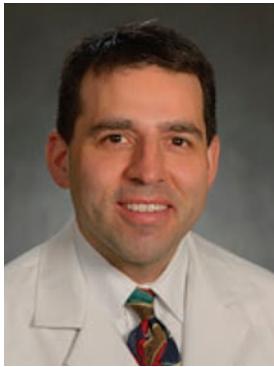




# Letter from the Program Director



Daniel C. Farber, MD



It has been a very busy year for the Penn Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program. I came aboard as Associate Program Director in late June. Over the ensuing months, I have assumed the role of Program Director from Dr. Craig Israelite who has valiantly led the residency program for the past 12 years. That transition became official as of December 1, 2019. Dr. Israelite remains on the team as an

Associate PD along with our new Associate PD, Dr. Vincent Moretti. We have added Lauren Johnson as an additional team member and she serves as the administrative assistant to the residency. Rounding out the team is our program coordinator, the indispensable Shannon Savelloni, who has made nothing but positive contributions to the program since her arrival in late 2018.

Our year began with the unprecedented Hahnemann University Hospital bankruptcy which orphaned over 500 residents at that facility including 20 orthopaedic residents. We quickly scrambled and created a compelling application for a temporary complement increase while simultaneously interviewing many of the Hahnemann residents whose future was quite uncertain. From the chaos of that process, 5 residents emerged and were adopted into our program. They have integrated quickly and quite well into the Penn system and thus we now have 9 residents in the PGY2-5 years. We are proud of these new residents and also of all our residents who welcomed their new colleagues with open arms, accommodated rotations, revamped call schedules and made them a part of the team. Because of this unexpected opportunity, we have subsequently applied for a permanent complement increase to 9 residents per year but the outcome of that is still to be determined. The implications of 9 residents

in the program means that rotations may change significantly to assure the continued excellent education experience that Penn Ortho provides. We have engaged residents and faculty to help build this new residency world. Meanwhile, we have revamped the medical student application and interview process to focus more holistically on the applicant and who they are as an individual; this is especially timely with the recent decision by the NBME to convert the USMLE Step 1 to a pass/fail exam. Our plan is to truly seek out not just the best and brightest, but also those who are most likely to succeed at Penn and beyond. We continue the work of revamping conference and curriculum formats that is part of an ongoing process of always improving the resident education experience. There are many other projects that we look forward to implementing as the years progress, including enhanced sub-internship experiences for Penn and visiting medical students, more robust feedback mechanisms for residents and faculty, increasing diversity amongst our residents, and more.

We appreciate the tireless work and dedication of this year's administrative chief residents who hold the program together. Mark Hasenauer, Matthew Sloan, and Dan Gittings have been exemplary leaders, and we wish them the best in their fellowship pursuits and into practice.

We couldn't do all we do for the residents and their education without the unwavering support of our chairman, Dr. L. Scott Levin, and all our fantastic faculty who contribute to the education mission every day in their various roles.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to Craig Israelite, who has served Penn Orthopaedics for many years. Many of you trained under Craig's leadership, mentorship and guidance. We humbly ask you to honor Craig as well as your memories of your time at Penn with a contribution to the newly created Penn Orthopaedic Education fund which directly benefits the current residents' needs.