



# Fostering Excellence: The UPOJ’s Impact on Orthopaedic Editors Through the Years



Mohammed Abdullah, MD and Eric Schweppe, MD  
Co-Editors-in-Chief, 2024

The University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal (UPOJ) has long been an essential part of the Penn residency experience, shaping the professional development of many of its past editors. Roshan Shah describes it as a “formative part of my training,” emphasizing the comprehensive learning in fundraising, marketing, and academic publishing. This hands-on involvement not only honed his skills but also ingrained a deep appreciation for the journal’s historical significance and the dedication of faculty advisors. The impact of such experiences is profound, leaving lasting memories and connections that extend beyond the residency years.

For Penn Orthopaedics, the UPOJ serves as a beacon of the department’s commitment to excellence and innovation. Pramod B. Voleti highlights the journal’s role in the residency program, describing it as a “stimulus for original research and a landing spot for peer-reviewed articles.” The meticulous process of producing each edition, from soliciting articles to securing funding and distributing the journal, provides residents with invaluable insights into the academic and practical aspects of medical publishing.



Roshan Shah, MD  
Editor-in-Chief, 2010  
Columbia University

“Co-Editing UPOJ with Jason Hsu was a formative part of my training. We developed the 20th anniversary issue, a hardcover special edition. It commemorated Dr. Richard Lackman’s successful tenure as chair and heralded the legendary force and impact of Dr. L. Scott Levin’s leadership at the helm. I learned about

fundraising, marketing, and academic publishing, about the history of Penn Ortho, and about our alumni’s commitment to this department. I bore witness to our faculty advisors pouring themselves into the journal, as they did all aspects of our education. The impact of this experience will be long lasting. Indeed, I am wearing my UPOJ fleece jacket as I write.”



Pramod B. Voleti, MD  
Editor-in-Chief, 2012  
Montefiore Einstein

“Serving as an editor-in-chief for the University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal was a tremendous honor and a transformative experience for me. Through this undertaking, I acquired insight into the painstaking steps required to produce a high-quality scientific publication, including

soliciting articles, editing manuscripts, coordinating peer review, securing funding, designing print and online layouts, and distributing printed journals. I also gained a newfound respect for the editorial and peer-review process. I still consider my involvement in the UPOJ as one of the highlights of my residency experience at Penn. The journal brings tremendous value to the residency program and to the department, serving as a stimulus for original research and a landing spot for peer-reviewed articles. Through its 34 editions, it has had a lasting impact on countless orthopedic residents. It brings me joy to see that the UPOJ is still going strong and will continue its legacy into the future.”

This not only elevates the residency experience but also reinforces the department’s reputation for producing high-quality scientific work.

The greater orthopedic community benefits immensely from the UPOJ’s contributions. Andrew H. Milby reflects on the pride of bringing complex projects to fruition, a sentiment echoed by other past editors-in-chief like Tyler Morris and Alexander Neuwirth. They appreciate the journal’s unique combination of current research, departmental news, and personal insights, which fosters a sense of continuity and progress within the field. The UPOJ stands out as a publication that not only documents significant advancements but also nurtures the professional growth of its contributors, ensuring a lasting legacy for the orthopedic community. Under Dr. Levin’s leadership, the UPOJ has fostered the growth and development of 30 editors-in-chief (Fig 1). Dr. Shah still proudly wears his UPOJ fleece jacket, finding it handy for those late-night research sessions as an attending, proving that the journal’s influence—and his dedication—never fade.



Andrew Milby, MD  
Editor-in-Chief, 2013  
Emory University

“As I reflect on my time spent on the UPOJ, I take immense pride in having brought a complex project to fruition. I gained an appreciation for the steps involved in fundraising, solicitation of content, peer review, copy editing, formatting, and printing. In contrast to the commercial journals published by many

other orthopaedic departments, I am especially proud to know that the UPOJ rests squarely on the shoulders of two motivated and industrious residents each year. Our issue would not have materialized without a team effort, and I remain grateful for all of Sarah Yannascoli’s hard work during our year in the trenches.”



Tyler Morris, MD  
Editor-in-Chief, 2015  
Clarksville, TN

“As a prior editor-in-chief of the UPOJ, I understand the hard work that goes into creating each annual edition. It is a unique combination of current research and events, news relevant to alumni of the program, and personal letters from personnel in the department. I know of no other periodical like it in the

country. Since graduating from the program, I look forward to the new edition every year to see what is happening in the program and the direction the department is moving.”



Alexander Neuwirth, MD  
Editor-in-Chief, 2015  
Columbia University

“Serving as Editor in Chief of UPOJ was a tremendous honor and privilege, and it was an instrumental part of my academic development. The process was deeply educational in many different ways. It allowed me to develop a profound appreciation for the journal editing and printing process, from requesting, identifying

and selecting articles to fine tuning them to fulfil the journal’s criteria. Furthermore, the process taught me how to raise funding from a variety of partners to allow for the publication at high volume of the journal while managing a budget closely to ensure future viability. Lastly, on a more personal note, I found the opportunity to leave a lasting, printed, legacy at Penn immensely gratifying, and to this day, it is one of the professional achievements I am most proud of. I very much look forward to reading the 2024 ”

Year	Dedication	Editors-in-Chief
2010	Richard Lackman, MD	Jason Hsu, MD and Roshan Shah, MD
2011	Zachary B. Friedenber, MD	Chancellor F. Gray, MD and Mara L. Schenker, MD
2012	Mary Ann Keenan, MD	Tae Won B. Kim, MD and Pramod B. Voleti, MD
2013	Bruce Heppenstall, MD	Andrew H. Milby, MD and Sarah M. Yannascoli, MD
2014	Ernest Gentchos, MD	Vishal Saxena, MD and Joshua A. Gordon, MD
2015	John Esterhai, MD	Alexander Neuwirth, MD and Tyler Morris, MD
2016	Gerald Williams, MD	James Friedman, MD and Cody Hillin, MD
2017	Malcom Ecker, MD	Blair Ashely, MD and Dan Gittings, MD
2018	Marvin Steinberg, MD	Mike Ebbe, MD and Adnan Cheema, MD
2019	Paul Lotke, MD	Liane Miller, MD and Matthew Counihan, MD
2020	William George DeLong, MD	George Fryhofer, MD and Kelsey Bonilla, MD
2021	Craig Israelite, MD	Sachin Gupta, MD and Matt Stein, MD
2022	G. Russel Huffman, MD	Kendall Masada, MD and Jordan Cohen, MD
2023	L. Scott Levin, MD	Bijan Dehghani MD and Mitch Hallman, MD
2024	Eric Hume, MD	Mohammed Abdullah, MD and Eric Schweppe, MD

**Figure 1: Prior UPOJ Dedications and Editors-in-Chief under the leadership of Dr. L. Scott Levin.**