



Hand Division Update



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Hand Surgery Faculty



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It has been another exciting year for the hand and upper extremity section. The program continues to provide the highest quality service in its clinical and academic missions. Our success is due to the exceptional teamwork and commitment of the entire group. We see this collaboration daily with a remarkable effort from our staff, residents and fellows.

Our chairman, L. Scott Levin MD has completed his year as president of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand at the annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. He gave an inspiring presidential speech while reviewing the history and future of the practice of hand surgery. Angela Duckworth, professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, gave the presidential guest lecture presenting her work on “grit” – the tendency to pursue long-term goals with perseverance and passion.

Under the leadership of Dr. Benjamin Gray MD, the hand surgery section has further developed its robust clinical research program. The hand and upper extremity research team includes Annamarie Horan PhD, Director of Orthopedic Clinical Research, and our Clinical Research Coordinators Mary Dooley, Ashley Iwu and Evan Bannister. The team has been instrumental in advancing the numerous ongoing clinical research projects. The group is completing patient enrollment to evaluate digital tomo-synthesis for the detection and case management of scaphoid and distal radius fractures with a comparison to MRI or computed tomography. Enrollment is also coming to a close for the Axogen-sponsored study: A Multicenter, Prospective, Randomized, Subject and Evaluator Blinded Comparative Study of Nerve Cuffs and Advance Nerve Graft Evaluating Recovery Outcomes for the Repair of Nerve Discontinuities.

The hand transplant team has successfully performed bilateral upper extremity transplantation for four patients with quadra-membral amputations. Two patients have required a transatlantic coordination with the patients travelling from France to Philadelphia for their procedures. The group meets on a regular basis performing cadaveric rehearsals and honing

procedure checklists to prepare for our fifth bilateral upper extremity allotransplantation.

The clinical productivity of the hand section has exceeded budget predictions again this year. Dr. Stephen Liu’s practice at Chester County Hospital is growing rapidly. The hospital will be welcoming trainees in the next academic year which will add a community dimension to our training program. The Radnor office will be moving across the street to a new multi-specialty outpatient facility once construction is completed this spring. The building will provide expanded services to include an outpatient OR in the future.

The hand surgery fellowship continues its strong tradition under David R. Steinberg MD as the director and Ines Lin MD as the associate program director. Our three hand surgery fellows have had a solid clinical and academically productive year. Erin Weber M.D., Ph.D. completed her plastic surgical residency at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. Her goal is to become an academic surgeon-scientist combining a practice in hand and upper extremity reconstruction with research in tissue engineering, focusing on nerve and muscle regeneration. Ketan Sharma MD obtained a Master in Public Health at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and completed his plastic surgical residency training at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. He plans to utilize his epidemiology skills in an academic career in hand surgery. Dr. Jonathan Lundy MD is a military general surgeon serving as a trauma surgeon at Fort Hood, TX. After fellowship he plans to return as the hand surgeon for the United States Army Institute for Surgical Research Burn Center and join the upper extremity team at the adjoining San Antonio Medical Center.

The hand and upper extremity service could not function without the outstanding support from our superb advance practice providers, nurses and administrative assistants. With this exceptional support and collaboration, the hand surgery section looks forward to another successful year.