



# Letter from the Chairman

L. Scott Levin, MD, FACS



It is an honor and privilege to once again reflect on the accomplishments of our Penn Orthopaedic team this past year. On July 1, 2017, it will mark the completion of my eighth year as Chairman of this vibrant and dynamic department. This past year has been highlighted with many positive changes that reflect well on Penn Orthopaedics. The University of Pennsylvania Health

System has expanded its footprint once again by entering into a partnership with Princeton Orthopaedic Associates. By expanding the brand of Penn Medicine farther east, our reach as a health system spans from Lancaster, PA to Princeton, NJ. Penn Orthopaedics has embraced the opportunities to join forces with orthopaedic practitioners in these newly acquired sites. As a result, our core faculty that has historically been based in our downtown hospitals is partnering and collaborating in the areas of quality, patient safety, value-based purchasing, care pathways, clinical research and service line initiatives with a diverse group of regional orthopaedic colleagues. Discussions are ongoing regarding educational opportunities at Virtua in New Jersey. In addition to taking the Penn brand to communities outside of Philadelphia and providing expanding outpatient services at Radnor, Valley Forge and our newest facility at Cherry Hill, NJ, surgeons are now operating at Cape Regional Medical Center, Chester County Hospital, and the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital for Children.

It is said that the only thing constant in life is change. While we have seen many changes occur in healthcare delivery models and reimbursement, we've seen a change in our health system that is trying to stay ahead of the curve with regards to population health, value-based care delivery, and emphasis on patient experience and treatment plans based on patient-reported outcome measurements. There is no doubt that these changes are having a greater impact on how we practice, where we practice and who we will be able to practice on!

Our service line has seen significant expansion of disease team pathways. Cost accounting is making a difference on how we practice medicine. Finnah Pio and Rachel Kleinman should be recognized for their outstanding efforts in coordinating representatives from multiple departments and entities in the health system to integrate service line musculoskeletal care. Special recognition goes to Eric Hume, David Glaser, Samir Mehta, and Brian Sennett for the development of disease team pathways for hip fractures, ACL reconstructions, total hip arthroplasty and total shoulder replacement.

In 2016, I was elected to serve on the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Nominating Committee to select the presidential line of the AAOS. On ethical grounds, I recused myself from the discussions and deliberations regarding Kristy Weber's candidacy for the Vice President position. Based on her many accomplishments, as well as her service to orthopaedic surgery and to the Academy, Kristy was elected as the first woman President of the AAOS, serving in the presidential year 2019. That same year will be a busy one for Penn Orthopaedics in that I will be serving as the President of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. Since Dr. Weber's arrival, our department has encouraged diversity in our workforce not only at the resident level but at the faculty level. Our team surely has increased in diversity and this evolution has only made us stronger.

We are very excited to welcome new recruits to our faculty including two spine surgeons, Comron Saifi and Andrew Milby who will be joining Vincent Arlet and Harvey Smith this fall. Stephen Liu is also joining us to represent the hand group at Chester County Hospital and Robert Wilson will help expand our ortho oncology program with Kristy Weber.

On the research side, we have been fortunate to recruit Nat Dyment from the University of Connecticut. He is already funded by the NIH and has settled in nicely to the McKay Research Laboratory. Over the last eight years, we have been fortunate to raise funds for no less than four endowed chairs and I am delighted to report that the W.W. Smith Foundation has contributed another endowed chair to the department. The sole purpose of this chair is to recruit a senior basic scientist to complement our outstanding research faculty.

The department has been spotlighted throughout the University to a large extent based on Lou Soslowsky's promotion as the Vice Dean for Research Integration. I gave a TED talk at this year's TEDxPenn event where our hand transplant program was featured. In addition, our vascularized composite allotransplantation program was portrayed in my keynote lecture to the Penn Academy in Palm Beach in March at the request of the Provost Dr. Vincent Price and University President Amy Gutmann. Fred Kaplan will be honored this year with the 2017 Perelman School of Medicine Distinguished Graduate Award during the Medical Alumni Weekend event on May 12.

Our educational program continues to evolve with optimization of educational time based on a robust curriculum during our Thursday morning conferences. Our applicant pool continues to amaze me at the quality and depth of our medical school applicants and we again matched outstanding residents this year from a variety of prominent institutions. We continue to have an exceptional Visiting Professor program in Orthopaedic Surgery that is probably one of the most active in the country.

On the administrative front led by Lori Gustave and Fabian Marechal, we continue to attract outstanding health profession interns and many of these individuals such as Rachel Kleinman and recently Amy Schwartz have stayed on to assume greater roles in our clinics and operations.

Our success as a department has been recognized by academic medical centers outside of Penn and we have been requested to consult with these academic medical centers to optimize their operations and department organization of faculty, staff and health systems. Perhaps this is a tribute to our

hardwork over the last eight years. In fact, we have been so successful that our Chief Operating Officer Lori Gustave has been promoted to Vice President of Business Operations for the health system. Our collective success has been in large part due to Lori's energy, vision, team building, strategic planning and grit. She will be missed and we are currently searching for a new Chief Operating Officer. We plan to continue to build upon the trajectory that has been set forth with all the progress and accomplishments this year, onward team!