



Recent Changes in the University Of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Residency Program



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The University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program has seen many significant changes over the last several years, all which have focused on excellence in education and developing Orthopaedic surgeons that are committed to outstanding patient care.

In 2015, the program moved the majority of faculty offices and primary location from the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania to Penn Medicine University City where musculoskeletal medicine was consolidated under one roof. At this location Musculoskeletal Radiology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Physical Therapy, Pain Management and Rheumatology provide integrative patient care as the flagship of the musculoskeletal and rheumatology service line. This same facility houses the Biedermann Biomechanics Laboratory and The Human Motion Lab where the department has contributed significant resources to Orthopaedic Research, many of which involve orthopaedic residents and fellows.

Faculty growth has expanded exponentially over the last several years with the addition of new faculty surgeons in hand, spine, tumor, joints, sports, foot & ankle and shoulder. This provides the residents with a diverse and comprehensive experience in every orthopaedic specialty. To meet this new need and allow residents to work with superb educators, the department has also expanded the midlevel providers significantly including the first inpatient PA in the department providing care for the arthroplasty service. This has streamlined patient care and improved the inpatient experience for both patient and providers alike.

The human tissue laboratory has become a foundation for Penn resident education and allows medical students, residents as well as attending physicians to receive advanced surgical training utilizing fresh tissue. The lab, in combination with an increase in endowed lectureships and visiting professors is an exceptional resource for resident education. In the lab, residents will routinely practice on fresh cadaveric tissue with procedures such as arthroscopy, arthroplasty, pedicle screw placement, dissections and approaches.

The residency has demonstrated a commitment to educating female residents and starting July 2018 will boast

a 30% female resident rate—well above the national average of 14%. Strong female leadership in the department includes incumbent AAOS president Kristy Weber who demonstrates an excellence in leadership and patient care for not only women residents, but all residents in the program.

Along with a well-balanced morning conference schedule covering every Orthopaedic subspecialty in a bi-weekly rotation, the residency has allowed our residents be excused from clinical duties for 4 hours of Thursday AM curriculum. During these conferences, national as well as internationally known visiting professors lecture on a wide variety of topics.

The department has been committed to additional educational benefits for the residents. The department has supported a subscription to OrthoPass, a resource provided by Orthobullets that provides residents with daily reading assignments as well as self-assessment exam every month. Every incoming resident is provided with an iPad that allows access to hundreds of educational resources including a library of surgical videos from the faculty. A resident can now watch a complex surgical procedure performed by our own attending prior to entering the OR with that attending, optimizing the surgical experience.

When the ABOS mandated a dedicated rotation for Orthopaedic Interns, the department stepped up to the task, clearing a month free from clinical duties for all interns filled with more than 20 sessions taught by attendings, including 15 hands on sessions in the human tissue lab. The remaining sessions provide opportunities for peer-to-peer teaching and are resident run.

Orthopaedic Surgery education has changed drastically over the last 20 years and Penn Orthopaedic Surgery is adapting to these changes is on the forefront of Orthopaedic Education. Penn Orthopaedic surgery has demonstrated a commitment to education and devoted significant resources to training capable surgeons devoted to patient care. Continuous improvement in resident education is our watchword, and defining the future of training for the next generation of Orthopaedic leaders is our goal.