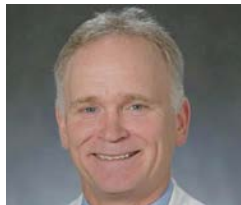




Hand Division Update

David Bozentka, MD

Hand Surgery Faculty



David Bozentka, MD



David Steinberg, MD



L. Scott Levin, MD, FACS



Hannah Hoeun Lee, MD



Robert Carrigan, MD



Apurva Shah, MD, MBA



Stephen Liu, MD

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought challenging times to the world this past year with the Penn Hand and Upper Extremity Service embracing the opportunity and emerging stronger in our clinical, research and educational programs.

We welcome Dr. Hannah Lee to the Penn Hand Surgery family. Dr. Lee joined the group as a clinician scientist this summer. She attended Cornell University obtaining her bachelors of science degree cum laude with a major in chemical and biomolecular engineering and a minor in biomedical engineering. Dr. Lee obtained her M.D./Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh working with Dr. Constance Chu M.D. She went on to complete her orthopaedic surgical residency and hand surgical fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh. Her laboratory work has included Cellular Approaches to Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine with a focus on cartilage tissue engineering and an emphasis on cartilage repair and regeneration. Her research interest in translational regenerative medicine will be an excellent fit with the Penn musculoskeletal research group.

We congratulate our chairman, L. Scott Levin MD, who has been named the new Chair of the Board of Regents of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Levin is the first hand surgeon in this role. He will work with the executive directory and board members of the ACS in formulating policy, while providing strong representation for hand surgery in the college.

The hand surgery fellowship continues its strong tradition under the leadership of David R. Steinberg MD as the director and Ines Lin MD as the associate program director. Our hand surgery fellows have had a solid clinical and academically productive year. Dr. John Roberts completed his plastic surgical residency at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, PA. Following his fellowship year, John plans to continue his career in an academic setting with a goal of obtaining his master's in education. Corey Clyde MD completed his medical school training at the Sidney

Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University and orthopaedic surgical residency training at the University of Buffalo in Buffalo, NY. After his training, Corey also plans to pursue a position with his interests in clinical, academic and teaching endeavors. Our fellows from prior years keep in touch regularly. Dr. Jonathan Lundy MD, who recently completed his fellowship, has been working as a hand surgeon for the United States Army Institute for Surgical Research Burn Center and joined the upper extremity team at the adjoining San Antonio Medical Center. John was recently deployed to Iraq. We are all very proud of John. We know he embodies all the skills and knowledge to be successful and safe as we surround him with our thoughts and prayers during this admirable service to our country.

Although at the height of the pandemic elective clinical work was curtailed, the hand section continued to treat urgent traumatic injuries as well as care for patients virtually through telemedicine. The new robust telemedicine platform has become a consistent part of the clinical practice despite the declining number of covid cases. The education program also advanced through the pandemic as it converted to a virtual format. Currently hand surgical conferences take place on Tuesday evenings with the on-line format allowing members throughout the country to attend. We welcome all alumni to join the virtual conferences and add to our educational sessions.

The hand and upper extremity research team includes Annamarie Horan PhD, Director of Orthopedic Clinical Research, and our Clinical Research Coordinators Mary Dooley, Ashley Iwu and Evan Bannister. The team has been instrumental in advancing the numerous ongoing clinical research projects. The group is completing patient enrollment to evaluate digital tomo-synthesis for the detection and case management of scaphoid and distal radius fractures with a comparison to MRI or computed tomography. Enrollment has completed for the Axogen-sponsored study: A Multicenter,

Prospective, Randomized, Subject and Evaluator Blinded Comparative Study of Nerve Cuffs and Advance Nerve Graft Evaluating Recovery Outcomes for the Repair of Nerve Discontinuities.

The hand transplant team has successfully performed bilateral upper extremity allotransplantation for four patients with quadra-membral amputations. The listing of patients has been on hold due to the Covid pandemic. Despite the covid restrictions, the group has met virtually on a regular basis and more recently in the human tissue lab performing cadaveric rehearsals and honing the procedure checklists to prepare for our fifth bilateral upper extremity allotransplantation.

The practice at Penn Medicine Radnor has moved across the street into a new state of the art multi-specialty outpatient

facility. The building provides expanded office space and medical services with plans to open outpatient operating rooms in the future. Dr. Stephen Liu's practice at Chester County Hospital continues to expand. He will be increasing his work at Pennsylvania Hospital and outpatient surgery at the Tuttleman Center. Dr. Benjamin Gray has accepted a position at Kaiser Permanente in San Diego. We wish him well in his new endeavor.

The hand and upper extremity service could not function without the outstanding support from our superb advance practice providers, nurses and administrative assistants. With this exceptional support and collaboration, the future looks bright for the hand surgery section.