

Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Philadelphia VA Medical Center



Richard E. Grant, MD



Joseph Bernstein, MD



Richard E. Grant, MD



Eric Hume, MD



Andrew Kuntz, MD



Vincent Moretti, MD



Harvey Smith, MD



David Steinberg, MD

A Series of Updates from the VA Orthopaedic Division

“Our goal was to document a typical period of resident involvement in VAMC PHL Orthopaedic surgical cases. We worked to obtain the surgical case data covering the period of September 2020 thru Feb 2021. We were able to identify 74 miscellaneous Orthopaedic surgical cases during that period, extending well into the relative height of the COVID 19 pandemic. We then searched for specific diagnoses and matching Orthopaedic surgical subspecialty cases completed during the same period. From September 2020 thru February 2021, the dates reflecting 6 months of OR experience, our team of attendings and residents were able to complete 26 carpal tunnel releases, 6 knee arthroscopies, 5 rotator cuff repairs, 4 ORIF of ankle fractures, 22 primary total knee arthroplasties, 28 primary total hip arthroplasties, 22 incisions of finger tendon sheaths, 6 removals of implants/retained hardware, 4 staged total knee arthroplasty revisions, and 8 ulnar nerve transpositions. Considering the rates of improved vaccination numbers, we surely expect a significant increase in Orthopaedic surgical OR experience for all of our UPenn Orthopaedic residents as more veterans will begin to seek safe Orthopaedic surgical care. We are also excited about the recent faculty addition of Dr. Hannah Lee. Dr Lee is a new member of our VAMC hand and upper extremity services. Dr. Hannah Lee is pursuing innovative

‘same day surgery ‘techniques of trigger finger release under local anesthesia and minimally invasive CTR using advanced endoscopic technology.’”

Richard Grant MD
Chief of Orthopaedics

“The VA continues to serve as the home base for the Ortho-200 required rotation, though for the past year we were compelled to employ a Covid-related version of the course, with greater emphasis on distance learning. (Kudos to the education chief resident, Chelsea Hendow, for masterful scheduling and coordination.) The VA orthopaedic service has also implemented Covid-related instruction for residents, centered on the recently acquired arthroscopy simulator (kudos to Dr. Demaio for initiating this and to Dr. Grant for getting the lab up and running). Needless to say, this simulator will be a big part of resident education even when the pandemic ends. Of course it should also be noted that Dr. Joseph Bernstein received a CHERP (Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion) local grant to investigate hip fracture mortality.”

Joseph Bernstein, MD
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Sports Medicine, Arthroscopic Knee and Shoulder Surgeon

“I started performing endoscopic carpal tunnel releases and made small procedures under WALANT (wide awake local anesthesia no tourniquet) a norm at the VA. On the research front, I started collaboration with D. Kacy Cullen, a prominent nerve researcher, on peripheral nerve regeneration. Hoping to get national foundation as well as federal grants within a year.”

Hannah Lee, MD

Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Hand Surgeon

“We continue to have a weekly shoulder clinic, providing care to veterans with all types of shoulder pathology from

the Philadelphia area and surrounding satellite VA facilities. We also continue a weekly didactic teaching session with the residents on shoulder pathology and care. Residents are exposed to arthroscopic shoulder surgery and shoulder arthroplasty in the OR, and now have the ability to further practice arthroscopy skills in the scope lab. From a research stand-point, two separate manuscripts have been published in the past year as the result of research from prior SPiRE and Merit grant funding.”

Andrew Kuntz, MD

Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Shoulder and Elbow Surgeon and Director Shoulder Study Group