



Chiefs Corner 2016-2017



Collectively, we have felt privileged to serve as academic chiefs for the 2016-2017 year; it has been an outstanding experience. We are particularly grateful to our faculty for their exceptional leadership and to this stellar group of residents; together you have made our job easy. While our predecessors left large shoes to fill, we have been gratified by some of the progress we have helped foster over the past academic year. We were able to realize a project several years in the making by combining morning conference to create a single site unified lecture series that allows for a complete review of topics within orthopaedics and allows maximal resident participation. We continue to refine this and are currently in the process of integrating the iTunes U curriculum, a product of the excellent work of our prior chiefs. This revised morning curriculum has included the chief's conference, which offers an opportunity for personal interactions between the junior and senior residents. Here, we often tackle very practical aspects of patient care, but the approach ranges from industry-sponsored journal clubs to the nitty gritty of tips and tricks for a given procedure. The overall curriculum was loosely based on Miller's Orthopaedic Review. This structure provides the residents with a primer for each conference. While the information included in the conferences spans beyond the scope of the book, this format ensures that the residents will receive an appropriate breadth of topical content. We hope that, as this becomes a staple, the iTunes U reading will be assimilated and available for use by the higher-level residents and Millers will continue to serve as a basic primer for the juniors. This format will ideally allow the department to build out a robust curriculum including multi-media and interactive modules in iTunes U. We have also integrated Orthobullets into our curriculum, making yet another resource and monitoring tool available to our residents. Obviously, there is a great deal of work still to be done; we only hope that we have set the department and the next chief class up for continued success. In addition to these orthopedic curricular changes, we have also participated in founding a new quality improvement curriculum. We hope that this formal curriculum not only spurs interest in this extremely important subject, but also continues to foster our culture of ongoing improvement leading to a steady and relentless march towards increased excellence within the department.

On the clinical side, we have taken steps to curb the problem of excessive narcotic distribution post-operatively. Within the specialty, Orthopaedic surgeons are prescribing fewer narcotics and often require pre-operative contracts. As many of our faculty – and consequently residents – go to many different sites under the preceptorship model of training, we provided the PGY3 class with DEA licenses. This year we provided them for the rising PGY3/4 classes, so that next year the PGY3/4/5 residents will all have active DEA licenses, thereby minimizing delays in discharge and prescription errors. By limiting the number of prescribers, we hopefully increased the likelihood that the prescribers had a direct role in the patient's care and that the correct medication for the indications was given with appropriate instructions.

Since his arrival, Dr. Levin has made a commitment to improving our visiting professor lectureship and the 2016-2017 academic year was no different. We scheduled 12 visiting professors, all giants in their fields and beyond. The 2016-2017 visiting lectureship program includes: Dr. Todd Albert, Dr. Marc Swiontkowski, Dr. Simo Vilkki, Dr. Jesse Jupiter, Dr. Kevin Chung, Dr. Joseph Hsu, Dr. Judith Baumhauer, Dr. Ted Parsons, Dr. Richard Iorio, Dr. Dennis Wenger, Dr. Joshua Jacobs, and Dr. Dean Sotoreanos. Each of our speakers provided our department with invigorating lectures on the topic of their choosing and enhanced the education of the residents with cadaveric dissection, case presentations, or journal club. We were delighted to welcome each of these amazing surgeons to our department and we thoroughly enjoyed interacting with them.

One of the most rewarding parts of being the academic chief residents was getting to work hand-in-hand with the program directors and the chairman of our department. We consider it the ultimate honor to have been selected by our respected peers to work with our leadership to enact changes affecting everyone's daily work. As the year comes to its conclusion, we begin our transition with a deep sense of gratitude.

Greatest Regards,

Jason Anari
Michael Talerico
Joshua Gordon