



# Hand Division Update



David Bozentka, MD

## Hand Surgery Faculty



David Bozentka, MD



David Steinberg, MD



L. Scott Levin, MD, FACS



Benjamin Gray, MD



Robert Carrigan, MD



Apurva Shah, MD, MBA



Stephen Liu, MD

The hand and upper extremity service has had another exceptional year. The program continues to provide the highest quality service in its clinical and academic missions. The success of the section could have only occurred with teamwork and commitment of the entire group. We see this collaboration daily with the remarkable effort from our staff, residents and fellows. It has been exciting to watch the transition of the service with the continued integration with the plastic surgery service and association with our pediatric hand surgeons at CHOP and Shriners's Hospital.

This has been a busy year for our chairman L. Scott Levin MD as president of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand. His presidency has focused on promoting leadership, diversity and inclusion. The added commitment from the ASSH seems to only increase the energy he demonstrates on a daily basis.

Dr. Benjamin Gray MD has led a very productive clinical research program for the hand surgery section overseeing multiple externally funded studies. The group recently started enrolling patients to evaluate digital tomo-synthesis for the detection and case management of scaphoid and distal radius fractures with a comparison to MRI or computed tomography. In August, Mary Dooley joined the hand and upper extremity research team as our Clinical Research Coordinator. Mary is a welcome addition with a strong background in clinical research previously working in biomedical research at the Gerstner Sloan-Kettering Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Mary has been instrumental in advancing the numerous ongoing research projects.

The hand transplant team successfully completed their fourth bilateral upper extremity transplant this year. The patient a quadra-membral amputee was similar to our last hand transplantation at Penn in that it involved a transatlantic coordination of the patient travelling from France. The patient is recovering well in her post-operative program.

The Surgical Simulation Committee of the American Society for Surgery of the Hand has created a curriculum to teach psychomotor skills outside the operating room for fellowship and residency programs. The curriculum, termed STEP (surgical training and education platform), was developed under the direction of Ranjan Gupta MD. The Penn in addition to Stanford, Wash U, Beth Israel, and Harvard are several sites chosen to develop construct validity. Residents, fellows and attending surgeons will be evaluated to establish normative data. Dr. Stephen Liu with the help of Brandon Haghverdian MD PGY-2 will lead the assessment at Penn.

Under the direction of David R. Steinberg MD, our two hand surgical fellows have continued the strong clinical and academic productivity of the fellowship. Brittany Behar MD is our first legacy fellow as she is the daughter of Ellen Maitin MD a 1984 Penn Hand Fellow. Brittany completed her plastic surgical residency at Penn State Hershey Medical Center under the direction of Shane T. Johnson MD a 2014 Penn Hand Fellow. Our second hand fellow, Tamara John MD completed her orthopaedic surgical residency training at Yale University School of Medicine and has accepted a position at Kaiser Permanente in Atlanta, Georgia.

The hand and upper extremity service could not function without the continued support from the superb advance practice providers and administrative assistants. Dr. Levin's service is supported by Christine McAndrew PA-C, Lorna Muramoto and Emily Steffenino. At Pennsylvania Hospital, Dr. Gray works closely with Ashley Cleary PA-C, and Mindy Lawson. Dr. Bozentka is aided by Mylinh Nguyen PA-C and Jameelah Johnson. Dr. Steinberg is assisted by Meredith Stackhouse PA-C and Melissa Gonzalez while Dr. Liu is supported by Amanda Fleischut PA-C and Melissa Gonzalez. With this exceptional support and collaboration, the hand surgery section looks forward to another successful year.