



Chief's Corner: Academic Chief Update

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As our tenure as academic chief residents come to a close, it is natural to reflect on the past year. First and foremost, we would like to thank Drs. Levin, Israelite, Ahn, and Milby for their support and mentorship. Thank you to the faculty, staff, and most importantly our co-residents for continuing to work diligently with us to continue to make Penn Orthopaedics a great place to work and train. While it is both impossible and unnecessary to completely overhaul the educational program in a single year, we hope that several of the initiatives we have focused on below have contributed to the continual and incremental improvement of the residency program and department as a whole.

One of our main initiatives was to revitalize a regular journal club program. This received broad support and participation amongst both residents and faculty. We chose to have two parallel types of journal clubs; 1) journal clubs focusing on how to read, critically analyze, interpret, and integrate data, and 2) journal clubs to cover both historical articles of importance and new and emerging literature in a specific subspecialty. The journal clubs focused on developing the skills to critically read the literature stemmed from a visit from Dr. Seth Leopold, the Editor in Chief of Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research in the spring of 2018. Dr. Leopold was generous enough to provide a curriculum he has developed to systematically cover how to read and interpret articles of various types. In order to make this a more robust experience, Drs. Nicole Zelenski and Matthew Winterton applied for and received a grant to support resident journal clubs from the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery. These funds have been important in making this a quality experience. So far, we have had numerous subspecialty journal clubs with significant investment and involvement from faculty. We would like to thank the faculty who have hosted and helped organize journal clubs for their dedication to our education.

Another area of focus for this year involved optimizing resident utilization of our research laboratories. Residents who are able to secure extramural funding are now able to schedule consistent and structured research time longitudinally throughout the year. As more of our residents take advantage of the many resources available to us, including but certainly not limited to the McKay, Biedermann, and Human Motion labs,

the new initiative allows them to carry their work through to completion and publication.

Engaging with the international community provides substantial benefits for our department, trainees, and hopefully those abroad through not only the provision of medical care, but also through the robust and vibrant exchange of ideas. In addition to several of the faculty who are consistently involved in international work, we have sought to expand the opportunities for residents to participate in this work. Through the generous support of the Biedermann family, there is funding available for residents to travel to established sites abroad and participate in surgical mission trips. Two new overseas opportunities saw resident involvement this year. One took place in Azua, Dominican Republic, where two chief residents and Dr. Samir Mehta joined Community Empowerment and a group out of Rush University in Chicago for a trip to provide orthopaedic care to members of the local community who would otherwise not be able to afford or obtain care. The second involves a budding relationship with Dr. Louis Bahamonde of the University of Santiago, Chile. Dr. Bahamonde graciously offered to host two residents at the university hospital for two weeks, where the residents had opportunity to engage in patient care and learn from the diverse and talented faculty of the University of Santiago. It is our hope that the residents who are fortunate enough to have these experiences will give back to the fund, allowing future residents to participate in these impactful experiences as well.

Again this year, as in past years, our visiting professor program continues to be exemplary with educators coming not only from across the United States, but from around the globe. These visits provide the needed opportunity to expand our view outside of the microcosm of Penn Orthopaedics and learn from experts who often have performed seminal work or made truly outstanding contributions to the field.

It is hard to believe that our time as chief residents is nearing an end. It is our hope that throughout this year we were able to play a small part in continuing the tradition of excellence of our residency program. We look forward to the new heights that the program will undoubtedly continue to reach and want to thank everyone for their support. We wish the best for next year's chiefs.