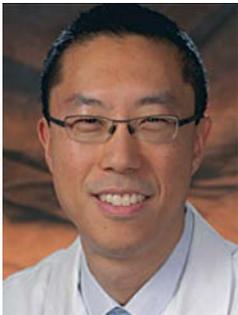




## Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Philadelphia VA Medical Center



Richard E. Grant, MD



Jaimo Ahn, MD, PhD



Joseph Bernstein, MD



Richard E. Grant, MD



Eric Hume, MD



Andrew Kuntz, MD



Vincent Moretti, MD



Harvey Smith, MD



David Steinberg, MD



Robert Wilson, MD

Orthopaedic Surgery at the VA is led by Dr. Richard E. Grant as Chief and consists of a talented team of surgeons including Dr. Jaimo Ahn, Dr. Joseph Bernstein, Dr. Eric Hume, Dr. Andrew Kuntz, Dr. Vincent Moretti, Dr. Harvey Smith, Dr. David Steinberg, and Dr. Robert Wilson.

There have been some exciting changes this year at the VA. From a facilities standpoint, the VA has made available dedicated rooms for the long-awaited VirtaMed simulators for all surgical subspecialties, including Orthopaedic Surgery. The surgical simulator device is to be positioned and confirmed this spring. The surgical simulator will assist our orthopaedic residents with pre-operative surgical skills related to orthopaedic procedures, especially in the area of arthroscopy of the knee and shoulder. The department is also excited to be onboarding a new physician assistant, Mr. Bialkowski, who will assist with orthopaedic clinical care at Wilmington, DE and Coatesville, PA.

Dr. Smith leads the VA spine service. He currently teaches medical students and residents at Penn and also works with graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in his research group. His current research activity continues to involve work on a tissue-engineered disc replacement in a large animal model, and his team just submitted a provisional patent application on the technology. His team currently has a VA Merit grant for funding, and Dr. Smith recently completed a

5-year VA CDA-2 award. Dr. Smith serves as a mentor for Dr. Gullbrand's CDA award (Sarah Gullbrand, PhD) and is on the thesis committee of Beth Ashinsky (MD, PhD Candidate from Drexel University working in our research lab at McKay and the VA). Dr. Smith also continues to serve as chair of the NASS Research and Biologics Committee and as chair of the FDA's advisory panel on Orthopaedic Devices.

Dr. Kuntz heads the shoulder service at the VA and continues to provide clinical care to veterans as well as educational opportunities to the residents. There is a weekly shoulder clinic that provides care to veterans with all types of shoulder pathology from the Philadelphia area and surrounding satellite VA facilities. Following shoulder clinic, a didactic teaching session is held with the residents to review and discuss various shoulder pathologies, treatments, and practice-associated factors related to orthopaedics. Residents are exposed to arthroscopic shoulder surgery and shoulder arthroplasty in the OR. Dr. Kuntz also participates in pre-clinical research related to clinical shoulder pathology. Work on VA-funded (RR&D SPiRE and Merit grants) was recently completed, investigating the effects of localized delivery of bFGF or Ibuprofen in the rat rotator cuff repair model. These studies utilized a novel BiLayer Delivery System (BiLDS), developed in collaboration with Rob Mauck and Lou Soslowsky in the TMRC and McKay Labs. This line of research has resulted in

multiple abstract presentations at national meetings as well as one recently published manuscript and another in the later stage of review.

Dr. Steinberg continues to run the hand service at the VA, with weekly surgery and hand clinics.

Dr. Steinberg just received an “intent to fund,” along with his co-PI Robert Mauck and their team of investigators from Penn, for a four year VA Merit Grant. That grant, titled “Knee Joint Resurfacing with Anatomic Tissue Engineered Osteochondral Implants,” is an evolution of the research they have been performing over the past 8 years.

In addition to providing educational opportunities for residents, the VA remains a major outpost of our department’s teaching efforts for medical students. The Perelman School of Medicine required clinical clerkship, Orthopaedic Surgery 200, is anchored at the VA. The didactic session on orthopaedic treatments and rotation’s final examination are led by Joe Bernstein. In addition, in the past academic year, 157 students completed the course. PSOM students are also actively participating research projects based at the VA. In 2020, we look forward to additional instructional efforts using the surgical simulator.

Dr. Bernstein was supported by a VA Merit grant, collaborating with Dr. Soslowsky, Dr. Mauck, Dr. Kuntz and other members of the McKay Lab. The group recently published a paper in the Journal of Orthopaedic Research, “Localized delivery of ibuprofen via a bilayer delivery system (BiLDS) for supraspinatus tendon healing in a rat model.” Dr. Bernstein’s other peer-reviewed publications for 2019 were “Measurement of cultural competency: A pilot study of nurses’ knowledge of religious practices. (Journal of Nursing Education and Practice, Vol. 9, No. 8, August 2019 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5430/jnep.v9n8p74>); “Randomized Controlled Trials for Geriatric Hip Fracture Are Rare and Underpowered: A Systematic Review and a Call for Greater Collaboration” (J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2019 Dec 18;101(24):e132. doi:10.2106/JBJS.19.00407) and “Price dispersion of generic medications” (PLoS One. 2019 Nov 18;14(11):e0225280. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0225280) Dr. Bernstein also writes the *Not The Last Word* column in CORR. In 2019, titles included “Roll Them Bones-Selecting Orthopaedic Surgery Residents by Lottery” ; “High-value Health Care and the Assassination of George Washington”; “Prizes for Cures”; “Why Can’t I Set Fractures in Vermont?”; “Pre-arthritis Syndrome”; and “Big Data Will Make You Confront Big Ethical Questions-Here’s Why.”