



## Letter from the Editors-in-Chief



We are proud to present the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the *University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal (UPOJ)*. The *UPOJ* began in 1985, during the leadership of previous Chairman, Dr. Carl T. Brighton. Since then, the *UPOJ* has been published annually, except for a brief hiatus from 1993 to 1997. Thus, with the publication of the 24<sup>th</sup> edition, we celebrate the 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nation's oldest fully resident-run orthopaedic journal.

We proudly dedicate this edition of the *UPOJ* to Ernest J. Gentchos, MD, a towering figure at Penn, and a man whose actions have spoken volumes about his genuine nature and seemingly limitless generosity. After a career of service to Penn spanning four decades, Dr. Gentchos retired from his nonoperative clinic at HUP last year. However, he continues to staff the orthopaedic clinic at the Philadelphia VA, where he imparts more than a half-century of wisdom and knowledge to residents. Indeed, Dr. Gentchos serves as a constant reminder of the values of education, service, and philanthropy. This edition is but a small tribute to an individual who has served Penn so loyally for so many years.

On a more somber note, publication of the *UPOJ* also allows us to reflect on those we have lost over the past year. This winter, the Penn Orthopaedics family lost a dear friend, colleague, and teacher. Anthony "Tony" Searles passed away after a long battle with cancer. For decades, Tony and his smile were constant figures in the clinic at HUP. He taught generations of attendings, residents, and medical students the art of casting and splinting, skills that are often underappreciated, yet paramount to excellent patient care. In this edition of the *UPOJ*, we feature a tribute to Tony Searles, written by Dr. Frederick Kaplan, one of his close friends and a leading figure at Penn Orthopaedics.

This year, we are continuing to structure and format clinical and basic science articles in the "extended abstract" process that was begun last year by our predecessors, Andrew Milby and Sarah Yannascoli, and was a rousing success. Along with presenting information and ideas in a succinct manner, the extended abstract format also allows our authors to submit their work to the *UPOJ* without restricting their ability to submit full-length versions of their work to other peer-reviewed journals.

Although we are proud of the *UPOJ's* legacy as a print journal, this edition ushers the *UPOJ* into the age of digital media. We are thrilled to introduce the revamped *UPOJ* website designed by Daniel Steinberg, founder of Hyaline Creative. As Daniel's father is David Steinberg and his grandfather is Marvin Steinberg, this marks three generations of Steinbergs who have served Penn Orthopaedics well. We hope that the new website provides a more attractive and far-

reaching platform for our current and past articles. We urge you to visit us at [www.upoj.org](http://www.upoj.org).

Since 1997, the *UPOJ* has been financially independent from the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Thus, this journal would not be possible without the financial support of our advertisers. We extend our gratitude to our industry and commercial sponsors whose generous contributions further our mission of musculoskeletal research and education.

Publication of the *UPOJ* would also not be possible without the support of our Chairman, Dr. L. Scott Levin, and Program Director, Dr. Craig L. Israelite. We are also indebted to our faculty advisors, Drs. Samir Mehta and Jaimo Ahn, for their mentorship and guidance. We give a hearty thanks to our content editors for their hard work and enthusiasm, for they help to make the journal what it is: Drs. P. Maxwell Courtney and Christopher Melnic (adult reconstruction); Dr. Stephen Liu (hand surgery); Dr. Jonathan Slaughter (spine); Dr. Michael McGraw (sports medicine); Dr. Jason Anari (trauma); Dr. Russell Stitzlein (shoulder and elbow); and Dr. Alexander Neuwirth (pediatrics).

On behalf of our fellow authors, editors, and mentors, we proudly present the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the *UPOJ*. Within this edition, you will find some of the latest ideas and trends in clinical and basic science, as well as editorial features on progress in the Department and beyond. We hope you enjoy.



Sincerely,  
Vishal Saxena, MD, and Joshua A. Gordon, MD  
Editors-in-Chief  
*The University of Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Journal*  
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