



Class of 2010 Alumni Residents—Where are they now?



Kelsey Bonilla, MD

Meira Z. Yeger-McKeever, MD

Fellowship: Sports Medicine at Union Memorial Hospital (Baltimore, MD)

Current Employment: Mohawk Valley Health System (Utica, NY)



How has training at Penn impacted your practice?

My experience at CHOP inspired me to become a pediatric sports medicine specialist, which is an area of expertise that is new to my community. I carry a lot of principles I learned from Dr. Flynn and Dr. Mehta into my practice as well.

What have you learned in the first decade of practice?

The first decade of practice has taught me that you never stop learning—from your patients and your peers.

What advice would you give residents?

I would tell residents, surgery is fun but don't underestimate what you learn from clinic. Soon you will be on your own and have to figure out what to do with your patients after you've diagnosed them or after you've operated on them.

Julia Kenniston, MD

Fellowship: Hand & Upper Extremity at Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital

Current Employment: Plymouth Bay Orthopedic Associates (Plymouth, MA)



How has training at Penn impacted your practice?

Being at Penn helped give me the solid foundation for being successful in my practice on many levels. The Socratic method of teaching (while painful at the time) taught me critical and creative thinking, which is essential during difficult OR cases or determining complex diagnoses. Being a resident on busy services also helped me to be more efficient and effectively multitask. In addition, the

Penn 'network' is great to be a part of and I was fortunate to work with many amazing and talented co-residents, fellows, and attendings. They are not only wonderful people, but also great resources.

What have you learned in the first decade of practice?

There are many things that I have learned over the past 10 years that are too numerous to list here, so I'll include the most noteworthy learning points. The first is that it is significantly more stressful being the attending than being in training. Every patient that you see is directly affected by the decisions that you make and become a part of you. It makes the highs higher and the lows lower. Second, there is a vast amount of the 'business of orthopedics' that I was unaware of and am learning as I go. The third is the importance of being involved with the community that you serve and using your role to affect change. This is true at the local, national, and global level.

What advice would you give residents?

Enjoy and appreciate your time at Penn. You are on the path to a successful and happy life and career. It is a remarkable place with amazing attendings. There is much to be learned there. At times, it can seem crazy and overwhelming, but it makes you more resilient and able to more easily manage life after residency. Finally, life balance is essential to maintain. While work takes up the majority of our waking hours, the most important part of life is family and friends. Take time to enjoy and relax with your colleagues, friends, and family.

Jonathan P. Van Kleunen, MD

Fellowship: Mississippi Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center

Current Employment: University Orthopedics Center (Altoona, PA)



Nirav Pandya, MD

Where did you do fellowship?

Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego

Where are you currently practicing?

I am currently the chief of pediatric orthopedics at UCSF



How has training at Penn impacted your practice?

Penn tremendously impacted the manner in which I practiced orthopedic surgery. Through mentors such as Dr Ganley, Dr Metha, and Dr Sennett, I was prepared to become an academic orthopedic surgeon. I learned to operate independently, practice efficiently, and build an academic career. Without Penn, this would not have occurred.

What have you learned in the first decade of practice?

I think more than anything else is that you are constantly learning and adapting to the patients in front of you. It is important to be humble and learn from your mistakes.

What advice would you give residents?

Never stop learning. Understand your limitations. Prepare for every surgical case you are going to do. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

Stephan G. Pill, MD

Where did you do fellowship?

Steadman Hawkins Clinic

Where are you currently practicing?

Prisma Health (Greenville, SC)

How has training at Penn impacted your practice?

The high complexity of cases and exceptional work ethics of all attendings prepared me for a "turn key" successful orthopaedic practice. After 7 years in private practice, I returned to the academic sector due to the long-lasting mentors I made at Penn. I live everyday to try and emulate the teaching of the Penn faculty. I'm forever in debt to my friends and teachers there.

What have you learned in the first decade of practice?

It is harder to teach well than do surgery well.

What advice would you give residents?

It is best to always have more questions than answers. Never stop the passion for questioning and learning.



Derek Dombroski, MD, MS

Fellowship: Parkland Health and Hospital System (Dallas, TX)

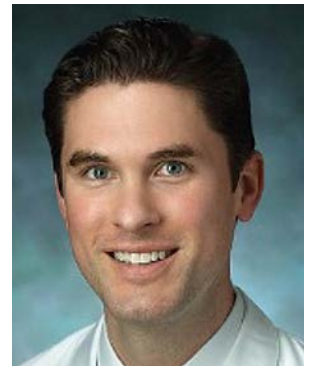
Current Employment: Island Orthopedics (Honolulu, HI)



J. Stuart Melvin, MD

Fellowship: Orthopaedic Trauma at Carolinas Medical Center, Hip and Knee Reconstruction at OrthoCarolina

Current Employment: Washington Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine (Washington, DC)



Jesse Torbert, MD

Where did you do fellowship?

Shock trauma

Where are you currently practicing?

VCU (Richmond, VA)

How has training at Penn impacted your practice?

The attention to detail that the Penn residency (and the litigious nature of practicing in Philadelphia) instilled in me is an asset to my practice.

What have you learned in the first decade of practice?

Just try to do the right thing, treat people like family, and you will have no shortage of patients.

What advice would you give residents?

Read more, see more cases, scrub cases you are not interested in, learn everything you can while you have someone above you to teach you.

