

Annual Meeting at Big Sky! Jan. 16-18, 2015

Welcome to the pre-conference newsletter! I am really excited about this year's lineup of presenters! We have quite a distinguished guest list which includes David C. Ring, MD, PhD, James Benjamin, MD, Mark Hutchinson MD, and Fred Azar, MD. Also rounding out our slate of speakers are Dr. Bergman, Dr. Olszewski, Dr. Steele, Dr. Ferrell, and Dr. DiGiovine.

David Ring, MD, PhD is Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School, Chief of the MGH Hand and Upper Extremity Service, and Chair of the MGH Orthopaedic Quality and Safety Committee. He is a deputy editor for the *Journal of Hand Surgery*, *Journal of Orthopaedic Trauma*, and *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*. His interests include trauma and post-traumatic reconstruction in the arm, quality and patient safety, common arm illnesses, and psychosocial aspects of arm illness. He will be speaking to us about trauma of the wrist and about issues regarding pain relief in our patients.

James Benjamin, MD, is a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon specializing in joint replacement and adult reconstructive surgery. He attended the University of Arizona for both undergraduate and medical school. He subsequently completed orthopaedic surgical training followed by a fellowship in adult reconstructive surgery in Exeter England, with Prof. Robin Ling, one of the pioneers of total hip replacement. He will be speaking to us about blood salvage and preservation in total joint procedures as well as narcotic use in patients undergoing joint procedures. He will also be discussing the difficult primary total knee arthroplasty.

Mark Hutchinson, MD, is Professor of Orthopaedics and Director of Sports Medicine Service at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He graduated from the University of Illinois College of Medicine and followed this with a residency in orthopaedic surgery at the University of Michigan Medical Center. He followed this with a fellowship at the Kentucky Sports Medicine Clinic. His research interests include sports injuries in women,

sports and children, preventive factors in ACC injuries, capsule histology in shoulder dislocations: intra-fiber bonding ruptures, knee and shoulder injuries, as well as sports specific injuries in: tennis, gymnastics, golf, hockey, football, baseball, cheerleading and dance.

He was one of my mentors during my residency at the University of Illinois at Chicago and we are honored with his presence at our conference.

We are also honored this year to have Frederick Azar, MD, who is currently AAOS president. He is also professor and director of the sports medicine Fellowship program at University of Tennessee – Campbell clinic Department of orthopaedic surgery. Dr. Azar is the team physician for the NBA Memphis grizzlies and also serves as team physician for the University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University sports teams. He has been involved with the Orthopaedic Academy for nearly 20 years and has held numerous positions in the AAOS including that of Treasurer. He will be delivering the AAOS update and will further give a talk on ACL reconstruction in skeletally immature patients.

In addition to these distinguished guests we will also be having presentations regarding Tranexamic acid, an update regarding the Montana Medical Association legislative committee, Medicaid expansion, nerve entrapment syndromes of the lower extremity, hip arthroscopy and more!

Come and enjoy all that is offered at Big Sky Resort and earn 10 CME credits in the process! We look forward to seeing you there to renew friendships, learn some of the latest techniques in orthopaedics, and network with your colleagues! This has always been a highlight of the year and is enjoyed by all!

Alan Dacre MD
MOS Vice President



Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Institute

Thanks to a grant awarded by the American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) this fall, I recently attended the Executive Director's Institute in Rosemont, Illinois. The conference was packed with useful information that will help guide us toward implementing best practices in our Association. There were presentations on Association Law, Contract Law, The ABC's of Insurance Exposure, and many others. While much of the information pertained to societies that are much larger than ours, I did take away a lot of valuable information from the meeting.

A common theme throughout the meeting was that each society should think and act like a business. This includes not only fiduciary duties, but in how the organization is governed, staffed, etc. One area that we are lacking as a Society is in our governance practices. As I have become more familiar with the status of the Association, I realized that as of yet we have not taken Board action to implement bylaws. Bylaws are recommended for all associations, and they are intended for our protection and guidance, and act as a contract between the members and the organization. Now that we have achieved tax-exempt status, it serves our interests even more to formalize the guidelines by which our Association governs. One of my personal goals as the Executive Director of your Association will be to work toward implementing best practices, and I think that moving forward with bylaws would be a great first step.

Overall, there are a lot of opportunities to move forward as an Association, so that we might increase our membership, and become even more meaningful to members. I hope to be able to implement some of those best practices, continue to learn about the issues that affect orthopedic surgeons in our state, and work toward serving your Association more effectively.

Development of New Website

Many of you have probably had a chance to view the Society's new website. While we have been regularly updating the website with new and pertinent information, it remains a work in progress. As you find the time to peruse the website at greater length, please do not hesitate to make suggestions on how it could be improved. Efforts continue to find ways to use the website to capacity, and especially in ways that help move the Society forward toward accomplishing its membership goals and mission. I am happy to report that after submitting another grant this fall the Society received a \$2,000 grant from the AAOS specifically for website enhancements.

The first enhancement involves the creation of an online shopping cart, where members will be able to register and make payments for the annual conferences online. We hope to have this functioning by the time of our Annual Meeting in January, so that registrants will be able to utilize the new and improved service. The second enhancement to the website will include an online database of orthopedic physicians in state. The Montana Medical Association has offered to provide their most current list of orthopedic surgeons in the state. Once we have this information, which includes name, practice location, address and specialty, we'll add a table to our website that will enable the user to search and sort by each heading. Essentially, the MOS will have an online directory of orthopedic surgeons in the state, which will be useful to our Society, and physicians and patients in general. Hopefully this is only one of many positive developments in store for our Society! I look forward to meeting you at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Margaret Caldwell
Executive Director

Board of Councilors Fall 2014 Update

During the 2013 Montana Orthopedic Society Meeting I was selected to replace Greg McDowell as the Montana representative to the AAOS Board of Councilors. Since then I have attended BOC meetings at the 2013 AAOS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, the National Orthopedic Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. and the AAOS Fall Meeting in Nashville. The result of my attendance to these meetings has been an enhanced awareness of the advocacy activity that our Academy is engaged in on our behalf. In this Newsletter I will summarize the issues discussed at the Fall .



The AAOS Fall Meeting was held at the Hilton in Nashville, TN. It was attended by members of the Presidential Line, members of the Board of Specialty Societies, members of the Board of Councilors, and their respective administrative staffs. After reports from various committees, the chairmen of the BOC and BOS gave brief Leadership presentations. The heart of the Meeting was the seven Symposia that followed.

The first was 'Changing Landscape of Payment Strategies'. This served as a review of federal programs like Meaningful Use, 55% of all Orthopedic practices have adopted EHR. PQRS, Alternative Payment Models (APMs), Appropriate Use Criteria (AUCs) were also discussed. In addition the repeal of the SGR was discussed. The current patch expires on 4/1/15 and it is unlikely to be addressed during the Lame Duck Congressional Session. Value rather than Volume based care is being discussed in Congress in conjunction with the SGR repeal. Despite listening and reading about Value Based Care and Reimbursement, I and many if not most others, still do not have a clear idea of how this will change the practice of Orthopedics. This discussion provided no greater clarity. Also discussed were changes affecting Commercial Insurance Providers. Employers want healthy employees and predictable Healthcare budgets. To that end, Narrow Networks, ACOs, Domestic Medical Tourism, Economic Credentialing, provider Economic Profiles, Private Exchanges, and Commercial Bundled Payments were tossed into the discussion. Again, which of these will materialize and how they will affect our profession and reimbursement remains unclear. The front page article in the November Issue of AAOS Now reviews this presentation in much greater depth.

The second Symposium was 'Don't Get Burned by the Sunshine Act'. One requirement of the Affordable Care Act was the development of an "Open Payments" website by CMS to make the public aware of the relationship between drug and device manufacturers and certain providers. But as highlighted in the November Issue of AAOS Now, "... the website design, missing data, and lack of context have made analyzing those relationships difficult."

The third Symposium was 'Update on Affordable Care Act Implementation'. This presentation was given by James Capretta, senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. This talk is also featured in an article in the November Issue of AAOS Now. The Bottom Line Points are as follows. Implementation has been delayed, but key elements of the ACA are having an impact on the U.S. Healthcare System. During the current second enrollment, an additional 12 million Americans are expected to obtain coverage. Even with Republicans in control of the Senate, it will be difficult to repeal core provisions of the ACA. The ACA will remain an issue through the 2016 Presidential Election.

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Board of Councilors Fall Update continued...

The fourth Symposium was 'Managing People and Teams'. The presenters were an eclectic group including a PhD specializing in Developing Teams, the CEO and General Manager of the NHL's Predators, and an Infectious Disease specialist who is the Chief of Staff at Vanderbilt University. Each presented their unique perspective on Team Building. As I reviewed my notes I could not settle on any salient points to share with you. Instead I'll share two quotes from the presentation. "Every complex problem has a simple solution, and it's wrong." "There is nothing that can't be solved if it doesn't matter who gets the credit."

The fifth Symposium was 'Opioid Abuse and the Practice of Orthopedic Surgery'. This presentation began with a viewing of a very powerful and thought provoking ABC Nightline segment chronicling a child born addicted to prescription Opioids. What followed was an in depth discussion of the prescription Opioid problem in the U.S. In 1971 the death rate due to unintentional prescription drug overdose was 1/100,000. In 2007 the rate was 9/100,000. The U.S. population is 4.43% of the world's 7.2 billion people. Ninety percent of opioids used in the world are used in the U.S. Reasons cited for the prescription Opioid problem in the U.S. include a big marketing push by Pharma promoting Opioids in the mid '90s and the designation by the V.A. in 1999 of 'Pain' as the 'Fifth Vital Sign'. One of the presenters, David Ring, M.D., a hand surgeon at Harvard, will be attending the Montana Orthopedic Society in January. Dave has implemented a progressive pain management program that minimizes the use of Opioids. I felt his perspective would be of great value to our meeting and he has graciously agreed to speak.

Symposium six was 'Performance Measures: Be at the Table or on the Menu'. This was an overview to the national Performance Measures Initiatives, as well as a review of the AAOS and Specialty Societies opportunity to impact Federal musculoskeletal performance measure development and implementation. These performance measures have not yet been developed but will be of three types: Structure, Process, and Outcomes. These will be the metrics implemented in the predicted shift from 'Pay for Doing' to 'Pay for Performing'.

Symposium seven was 'Communication Strategies: Utilizing Social Media and Managing Your Online Reputation'. The most insightful part was the 'Managing Your Online Reputation'. Basil Besh, M.D., the Chairman of the BOC Communications Committee, outlined the steps to deal with this issue as Prevention: don't ignore the upset patient, Monitoring: Google yourself, Analysis: read all reviews, and Mitigation: dilute the bad reviews with good ones. The Academy and many Specialty Society meetings have Instructional Courses that deal with the details. I would suggest you or someone in your group consider one of these courses. With respect to Social Media, perhaps the most salient point is that the AAOS has a presence on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Ultimately every practice and surgeon must decide if Social Media makes sense for them. One comment at the meeting, 'Never say anything on Social Media you wouldn't say in a crowded elevator'.

Heading into 2015 the AAOS Office of Government Relations has targeted the Affordable Care Act, Ancillary Services, Liability Reform, and SGR repeal as its key issues.

Dr. Ben Carson, M.D. will be the Presidential Guest Speaker at the AAOS Annual Meeting.

I hope to see you all at Big Sky in January.

Respectfully,
Nick DiGiovine, M.D.