

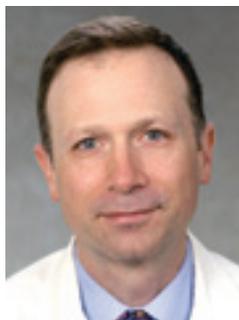


Orthopaedic Division Update

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Orthopaedic Faculty



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Multidisciplinary care of patients has become commonplace within modern medicine. The medical and surgical knowledge required to take appropriate care of patients is too vast for any one physician to master. The combination of the principles of Orthopaedic Surgery and Plastic Surgery or Orthoplastic surgery is the epitome of the multidisciplinary approach to patient care. Orthoplastic surgery harnesses the best aspects of each specialty and applies them to the care of the patient. The care of the orthopaedic patient encompasses meticulous fracture reduction and fixation, hand surgery, well executed arthroplasty, and tumor resection. Without special attention to the soft tissue envelope, each of these endeavors may be for naught. Whether it is microvascular coverage of a IIIB tibia fracture, prophylactic soft tissue coverage to allow for revision knee arthroplasty, or reconstruction of a musculoskeletal tumor defect to allow for limb salvage, the principles are the same: achieve the most functional outcome for the patient with the least risk and morbidity.

The idea of combining the beneficial aspects unique to each specialty in the care of the orthopaedic patient has served as the basis of Penn's Musculoskeletal Institute. At Penn, we have contributed to the evolution of microvascular perforator flaps to minimize patient morbidity, combined ringed fixators and free tissue transfer, used minimally invasive approaches to joint arthroplasty, and allowed for revision arthroplasty with prophylactic soft tissue augmentation. Perhaps the ultimate confluence of orthoplastic surgery has been the

successful performance of 4 bilateral hand transplants. The coordination of care between orthopaedic and plastic surgery was paramount to the success of our vascularized composite allotransplantation program. Additionally, a new Targeted Muscle Re-innervation program has been started, with two TMR procedures performed in the acute amputation and revision amputation setting. Penn has remained fertile ground for the care of complex musculoskeletal patients, and orthoplastic surgery has blossomed as part of the Musculoskeletal Institute's dedication to improving care of patients.

In July 2018, the department officially launched the Penn Orthoplastic Limb Salvage Center (POLSC). This unique program, headed by Dr. L. Scott Levin, Dr. Stephen Kovach, and Dr. Samir Mehta, was initiated with the goal of preserving limb function for patients at risk for amputation or loss of limb function due to complex trauma, bone loss, soft tissue compromise, infection, vascular compromise, mal-union and non-union, or complicated sarcomas in a multi-disciplinary, collaborative environment.

Our goal continues to be to deliver the finest orthoplastic care to patients and to grow our individual programs within the Musculoskeletal Institute and Limb Salvage Center. We will continue to work together in a coordinated fashion to attract patients regionally, nationally and internationally. As Orthoplastic surgeons, we have a unique skill set and ability to work together for the betterment of patients and physicians alike.