



Pennsylvania Hospital

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Pennsylvania Hospital (PAH) has a rich history in Philadelphia as the nation's first hospital. Founded in 1751 by Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Thomas Bond, the hospital was intended as a safe haven for the care of the "sick-poor and insane of Philadelphia." Located in the heart of South Philadelphia, its brand name draws thousands of patients annually to receive their care at the corner of 8th and Spruce Streets.

With the changes over the past year to the Orthopaedic department and an increase in faculty and overall volume, PAH has undergone a series of major changes. The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania now staffs nine attending surgeons from various sub-specialties to populate the orthopaedic clinic on the first floor of the Cathcart Building. Among the sub-specialties represented are adult hip and knee reconstruction, foot and ankle, hand/plastic surgery, neuro-orthopaedics, shoulder and elbow, spine/deformity, sports medicine, and trauma. Faculty from orthopaedic surgery run multiple rooms in the operating theater daily.

Notable this past year, Dr. Atul Kamath returned to Penn after completing his fellowship in Adult Reconstruction at the Mayo Clinic. He also completed a six month traveling fellowship throughout Europe focusing on hip preservation.

With such a dramatic increase in operative volume, PAH is now staffed by a PGY-1, PGY-2, PGY-4 and a PGY-5 at all times, complemented by a team of nurse practitioners and physician extenders that assist with patient clinical care and floor work. The nurse practitioners also staff the floors at night to provide round-the-clock patient care.



Residents are typically in the operating room four days per week, with dedicated clinic time in multiple sub-specialties. In addition, the foot and ankle resident and spine chief resident are at PAH hospital full time, while residents from the arthroplasty and sports medicine services spend part of their week operating and staffing clinic in the Cathcart building. In a continuing commitment to resident education, conferences are now held every day in the morning. With a rigorous, structured curriculum, specialty specific conferences include spine, foot and ankle, trauma and arthroplasty.

The administration at Pennsylvania hospital has been extremely supportive of the expanded presence of orthopaedic faculty and residence. The hospital system has increased the number of physician extenders present, doubled the OR block time for the department, and increased physical space for clinical work and administrative duties. Their continued support is critical as the orthopaedic volume continues to grow, allowing PAH to maintain its reputation in the region as a first-class hospital.