



# Chief's Corner: Academic Chief Update

Mark D. Hasenauer, MD, Matthew Sloan, MD, and Daniel Gittings, MD



Another year has quickly come and gone, and collectively, we feel privileged to have served as the academic chief residents for 2019-2020. First, we would like to thank Drs. Levin, Farber, Israelite, Ahn and Moretti for their support and leadership throughout the year. Special recognition is reserved for Dr. Israelite, who stepped down from his long-standing tenure of Program Director this year. Dr. Farber has quickly transitioned into his new role of Program Director with the help of Dr. Moretti who will be serving as Assistant Program Director. We would also like to thank the faculty, staff and our co-residents for their hard work while continuing to work every day to make Penn Orthopaedics a great place to train. This year has certainly been a unique one, but one in which our residency has been able to accomplish several changes in our educational curriculum, expansion of our residency program, and the continuation of our robust visiting professor curriculum.

The biggest update and change came at the beginning of the academic year. With the closure of Hahnemann Hospital, we welcomed five additional residents to our program. They were quickly integrated into the department and have played an integral role throughout the year. The new residents provided us with a unique opportunity to permanently expand our resident complement to nine residents which would allow for increased flexibility and the opportunity for new rotations. We are hoping to hear back in the near future regarding our request to a permanent expansion of nine residents per year. We hope to implement additional rotations including dedicated research blocks, elective opportunities and the potential for further international work with the addition of a ninth resident per year.

The resident education program has seen many positive signs of growth. Utilization of the Penn Human Tissue Lab has drastically increased. This year we have more than doubled the number of cadaver led sessions and increased the number of specimens per session, allowing each resident increased hands-on participation. We have had sessions ranging from peripheral nerve microsurgery techniques to upper and lower extremity osteosynthesis to primary and revision arthroplasty.

International orthopaedic work continued this year, where two chief residents (Ryan Charette and Rikesh Gandhi)

accompanied Dr. Samir Mehta with a group out of Rush University in Chicago to provide orthopaedic care in the Dominican Republic for the second year in a row. While there, they were able to take care of those underprivileged patients who would otherwise be unable to receive care.

Our robust visiting professor curriculum continued this year, with leaders in the field coming from across both the United States and the globe to lecture and educate the department. Each of the speakers provided our department with stimulating lectures and enhanced resident education with cadaveric dissection or technique demonstrations, case presentations, or journal clubs. We were delighted and honored to have these giants in the field and thoroughly enjoyed having them visit.

At the end of our Chief year, we were confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic. A new schedule was devised and put into place that limited resident exposure while still allowing us to provide care for our orthopedic patients. While case volume decreased due to cessation of elective procedures, we worked with the newly elected rising chiefs to design a virtual daily education curriculum which included daily subspecialty conferences, journal clubs, and "fireside chats" on the fracture of the night with Drs. Mehta and Donegan. We would like to thank the faculty for their support and help with the education schedule.

As our tenure as academic chief residents is coming to a close, we would personally like to thank all of the Penn Orthopaedic surgery residents for their dedication and hard work. We would also like to express our gratitude to our program leadership and faculty who have been excellent mentors and leaders during our time here at Penn. We wish the best for next year's chiefs and look forward to the growth and new heights the program will reach.

Sincerely,

Mark Hasenauer, MD  
Matthew Sloan, MD  
Daniel Gittings, MD