



Pride in Leadership: Penn Orthopaedics

Joshua Rozell, MD & John Kelly IV, MD



A leader is simply a person in a position of power: a CEO, a President, or a team captain. It only logically follows that their role should, therefore, be to lead a company, a country, or a team, respectively. But there are leaders, and there are those who truly lead. The distinction between a leader and those who genuinely lead lies in the belief of a higher purpose, and an unwavering devotion to bettering their organization and its members. Companies such as Apple, Google, Coca Cola, and General Electric are not successful merely because of their fancy products, stock prices, or marketing prowess; these companies' employees (and leaders) genuinely believe in the vision and mission of their company, a belief which their customers also share. The ability of a leader to instill this emotional connection to a company or organization and their product is paramount to being successful. British author and leadership expert Simon Sinek comments that "people don't buy what you do, they buy why you do it." At Penn Orthopaedics, we believe that patient-centered care, innovative research, and clinical education are at the forefront of our vision. We also recognize that great works to advance the common good are only accomplished with leadership skill. Our department's ability to train not only great surgeons but revolutionary leaders and agents of positive change is our committed focus. To this end, the department has taken a keen interest in incorporating leadership-based training into the resident curriculum.

Last year Penn Orthopaedics held its inaugural leadership forum. A symposium of leaders from the Wharton Business School, the Perelman School of Medicine, industry, and sports gave thought-provoking lectures on leadership. This year, while still continuing this forum, we are taking leadership training to the next level. We will be the first orthopaedic program in the country to offer our 42 residents a certified course in leadership in collaboration with the Wharton Business School. This two-day course, sponsored in large part by a gift from Michael P. Kelly Esq., will provide our residents with in-depth leadership training, skills, and tangibles to lay the foundation to become the next generation of leaders in orthopaedics. Wharton professors will discuss topics such as emotional intelligence, leader identity, executing difficult conversations, and leading effective teams.



Michael Kelly, Esq. speaking at grand rounds this year in an installment of our resident curriculum on leadership training.

This endeavor would not have been possible without the vision of Drs. Scott Levin, Derek Donegan, and John Kelly. As residents, we are grateful to have the opportunity to expand our education beyond the field of orthopaedics and into the realm of leadership.