



Foot and Ankle Division Update

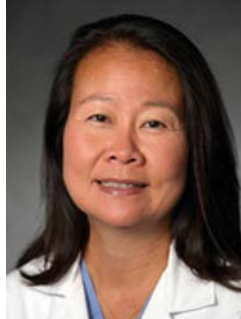
Casey Humbyrd, MD



Foot & Ankle Faculty



Casey Humbyrd, MD



Wen Chao, MD



Daniel Farber, MD



Anthony "Bobby" Ndu, MD

This year was filled with transitions for the foot and ankle team.

Dr. Keith Wapner stepped down as foot and ankle chief, transitioning that role to Dr. Casey Humbyrd. Dr. Wapner had his last OR day on January 20, 2021. He is continuing to see patients on a part-time basis, three days a week for two weeks a month, a slow transition to retirement after a busy and successful career.

The division also said a difficult goodbye to Dr. Kathryn O'Connor, as she moved to the Washington, D.C. area for family reasons. Dr. O'Connor and her husband recently welcomed a baby boy in September 2020. Before leaving Penn, Dr. O'Connor had a busy clinical practice as well as her work with Josh Baxter, PhD on Achilles tendinopathy.

Dr. Casey Humbyrd assumed the chief role in January 2021. She came from Johns Hopkins University, where she was the chief of the foot and ankle division. Dr. Humbyrd completed residency at Johns Hopkins, fellowship at Mercy Medical Center, and a Masters in Bioethics at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Humbyrd's academic interests focus on ethical issues in orthopedic surgery, and she has published broadly in this area. She has a column "Virtue Ethics in a Value-Based World" in *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*. Dr. Humbyrd serves as a reviewer for *Foot and Ankle International*, the *Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons*, and *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*. She is also a board member of the American Foot and Ankle Society, an AAOS representative to the American Medical Association and Chair of the Orthopaedic Section Council, and a member of the Committee on Ethics and Outside Interests of the AAOS. She was recently elected as a new member to the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons and the Orthopedic Foot Club.

Dr. Humbyrd is excited to build the foot and ankle division in clinical work, research and teaching components. To that end, she and the Department successfully recruited Dr. Anthony "Bobby" Ndu who will be joining the division in

May 2021. Dr. Ndu is a graduate of the Yale University medical school, as well as Yale's Master's in Business Administration program. He completed his residency at Yale as well. He is a former foot and ankle fellow at Penn, completing his training in 2013. His interests include resident and fellow education as well as quality improvement.

Dr. Daniel Farber has continued to lead the educational mission of the department as Vice Chair for Education and Residency Program Director while maintaining a busy clinical practice. He serves on the education committee of AOFAS and has helped with the development and rollout of the AOFAS fellowship accreditation program. Dr. Farber is involved in the chronic Achilles instructional course lecture for the AAOS, which is being converted into a piece for the *Instructional Course Lecture* book. He is also Chair of the AAOS resolutions committee. He has continued his participation in the industry "Laplasty" study, as well as basic science research efforts in collaboration with Lou Soslowsky, PhD and the McKay lab resulting in a recent publication in *AJSM* simulating chronic Achilles rupture treatment in a rat model. He is also a collaborator with Josh Baxter, PhD of the Human performance lab on his recent K01 and R01 awards exploring Achilles pathology. He also continues to work on research involving the weight-bearing CT scanner here at Penn, specifically investigating hallux valgus deformities.

Dr. Wen Chao continues to be the orthopedic foot and ankle consultant to the Pennsylvania Ballet since 2001. She also serves as a member on the Public Education Committee for AOFAS, as well as reviewer for *Foot and Ankle International* and *Foot and Ankle Orthopaedics*. She is a member of AAOS, AOFAS, AOA and the Orthopaedic Foot Club. Dr. Chao is working on research projects, including investigating the accuracy of ultrasound and MRI with intraoperative findings in peroneal tendon pathology, as well as the long-term follow-up after FHL tendon transfer.

2020 had a notable success for the division with the nomination of the Cartiva MAUDE study for the Roger Mann

Award at the 2020 AOFAS Annual Meeting. Moving forward, we plan to deepen our work in Achilles tendon research in collaboration with the McKay Lab. We also hope to expand our collaborations with medical students and residents. Additionally, Dr. Humbyrd is transitioning her research projects from Johns Hopkins to Penn, including projects on the ethical use of opioids in orthopedic surgery, equity in bundled payment programs, and shared decision-making for in ankle surgery.

As we look to the future, the foot and ankle team hopes to recruit more phenomenal residents into foot and ankle as well as continuing our excellent fellowship program. We also plan to expand our reach in the Philadelphia area, including increased presence in New Jersey and the Philadelphia Suburbs. While the year has been full of transitions, we anticipate emerging stronger together, building on the tremendous legacy of Dr. Keith Wapner and finding new opportunities for growth in our tripartite focus of clinical care, research and teaching.