



Letter from the Program Director

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It has been another busy year for the residency program and finally one where there have not been any significant COVID related disruptions. Under the guidance of our Academic Chief Residents (Lucas Myerson, Steven Zhang, and Kelsey Young), we initiated several new projects aimed at maximizing the residents' educational experience. There have been numerous successful

labs and sawbones events for the residents to further their training.

The housestaff at Penn voted to unionize in the late spring of 2023. To date, we have not seen the effects of this as negotiations are ongoing between the union and PennMedicine. Despite this, we continue to look at ways to enhance our residents' experience. We have spent time this year revamping the format of the residency budget and are excited to launch a new budget system that will formalize many of the Orthopaedic benefits we provide for the residents such as lead, loupes, and funds for courses and conferences.

We welcomed our new class of interns, a varied bunch who brought much to the Penn environment and to the residency. The Okafor twins (not really), Chiel (Penn) and Chinedu (Duke), Maxwell Cardwell (Wisconsin), Tyler Murphy (Hofstra), Brett Croen (Drexel), Jiwon Park (Michigan), Sarah Rapaport (Hopkins) and Tensae Assefa (NYU). However, 2 of our interns came to the realization of their true calling partway through the intern year. We will bid farewell to Jiwon Park who will be switching to the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation program at University of Michigan as well as Sarah Rapaport who will be entering the Emergency Medicine program at MGH this coming July. So this coming year, we will welcome Shivani Pandya and Pushpak Pondugula who will be joining us as new PGY 2s. We also wish Sam Oduwole PGY2 well as he transitions to the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation program at Penn and we welcome Nnaemeka Okorie who will join the incoming PGY3 class as a transfer from the Howard University program. Lastly, Sand Mastrangelo has switched gears as well and will be starting Psychiatry at MGH this next academic year, leaving us at the end of their PGY3 year. While we are at it, congratulations to the PGY5 class of 7 who will move on to their fellowships: Stephen Barchick (Spine at Emory), Sachin Gupta (Spine at Leatherman), Lucas Myerson (Shoulder/Elbow at NYU), Richard Kim (Shoulder/Elbow at Kerlin-Jobe), Matthew

Stein (Joints at Duke), Kelsey Young (Hand at NYU), and Steven Zhang (Spine at Wash U).

We thank all our faculty for their dedication to the residency program but there are a few that have made some notable contributions. Dr. Cara Cipriano continues her role as Director of the Undergraduate Medical education providing us with a fantastic pipeline of medical students ripe for learning the benefits of an orthopaedic career or at least learning some crucial anatomy and basic MSK care. Lorraine Boakye and Tim Costales have taken on shepherding the intern skills month and we are already seeing some great enhancements to that experience. Samir Mehta, trauma faculty and expert educator, took 2 of our chiefs (Sachin and Steve Zhang) to the Dominican Republic this year where they truly learned orthopaedics in an austere environment unlike the smooth running technologically advanced operating rooms at Penn. We also welcomed Liane Miller, MD back to Penn as faculty this year in the Sports Division, another great resident who has come back to the nest to share their expertise, research and wisdom with the next generation of residents.

In the quest to keep Penn at the top of its educational game, we formed a group of faculty and residents to take a deep dive into the format of our education program and examine whether changing up the format of conferences and rotations might enhance the resident experience. We also welcome a number of new resources that we expect will give residents more time in the clinics and ORs including additional advanced practice provider support, planned renovations of "the bunker," and more.

We can never thank Dr. L. Scott Levin enough for his steadfast support over the past 14 years and for what he has done to grow this department and raise the resident experience to new heights. A number of other thank you's are always in order every year. First, kudos to Dr. Stephen Liu, our Associate Program Director, who is an invaluable asset to the program and to me. Angela Nieves, our primary residency program coordinator, and Abbi Goldman, who assists with the residency, numerous fellowships, and the med students, are key and crucial components of the education mission at Penn Ortho and we appreciate their efforts to support the residents and fellows.

On a bittersweet note, this will be my last update as program director. With new leadership on the way comes opportunity for change and I will be stepping down from this role to make way for that change. Dr. Andrew Sobel will assume responsibility for the residency as Interim Program Director and Steve Liu will continue as Associate Program Director. I will work closely with them to transition the program as smoothly as possible. I want

to thank all the faculty, residents, alumni and staff at Penn for their partnership over the past 5 years. It has truly been an honor to serve in this position. I want to especially thank Scott Levin for providing me this opportunity and entrusting me with this most important mission.

Everyone at Penn Orthopaedics will continue to wake up every morning looking for ways to continue to improve the educational mission! If you remember your days as a resident or fellow and want to support this

mission, please donate to the Penn Orthopaedic Education Fund. All donations directly benefit the residents and support everything from educational resources, resident instructional courses, and academic travel to the occasional resident happy hour that helps boost morale. Please contact Allyse Orsini at aorsini@upenn.edu or 267-788-0975. Also check out our Instagram page at Penn.Ortho!

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy and productive 2024-5 Academic year!