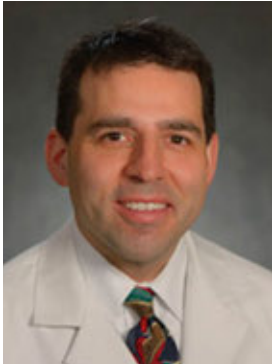




Letter from the Program Director

Daniel C. Farber, MD



It has been yet another eventful year for the residency program as the 2021-22 Academic year held nearly as many twists and turns as 2020-21. In June we welcomed our first virtually recruited intern class. Under the leadership of this year's chief residents, Liane Miller MD, Agnes Dardas MD and Yehuda Kerbel MD, we began the year with gradual resumption of some in-person education activities but travel

and institutional restrictions had us continuing grand rounds as a virtual experience. The delta surge and then the omicron surge continued to gum up the works for in-person visitors but the past month has seen a number of visiting professors able to attend in person and impart not just their wisdom but their intangible personal touch to our educational events. Through all of this, the residents have mostly maintained in-person education sessions and we have also started back into the cadaver lab. With a brief hiatus for Omicron, the residents with the support of Samir Mehta, MD and others began a series of casual journal clubs off-site at attendings' homes, a brewery, and even "Top Golf!" Dr. Andrew Sobel, one of our new Hand attending staff, has begun a Friday morning "Hand Board" to review the week of consults with residents in person in what has quickly become a favorite educational conference. Plans are in place to extend this to trauma and other consults on a different morning.

With the introduction of the AAOS R.O.C.K. (Resident Orthopaedic Core Knowledge) curriculum and as a beta-tester for the program, the residents have contributed to the evolution of what will become a critical part of many orthopaedic programs' education. We were also excited to welcome back visiting students this year albeit all medical students were limited to 1 away rotation. We had another virtual recruiting session kicked off by the second year of a special webinar highlighting diversity and organized by our own Viviana Serra Lopez MD and Brian Perez MD. We interviewed a stellar and diverse group of applicants and anticipate another successful match. This coming year there are no away rotation limits and we look forward to getting to know sub-I's from many different backgrounds. Along the lines of medical student education, we welcomed Cara Cipriano MD from Washington University at St. Louis who will serve as the medical student director for Orthopaedics. She has already made great changes and enhancements to our interactions with the Perelman School of Medicine.

The residency program itself continues to evolve. This year marks the inauguration of the Faculty Advisor Program whereby individual faculty have volunteered to be responsible for either a PGY 1, 3, & 5 or PGY 2 & 4 resident. Faculty track

these residents' performance, evaluations, and well-being to provide support and ensure their success progressing year to year to become excellent orthopaedic surgeons. The faculty also generously supported the purchase of surgical lead aprons for all the residents to keep them safe for years to come. We welcomed Angela Nieves as our second program coordinator, joining the inimitable Shannon Savelloni and enhancing the education team. We sadly bid farewell to Associate Program Director, Vince Moretti MD, who moved on to Texas but we were very pleased to welcome former Penn Ortho Alumnus and Penn Hand Surgeon, Stephen Liu MD, as the new Associate Program Director. Steve's familiarity with the program and can-do attitude have already brought great insight and program improvements.

The pandemic has had some silver linings for the program. Our newfound comfort with virtual interaction has allowed for the trauma team's interactive Sunday evening "Fracture of the Week" to include many attendings and residents from the comfort of their homes or the bunker. Virtual Subspecialty conferences allow for more global participation of residents and faculty no matter where they are seeing patients that day.

The incredible growth of our department has outstripped the ability of our residents to cover everyone. Thus, moving forward, we have revamped resident rotations to focus on consistent experience with specific attending surgeons to maximize the education benefit. We have created protected research time for the residents to enhance their ability to contribute to the research mission and accomplish their research requirement for graduation. We look forward to more educational enhancements as the years progress.

Of course, none of these achievements would be possible without the assistance of our amazing attending staff who dedicate themselves to resident and student education. We also appreciate the unwavering support of our Chair, L. Scott Levin MD. A big thanks as well to our outgoing Academic Chief Residents mentioned above and a hearty congratulations to the incoming Academic Chiefs, Ryan DeAngelis MD, George Fryhofer MD, and Gregory Minutillo MD. Finally, further congratulations to our graduating PGY5s who are all headed to fantastic fellowships.

We wake up every morning looking for ways to continue to improve the educational mission at Penn Orthopaedics and if you want to support this mission, please feel free to donate to the Penn Orthopaedic Education Fund. All donations directly benefit the residents and support everything from educational resources, resident instructional courses, and academic travel to the occasional resident happy hour that helps boost morale. Please contact Allyse Orsini at aorsini@upenn.edu or 267-788-0975. Also check out our Instagram page at Penn.Ortho!

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy and productive 2022-3 Academic year!