



Letter from Program Director

Craig Israelite, M.D.



It is again my pleasure to update the orthopedic community on the current state of the Penn Orthopedic Residency Program. I use the word pleasure because it truly is a pleasure as we continue to have one of the most balanced and indepth residencies in the nation. This has led to th applications for our residency from the top candidates in the country. Of the 800 or so applicants we interviewed

this current year, all but one matched at a top tier orthopedic program. Additionally, our incoming class for next year ranks among the finest group of young men and women in the country.

While I may have some implicit bias, the Orthopedic Department at Penn has the most committed group of faculty in every division. Divisions are led by its directors who oversee the clinical and academic missions of its subdivision. This has led to the continuous development of some of the finest clinical educators in the country as evidenced by our graduates becoming leaders in many of the most prestigious medical centers. These young talented individuals carry the Penn pedigree as program directors and division chiefs throughout the medical community.

I continue to believe that this continued success stems from the leadership of our Chairman, L. Scott Levin, M.D. Though he is most certainly the busiest individual in our department, he manages to personally meet with each resident class in order to continue to build upon the already stellar program.

In addition to his input, our residents comprise the majority of our graduate medical education committee which meets monthly to continuously improve our programs and offerings. This leads to constant changes which benefit the residency as a whole. Our current chief residents, Drs. Joshua Rozelle,

Joshua Steere and Zachary Zimmer have continued to push our program forward and not rest on our reputation alone. Just a few examples of implementations this past year include a video library showcasing faculty doing representative cases, conference schedules which are more robust and comprehensive as ever and the visiting professor series that is second to none. Additionally, several non-clinical programs have been developed which include programs in leadership training as well as the business of medicine.

As a result, our residents upon graduation continue to pursue fellowships in the most competitive programs. The feedback that I constantly receive is that our residents serve Penn proudly and have become coveted faculty at their own fellowship locations.

This column does not afford me enough space to document all of the recent developments to our program. Suffice it to say all pillars are strong as ever. The clinical diversity and talent of our dedicated faculty and residents, and the research arm led clinically by Dr. Mehta and basic research by Dr. Soslowsky are as solid as ever. There have been numerous grants, awards, presentations, and peer reviewed journal articles. But what really sets us apart is the dedication of the faculty who constantly are there to provide mentorship and clinical expertise. The faculty and residents are truly the foundation of the program.

Additionally I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the dedication of the other program directors, Drs. Ahn and Sheth, who continue to dedicate their time and efforts without hesitation. Lastly, our program coordinator, Shanna Kurek, has to be one of the most talented in the country. Her organizational skills and dedication are undoubtedly responsible for the implementation of it all.

I continue to be indebted to all of these exceptional individuals that I am privileged to work with in one of the finest institutions in the nation.