



Orthopaedic Oncology Division

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Orthopaedic Oncology Faculty



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Benjamin "Kyle" Potter, MD

It has been another full year for the Orthopaedic Oncology service at Penn. Highlights include the addition of new team members, the 10th annual Steps to Cure Sarcoma Walk/Run, the first annual Penn Resident Tumor Review Course, and the opportunity to deliver quality, multidisciplinary care to our patients.

Dr. Cara Cipriano is beginning her fourth year as Chief of the Orthopaedic Oncology division. Her practice includes musculoskeletal oncology as well as primary and revision joint replacement, with clinics at PCAM, Radnor, and the Farm Journal Building at Pennsylvania Hospital. She also devotes a large portion of her time to education, particularly in her role as the Director of Undergraduate Medical Education for the department and leader of the Resident Medical Education Track for the residency.

Dr. Kristy Weber continues to serve as a leader, both in the department as Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs and at the Abramson Cancer Center as Director of the Sarcoma Program. She practices musculoskeletal oncology at HUP, PCAM, and CHOP, and actively engages in resident education. Additionally, she remains dedicated to supporting women and sexual/gender minorities in the field of Orthopaedic Surgery. In the past year, she has organized multiple events, including dinners for residents and the Perry Initiative, an inspiring program that exposes women high school and medical students to careers in orthopaedic surgery and engineering.

The Orthopaedic Oncology team is currently at its strongest. Kate Barrie, PA, is increasing her independent clinics as well as her leadership in education. She has presented lectures for APPs both regionally and nationally and is involved in organizing the APP program for the Musculoskeletal Tumor Society annual meeting. Nicole Koffke, RN, has been with the team for over a year and is taking excellent care of patients while obtaining her Masters degree at Drexel University. Allyson Woodley

joined the team as our Surgical Coordinator in 2023, bringing organization and incredible crafting talent to the group. The team works together to provide high-level care that is knowledgeable, efficient, and kind. Outside of work, all three enjoy spending time with their pets (Odin, Roger, and Britney, respectively), as well as their significant others.

We are thrilled that Dr. Benjamin Kyle Potter will be joining Penn, not only as the Chair of the Department, but as a member of the tumor division. In addition to expertise in musculoskeletal oncology care, Dr. Potter is a leader in osseointegration, an evolving technology that is dramatically improving function and quality of life for amputees. His unique skill and knowledge will broaden the range of services we can provide for our patients at Penn.

Our basic and translational science teams at Penn Medicine, Penn Veterinary Medicine, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) continue to push the envelope of modulating the immune environment in soft tissue and bone sarcoma. We are actively searching to add a sarcoma scientist to our team in the year ahead. Dr. Malay Haldar's work has garnered additional grants and high impact papers. Dr. Irfan Asangani has made new and exciting discoveries in Ewing sarcoma. Dr. Karin Eisinger has started a new company to identify targets to prevent sarcoma metastasis. Dr. Nicola Mason's dog trials using a vaccine for osteosarcoma has progressed to national trials in children. She is building a team with a focus on sarcoma at Penn Vet. Overall, the portfolio of available clinical trials for patients with bone and soft tissue sarcomas as well as aggressive benign conditions has continued an upward trajectory over the past year at Penn.

In the clinical research arena, our multidisciplinary group is studying local control of metastatic bone disease in the extremities and spine, with the ultimate goal of

relieving pain and improving function in these patients. We are also investigating the factors that contribute to decisions patients make regarding surgery, and how they feel about them postoperatively. Understanding these various aspects of will help us to take the best possible care of our patients.

We celebrated a decade of Steps to Cure Sarcoma with our 10th Annual Walk/Run on May 19, 2024 (www.stepstocuresarcoma.com). The event, which is tirelessly organized by our patient/family advocacy group, raises awareness as well as funds for sarcoma translational and clinical research. Many thanks, as always, for your continued support of our work and our patients!

Additionally, this year our team held the first annual Penn Resident Tumor Review Course (<https://www.med.upenn.edu/msktumor2024/>). Funded by a generous donation from the Altman family, the course provided a comprehensive overview of musculoskeletal oncology that was engaging as well as educational. The one-day program was designed and taught by Dr. Cipriano and Dr. Weber, together with Dr. Alexandre Arkader from CHOP and Dr. John Wojcik from Pathology. The content focused on the diagnosis and treatment of various sarcomas, ensuring that these rare tumors will be recognized and appropriately managed by future orthopaedic surgeons. It was attended by residents from several regional programs, including Jefferson, Temple, Cooper, Penn State, St Luke's, and Monmouth. We look forward to building on this new tradition in future years!