



Letter from the Chairman

L. Scott Levin, MD, FACS



As I approach the completion of my 3rd year as Chairman..... I look back on the last 33 months with pride.

The “BHAG” (Big Hairy and Audacious Goal) was to be a “top five” program in five years. We are currently ranked #13 in the nation and #1 in the region. The most significant achievement of our Department has been the recognition of our research team led by Louis J.

Soslowsky. Dr. Soslowsky is currently ranked #1 in the nation in terms of individual NIH investigator funding, and Penn’s McKay Orthopaedic Research Laboratory is now recognized as the #3 ranked program in the United States in terms of NIH funding. This year, Dr. Soslowsky successfully renewed the NIH P30 Center Grant, which was rated as “exceptional” by the NIH with a perfect score of “10.” Robert Mauck’s research group published 14 full-length research papers and received new grant funding in excess of 1.2 million dollars. Sherry Liu was recruited from Columbia University this January. She was recently awarded an ASBMR-AIMM John Haddad Young Investigator Award to attend the AIMM Young Investigator Meeting this April. In the past year, Ling Qin received an ASBMR career enhancement award, a young investigator travel grant, and an R03 NIH grant. Eileen Shore’s expertise in bone biology and heterotopic ossification has continued to be recognized nationally and internationally as reflected by her election as an ASBMR Council Member, an invited article that was published in the inaugural issue of WIREs Developmental Biology, the organization of a highly successful and innovative workshop on strategies for the treatment of FOP, and a 5-year award for an NIH R01 grant renewal.

Great teams NEVER rest on their laurels, and we continue to set the bar high; with targets for success in sight we plan to hit the bull’s-eye across all missions. The honor and privilege of serving as the Paul B. Magnuson Chair is not overlooked. This year I found the time to read the autobiography of Dr. Magnuson—courtesy of Marvin Steinberg, who generously presented me with a copy of this wonderful story. Dr. Magnuson was a giant in American Orthopaedics, a gentleman who was involved in the care of both “princes” and “paupers,” and most importantly a leader in our national efforts to treat our war veterans. Following Dr. Magnuson’s legacy, I continue to support our efforts for the improved care of our soldiers that have been injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. For the past seven years, I have participated in the Extremity War injury program held every January in Washington, DC. This event is sponsored by the AAOS, OTA and all branches of Military Orthopaedic Surgery. The proceedings of this closed meeting are published in the Journal of the AAOS.

As many of you are aware, this past fall Raymond and Ruth

Perelman donated 225 million dollars to Penn Medicine, and our medical school was renamed the Raymond and Ruth Perelman School of Medicine. Their generous gift will support medical student scholarships, research and faculty development—all of which will directly benefit our missions in Penn Orthopaedic Surgery.

Our Departmental Development efforts have resulted in increased funding of the DeForest Willard Society (mainly from alumni), generous gifts from our patients, and this spring an Endowed Chair for a Research Professorship from the Cali and Weldon families. This is only the fourth Endowed Chair in the history of the Department. Our total funding for this year alone will approach 2 million dollars. Vanessa White has served admirably as our Development officer, and such generosity provides firm footing for our future, particularly enhancing our research and educational missions. I encourage all of you to become “1889ers” and join the DeForest Willard Society. This alumni fund must grow in order to provide support for our educational mission.

I would like to reflect on our excellence in clinical care that continues to attract patients locally, nationally and internationally.

This year we were fortunate to recruit Charles Nelson as Chief of our Adult Reconstruction section. After a brief time at Geisinger Medical Center, Charles returned home to Penn and has done a masterful job aligning our adult reconstruction surgeons into a cohesive unit. Gwo-Chin Lee served as the Insall travelling fellow this year—a great honor for the Department and for Gwo-Chin. Dr. Lee also serves as the fellowship director of our Adult Reconstruction service. Eric Hume has been a huge influence on our program, leading efforts for the Blue Ribbon distinction program and other quality measures in adult reconstruction. He has partnered with Kevin Fosnocht, Chief Medical Officer at PPMC, in a variety of quality initiatives in order to decrease costs and improve outcomes and clinical efficiency. Craig Israelite continues to be an exemplary program director for our residents, successfully preparing our site visit for the ACGME and maintaining an extremely busy practice. Plans are underway to add another Adult Reconstruction surgeon to this group, thereby adding volume and increasing clinical and basic science research initiatives.

Our trauma section, under the direction of Samir Mehta, continues to flourish. Our Orthopaedic Trauma Service at HUP (of which I am proud to be a part of) continues to grow exponentially. Dr. Mehta’s boundless energy inspires all around him. He received, with Jaimo Ahn, John Esterhai, and Annamarie Horan, a 2.5 million dollar DoD grant recently. That, coupled with Jaimo Ahn’s research success (NIH R03 award, OREF, FOT) and John Esterhai’s research contributions at the VA and HUP, put the trauma section out in front in terms of clinical faculty research. In addition to their research prowess, their educational efforts are outstanding

with presence locally in the School of Medicine, AOA, AO North America and AAOS. Clinical volumes continue to increase each year. We have doubled our OR's at HUP in the last few years, with 2 rooms per day on average, not including my elective trauma reconstructive practice. We are proud to announce that Derek Donegan MD will be joining this section, having served as our Chief Resident in 2010-2011. He will be completing an Orthopaedic Trauma fellowship in New Jersey this summer. Bruce Heppenstall, the grand master of Penn Orthopaedics and our trauma service, turned 70 this past October. He is going strong and remains a living legend. The Enyi Okereke OREF International Fellowship Endowment continues to grow. I urge all of you to make an OREF contribution to this Endowment that supports resident travel to underserved areas of the world.

Our hand service under the direction of David Bozentka and hand fellowship led by David Steinberg continue to attract a large number of fellowship applicants (80 candidates for 1 position this year). I also contribute to this section and have great pride in "the Daves." Since I arrived at Penn, they have been great partners, and both serve as "go to" guys for surgeries I do not perform. We all share patients readily, and we work extremely well with our Plastic Surgery colleagues. Perhaps the greatest clinical achievement of the Department this year was the successful completion of a bilateral hand and arm transplant on September 22, 2011. This 11.5 hour surgery was the result of countless hours of preparation and planning. At the time of this writing, our patient, a 28 year old quadrimembranal amputee, has active digital and thumb flexion and extension, can feed herself (for the first time in 5 years since her amputations) and has had early functional recovery that is unprecedented in the arena of Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation (VCA). Without a team approach and the collaborative environment of Penn Medicine, this surgery would never have occurred. Special recognition must go to Abraham Shaked MD PhD and the Transplant Institute for their unwavering support and encouragement. VCA is an emerging field, and I was honored to lead the team that involved all aspects of Penn Medicine. I currently serve as the President of the American Society of Reconstructive Transplantation. This young society is setting the standards for VCA in the future. It will not be long before we are transferring Vascularized Allotransplants for shoulder, elbow, hip, knee and ankle pathology. Additional achievements from our hand faculty include funding of a significant VA Grant entitled "Cartilage repair with stem-cell laden hyaluronic acid hydrogels." This 1.1 million dollar grant was written by David Steinberg and Robert Mauck. In addition, under the leadership of David Bozentka, we have put on a well-attended course in the Penn human tissue lab entitled "Unlocking the Mysteries of the Distal Radioulnar Joint." Our guest professors included Luis Scheker from Louisville, Douglas Hanel from the University of Washington, Robert Carrigan, and David Steinberg.

Mary Ann Keenan has remained on our faculty since the spring of 2010, when medical issues resulted in her retirement from clinical practice. She has been a powerful force in the Department and remains internationally respected for her work in Neuro-Orthopaedics. With a lifetime of knowledge

and innovation, she has helped recruit Keith Baldwin MD MSPT MPH to Penn Orthopaedics. Keith will rekindle her legacy and take Neuro-Orthopaedics to the next level. Keith is currently completing his Pediatric fellowship at CHOP and will practice at CHOP as well as in the Department of Orthopaedics at HUP and PAH. Keith will join Russell Huffman MD MPH and Jim Carey MD MPH in co-directing the Penn Orthopaedic Outcomes and Clinical Research Program (POOCR). Keith is widely published, has a passion for clinical research, and is respected by our faculty and residents.

Our shoulder and elbow section continues to flourish under the direction of David Glaser. Drs. Glaser, Huffman, Sennett, Carey and Kelly all provide shoulder care. Dr. Russell Huffman was elected to ASES this year, and this section is growing. We are also proud to announce the appointment of Andy Kuntz this fall to the core shoulder and elbow section. Dr. Kuntz served as Chief Resident with Derek Donegan in 2010-2011. Andy will assume a 5/8ths position at the VA, providing clinical care to our veterans and establishing his own basic science research program, with the support of Louis Soslowsky.

Our Sports Medicine section under the leadership of Brian Sennett MD continues to thrive. Dr. Sennett is the prime example of a LEVEL V leader (according to Jim Collins...), and his wise counsel and role as Vice Chairman of Clinical Affairs continues to enhance the success of the Department. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Penn Sports Medicine Research Program with three randomized controlled trials to begin this summer. Dr. Sennett also secured internal approval for an operative Sports Medicine fellowship program to begin next summer. He has also been instrumental in recruiting Jim Carey MD MPH to be the Director of the Penn Center for Cartilage Repair and Osteochondritis Dissecans Treatment. Dr. Carey has been selected to serve as Vice Chairman of the AAOS Work Group for developing the Clinical Practice Guidelines on Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injuries. He has also been selected to serve as the Program Chair for the Fall Meeting of the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society. Dr. Carey is a skilled educator and clinician and holds an MPH from Johns Hopkins. He is already recognized as a national leader in Cartilage Repair and Reconstruction, and he will chair a national meeting on this subject at Penn this spring. Fortunately, in keeping with the model of aligning our clinicians with our researchers, Jim has developed a close bond with Robert Mauck PhD, who this year was promoted to Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery on the TENURE track. A wonderful achievement by Robert, who is a pillar of our NIH success and VA research portfolio. John Kelly MD continues to build a high volume practice and remains a moral pillar of excellence and compassion within Penn Orthopaedics. Dr. Kelly was the Program Chair for the Eastern Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting and Chairman of the Devices and Rehabilitation Panel for the FDA.

Our Foot and Ankle section under the leadership of Keith Wapner continues to flourish. This past September, Dr. Wapner traveled to Australia, Singapore, and China to teach the STAR total ankle replacement to local Orthopaedic Surgeons. While in Shanghai, Dr. Wapner was a guest speaker at the 2011 International Foot and Ankle Surgery Forum at Shanghai Ruijin

Hospital. This past January, Dr. Wapner was a guest lecturer at the Third Annual US-Indo Advances and Techniques in Foot and Ankle Surgery Forum in Delhi, India. At this year's AAOS Annual Meeting, Dr. Wapner was chosen to serve as the Orthopaedic Expert in Foot and Ankle Surgery for the "Ask the Expert" panel. Last August, Andrew Steiner joined the Foot and Ankle section following completion of his fellowship with Drs. Wapner and Chao and a fellowship in Orthopaedic Trauma.

When there are deficiencies on the bench, a coach must go out and recruit new players. This January, after an exhaustive international search, we were fortunate to recruit Vincent Arlet to Penn Orthopaedics, to direct our Spine Division. Dr. Arlet trained in France, worked at McGill University for over 10 years, and then moved to the University of Virginia where he became the Warren G. Stamp Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery. He has already made a huge impact on spine surgery in Philadelphia, with expertise in Spinal Deformity and Adult Degenerative Disease, and will be working to build the Penn Spine Center. Dr. Arlet has already represented the Department in the Middle East and traveled to Trinidad to perform surgeries with a Penn resident as first assist. Additionally, neurosurgeons William Welch, Jim Schuster, Paul Marcotte, Neil Malhotra and Sean Grady now hold adjunct appointments in Penn Orthopaedics, and our residents have full access to their expertise and clinical volumes.

Our Oncology section continues to be led by Richard Lackman and supported by Andrea Evenski. Dick has been productive academically, travelling internationally this year to share his experience in China and other corners of the world.

Education is one of our three missions. We had a terrific resident recruiting year. The following are the names of those applicants who matched into our training program: Jason B. Anari (UMDNJ); Tyler R. Morris (Drexel University); Alexander L. Neuwirth (UMDNJ); Philip A. Saville (University of Leicester); Russell N. Stitzlein (Case Western Reserve University); Michael T. Talerico (Saint Louis University); Nathan A. Wigner (Boston University); and Chase Woodward (Northwestern University-The Feinberg SOM). Our residents continue to match into premier fellowships nationwide.

Barbara Weinraub is an absolute treasure. She continues to shepherd our residents and keeps me on the straight and

narrow....several times a day. Barbara is the ultimate Penn person....and inspires me each day with her commitment to the program and all of our missions.

When I was recruited, I insisted on reproducing the Human Tissue Laboratory that I directed at Duke. I built on this facility and improved it. This past July, our doors opened and we have had several cadaver workshops. The residents have really embraced this facility. Complete with arthroscopy towers and high definition cameras, this facility (open and used by all of Penn Medicine) has taken its place as a crown jewel of our educational program. All sections are routinely using the lab for core anatomy training, surgical rehearsal and research.

In addition to our clinical and research faculty successes, we have recently restructured our administrative staff. Lori Gustave MBA was hired last July as Chief Operating Officer of our Department. She brings a wealth of experience from the hospital perspective, having previously served as Associate Executive Director of Business Development at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center. She and her staff have done a tremendous amount of reorganization of our clinical care environments to optimize practice efficiency, increase revenue and improve patient experience from entry to exit.

Finally, Penn Orthopaedics will be given a new home. A new Penn Musculoskeletal institute will be built on the PPMC campus. Based on our success over the last 3 years, the Health System has decided to invest heavily in our Orthopaedic home and practice facilities. New clinics, operating rooms and office facilities will position us to provide musculoskeletal care for the future. The Penn Musculoskeletal Institute will be led by Penn Orthopaedic Surgery and will include providers from Rheumatology, Anesthesia, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Neurosurgery. Our Limb Salvage Center and additional centers of excellence in all aspects of Orthopaedic Surgery will have an expanded presence in this facility.

As the first Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the country, we will continue to evolve, maintaining our tripartite mission in the most modern of settings. We will lead by example and strive to improve each day. Our past is legendary, and our future is bright. It is an honor to lead Penn Orthopaedic Surgery.