



# Foot & Ankle

## Faculty



Keith Wapner, MD



Wen Chao, MD



Daniel Farber, MD



Kathryn O'Connor, MD, MSPT



# Foot & Ankle Division Update

Daniel Farber, MD



The Foot and Ankle Division has had a productive year. Our faculty includes Keith Wapner, Wen Chao, Kate O'Connor, and Daniel Farber. Collectively the division has seen XX patients and performed YY surgical procedures over the past year. We now serve Center City and beyond with locations at the Farm Journal Building, PMUC, Cherry Hill, Radnor, and Exton and perform surgical procedures at Pennsylvania Hospital, Penn Presbyterian, the surgery center at PMUC, and at Chester County Hospital.

Internationally, Dr. Keith Wapner continues to travel the world representing Penn Orthopaedics with presentations in Switzerland, Dubai, and Beijing as well as multiple national talks. He also serves a member of the managerial board of the Foot and Ankle International journal. Dr. Daniel Farber completed his term on the AAOS Board of Directors and now serves on the AOFAS Education committee. He is spearheading a task force to develop an accreditation pathway for foot and ankle fellowships in a cooperative venture between the AOFAS and AAOS. Dr. Farber is the also Associate Editor for Review Articles for the new Foot and Ankle Online Journal of the AOFAS. He continues to direct Penn's Foot and Ankle Fellowship. Locally, Dr. Wen Chao is an Orthopaedic Consultant to the Pennsylvania Ballet. Our newest faculty member, Dr. Kate O'Connor, continues to grow her practice while managing the new foot and ankle education curriculum for the residents and serving on the AOFAS Evidence Based Medicine Committee.

From a research perspective, the division is now part of several national studies. These include an ongoing study of the STAR ankle replacement, a prospective study of a new bone graft substitute and an investigation of the use of bone stimulators for acute operatively treated ankle fractures. Other investigations include collaborations with Penn's Human Motion Laboratory exploring long term follow up of long harvest transfer of the flexor hallucis longus muscle for treatment of chronic Achilles pathology as well as short term follow up of acute Achilles ruptures. We continue to explore insights gained from weight-bearing CT scanning in investigations of ankle and hindfoot arthritis as well as in bunion deformities. An ongoing study looks at the role Orthopaedic surgeons play in influencing patients' choice of footwear. We are collaborating with the Biedermann lab and Mike Hast, PhD to explore the compression properties of a new plate for fusions of the forefoot, midfoot and hindfoot.

The division continues our collaboration with the McKay Lab and Lou Soslowsky, PhD investigating early return to activity after repaired and non-repaired Achilles ruptures. We have also begun to explore treatment options for simulated chronic Achilles ruptures in the rat model and will begin an investigation into the effect of smoking on Achilles rupture healing.

Penn's Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Division is poised for another exciting year of excellent patient care, service to the orthopaedic community and active research.