Division Updates

Shoulder and Elbow Division

David Glaser, MD

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Shoulder and Elbow Faculty

David Glaser, MD
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Despite the challenges brought by the pandemic, our division has had an outstanding year. The section's tertiary referral network has dramatically increased along with the complexity of cases. The pandemic provided an opportunity for us to expand our service, and solidify our academic and clinical missions. I am pleased to announce that Gabe Horneff, one of our former executive chief resident, and an established shoulder and elbow surgeon at The Rothman Institute joined our team. While growing his clinical practice, Gabe has immediately taken ownership of resident education for our division. Our indications conference has been expanded to include a nationwide group of our past fellows. Through a virtual platform, the group of talented sub-specialists re-unite monthly to discuss complex cases, opportunities for research and catch up on important life events.

Andy Kuntz is leading our research effort, setting a high standard for both research and clinical outcomes. With close collaboration with Lou Soslowsky and others in the McKay Research Laboratory, we help form one of the largest research laboratories in the world. We would like to recognize Andy for his continued focus as a clinician-scientist, providing world class clinical care, while contributing to all aspects of our research mission- clinical, translation and basic science. We are currently rolling out an integrated research platform that will be able to seamlessly, clinical and research activities, providing a much needed tool for data collection, while improving two-way clinical communication with our patients. Through his leadership we are working on several sponsored clinical trials, including two stemless reverse arthroplasty IDEs, an arthroplasty outcome study, a cementless elbow arthroplasty IDE, and a multi-center trial, which is the direct result and translational follow-up to basic science research performed in the McKay Lab. The multimodal pain protocol for outpatient shoulder surgery that we developed is now being utilized at other Penn sites and has made our transition to outpatient shoulder arthroplasty seamless. In conjunction with Mike Hast, we are testing biomechanical characteristics of a novel elbow ligament reconstruction technique. For Andy’s efforts, he has been elected to the Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS) board of directors and has served on the ORS membership committee and Community Council while also being active in the ASES.

Under the guidance of Russell Huffman, the fellowship has continued to thrive, attracting the most competitive candidates. Our program is unique in that the fellow has exposure to four different surgeons, with complementary philosophies, who use an extreme range of devices and approaches. Additionally, now in its fourth year, and in collaboration with our French colleagues, we offer our fellow an opportunity to visit world leaders in shoulder surgery. Current fellow Christy Piper (F’21) will follow Greg Gomez (F’19), Josh Rogozinski (F’18), and Chad Myeroff (F’17), and spend three weeks visiting academic centers in Monaco and France. Robert Williams (F’20) was stuck with us during the shutdown. We have consistently matched our top choices. Past fellow, Mohit Gilotra (F’15) won the 2018 ASES Charles Neer award and several participate in resident education including Chad, Ben Widmer and Dan Doty.

We will continue to leverage our internal cohesiveness, therapy partners (superstars Brian Leggin, Joseph Kearns, and Marty Kelly) and recent collaborations with non-Penn shoulder and elbow providers, to bring success to our division, in all three missions.