



A Letter of Gratitude and Anticipation: Welcoming Dr. B. Kyle Potter as Our New Chairman



Jean-Claude G. D'Alleyrand, MD



Benjamin "Kyle" Potter, MD

We have all benefited from Dr. Levin's sacrifices and leadership as he built our Department into an Academia powerhouse, filled with world-class clinicians, researchers and educators. As this academic year draws to a close, so too does his tenure as our Department leader and Chair. While it saddens me to bid farewell to him in his capacity as Chair, I am grateful for the year that I have spent working alongside him, collaborating with him clinically and learning from

him as a leader. I am also profoundly grateful that he will pass the torch to B. Kyle Potter, MD, a colleague I have known for almost 15 years. That is a lengthy time, more than enough to gauge his character, leadership ability and clinical acumen.

Dr. Potter began his internship at Walter Reed in 2001, ten weeks before the terrorist attacks of 9/11. When American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon that morning, many of the injured patients were evacuated to Walter Reed, beginning a flow of casualties that would not stop for twenty years. During large offensives, such as the Battles of Fallujah, the casualty flow would reach staggering proportions, with plane after plane arriving filled with injuries that fortunately few surgeons will ever encounter. Treating untold numbers of catastrophic wounds would drive most surgeons into any specialty that would protect them from experiencing those injuries again, but Dr. Potter chose a different path. Seeing an opportunity to ease the suffering of our combat casualties, he pursued an Oncology fellowship so that he could lead Walter Reed's Amputee programs and make a maximal impact on our

Nation's wounded heroes. In the years we served together, he always led by example, taking on the hardest cases, building a giant research machine and holding himself to the same standards to which he held others at every stage of his career. Selfless service is in his nature, and it continues to guide him as he grasps the baton to continue our Department's upward progression in the domains of patient care, education and research.

Dr. Potter's CV is impressive by any standard, reflecting a prolific research portfolio and numerous scientific contributions while leading at the highest levels of Army Orthopaedics. While these accomplishments are to be expected for an incoming Chair of a prestigious Department like ours, it is his intangible qualities that will benefit Penn Orthopaedics the most. His moral compass, his sense of Duty, his sense of "others before self" ... these are the qualities that have guided him in the years I have known him and they will continue to do so as he makes the decisions that will most benefit our Department. While transitions can sometimes be difficult, his efforts will take Penn Orthopaedics into another era of excellence, and I ask all my beloved colleagues and the esteemed alumni of this Department to give him their full support, as I have mine. If we stand united behind our common goals of clinical excellence and world-class patient care, there is no limit to what we can accomplish: for each other, for Penn and for the deserving patients in our care.

In friendship,

Jean-Claude G. D'Alleyrand, MD