



Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Philadelphia VA Medical Center Update



David Steinberg, MD

Acting Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery Department, VAMC

During 2018, we saw some faculty transitions and expansion of clinical services, which will allow us to better serve our veterans. We welcomed Dr. Vincent Moretti as a fulltime joint reconstruction surgeon. He received degrees in biomedical engineering & medicine at Northwestern University, then spent a year as a Clinical Research Fellow at Penn. Vince returned to Chicago for his orthopaedic residency at the University of Illinois, and then travelled back to Philadelphia for an Adult Reconstruction Fellowship at the Rothman Institute, followed by two years as an assistant professor in the Orthopaedic Department at Drexel University. He adds a new perspective & approach to total joint arthroplasty, in addition to providing some general orthopaedic & trauma coverage. He is helping to revamp the veterans' total joint experience, bringing with him lessons learned during his fellowship, such as facilitating expanded perioperative care & post-operative therapy in an effort to reduce length of stay for our patients.

Dr. Marlene DeMaio has stepped down as Chief of Orthopaedics and has assumed an exciting new role at the VAMC. While she remains a Clinical Professor of Orthopaedics at the Perelman School of Medicine, she has moved to the Rehab Medical Service to be Co-Director, with Carla Scanzello, of the Osteoarthritis Clinic, which will provide a multi-disciplinary approach to OA. She is also working with Women's Health to develop a Women's Musculoskeletal Conditions Service. Both of these efforts support the VA's Whole Health Initiative. It will help with more appropriate and efficient referrals to orthopaedics. With her continued dedication to resident education, Dr. DeMaio is working with Dr. Edna Schwab, Chief Education Officer, on training programs for surgeons and new VA providers. This transition will help the VA with new programs for patients, providers, and trainees in a different capacity. Dr. DeMaio has been inducted as the new president of the Ruth Jackson Society. (Three past presidents have also had Penn connections: Drs. Mary Ann Keenan, Helen Horstmann, and Kristy Weber, Figure. 1).

With Dr. DeMaio's transition, David Steinberg has assumed the role of Acting Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery, in addition to his responsibilities as Chief of Hand Surgery. He runs a weekly hand clinic, and is working with Dr. Levin & VA administration to develop a regional hand center covering Eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey & Delaware.

We continue to offer other subspecialty services to our veterans, including joint arthroplasty (Drs. Eric Hume, Joe Bernstein, Robert Wilson, & Vince Moretti), spine (Drs. Andrew Milby & Harvey Smith), foot & ankle (Dr. Kate



Figure 1. Past Presidents of the Ruth Jackson Society along with Dr. DeMaio, the new Ruth Jackson Society President.

O'Conner), trauma (Dr. Jaimo Ahn), orthopaedic oncology (Dr. Wilson) & shoulder (Dr. Andy Kuntz). Dr. Bernstein continues in his multiple roles as student & resident educator, staffing clinic, and performing general orthopaedic surgery. All of the faculty staff general orthopaedic as well as specialty clinics four days a week. From January 1 to December 31, 2018, 6046 visits were recorded for the outpatient Orthopaedic Surgery Clinic. We would not be able to provide

comprehensive orthopaedic care to our patients without the dedication of our residents, hand fellows, our two exceptional orthopaedic physician assistants, Mitchel "Chip" Staska, MP-C and John Wheeler, PA-C, our nurses Kathleen Sweeney, RN and Catherine Linowski, RN MSN, and the other clinic staff. We offer surgical services five days weekly, and performed over 368 operative procedures last year. Under Dr. DeMaio's leadership, the orthopaedic service made major improvements in patient safety, new total joint order set, improved coding, and improved length of stay.

Our faculty, residents and Penn's scientists, engineers & research staff continue to forge new paths through the partnership between the McKay Orthopaedic Laboratory and the PVAMC Translational Musculoskeletal Research Center. Drs. Smith (completing his Career Development Award this year), Bernstein, Kuntz, Esterhai, Ahn & Steinberg, working alongside Drs. Mauck, Soslowsky & Dodge, are investigating many facets of the musculoskeletal system, including repair & regeneration of tendon, meniscus, cartilage, & the intervertebral disc.

In addition to patient care and research, the orthopaedic program at the VAMC promotes the third pillar of academic medicine, education. In addition to clinical and surgical training of residents, hand fellows and students, we are expanding our educational efforts. This includes weekly resident conference with Dr. Kuntz, quarterly Chairman's rounds with Dr. Levin, the pending acquisition of an arthroscopic simulator, and new programs, such as an integrated curriculum with Penn, being developed by Dr. DeMaio.