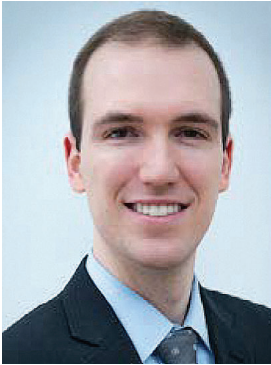




Letter from the Editors: Innovation in Orthopaedics

Mitchell Hallman, MD and Bijan Dehghani, MD



Welcome to the 33rd 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 innovation and research in the field of orthopaedics. This year, as we embark on a new edition, our focus is centered on the transformative power of innovation in shaping the future of orthopaedics.



Innovation has become the driving force behind advancements in healthcare, revolutionizing the way we approach patient care and tackle complex musculoskeletal challenges. In this year's journal, we aim to explore the diverse realms of innovation within orthopaedic surgery and delve into the groundbreaking

discoveries, technologies, and strategies that are reshaping the landscape of our field.

Healthcare is an ever-evolving domain, and embracing innovation has become essential for those who strive to provide the highest quality of care to their patients. From novel surgical techniques and regenerative therapies to the integration of artificial intelligence and virtual reality in diagnostics and treatment, the possibilities for innovation in orthopaedics are boundless. This year's edition will showcase the cutting-edge research, collaborative efforts, and visionary ideas that are pushing the boundaries of orthopaedic innovation.

We are honored to dedicate this year's edition to Dr. L. Scott Levin, a visionary and trailblazer in the field of orthopaedics. Dr. Levin's unwavering commitment to innovation, patient care, and medical education has transformed the landscape of orthopaedics and inspired numerous aspiring surgeons.

As a distinguished leader, Dr. Levin has served as chairman of the department of orthopaedic surgery at

Penn since 2009. During this time, he has spearheaded groundbreaking research and pioneered advancements in the field. His expertise in hand surgery, microsurgery, and limb reconstruction has not only improved the lives of patients but has also elevated the standard of care worldwide. He heads Penn's Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation, and he performed the world's first bilateral hand transplant for a child in 2015. Dr. Levin's unwavering dedication to his craft, combined with his empathetic and compassionate approach, has garnered him the utmost respect from colleagues and patients alike, resulting in him receiving the prestigious AAOS Kappa Delta Award in 2022.

Beyond his clinical practice, Dr. Levin has made lasting contributions to medical education, mentoring and inspiring numerous residents and fellows from around the world. His tireless efforts to disseminate knowledge, promote research, and enhance surgical training have had a profound and lasting impact on the field. His legacy will continue to inspire and guide us as we strive for excellence and innovation in the pursuit of improving patient care.

We also acknowledge the valuable contributions of our faculty editors, Dr. Samir Mehta and Dr. James Carey who have played valuable roles in shaping the content of this year's edition.

As a resident-run publication, the UPOJ thrives on the dedication and contributions of our talented team. We express our heartfelt appreciation to the resident section editors and acknowledge their invaluable efforts in curating this year's journal.

Furthermore, we extend our thanks to our industry sponsors, whose generous financial support enables the journal to continue promoting the educational and research missions of Penn Orthopaedics.

We are pleased to announce that this year's edition, along with past editions, is available for free online at www.upoj.org. We encourage all readers to subscribe to the journal at www.upoj.org/subscribe and stay connected with the latest advancements in orthopaedic innovation.

It has been a privilege to serve as editors for the 33rd edition of the UPOJ. We hope that this year's journal not only informs and inspires, but also sparks new ideas and collaborations that will shape the future of orthopaedics through the power of innovation.