



Letter from the Program Director

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Individually and collectively as a department, we are driven to make a demonstrable difference in the education of orthopedic residents at the University of Pennsylvania. The education of residents and fellows has been and continues to be one of the greatest strengths of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery. As a testament to our national position we receive approximately eight

hundred applicants annually for our eight highly coveted and competitive positions. The commitment to resident education continues to be emphasized at the highest levels, which begins with our department chair Dr. L. Scott Levin, MD, vice chairs, division chiefs and faculty. It is truly a team effort and has led to the continued academic success of the department.

Currently there are forty-two residents within the department. There are eight new residents which matriculate each year, of which two residents spend an entire year doing full time research between their post graduate two and three years. With the continued growth of the department both in faculty recruitment and volume, it is our intention to successfully be approved for an additional resident per year. Institutional approval has already been granted for these additional residents in order to support our departmental mission.

All general and subspecialty sections of orthopedic surgery are expertly covered by our distinguished faculty. Residents rotate primarily through the University of Pennsylvania Health System (UPHS) hospitals of HUP, Pennsylvania Hospital and Penn-Presbyterian Hospital. PGY-2 and 4 residents spend 3 months at the Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania (CHOP) ranked at the top of all pediatric programs. Additionally our residents support the orthopedic missions at the Philadelphia Veterans Hospital as well as a community rotation at Bayhealth Hospital (Dover, DE). This newly acquired community rotation now allows our residents access to evaluate community health practices, while at the same time allows for a new referral base involving complex patients to our own health system. Lastly, our residents have participated and will be encouraged to pursue global outreach programs.

While our affiliations are large and diverse, our department continues to strive for a balanced and well-structured core curriculum. The curriculum is now run on two year cycles and covers all areas of our specialty. Grand rounds are required and take place every Thursday morning with four continuous hours of protected educational time. Additionally, each subspecialty delivers at least one academic didactic session each week. These morning conferences are comprised of faculty within the division, fellows, residents and students (Penn and visiting). These lectures are reviewed, critiqued

and discussed with each division chief in order to maintain updated goals and objectives for each section.

In addition to our core academic mission and educational activities, this robust program is further enhanced by numerous additional activities. The visiting professor lecture series occurs each month and are sponsored and named sessions. The series is comprised of the most renowned national and international faculty. In addition to visiting faculty, our residents are encouraged and supported to attend numerous off-site courses to enhance their learning each year.

While obviously it is our main mission to educate each of our residents, the evaluation of our residents has become even more critical. The department provides a strong mentorship program which pairs faculty to incoming trainees. Furthermore, all active faculty are required to evaluate each resident regarding knowledge and professionalism. Newly developed milestones documentation evaluations are now electronically based. Evaluations are submitted to the Clinical Competency Committee (CCC) which is comprised of the chairman, program director and assistants and a faculty member of each division. Careful and meaningful evaluations are then documented with respect to each resident's academic and professional growth and recommendations are made regarding their advancement in our program. This newly developed CCC has been invaluable with respect to real time evaluation of residents necessary for promotion or remedial work.

Another highlight of the departments' evaluation process involves the monthly meeting of our own Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC). This highly functioning and motivated group consists of the chairman, program directors, faculty as well as two members of each resident class who are elected by their peers. The program can therefore constantly review current situations and respond with ease to any needed changes. Many of our new programs have been initiated by resident suggestions during these meetings.

In addition to striving for continued academic and clinical excellence, new CLER initiatives are being developed. As one of the few orthopedic programs nationally to have a vice chair for compliance officer, Dr. Levin has appointed Dr. Hume to join with the program directors in order to provide safety measures for the residents' delivery of patient care. Numerous projects have been completed and new ones are beginning.

The cost of supporting our growing mission of education continues to increase. The human cost, measured in hours, has largely been covered by the spirit and volunteerism of department members. Faculty is omnipresent with regard to mentorship, educational development and research. Countless non-clinical hours are devoted to GMEC, CCC and research. Intra-mural and extra-mural funding has been raised in order to support the entire curriculum. One unique and noteworthy development has been the use of iPads which have been provided to each resident. The ability to locate

all department activities, read journals for journal clubs and review lectures so easily has been embraced and is now part of the daily activities of every resident.

Numerous grants which range from institutional, national (OREF, etc) and industry have been awarded which further allows us to educate and train our members. This allows support of our visiting programs, research and participation of our resident at local, national and international society meetings

Finally, perhaps the best measure of our residency program is the number of opportunities afforded to our graduating residents. Our residents are coveted by the most prestigious fellowship programs in the country with the vast majority receiving their first choice of fellowship. Beyond that, many now serve in academic departments across the nation as well as our own program here at Penn.

The academic plan for the future must and will continue to be vigorous and exemplary in order to maintain our national rankings, in which we are ranked currently #14 in the country by US News and World Report. In addition to pursuing at least one more resident per year, further faculty recruitment will need resident support. Solidifying our relationships to community programs in addition to Bayhealth is paramount to continued growth and expansion. As our growth will continue into many diverse areas, so will our faculty and resident recruits. Diversity will continue to expand upon what has already been a new area of focus. Funding opportunities will be needed to support and mandate research and scholarship for all resident physicians.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not thank those who have gone above and beyond their normal duties of providing commitment to our program. While we have one of the greatest department faculties, some truly are contributing above and beyond. Dr. Scott Levin continues to put the educational quality of our residents at the forefront of all missions. He continues not only to be an exemplary leader of the faculty, but knows, meets and provides exceptional guidance to all of the residents. There are no words which can say how much Barbara Weinraub has meant to the continued success of our program. While “officially” retiring in December, it is a testament of her commitment and undeniable qualities that she continues to work and mentor our newly hired Program Coordinator Shanna Kurek. Shanna obviously has big shoes to fill but has already shown exceptional skill. Drs. Mehta and Ahn continue to not only be exemplary role models and educators, but are invaluable to the continued success of our residency. Our academic chiefs this year were Christos Photopoulos, John (Gabe) Horneff, and Ryan Taylor, who kept the ship running smoothly. This was an incredible year of transition as we moved the trauma division to PMC as well as the opening of our brand new outpatient offices. They never complained and have honed their leadership skills that will serve not only them but the orthopedic community at large for many years to come. Truly they are the heart and soul which drives each resident to reach their highest level of competency. I am indebted to all of these exceptional individuals that I am privileged to work with in addition to what I consider the best faculty and staff in the nation.

