



Alabama Orthopaedic Society

News

Summer 2017



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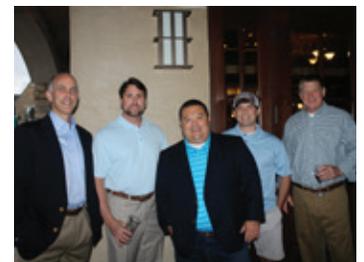
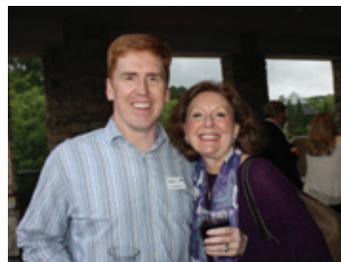
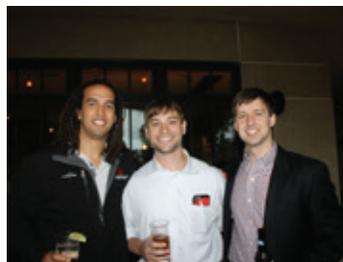
AOS Executive Director

Terri Mendez
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2017 AOS/MOS Joint Meeting

Alabama joined with Mississippi again this year to host the 2017 AOS/MOS Joint Meeting at Ross Bridge Resort in Hoover, Alabama. More than 100 Orthopaedists from Alabama and Mississippi attended the meeting receiving up to *10.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™. In addition to the 2-day packed scientific session, the physicians had over 3 hours to view orthopaedic products and services provided by our sponsors and exhibitors.

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To view all photos from AOS/MOS 2017 Joint Conference, go to: AOSDocs.com/Meetings



AOS President's Message

Howard G. Miller, M. D.

Our Future Depends On It

Colleagues:

“You’ve got to be very careful if you don’t know where you’re going, because you might not get there.”

Words of wisdom from Yogi Berra, who must have had some prescient knowledge of our present political situation. Uncertainty abounds in the political landscape as well as in our practices. The burdens that regulations have imposed on our providing healthcare over the past 10-15 years is staggering. Supposedly well-meaning people have given us voluntary PQRS in 2006, made it mandatory in 2008, came up with meaningful use of electronic medical records in 2009, and then passed the Affordable Care Act in 2010. This established ACOs, patient-centered outcomes, innovative payment and delivery systems, and financially penalized providers for “preventable” hospital-acquired conditions such as postoperative infections. Then comes MACRA (2015) which repealed the SGR. Efforts to improve care and to base payments on performance and quality led to creation of the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) which consolidated PQRS, Value-based Payment Modifier, and Meaningful Use.

Although these regulatory efforts were meant to improve care, the impact on our practices has been significant and, many feel, counterproductive. The administrative burden is substantial, and has led to practice disruption and physician burnout without significantly improving care or outcomes.

So, what’s next? In times of uncertainty, it is important to concentrate on our value of excellence, professionalism, leadership, and lifelong learning. We cannot turn the clock back to the “good old days,” but we can advocate for a more simplified system that manages burden, promotes value, enhances quality, and does not unfairly penalize small practices.

This year I have the distinct privilege to serve as your State Society President and one of your representatives on the Academy Board of Councilors. I need and request your input as to concerns and suggestions. Only with your participation can we identify these issues, and advocate and influence those who are making the decision that affect our practices and our lives.

I challenge each of our members to recruit a colleague to join our State Society. I implore all to

contribute to the AAOS PAC – we employ a great team at the AAOS Office of Government Relations in D.C., and they are respected and effective in presenting our concerns and interests to our legislators, but it requires money to maintain this office and participate in our political processes. If you have not contributed to the PAC this year, please do so at any level – just text AAOS to 41444 and you will be connected to the appropriate link – no log-in required.

Yogi also gave us “If you come to a fork in the road, take it.” Let’s take the fork that will make Alabama the state with the highest percentage of participation in the country – let us change from passive observers of our future to advocates – our future depends on it.

Thanks for your time – I’ll be in touch about some initiatives we will be undertaking this year.

Respectfully,

Howard Miller, M.D.
President,
Alabama Orthopaedic Society
hgmortho@aol.com
256-658-0823

AOS President-Elect's Message

Chad Mathis, M. D.



No One Can Make Our Case Better Than We Can

It honors me to be nominated to serve as the president of Alabama Orthopaedic Society for 2018. I look forward to the opportunity of continuing the tradition of excellent leadership our society has had for the past several years of my involvement in the Society.

As many of you know, my involvement in politics has grown over the past several years. I have noticed one cliché that plays out over and over again in Washington and Montgomery: is that if you are not at the table, you are on the menu. We must strive for 100% participation in our political arms

both financially and with that valuable commodity: time.

No one can make our case to legislators better than we can ourselves. I have learned over my years of traveling to the Hill and speaking to the “Doc Caucus” and other members of Congress that our input is wanted and needed.

As regulators and legislators both seek to limit the cost of care by limiting access to quality care or limiting our access to our patients with red tape, we must be ever-vigilant and keep the government from doing more harm to the physician-patient relationship.

I encourage everyone to stay involved and ask at least one other colleague to get involved in our state and national societies.

Respectfully,



Chad Mathis, M. D.
President-Elect,
Alabama Orthopaedic Society

When the Orthopaedic PAC makes a contribution, it sends a strong, collective and clear message from orthopaedic surgeons to the beneficiary. As the PAC grows, that message resonates louder. Orthopaedic surgeons around the country have joined the PAC to advance the collective voice of the orthopaedic community on Capitol Hill!

Below are the Alabama Orthopaedists who currently contribute to AAOS

Ginger Bryant, M.D.	Michael Granberry, M.D.	Rosemarie Morwessel, M.D.
Steven Buckley, M.D.	Masoud Hamidian, M.D.	Thomas Powell, M.D.
Michael Cantrell, M.D.	Christopher Heck, M.D.	Williams Prince, M.D.
Joseph Clark, M.D.	Karl Hofmann, III, M.D.	Perry Savage, M.D.
Stephen Cope, M.D.	Timothy Holt, M.D.	Perry Savage, Jr., M.D.
Joseph Curtis, Jr., M.D.	John Killian, M.D.	Roger Setzler, M.D.
Jeffrey Cusmaru, M.D.	Philip Maddox, M.D.	Charlie Talbert, M.D.
Jeffrey Davis, M.D.	Howard Miller, M.D.	Thomas Thomasson, IV, M.D.
Andre Fontana, M.D.		



AOS Executive Director's Message

Terri Mendez

We are Breaking Records

This is turning out to be a record-breaking year! At the 2017 Annual Meeting at Ross Bridge Resort we offered the most CMEs ever in our 66-year history. Sponsorship and Exhibitor participation were also off the charts. And how can we forget the record-breaking low temperatures at our Opening Reception on the Clubhouse Terrace? Brrrr!

Thank you to all who participated, and we look forward to seeing you again in 2018.

The Alabama Orthopaedic Society has had a busy year.

Dr. Chris Heck represented AOS at the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) Governmental Affairs Conference in January.

The two primary topics were the Patient Compensation System and the Opioid Epidemic. As an effort of self-regulation, MASA recommends that all Alabama physicians who prescribe opioids receive 2 hours of opioid abuse education every 2 years. We plan to make opioid education easily available to our members in the coming years.

In April, Dr. Howard Miller, AAOS Councilor and AOS President-Elect; Dr. Justin Woods, UAB Resident; Dr. Stephanie Pearce, USA Resident, and I attended AAOS National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference (NOLC) in Washington, DC. We had the opportunity to meet with the Congressional Staff of Representatives: Gary Palmer, Martha Roby, Mike Rogers, Bradley Byrne, and Senator Richard Shelby. The prevailing issues were: ending of moratorium of physician-owned hospital construction or expansion, elimination of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), and federal legislation about medical malpractice. If you would like to learn more about these issues, you may find information on our website: aosdocs.com/government-relations/

In coordination with MASA, several members of AOS sponsored an educational dinner with Alabama House Health Committee Members. This was a very effective session and we hope to continue to build relationships by hosting an annual educational session with legislators.

In 2018 we will return to the Grand Hotel in Point Clear for our Annual Meeting. We strive to enhance and improve the meeting for our members and our vendors. Please reach out and invite your suppliers to be a sponsor of the 2018 Annual Meeting. This will enhance their exposure and benefit our meeting.

AOS continues to provide members with updates of new developments in orthopaedic medicine and legislative issues. As changes come quickly these days, we communicate important issues to AOS members electronically. Please watch your email for important updates.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this remarkable association.

Sincerely,

Terri Mendez
AOS Executive Director

With the many changes in the landscape of medicine, and specifically in orthopaedics, it is important to have a strong voice legislatively. 67% of licensed Orthopaedic physicians in Alabama are members of AOS, meaning our members are shouldering the burden of protecting our specialty. The Board of Directors has made a commitment to reach out and invite non-members to join AOS. We all know there is strength in numbers, so please help us create a stronger voice by inviting your colleagues to be a part of this Association.

2017 National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference (NOLC) Update

AAOS Board of Councilors (BOC), Dr. Howard Miller, Residents Dr. Stephanie Pearce (USA), Dr. Justin Wood (UAB), and AOS Executive Director, Terri Mendez, recently attended the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference (NOLC) in Washington, D.C., April 26-29.

NOLC is designed to focus on and address current political issues affecting the practice of orthopaedic medicine.

Along with the BOC delegates from all other states, upcoming legislation pertaining to our practice and patient access was reviewed and discussed.

On Thursday, the AOS delegates visited our state congressional staffers to lobby for support for three bills recommended by the AAOS. The Bills discussed were:



Dr. Justin Woods, Terri Mendez, Dr. Howard Miller, Dr. Stephanie Pearce

Protecting Access to Care Act of 2017

HR 1215 – Protecting Access to Care Act: Mirroring successful medical liability reforms of California and Texas, the Protecting Access to Care Act will ensure that physicians and health care providers are able to provide vital medical services to all patients without the

threat of meritless lawsuits. The legislation will limit attorney fees so that damage awards go to the patients in need; Allow for the full and unlimited recovery of economic damages, including past and future medical expenses, lost wages, rehabilitation costs, etc.; Allow for the periodic payment of damages.

Patient Access to Higher Quality Health Care Act 2017

HR 1156 – This bill would partially lift the ban on new physician owned hospitals and also address limitations on the growth of existing facilities.

Protecting Seniors Access to Medicare Act

HR 849/ SB 260 – This bill repeals the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), created by the Affordable Care Act



Justin Woods, M.D. UAB Resident

Before I attended the NOLC, I was unfamiliar with how the ACA affected orthopaedic surgeons and their practices. The lectures at the conference and the visit to Capitol Hill opened my eyes to the importance of participation at both the state and national level by orthopaedic surgeons. Current residents should pay particular attention as our future is at stake.

2017 NOLC Recap (continued)

(ACA), that threatens the ability of the elected representatives in Congress to ensure seniors have access to the health care they need, when they need it. The IPAB board is charged with making recommendations to cut Medicare payments with little accountability.

In addition to addressing upcoming legislation and advocacy, symposiums were held on topics ranging from scope of practice issues, to diversity in orthopedics, and cybersecurity.



Stephanie Pearce, M.D.
USA Resident

NOLC was a great experience for me, having very little exposure to politics in general and especially the political world as it relates to Orthopaedics.

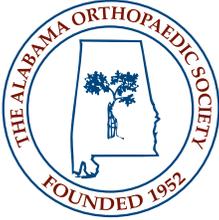
The conference taught me different facets about Orthopaedics, the Academy, & leadership within both. NOLC also gave me the chance to step into the shoes of a Lobbyist for a day: meeting with our senators and congressmen and congresswomen, to enlighten them on policies and laws that influence our day to day lives and how we are able to treat and care for our patients. The opportunity to learn more about the current laws and policies that affect us as Orthopaedic Surgeons as they are trying to make their way through the House and Senate opened my eyes to how much of an impact we can have with our voice if we just take a little interest and initiative. NOLC and its leaders made a big impact on how I perceive policy and even more so on the choices I will make and the voice I have to help protect our profession and specialty.



Scoliosis Awareness Month

Dr. Sharon Mayberry and Nurse Practitioner, Marjorie Eiland with AOS Executive Director Terri Mendez witness Governor Kay Ivey signing of Proclamation of Scoliosis Awareness Month, June 2017.

Drs. Sharon Mayberry and John Killian of Orthopedics for Kids evaluate and treat nearly 1,500 children in Alabama for scoliosis. Early detection with school screening, especially in rural and underserved areas in the state, afford those children the opportunity to be treated without surgery.



NEW! Please include your specialty for search on AOS website.

2017 AOS DUES STATEMENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Specialty (please include for AOS website search): _____

Check One Category:

_____ Active \$300.00/yr.

_____ Senior / Resident / Fellow (Circle One) No Charge

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

_____ Check (Print and complete this form, attach check payable to AOS and mail to Alabama Orthopaedic Society, 1085 Chesson Hill Dr., Fitzpatrick, AL 36029)

_____ Credit Card On-Line
www.aosdocs.com. Select Membership Renewal

_____ Credit Card-AOS Will Process
Complete this form and Fax to AOS at 334-460-9925.

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Practices whose members all join as a Group will receive a 10% discount off total dues.

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_____ Auto-Renewal _____ Cancel Auto-Renewal

By selecting Auto-Renewal, your membership will be renewed each year. You will receive a dues statement each year. If you do nothing, the credit card shown above will be charged on Dec. 15. If you wish to cancel auto-renewal, select "cancel auto-renewal."

Mail to: AOS | 1085 Chesson Hill Drive | Fitzpatrick, AL | terri@aosdocs.com
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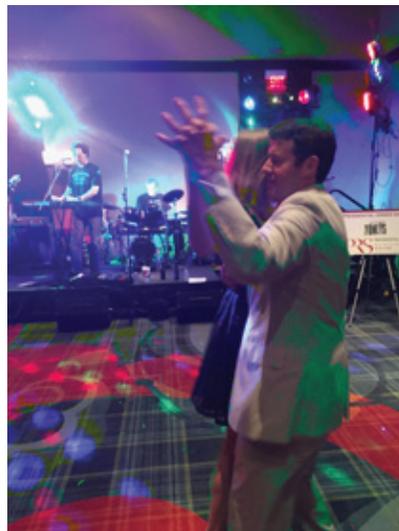
2017 AOS/MOS Joint Meeting

(continued from page 1)

ALAO President, Dr. Chris Heck's Presidential Reception, Dinner and Derby Party was hosted by NHS Management and Arthrex Distributors: Gentleman Orthopedics, Prime Surgical and Quest Medical. This family-friendly event was an excellent opportunity for fellowship, fun, games, dancing, awards and delicious food.

Thank you to our speakers and presenters who provided interesting and compelling presentations during our scientific sessions. Thank you to all who attended and enjoyed the opportunities for education, networking, and learning about products and services from sponsors and exhibitors who made this event such a success.

Continued on page 10



Thank you!

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Smith & Nephew

Stryker - Gulf South Ortho

Stryker Sports Medicine

Stryker-Endoscopy

TherapySouth

Vericel

Zimmer Biomet

Vikon

Yelton Essay Award

This year we received 16 paper submissions for the Chestley Yelton Resident Essay Competition. Eleven Alabama residents presented papers and 2 Alabama Orthopaedists presented Member Papers.

The winners of the Yelton Essay Competition Award were announced during the meeting:

First Place:

Charles Pitts (UAB)

The introduction of a pre-operative MRI protocol significantly reduces unplanned return to the operating room in the treatment of pediatric osteoarticular infections

Tie for Second Place:

Stephanie Pearce (USA)

Predicting Pediatric Distal Forearm Fracture Remodeling: Does Friberg's Equation Really Work?

Kenneth Smith (UAB)

Surgical Outcomes of Severe Turf Toe Injuries in High-Level Football Players

Third Place:

Kenneth Smith (UAB):

Reconstruction for Chronic Achilles Tendinopathy: Comparison of Flexor Hallucis Longus (FHL) Transfer Versus V-Y Advancement

Golf Tournament

Another highlight of the meeting was the golf tournament on the Azalea Course, with 42 attendees participating.

Prizes were awarded to:

Winning Team (NHS)

Freddie Skelton
Bryant Raynowska
Dr. Charles Fletcher

Longest Drive

Lee Dragoonis

Closest to the Pin

Richard Fox



First Place:
Charles Pitts, M.D. (UAB)



Second Place:
Stephanie Pearce (USA)



Second Place:
Kenneth Smith (UAB)
Third Place
Kenneth Smith (UAB)

Please make plans to join us at the 2018 AOS Annual Meeting at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama May 17-19, 2018. Watch your mailbox for more information. Also look for Dr. Howard Miller, AOS President's Call for Research Papers for the 2018 Scientific Meeting.

To stay up-to-date about meeting information, follow us on facebook and twitter.

 www.facebook.com/AlabamaOrthopaedicSociety/

 [@terriaosdocs](https://twitter.com/terriaosdocs)

ALAPAC

Big insurance companies, drug makers and personal injury lawyers want to get people elected who are friendly to their issues, even if at odds with quality patient care, liability reforms and the like.

AOS works closely with the Medical Association of the State of Alabama on legislation affecting orthopaedists. AOS encourages membership in both organizations and also supports the efforts of the Alabama Medical PAC (ALAPAC), which works to elect people we can work with on issues affecting both orthopaedic and sports medicine.

In just the past few years, ALAPAC-supported legislators have:

- Helped prevent dangerous and self-serving podiatry and physical therapy bills from becoming law;
- Helped stop bills that could have resulted in more lawsuits against orthopaedists;
- Helped prevent the Patient Compensation System legislation from passing, which could annually tax orthopaedists more than \$10,000 each;
- Helped pass a bill to assist medical practices from unknowingly accepting hidden processing fees in electronic payments from insurers and RCOs; and,
- Helped amend several workers comp bills on various issues, including preventing orthopaedists from getting stuck with bad debt.

Even though every orthopaedic surgeon benefits from ALAPAC's work, disappointingly, only half of Alabama orthopaedists support these efforts. Please consider the standard annual contribution of just \$250. Contributions may be made via ALAPAC's secure electronic payment portal at <http://igfn.us/vf/ALAPAC>.

AOS Members Engaged on Your Behalf

On Wednesday, April 19, 2017, a contingent of the Alabama Orthopaedic Society met with members of the Alabama State House Health Committee in Montgomery. The focus of the function was a series of educational presentations on topics related to orthopaedic medicine, including orthopaedists' education and training, as well as the role of orthopaedists in providing surgical care for both acute and chronic conditions, as well as the role of orthopaedists in the wellness setting.

It was an informative evening for both orthopaedists and committee members. A majority of the House Health Committee was present at the event.

If you would like to be involved in future educational sessions, please contact Terri Mendez, AOS Executive Director 334-657-6575 / terri@aosdocs.com

IN THE NEWS

Dr. Luke Hiatt, UAB Resident, presented a research paper, "Adverse Effects of Vasopressor Support for the Maintenance of Mean Arterial Pressure in Acute Spinal Cord Injuries," at the 6th Global Spine Congress in Milan, Italy on May 5, 2017. The principal investigator and co-author was Dr. Steven Theiss, UAB Chair of Orthopaedics.



The 2017 Legislative Session - Bills of Interest

Niko Corley, Medical Association of the State of Alabama

The Medical Association of the State of Alabama works closely with the Alabama Orthopaedic Society on issues affecting orthopaedic medicine. Together, the Medical Association and AOS have advocated before the Legislature to protect the safety of orthopaedic patients and advance the practice of orthopaedic medicine.

The Alabama Legislature's 2017 Session is over. Here's a snapshot of what passed – and didn't pass – this session of interest to orthopaedists, as well as some lingering issues of which you need to be aware.

2017 Legislative Issues

Physician direct pay act (PASSED) – SB 94 ensures that private contracting between patients and their doctors cannot be regulated by the state insurance department or be subject to state insurance laws.

Medicaid budget (PASSED) – The General Fund budget for 2018 (goes into effect Oct. 1, 2017) contains no scheduled reductions in physician payments for Medicaid for 2018. The 2018 budget is buoyed by one-time BP monies made available from legislation that passed during the 2016 special session.

Medicaid fraud civil actions bill (FAILED) – SB 367 would have created new lawsuit opportunities for Medicaid false claims/Medicaid fraud in Alabama for “whistleblowers”

and personal injury lawyers. The legislation could incentivize personal injury lawyers to seek out whistleblowers in medical clinics, hospitals and the like to pursue lawsuits against physicians and others for alleged Medicaid fraud, with damages being triple the actual loss to Medicaid. The standard in the legislation for what constitutes Medicaid fraud was so low it could have allowed even honest billing mistakes to be deemed fraudulent.

Podiatry bill (FAILED) – podiatry legislation that could endanger patients (HB 299) again failed this session. The bill would have allowed podiatrists to treat above the dome of the talus (current law), up through the ankle joint and distal third of the tibia and fibula – to include the Achilles tendon and performing lower leg amputations. The bill would also have allowed podiatrists to administer anesthesia.

Workers comp medical benefits bill (FAILED) – SB 89 would have limited employers' payments for medical care for a

permanent total disability to age 65 or 500 weeks, whichever is greater. The bill would also have limited employers' payments for medical care if the patient did not seek treatment for the claimed injury within two years, and after four years without any treatment for the claimed injury, the employer would not have to pay for any further medical treatments.

Workers' comp fraud bill (FAILED) – SB 196 would increase penalties for workers' comp fraud committed by patients. Amendments were offered to ensure a physician would not get stuck with a bad bill for services provided by requiring notice be given to the treating physician if the patient was found to have committed workers' comp fraud. The physician would continue to be paid for services provided until he/she was officially notified of the fraudulent act, after which payment for services from the patient's employer would cease.

Rural physicians' tax credit (FAILED) – SB 22 would have increased from five years to

10 years the claiming of the state income tax credit of \$5,000 allowed for physicians practicing and residing in rural communities.

Jury composition changes (FAILED) – two bills, **SB 152** and **SB 197**, would have allowed six-person juries (instead of 12) to decide the outcome of certain civil suits and would have removed anyone over the age of 70 from the jury pool.

Biologic substitution (FAILED) – **HB 82** would have lowered biologic pharmaceutical standards in state law below those set by the FDA; withheld critical health information from patients and their doctors; and, would have significantly increased administrative burdens on physicians.

Lingering Issues

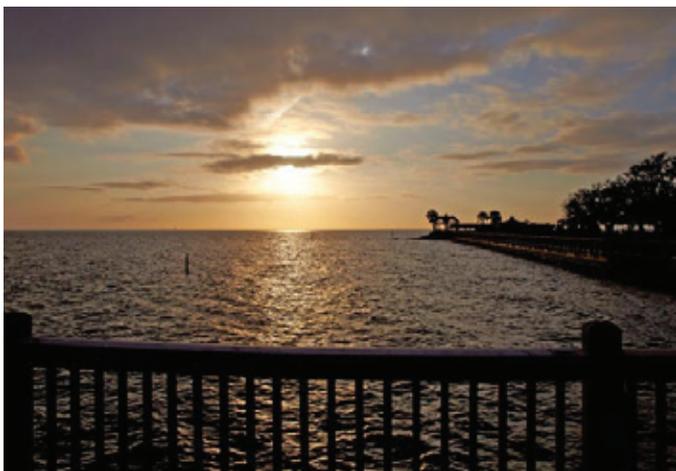
Patient Compensation System – while this bill was not reintroduced in Alabama after being defeated here in 2016, the PCS bill failed in Tennessee for the second time. It has not passed in any of the states where it has been filed – Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Maine or

Alabama. However, in Alabama, PCS proponents have teamed up with the Business Council of Alabama to push the terribly flawed legislation and it is expected the bill will resurface in 2018. The PCS levies an \$80 million tax increase on Alabama physicians to create and operate a new government-administered malpractice claims payout system called the “Patients Compensation System.” The PCS would administer damage claims for physical injury and death of patients allegedly sustained at the hands of physicians. Complaints against individual physicians would begin with a call to a 1-800 line and the complaints would be reviewed by panels composed of personal injury lawyers, citizens and physicians to determine an outcome. In addition, any determinations of fault would be reported to the National Practitioner Databank. The Patient Compensation System would undo decades of medical liability reforms championed and defended by the Medical Association each session. The PCS deprives both patients and physicians of their legal rights.

Removal of the referral requirement for physical therapy – no bill has been filed in Alabama since 2012, yet physical therapists have made it known they wish to again file a bill to remove any requirement for a physician referral for PT. It is expected the bill will surface in 2018.

Workers comp overhaul – while no comprehensive workers compensation reform bill like the one first seen in 2013 has been introduced in the past two years, it is possible such a bill could resurface again in 2018.

The 2018 Legislative Session begins in early January. Next year, the Medical Association is launching a “Doctor of the Day” program where individual physicians can spend a few hours with the Association’s Government Relations and Public Affairs team working the halls of the Alabama State House on important health legislation. Orthopaedists are encouraged to participate in this program. For more information on the “Doctor of the Day” program or other legislative-related topics, please email ncorley@alamedical.org.



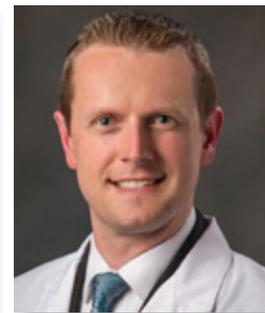
Save the Date

The Southeast Orthopaedic Foot Club
in conjunction with AOS Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 17, 2018
Marriott Grand Hotel
Point Clear, AL

University of Alabama Birmingham Update

Erin Ransom, M.D., AOS Resident Member at Large



Dr. Erin Ransom **Dr. Michael Johnson** **Dr. Amit Momaya** **Dr. Elie Ghanem** **Dr. Phillip Ashley**

It has been a great year for UAB Orthopedic Surgery. Under the continued leadership of our chair, **Dr. Steven Theiss**, our hospital was ranked number one in Alabama by US News and World Report. The division continues to grow and is excited to announce new faculty additions as well as a new residency program director.

Dr. Michael Johnson joined the UAB faculty in the Foot and Ankle section in 2013. He received his medical school training at the UAB School of Medicine. He completed his residency training at the University of Tennessee – Chattanooga and his foot and ankle fellowship at the University of Washington, Seattle. He has received numerous awards during his training as well as the faculty teaching award in 2016. He started as the program director in 2017 and we are excited for what his leadership will bring.

Dr. Amit Momaya will be joining our faculty in the sports section this year. He completed his medical education at Baylor College of Medicine. He completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at the University of Alabama – Birmingham. He is currently completing the Steadman Hawkins Clinic of the Carolinas Sports Medicine Fellowship. We look forward to welcoming him back to the UAB family.

Dr. Elie Ghanem joined our faculty within the arthroplasty section in 2017. He completed his medical education at the American University of Beirut. He then spent two years in orthopaedic clinical research at the Rothman Institute of Philadelphia under the mentorship of Javad Parvizi, MD, who is widely recognized as a leader of joint infection research. He completed his orthopaedic residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia and his Joint Replacement Fellowship at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. We look forward to his clinical and academic contributions to the arthroplasty section.

Dr. Phillip Ashley will also be joining our faculty within the pediatric section this year. He completed his medical education at the University of Texas Medical Branch, and completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at the University of Kentucky. He is currently completing his fellowship in pediatric orthopaedic surgery at the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. We look forward to the new perspective he will bring to our pediatric service.

We proudly graduated an outstanding group of six residents in June. Our academic year culminated with the graduation ceremony and research day.

Dr. David Ring, MD, PhD, Associate Dean for Comprehensive Care and Professor of Surgery and Psychiatry at the Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin, as well as a respected hand surgeon, was the keynote speaker. The graduating residents include: **Dr. Luke Hiatt**, who will be entering the Davis Spine Fellowship at the University of California, Sacramento; **Dr. Joseph Ingram**, who will be completing a fellowship in hand surgery at the University of Tennessee-Campbell Clinic in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. David Johannesmeyer, who will be entering a sports medicine fellowship at the University of New Mexico Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation Sports Medicine; **Dr. Luke McFadden**, who will be completing a hand fellowship at the Florida Orthopaedic Institute in Tampa, Florida; **Dr. Lucas Routh**, who will be entering the Adult Total Joint Reconstruction Fellowship at Anderson Orthopaedic Clinic in Alexandria, Virginia; and **Dr. Jonathan Williams**, who will transition to active duty at the Naval Hospital in Pensacola, Florida.

Our most exciting news for the year is that we will be transitioning from a division of general surgery to an independent Department of Orthopaedic Surgery on October 1, 2017. We look forward to the future of UAB Orthopaedic Surgery.

University of South Alabama Update

Alex MacDonell, M.D., AOS Resident Member at Large



Dr. Alex MacDonell



Dr. Jess Mullins



Dr. Stephen White



Dr. Brandon Scott

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of South Alabama continued to see many changes throughout this past year.

Dr. Angus McBryde passed away unexpectedly in October 2016 in a tragic accident. Dr. McBryde had been serving as interim chairman for our department. We mourn his passing along with the rest of the community and are extremely grateful for everything he did for our program. Dr. McBryde's love of his family, his friends, and medicine were constantly on display for all to see, and he is dearly missed.

Dr. John Marymont, the new vice president for medical affairs and dean of the College of Medicine, is now serving as interim chairman of the orthopaedics department and is leading the search for a new chairman. The Orthopaedic department has

completed its move into the new USA Health Strada Patient Care Center. The Center features 133,000 square feet of clinical space as well as in-house PT/OT/radiology. We now host USA Orthopaedic Grand Rounds in the Strada Center every Friday at 7 AM and welcome attendance by any AOS members and community surgeons. CME continues to remain available.

On May 23, 2017, residents and fellows from across the USA Graduate Medical Education programs presented scholarly activities in the form of scientific posters in the inaugural Resident and Fellow Exposition. With over 40 abstracts submitted for the event, the competition drew 28 poster entries. Congratulations to **Dr. Jonathan Gillig** and **Dr. Stephanie Pearce** for receiving the "Poster of Distinction" award representing the top 20%

of posters presented. "Safety and Complications Associated with MRI-Conditional External Fixators" was presented by **Drs. Jonathan Gillig**, Brett Crist, and Brian Campfield with mentor Dr. Russell Goode. "Transgluteal Approach for Drainage of Obturator Internus Abscess in Pediatric Patients" was presented by **Drs. Stephanie Pearce**, Stephen White, and Dennis Jorgensen with mentor Dr. Prasit Nimityongskul.

Congratulations to our graduating 5th years, **Dr. Jess Mullens**, **Dr. Stephen White**, and **Dr. Brandon Scott**. Dr. Mullens will move on to Vail, Colorado for a Foot and Ankle Fellowship. Dr. White will move on to Charlotte, N.C. for a Foot and Ankle Fellowship. Dr. Scott will move on to Louisville, KY for a Trauma Fellowship. We wish them the best of luck in fellowship.





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2018 AOS ANNUAL MEETING

May 17-19, 2018

Grand Hotel Marriott Resort Golf Club & Spa, Point Clear, AL