Division Updates



Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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Introduction

The Division of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) had another successful and productive year of significant growth, accomplishment, and innovation. Upholding our mission and vision to provide the most comprehensive pediatric musculoskeletal care in the nation/world, we have continued to expand our clinical, research, and teaching programs.

In 2022, CHOP Orthopaedics welcomed a new sports medicine pediatrician to our team, participated virtually and in person at national and international conferences, maintained enrollment of three FDA Phase IIIb investigational drug trial and a feasibility device trial, published more than 200 articles, and obtained significant extramural funding from major funding agencies such as National Institutes of Health (NIH), Department of Defense (DoD), and National Science Foundation (NSF).

Clinical Program

Our Orthopaedic faculty continues to expand and is currently comprised of thirty members: eighteen specially trained pediatric orthopaedic surgeons (including three transition-to-adult care faculty), four non-operative physicians, six sports medicine-trained pediatricians, and two collaborating plastic surgeons.

Education Program

CHOP Orthopaedics currently funds four one-year clinical fellowships. The 2022-2023 clinical fellows are Soroush Baghdadi, MD (Figure 1); Grace Blaylock, MD (Figure 2); Bridget Ellsworth, MD (Figure 3); and Rachel Lenhart, MD (Figure 4). The 2022-23 research fellow was Dr. Akbar Syed, MD from India (Figure 5). While at CHOP, Dr. Syed focused his research efforts on clinical



Figure 1. Soroush Baghdadi, Figure 2. Grace Blaylock, MD Figure 3. Bridget Ellsworth, MD MD





Figure 4. Rachel Lenhart, Figure 5. Akbar Syed, MD MD

research related to pediatric trauma, hand, neuromuscular conditions, tumors, and sports injuries. He will stay with our division for another year.

To celebrate the graduation of the 2021-2022 clinical fellows, the Division hosted the Nicholson Visiting Professor Program and Fellows Graduation & Reunion in June 2022. This year's Visiting Professor was Dr. Peter Newton, Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of California, San Diego, and Chief of Pediatric Orthopaedics as well as Surgeon-in-Chief at Rady Children's. He is a nationally recognized expert in pediatric spine deformity.

The 2022 Drummond Rising Star Visiting Professor was V. Salil Upasani, MD, MPH. Dr. Upasani is an Associate Professor of Clinical Orthopedic Surgery at the University of California San Diego and Rady Children's Hospital San Diego. He is the Director of the International Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Hip Disorders and the Program Director of the Pediatric Orthopedics and Scoliosis Clinical Fellowship at Rady Children's Hospital San Diego. Dr. Upasani has research interests in all general pediatric orthopedic conditions, with a special interest in hip and spine disorders in children, adolescents and young adults.

Research Program

Basic Science and Translational Research

This past year, our basic and translational medicine researchers led by Maurizio Pacifici, Ph.D. have made impressive progress and generated novel, exciting, and far-reaching insights on key aspects of skeletal biology and growth and pediatric musculoskeletal pathologies. Our pediatric musculoskeletal research lab continues to solidify its standing with research work from Dr. Fanxin Long and Dr. Veronique Lefebvre. Our faculty members and their associates, including postdoctoral fellows, visiting scientists and research technicians, continued to tackle and fulfill the goals of several current NIH R01 grants and one Department of Defense (DOD) grant. They focused on pediatric pathologies including Multiple Hereditary Exostoses (MHE), Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP), Temporo-mandibular Joint dysfunction, Lamb-Shaffer syndrome, Hjadu-Cheney syndrome, and spondyloarthritis. The research Program is currently supported by 12 RO1 grants from the National Institutes of Health and generous donations from private foundations.

Center for Thoracic Insufficiency Syndrome (CTIS) Frontier Translational Research Program

Through funding from the Frontier Program, the Division's Center for Thoracic Insufficiency Syndrome (CTIS) continued developing innovative projects in translational research. The CTIS program strives to develop novel imaging techniques, construct new metrics for clinical outcomes, and establish reliable evidence to support innovative surgical strategies and devices through its research. These efforts are made possible by the collaboration of a multidisciplinary team of specialists from clinical research, image processing, informatics, and basic sciences/biomechanics. Currently, the CTIS Basic Science Lab is developing an animal model of TIS that will provide a platform for testing novel devices. The animal surgeries and biomechanics testing will be performed at Penn Vet's New Bolton Center. In addition, the CTIS team in collaboration with Medical Image Processing Group were awarded NIH R01 grant to develop novel dynamic functional metrics for TIS patients by establishing a comprehensive normative database of dMRI images and anatomic and functional models and metrics, and to translate these to develop biomarkers of TIS and of its corrective-surgery outcomes.

With the generous philanthropic support, Dr. Campbell's legacy was strengthened with the establishment of *Wyss/Campbell Center for Thoracic Insufficiency Syndrome*, enabling CHOP to discover countless more breakthroughs in research and care for TIS children.

Genetic Research

CHOP Orthopaedics continues to work in collaboration with the Center for Applied Genomics (CAG), led by Dr. Hakon Hakonarson and Dr. Struan Grant, to compile a registry of DNA and RNA samples. These samples are obtained from patients and families with a variety of orthopaedic conditions including adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS), osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) of the knee, Tibial Spine fractures (TSF) and multiple hereditary exostoses (MHE). The team is investigating further genetic characterizations of the EXT1/EXT2 mutations harbored by each exostosis and identify second hit(s) across exostoses from the same patient. This pilot project represents the first biomedical research focused on MHE and will provide novel and broadly relevant information. The goal is to translate the findings to prognostic tools based on the severity of the disease and to identify therapeutic means to counter the effects of EXT1/EXT2 plus "second hit" mutations.

Clinical Research

The Division of Orthopaedic Surgery is currently conducting more than 236 IRB-approved clinical research projects. This includes more than 100 prospective and observational studies. CHOP Ortho faculty are also members of a number of multicenter study groups, including the Harms Study Group (HSG), the Pediatric Spine Study Group (PSSG), Research in Osteochondritis Dissecans of the Knee (ROCK), SCFE Longitudinal International Prospective Registry (SLIP), Tibial Spine Prospective Cohort (TSF-PC), The Fox Pediatric Spinal Deformity Study (Fox PSDS), Pediatric ACL: Understanding Treatment Operations (PLUTO), Medial Epicondyle Outcomes Multicenter (MEMO) study and International Hip Dysplasia Institute (IHDI), Children's Orthopedic Trauma and Infection Consortium for Evidence based Studies (CORTICES), Congenital Upper Limb Differences Registry (CoULD), Research in Osteochondritis of the Elbow (ROCKET), Sports Cohort Outcomes Registry (SCORE), and International Perthes Study Group (IPSG). Investigators within the division have been awarded funding from both internal and external sources to conduct these studies. In 2022, the Division published over 196 articles in major orthopaedic journals, including *JAMA*, *JBJS*, *Lancet*, *JPO*, and *CORR*. Members across our division presented more than 107 presentations at international and national conferences last year alone.

Our Benjamin Fox Research Fellowship for medical students between 3rd and 4th years welcomed Julianna Lee (University of Connecticut School of Medicine), Kevin Orellana (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine), and Daniel Yang (University of Michigan Medical School) (Figure 6-8).



Figure 7. Kevin Orellana

Figure 6. Julianna Lee

Figure 8. Daniel Yang

Recognition and Achievements

Our faculty have assumed several leadership roles within the pediatric orthopaedic community over the past year.

Jason Anari, MD served as international faculty member at the Salzburg Medical Seminar in Pediatric Orthopedics in Salzburg, Austria. Dr. Anari also received a new grant as PI from Pediatric Orthopaedics Society of North America (POSNA) titled, "*Managing failure to lengthen in MCGR: Best practice guidelines*".

Alexandre Arkader, MD is the Vice Chair for the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA) Educational Course Committee. He served as a subcommittee chair for Global Courses. Dr. Arkader continues to serve as a reviewer for Journal of American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery Essential Surgical Techniques, BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders, Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics B, Journal of Children's Orthopaedics, Current Orthopaedic Practice, Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, and Pediatric Radiology. He is also on the Surgical Advisory Board for Orthopediatrics. Dr Arkader continues to serve as Editor for tumors section, JPOSNA. He also received a Cell and Gene Therapy Seed Grant as Co-PI with Dr. Fanxin Long titled "Wnt-based gene therapy for bone repair." Dr. Arkader is an active member of CORTICES study group.

Keith Baldwin, MD, MSPT, MPH is the Associate Director of Orthopaedic Trauma in the Division of Orthopedic Surgery. Dr. Baldwin is a Resident Advisory board member for the American Journal of Orthopaedics. He currently serves as a reviewer for several journals including the BMC Medical Education, BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders, BMJ Open, Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics, Annals of Internal Medicine, Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery—American, American Academy of Pediatrics, Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, Indian Journal of Orthopaedics, Journal of Orthopedic Trauma, International Research Journal of Medicine and Medical Sciences, PM & R Journal. He also serves as an associate editor for Journal of Orthopedic Trauma and an editorial board member of the American Journal of Orthopedics, Current Orthopaedic Practice and World Journal of Orthopedics. He serves as a section editor for The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery Reviews. Dr. Baldwin is an active member of CORTICES Study Group and CORTICES Research Committee. He also received the prestigious Standard Research Grant from Scoliosis Research Society.

Patrick Cahill, MD started his term as Board of Director for Pediatric Cervical Spine Study Group. He serves as Chair for Health Policy Committee and a member of the Governance Council, Pediatric Device Task Force, and Program Committee at Scoliosis Research Society. He is also a member of POSNA's Quality, Safety, Value Initiative Committee and Advocacy Committee. He continues to serve as an Associate Editor for Spine Deformity Journal and as a reviewer for the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery-American and the Thrasher Research Fund. Dr. Cahill is an active member in the Harms Study Group, Pediatric Spine Study Group, and Fox Pediatric Spine Deformity study group, which are multi-center groups prospectively researching care improvements for complex pediatric spine deformities. Dr. Cahill continues to serve as co-PI from Scoliosis Research Society titled, "New Strategies for Pulmonary Assessment in Spinal and Chest Wall Deformity". He is the Director for Wyss/Campbell Center for Thoracic Insufficiency Syndrome.

Robert Carrigan, MD continues to serve on the ASSH Fellows Conference Committee, AAOS Appropriate Use Committee, and POSNA Resident Newsletter Committee. He also serves as a reviewer for *Journal of Hand Surgery* and *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*.

Richard Davidson, MD has continued to serve as an associate editor for Foot & Ankle, International. He also serves as a reviewer for *Clinical Orthopedics and Related Research*. Dr. Davidson serves on the editorial board for, Children's Doctor, a publication of the Doctors of The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

B. David Horn, MD continues to serve as a reviewer for journals, such as *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research (CORR), Pediatric Emergency Medicine, and Pediatrics.*

Jack Flynn, MD, Chief of the Division of Orthopaedics, continues to serve as a Director on the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and began serving as President of the Pediatric Spine Study Group/Pediatric Spine Foundation. He also was selected to serve on the JBJS Board of Trustees. Dr. Flynn is a co-editor of *Lovell and Winter's Pediatric Orthopaedics, Rockwood's Fractures in Children, Operative Techniques in Pediatric Orthopaedics.* Dr Flynn serves on the Editorial Board of *Journal of Spinal Deformity.* He was the Presidential Guest Speaker at the 2022 POSNA Annual Meeting, and in 2022 served as Visiting Professor at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, UC Davis Residency Graduation, Case Western Orthopaedics and University of Wisconsin.

Theodore Ganley, MD is the Sports Medicine Director at CHOP was the second VP of the Pediatric Research in Sports Medicine (PRISM) group, co-founder and executive board member as well as President for the Research in Osteochondritis Dissecans of the Knee (ROCK) group, executive committee member for the American Academy of Pediatrics, advisory board member for the International Pediatric Orthopaedic Symposium, and program chair for the Philadelphia Orthopaedic Society. Along with his leadership roles, he continues to be actively involved in biomechanical studies utilizing cadaver specimens in collaboration with the Biedermann Lab for Orthopaedic Research and Human Motion Lab. He is leading a nationwide initiative on Tibial Spine prospective study group with 14 sites currently participating and it was funded by Arthur H. Huene Memorial Award from POSNA. Additionally, he is the site leader for the FDA clinical trial for studying the efficacy and safety of autologous cultured chondrocytes on porcine collagen membrane (MACI). Dr. Ganley also serves as the site PI for recently NIH funded grant "IMPACCT: Infrastructure for Musculoskeletal Pediatric Acute Care Clinical Trials".

John Todd Lawrence, MD, PhD continued his collaborative work with Dr. Leo Han at Drexel University. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the project focused on conducting in vitro studies for a novel cartilage repair strategy. Dr. Lawrence is an active member of sports medicine multicenter research groups such as PLUTO and he leads a 12-site study group MEMO, which is the largest group studying medial epicondyle fractures and injuries. He continues to serve as a reviewer for the American Journal of Sports Medicine (AJSM), Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery (JSES), Journal of Children's Orthopaedics (JCO), Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (JBJS), and Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research (CORR). Dr. Lawrence continues to serve as a co-PI from NIH titled "A Low-Cost, Collaborative Tool for the Tracking of Youth Activities to Reduce Risk of Physical Injury" and site Co-PI for recently NIH funded grant "IMPACCT: Infrastructure for Musculoskeletal Pediatric Acute Care Clinical Trials".

Kathleen Maguire, MD is our new faculty member continuing her work at our Sports Medicine Performance Center. She is an active member of AAOS Emerging Leaders Program, POSNA, American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine, American College of Sports Medicine, Arthroscopy Association of North America, and the American Medical Association. Dr. Maguire serves as a reviewer for the *American Journal of Sports Medicine*.

Wudbhav Sankar, MD is the Director of the Young Adult Hip Preservation Program at CHOP. Dr. Sankar currently serves as Secretary for the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA) and co-director of the International Hip Dysplasia Institute. He remains active in several study groups including Academic Network of Conservational Hip Outcomes Research (ANCHOR), SCFE Longitudinal International Prospective Registry (SLIP) and International Perthes Study Group (IPSG). Also, he serves as co-director for the International Hip Dysplasia Institute (IHDI) Medical Advisory Board. Dr. Sankar is currently a reviewer for the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics, Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics. Dr. Sankar also serves as an Editorial Board Reviewer for Techniques in Orthopaedics and Journal of Children's Orthopaedics.

Apurva Shah, MD, MBA continues his tenure as the Director of Clinical Research. He continued to serve as co-PI on the grant from Orthopaedic Trauma Association titled, "Opioid utilization after rotational ankle fractures". He continues to serve as the team leader and traveled to Sigua Tepeque, Honduras for a pediatric hand surgery medical mission. Dr. Shah is currently a reviewer for the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery and Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics. Dr. Shah is also serving as the PI for Angela S.M. Kuo Memorial Award from POSNA for his research project "Opioid vs. Non-Opioid Analgesia in Pediatric Supracondylar Humerus Fractures." He also serves as the site Co-PI for recently NIH funded grant "IMPACCT: Infrastructure for Musculoskeletal Pediatric Acute Care Clinical Trials".

David Spiegel, MD continued his work with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Global Health Pilot Grant. He currently is the chair for the International Scholars Program at AAOS. Dr. Spiegel continued to be an active academic internationally, giving lectures in Iraq, Nepal, and Pakistan.

Lawrence Wells, MD is the Associate Director of the Sports Medicine Performance Center at CHOP. Dr. Wells currently serves as the President of Board of Directors for the Philadelphia Orthopaedic Society and as Vice Chair for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity at the Perelman School of Medicine.

Brendan Williams, MD continued his work at our Sports Medicine Performance Center. Dr. Williams serves on AAOS Emerging Leaders Program and a member of American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, American Academy of Pediatrics, POSNA, Pediatric Research in Sports Medicine, and PRISM. He continued his tenure as Board of Directors for Children Beyond Our Borders. Dr. Williams serves as an ad hoc reviewer for *Pediatrics, The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery—Case Connector, and The American Journal of Sports Medicine*.