



Division Updates

Hand Division

David Bozentka, MD

Hand Surgery Faculty



David Bozentka, MD



David Steinberg, MD



L. Scott Levin, MD, FACS



Hannah Lee, MD, PhD



Andrew Sobel, MD



Robert Carrigan, MD



Apurva Shah, MD, MBA



Stephen Liu, MD

Once again, the Hand and Upper Extremity Service within the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery has excelled. This year, we've bolstered our team with additional skilled clinical staff, enhancing the quality of care we provide. Moreover, we've ensured an outstanding educational journey for our residents and fellows. Additionally, our dedication to research has grown, with a multitude of studies underway within our team.

Under the guidance of David Steinberg, MD, and Ines Lin, MD, the Hand, Upper Extremity and Microsurgery Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania has continued to flourish. The two current fellows have had a successful and enriching year, making significant strides in their clinical and academic pursuits. Due to the continued expansion in both clinical and academic activities, the program has applied for an increase to three hand surgical fellows. Thanks to the Chan Family Surgery Education Fund, established by the generous contributions of Peter SH Chan MD and Karen Postick Chan MD, our fellows have had the opportunity to attend the flap dissection course as well as the annual meetings of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand and American Association of Hand Surgeons. In addition, our weekly didactic fellow-run hand surgery conference has continued to thrive, with topics

ranging from joint radiology conferences to pediatric conferences, journal clubs, and case reviews.

Our current fellows Drs. Vinay Rao and Kurt Mohty have performed exceptionally well over the past year. Dr. Rao will enter a six month pediatric hand surgery fellowship at the Shriners Hospital of Philadelphia under the tutelage of Drs. Scott Kozen and Daniel Zltotolow. Dr. Kurt Mohty is finalizing plans to return home in Arizona for a hand surgical practice.

In February, we interviewed twenty-five candidates from over one hundred applicants for the two current Hand Fellowship positions. The incoming fellows for next year include Dr. Julian Klosowiak, MD and Caroline McLaughlin, MD, who are currently completing their plastic surgery residency at Northwestern University and Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center respectively.

Our section has seen great advancements in our research productivity. Dr. Hannah Lee has earned a VA Career Development grant of over \$2M to study a novel neural scaffold with temporal and spatial regulation of neurogenic factors. Her accomplishments as a clinician-scientist have been nothing short of amazing with multiple posters and podium presentations, issuance of a patent, and other grants that support her nerve research. Dr. Levin,

working with our former hand fellow Chris Jehle and orthoplastics fellow Dominik Kaiser, has started to present his data on an ex-vivo model for limb perfusion that can have substantial translational applications to those with limb amputations. Dr. Sobel was awarded the McCabe Fund Grant this year and has delivered podium presentations on various clinical studies at the last three large national hand surgery and orthopedic meetings (ASSH, AAHS, AAOS). The section will be working with Auxillium to test a new nerve repair device and is finalizing other industry work related to Dupuytren's and a tendon adhesion barrier.

To keep you informed of our developments, Penn Hand Surgery is found on social media. Under the leadership of Mylinh Nguyen, the service has a robust social media site showcasing interesting cases, hand-section staff, presentations, and awards. We encourage group members and alums to send suggestions for the site. In addition, stay updated with the program by following us on Instagram @ Pennhandsurgery.

For over 20 years, Penn Orthopedics has honored the memory of Dr. Leo Leung, a promising young surgeon who

passed away suddenly during his chief year of residency in 2002. The Leo Leung Memorial Fund was created to fund an annual visiting professorship, where we honor Leo and invite guest lecturers from around the world to share their work and advance the educational experience for our residents and trainees. Through the generosity of friends, and family of Leo, the Leo Leung lectureship has been funded in perpetuity as an endowed lectureship.

The hand transplant team has successfully performed bilateral upper extremity allotransplantation on four patients with quadra-membral amputations, resulting in remarkable outcomes that have transformed their lives. The team has continued to meet regularly, rehearsing in the human tissue lab with cadavers, fine-tuning the procedure checklists in preparation for the fifth bilateral upper extremity allotransplantation.

The hand and upper extremity service could not function without the outstanding support from our superb advanced practice providers, nurses, and administrative assistants. With this exceptional support and collaboration, the future looks bright for the hand surgery section.