



Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Philadelphia VA Medical Center



David Steinberg, MD



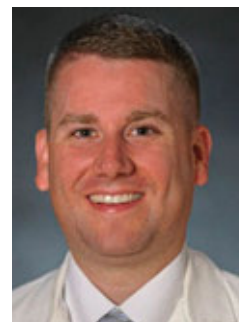
Joseph Bernstein, MD



L. Scott Levin, MD



Eric Hume, MD



Andrew Kuntz, MD



Hannah Lee, MD, PhD



Harvey Smith, MD



David Steinberg, MD



T. David Tarity, MD

After dedicating the past two years to improving musculoskeletal care for our veterans, Dr. Richard E. Grant stepped down as Chief of Orthopaedics. Under his leadership, we saw the expansion of orthopaedic clinical care beyond Philadelphia, including a greater presence at the Wilmington & Coatesville VA campuses, and the installation of a state-of-the-art arthroscopy simulator (procured by his predecessor, Dr. Marlene DeMaio) to advance the education of our residents and fellows. As an Air Force veteran, Dr. Grant understood our veteran population and was able to connect with them in a way no other could. With Dr. Grant's transition, David Steinberg has again assumed the role of Acting Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery, in addition to his responsibilities as Chief of Hand Surgery.

After spending four years on the faculty at the VA and Penn, performing total joint arthroplasty and trauma surgery, Dr. Vincent Moretti has relocated to Texas. To assist in caring for our veterans after Dr. Moretti's departure, Dr. T. David Tarity has stepped up to the plate, carving some time out from his growing practice at Penn to help Drs. Hume and Bernstein manage patients with hip and knee arthritis. While he has always been an influential presence at the VA, guiding the evolution of the orthopaedic division and educating the residents, Dr. L. Scott Levin has officially joined the ranks of the clinicians. He will be able to more directly offer his expertise

in the orthoplastic management of veterans with both upper and lower extremity pathology.

We are excited to announce the anticipated arrival of two additional faculty over the next three to twelve months, which will expand our services in joint reconstruction and orthopaedic trauma. Timothy Costales, MD completed an orthopaedic residency at the University of Maryland/Shock Trauma and is currently training in adult joint reconstruction



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at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Colonel Jean-Claude D'Allyerand, MD, MSE is an orthopaedic traumatologist and Associate Professor of Surgery at USUHS, who is currently serving as Deputy Hospital Commander for Surgical Services at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. He will assume the role of Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at the VA after completing his tour of duty with the US Army.

We continue to offer general orthopaedic and subspecialty services to our veterans, under the guidance of our dedicated faculty, including Drs. Eric Hume, Joe Bernstein, David Steinberg, Harvey Smith, Andy Kuntz and Hannah Lee, as well as the aforementioned Drs. Levin & Tarity. Over a twelve-month period, over 6000 visits were recorded for the outpatient Orthopaedic Surgery Clinics, only slightly below our pre-COVID data. We offer surgical services four days weekly and performed over 440 operative procedures last year. We would not be able to provide comprehensive orthopaedic care to our patients without the dedication of our residents, hand fellows, our orthopaedic nurses (Alex David & Mary Manattu), the other clinic staff, and our PA's. Special recognition is needed for our two exceptional orthopaedic physician assistants, Mitchel "Chip" Staska, MP-C and Thomas Bialkowski, MPAS/PA-C. They form the backbone of the clinical arm of orthopaedics, providing a seamless journey for our patients, from initial referrals and consultations through outpatient evaluations, both in-person and via telemedicine. They assist the residents and faculty in managing patients, ordering appropriate diagnostic tests & consults, and scheduling surgeries; Chip & Thomas teach us how to efficiently navigate through a complex medical system.

Our faculty, residents and Penn's scientists, engineers & research staff continue to forge new paths through the partnership between the McKay Orthopaedic Laboratory and the PVAMC Translational Musculoskeletal Research Center. Drs.

Kuntz, Steinberg, Lee, and Smith have each applied for or been awarded research grants through the Veterans Administration and outside funding sources. Working alongside Drs. Mauck, Soslowsky, Scanzello, Dymont, Cullen, Dodge, Gullbrand, & L Smith, they investigate many facets of the musculoskeletal system, focusing on the repair & regeneration of tendon, cartilage, meniscus, nerve, & the intervertebral disc. These studies have resulted in presentations at numerous national and international conferences, and publications in premier orthopaedic and biomedical research journals (including *Tissue Engineering*, *J Biomechanics*, and *J Orthopaedic Research*). While basic science research has always been one of our strong suits at the VA, we are increasing our clinical research efforts as well. Dr. Bernstein recently received a grant to study hip fracture decision-making. Other clinical studies by the faculty and residents in total joint arthroplasty and Dupuytren's disease were presented by Dr. Masada to the Association of VA Surgeons and by Dr. Nypaver at the annual meeting of the American Association of Hand Surgeons, respectively.

In addition to patient care and research, the orthopaedic program at the VAMC promotes the third pillar of academic medicine, education. In addition to clinical and surgical training of residents, hand fellows and students, we have expanded our educational efforts. This includes weekly resident conference with Dr. Kuntz, quarterly Chairman's rounds with Dr. Levin, and the recent acquisition of the arthroscopic simulator.

With the team effort of our orthopedic family, and in collaboration with other services at the Veterans Administration Medical Service, we strive to provide our veterans with exceptional health care, by providing compassionate patient care, advancing medical knowledge through world-class research, and educating our next generation of health care providers.