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Health System Update

Pennsylvania Hospital

Neil Sheth, MD



Pennsylvania Hospital (PAH) has a rich history in Philadelphia as the nation’s first hospital. Founded in 1751 by Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Thomas Bond, the hospital was intended as a safe haven for the care of the “sick-poor and insane of Philadelphia.” Located in the heart of South Philadelphia, its brand name draws thousands of patients annually to receive their care at the corner of 8th and Spruce Streets.

Education is at the forefront of our focus at PAH. Residents are typically in the operating room three to four days per week, with dedicated clinic time in multiple sub-specialties. Video conferencing continues for conferences across all sub-specialties, historically held at PMUC, and weekly sub-specialty specific conferences for spine and foot and ankle continue to be coordinated virtually.

The administration at Pennsylvania hospital continues to be extremely supportive of the expanded presence of orthopaedic faculty and residents. The hospital system has further increased the number of physician extenders, doubled the OR block time for the department, and increased physical space for clinical work and administrative duties. Their continued support is critical as the orthopaedic volume continues to grow and additional attendings are added to the faculty. These efforts have allowed PAH to maintain its reputation in the region as a first-class hospital.

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania now staffs 20 attending surgeons and

non-operative providers from various sub-specialties to populate the orthopaedic clinic in the Cathcart Building and the Farm-Journal Building. Among the sub-specialties represented are adult hip and knee reconstruction, foot and ankle, hand/plastic surgery, neuro-orthopaedics, shoulder and elbow, spine/deformity, sports medicine, and trauma. Notable for this past year, Dr. Lorraine Boakye (foot and ankle surgery) has been the newest addition to the roster at Pennsylvania Hospital.

With the continued increase in operative volume, PAH continues to be staffed by a PGY-1, PGY-2, PGY-4 and complemented by a team of nurse practitioners and physician extenders that assist with patient clinical care and floor work. The Orthopaedic Intern spends a portion of the week in the operating room or across various outpatient clinics and also assists the PAH team with patient care issues on the floor.

With the continually changing healthcare environment, we continue to grow the outpatient total joint arthroplasty program which started five years ago. We have implemented and continue to refine the dedicated rapid recovery program – the 9th floor extended stay unit opened in October 2019 and now services nearly 60%+ of the orthopaedic patient volume coming through PAH. PAH has also demonstrated an increased commitment to the use of robotics for performing total joint replacement over the past year positions PAH to be competitive in the region as we continue to evolve.