



# Letter from the Editors: Orthopaedic Surgeons as Leaders



Kendall M. Masada, MD and Jordan S. Cohen, MD



Welcome to the 32nd edition of the University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal (UPOJ). Founded in 1986 under the guidance of Dr. Carl T. Brighton, the UPOJ remains a testament to the department's commitment to basic science and clinical research. This year, we reached a new milestone marking these efforts: the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania was ranked #1 in National Institutes of Health funding amongst all other orthopaedic departments in the country. We are incredibly proud of this achievement as it represents the tireless work, innovation, and collaboration of our team—always striving to gain new insights and seek better understanding of the musculoskeletal system, with the ultimate goal of providing the best possible care for our patients.



Healthcare is a dynamic field, which requires flexibility and adaptability among those who wish to continue to provide the highest quality of care to their patients. Some challenges we face today including an aging and less healthy population, pressures for cost containment and value-based care, and increased adoption of technology have been evolving for decades. Others, like how to care for patients in the midst of a global pandemic and incorporate virtual interactions into our patient care and professional workflows, are much more recent. However, it is indisputable that surgeons today must be leaders beyond their operating rooms and clinics if they hope to propel our field into the future. Leadership comes in

many forms, and the special leadership section of this year's edition highlights some of the ways orthopaedic surgeons and other leaders in our field have risen to the challenge and demonstrated leadership locally, nationally, and globally. Their contributions span broadly, and we hope that our readership will enjoy learning from their narratives and find important takeaways that they can apply on their own leadership journeys.

We are honored to dedicate this year's edition to Dr. G. Russell Huffman. He served as a leader at Penn for 16 years prior to moving his family to Orlando, Florida. During his time at Penn, Dr. Huffman built one of the premier shoulder and elbow practices in the region. He committed himself to resident and fellow education as the director of Penn's Shoulder and Elbow Fellowship, published numerous book chapters and peer-reviewed scientific publications, and lectured nationally and internationally.

We are grateful for the leadership of our Chair, Dr. L. Scott Levin, for the support of the journal's advisors, Dr. Samir Mehta and Dr. Derek J. Donegan, and for the efforts of our resident section editors. As a fully resident-run publication, the UPOJ would not be possible without our team's contributions. We would also like to thank this year's industry sponsors whose generous financial support helps the journal continue to support the educational and research missions of Penn Orthopaedics.

This year's journal and prior editions are available for free online at [www.upoj.org](http://www.upoj.org). We encourage everyone to subscribe to the journal at [www.upoj.org/subscribe](http://www.upoj.org/subscribe).

It has been our honor to serve as editors for the 32nd edition of the UPOJ. We hope you enjoy and learn as much as we did in the process.

Kendall M. Masada, MD  
Jordan S. Cohen, MD