



# Letter from the Program Director

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The 2011-2012 academic year has again been exemplary. I continue to enjoy serving our department as its residency program director in one of the top programs in the country. Though the constant rule changes, manpower distributions, and academic rigors can at times be burdensome, its rewards are overwhelming.

Last academic year culminated with our annual Alumni Golf Outing and Graduating Senior Dinner. There were numerous alumni in attendance, and with Dr. Levin's establishment of the DeForest Willard Society, we expect these numbers to continue to grow.

All eight graduating senior residents went on to some of the most prestigious fellowships in the country. These fellowships included: Pediatrics at CHOP (Keith Baldwin), Trauma at UMDNJ (Derek Donegan), Sports at the Hospital for Special Surgery (Albert Gee) and Tufts University New England Baptist Hospital (Amy Herz Brown), Shoulder and Elbow at Thomas Jefferson University (Andrew Kuntz), Spine at Harborview Medical Center (Amit Patel) and Texas Back Institute (Ejovi Ughwanogho), and Hand at Vanderbilt University (Nick Pappas). I have heard from all of these alumni, and their training while at Penn has provided them with outstanding career paths.

This year's group of residents continues to perform in what has become customary achievement here at Penn. Upon graduation this coming June, all eight graduating seniors are again going on to stellar fellowships. Shoulder and Elbow is represented by Oke Anakwenze and Surena Namdari who will be traveling to Columbia University and Washington University in St. Louis, respectively. Sports Medicine fellowships will be at the UHZ Sports Medicine Institute in Florida (Ryan DeCoons), Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston (Laura Wiegand), and Duke University (Milt Zgonis). We have two residents doing joint arthroplasty fellowships with Atul Kamath at the Mayo Clinic and Ryan Moore at Thomas Jefferson University. Lastly, John Scolaro will be doing a Trauma fellowship at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. We wish them all continued success.

This past year brought the Penn Orthopaedics banner to many outstanding societies and meetings. Room doesn't permit me to list all presentations individually, but there were excellent presentations at the AO North America Meeting, 12 at the Orthopaedic Research Society, 11 at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting, 3 at the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons, as well as presentations at the American Association of Hand Surgery, Radiology Society of North America, Eastern Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting, American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference, Orthopaedic Trauma Association Annual Meeting, American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons Closed Meeting, International Society for Technology in Arthroplasty, Knee Society Members Meeting, Musculoskeletal Infection Society Annual Meeting, and several regional meetings. This is obviously an outstanding representation of our residents, reflective of their diverse interests. Additionally, at last count, there were over one hundred peer-reviewed publications either authored or co-authored by our current residents during this past academic year.

Awards this past year included Jason Hsu- AAOS/OREF/ORS Clinician Scholar Development Program, Min Jung Park- American Society for Surgery of the Hand Annual Meeting Travel Scholarship, Nicole Belkin- OREF Resident Clinician Scientist Training Grant, Mara Schenker- OREF Young Investigator's Grant, Surena Namdari- Jacqueline Perry Award, and Atul Kamath- AAHKS Health Policy Fellow. Again, these are all outstanding contributions to the orthopedic community.

No words can express the debt of gratitude to Barbara Weinraub for her continued dedication and hard work, particularly in this ACGME review year. Lastly, although every resident continues to provide outstanding contributions to the success of the residency as a whole, special thanks goes to two very special and talented young men, Drs. Surena Namdari and John Scolaro, who as administrative chief residents performed in an absolutely outstanding manner.

As always, it is a privilege and honor to serve as program director. My most difficult task continues to be the selection of only eight residents per year out of over 800 applications. I have no doubt that next year's program will be as strong as ever under the stewardship of our chairman, Dr. L. Scott Levin.