in a number of projects that include his continued interest in osteonecrosis. He has presented papers regionally and internationally on this topic. Dr. Steinberg is active in local and international medical organizations. He is the Chairman Elect of the Girdlestone Orthopaedic Society and Program Chair for the Annual Meeting of the Association for Research on Circulation in Bone (ARCO). He is a consultant reviewer for JBJS and other medical journals and member of the Grant Evaluation Committee of the OREF. Lastly, he still continues to participate in medical student education and teaching on a monthly basis. Dr. Bruce Heppenstall has stepped down in his operative role and continues to practice non-operatively. Dr. Heppenstall has been part of Penn

Orthopaedics for 40 years and we will be raising an orthopaedic endowed chair for him to recognize his contributions and legacy.

As I look at almost four years of my tenure, I do believe that we are going from "good to great." The strength of our faculty, the commitment to our research mission and our educational efforts has never been stronger. We have recently added Drs. Samir Mehta and Jaimo Ahn as our educational program directors consortium under the leadership of Dr. Craig Israelite. We are further growing our educational program with the addition of two ACGME Sports Fellows starting in July and an additional joint fellowship position. This year we had over 800 applicants and we interviewed 84 for the match. Our current interns who matched into our program last June 2012 are as follows: Jason B. Anari, MD, (UNDNJ/RW Johnson), Tyler R. Morris, MD, (Drexel University) Alexander L. Neuwirth, MD, (UNDNJ/RW Johnson), Philip A. Saville, MD, (University of Leicester), Michael T. Talerico, MD, (Saint Louis U. SOM), Nathan A. Wigner, MD, (Boston University) and Chase Woodward, MD, (Northwestern University).

Our June 2013 graduating residents all matched into fellowship programs at the following institutions: Dr. Eileen Crawford (Sports Medicine) at the University of Michigan; Dr. Andre (Nic) Gay (Foot and Ankle) with Roger Mann, MD, in Oakland, CA; Dr. Jason Hsu (Shoulder and Elbow) Washington University, St. Louis, MO; Dr. Tae Kim (Orthopaedic Oncology) Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Dr. Amun Makani (Sports Medicine) Massachusetts General Hospital; Dr. Min Park (Hand and Upper Extremity) Robert A. Chase Hand Center at Stanford University; Dr. Amy Sewick (Sports Medicine) University of California, Los Angeles; and Dr. Roshan Shah (Reconstructive Arthroplasty) Rush University.

As we approach the end of my fourth year of my first six-year term, I have never been professionally happier. It is humbling to lead such an erudite and distinguished group of men and women in our quest for excellence in musculoskeletal care and orthopaedic surgery. Across all missions, our institution is strong, our leadership determined, and to quote Dr. Amy Gutmann, "Penn is going from excellence to eminence." I feel part of this quest and hope you believe after what I have shared with you, that we continue our evolution from Good to Great and from Excellence to Eminence!