



Letter from the Program Director



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With each year, I look forward to the publication of The University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal. The reason is that it gives me pause for reflection on the past and present academic year. It is truly a privilege and honor to continue to serve as program director of this prestigious orthopaedic program. Since being appointed program director almost 10 years ago, I have witnessed significant positive changes to one of the oldest orthopaedic programs in the country.

Under Dr. Levin's continuing leadership, the faculty has grown substantially in numbers and diversity. This has offered our residents the opportunity to learn advanced techniques by leaders in their respected fields. While this can put a strain on any program, we have been fortunate enough to increase the numbers of our tremendous physician extenders in order to allow residents to spend more time pursuing academic and clinical interests. As such, our faculty and residents continue to lead. A recent JAAOS review article just ranked The University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Department as #4 in the nation with respect to academic impact and productivity. Our residents are extraordinarily productive with numerous peer reviewed articles and national presentations. Our reputation as a training leader places our residents in a position to garner the most prestigious fellowship programs in the nation. It also allows us to attract the most competitive residents to our own numerous fellowship programs.

The combination of dedicated and stellar faculty, along with superlative residents, continues to allow Penn to attract the best and brightest medical students available. Recruitment of gifted students has not been, nor will it be, a problem in the future.

I would ask the readers of UPOJ to go on-line and search the numerous offerings our department continues to provide. Our grand rounds, daily conferences and visiting professorship series are the envy of many other peer institutions.

Finally, our culture, which has been established by our chairman Dr. Levin, is one of Team. Penn Orthopaedics is truly a championship team. Our Penn team consists of coaches [faculty], players [residents] as well as administrative support staff. Shannon Savelloni has taken over the duties of program coordinator from Shanna Kurek, who has moved with her husband to continue his residency. Shannon has already shown herself to ably steward the program. She has begun instituting her organizational expertise which will benefit all of our activities.

Finally, the backbone of any program is our residents. Truly the strength of our residency. Each resident contributes to our successes. My heartfelt thanks and gratitude goes out to our graduating academic chief residents. Luke Lopas, Nicki Zelenski and Kristen Buterbaugh have done a remarkable job this past year. All of our graduating residents will be missed and we wish them well as they embark on their fellowships.

If you have not been back to Penn for a while, please join us and I have no doubt that you will be amazed at our growth as well as our trajectory.