

Presbyterian Medical Center Update

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The Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center (PPMC) enjoyed another successful year and looks forward to future expansion. Our physicians continue to contribute academically nationally and internationally. Dr. Gwo-Chin Lee was chosen for the John N. Insall traveling fellowship sponsored by The Knee Society. Dr. Lee visited over 13 internationally recognized

joint replacement and knee surgery centers throughout North America. Dr. G. Russell Huffman was chosen for the prestigious Japanese Orthopedic Society sponsored fellowship. Dr. Huffman traveled through five cities in Japan lecturing and presenting his research.

With the passing of Dr. Zachary Friedenber, we lost a giant in the field of orthopedic surgery. Dr. Friedenber worked at Penn for over 50 years and during his tenure he served as Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at PPMC. While maintaining his clinical practice at PPMC he expanded his interest in research and teaching. Dr. Friedenber has authored multiple articles, chapters and books in orthopedic surgery. He was a strong supporter of the resident education program and his legacy continues through the Clinical Scientist Award he set up through the Orthopedic Research and Education Foundation.

PPMC welcomes Dr. Eric Hume to the Department of Orthopedic Surgery. Dr. Hume completed his medical school training at State University of New York, Upstate Medical University of Syracuse. He went on to complete his general surgery internship and orthopedic surgery residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. He has held positions within the department of Orthopedic Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and more recently at Cooper Hospital where he was the director of the joint reconstruction program. Dr. Hume is a well-respected clinician, academician, and teacher. He has made a smooth transition to our department and will play an integral role in the total joint reconstruction program.

The Orthopedic Infection Reduction Task Force at PPMC meets regularly in an effort to improve the already low surgical infection rate. This multi-disciplinary group include OR orthopedic surgical nurses, peri-operative staff, sterile processing staff along with members of the Departments of Orthopedic Surgery, and Infectious Disease. In 2010, the group was awarded the UPHS Quality and Safety Award which is given to the departments that have exhibited leadership and innovation in activities that ensure high quality clinical outcomes, patient satisfaction, patient safety and cost efficiency. The Delaware Valley Healthcare Council bestowed a second honor upon the group. In November, they announced that our group at PPMC had won the 2010 Delaware Valley Patient

Safety Award for its results in improving patient outcomes and surgical site infections. PPMC outshined 58 other submissions from hospitals across the Delaware Valley to win this award.

The PPMC Orthopedic Steering Group meets on a monthly basis with administrative support led by Lori Gustave, Associate Executive Director. A group from Wharton has completed an evaluation of the peri-operative services at PPMC. The steering committee has used the recommendations to continue their efforts in improving operational efficiency. Dr. Nabil Elkassabany has been hired by the department of anesthesia as Director of Orthopaedic Anesthesia. Dr. Elkassabany will be working at PPMC and HUP in developing peri-operative protocols as well as continuing to strengthen our regional anesthesia services. Dr. Laura Kossiem now directs the orthopedic - medical co-management service. The service includes hospitalists dedicated in the care of medically complex orthopedic patients and who collaborate in the development of consistent patient care pathways.

Currently, the PPMC Department of Orthopedic Surgery office encompasses 12,000 square feet of clinical and academic space with plans for future expansion. The PECO building on campus has been leveled to make way for a new building to include musculoskeletal medicine. The clinical space will include operating suites and areas for patient care by multi-disciplinary specialties involved in musculoskeletal care.



We wish Lori Hulse, Director of Operations, good luck as she assumes a position as Director of Operations for All Children's Specialty Services, a subsidiary of All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida. While at PPMC, Ms. Hulse was instrumental in making significant operational improvements within the department. We welcome Anastasia Mylonas as the new practice administrator. Ms. Mylonas has extensive experience working in a medical private practice setting and within CPUP. She has worked her way through the ranks over the past 18 years and her leadership and experience will be a great benefit for the group.

The Department of Orthopedic Surgery continues to develop its role as a vital component of PPMC. With continued hard work and collaboration, we look forward to another year of growth and success.