



Alabama Orthopaedic Society

News

Fall 2016

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Please Join us for the 2017 AOS/MOS Joint Meeting

Alabama and Mississippi Orthopaedists will meet together again at Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa May 4-6, 2017. We are planning an excellent scientific session offering ~ 9.5 CMEs, plenty of time to visit sponsors and exhibitors, a golf tournament, family fun, and opportunities to network with your peers.

Alabama & Mississippi Orthopaedic Societies 2017 Annual Meeting

Save the date!
May 4-6



Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa
Hoover, AL

Register online at aosdocs.com/annual-meeting/



AOS President's Message

Chris Heck M.D.

The Times They are A-Changin'

The Times They are A-Changin'

This 1964 title song from the now Nobel Prize winning artist, Bob Dylan, is often quoted when significant things change in our lives... like when a real estate mogul, billionaire, reality TV star becomes president of the United States of America! However, it also alludes to the fact that the practice of orthopaedics when you first started after residency or fellowship will not be the same practice (in size, scope, federal regulations, payer reimbursement, etc.) when you finish. Some of these changes do improve our practice and our patients'

satisfaction. However, others can create obstacles to patient care and access. To this end, the upcoming session for our state legislature, where changes abound, will begin in February, 2017. At the recommendation of another orthopaedic state society's executive director, I will be sending out periodic updates about issues germane to orthopaedic practice in this state during the legislature session. They will not be long diatribes. On the contrary, they will succinctly inform you about the changin' times. They will also be an opportunity for you to contact your state legislator to make sure your voice, which is also a surrogate for your

patients, is heard. Please review each email update so you can keep up with the times! I will see you at Ross Bridge Resort in May for the annual meeting!

"Change is the only constant in life."

-Heraclitus of Ephesus, Greek philosopher, 535 BC – 475 BC

Chris Heck, M.D.
President,
Alabama Orthopaedic Society

Foot Club 2017 Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Ross Bridge Resort
7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Immediately preceding AOS/MOS Joint Meeting



AOS President-Elect's Message

Howard G. Miller, M. D.



Certainty???

MIPS, MACRA, ACA, PQRS, MU, EMR, BPCI, CJR, and a new President-elect. What does all this mean to us? There is a great deal of uncertainty coming out of Washington after the recent national elections – will Obamacare be “repealed and replaced,” or modified, keeping provisions that most would agree are appropriate, such as preventing denial of coverage because of pre-existing conditions and covering dependents for additional years. Will some of the regulations be rescinded? Will the appointment of an orthopaedist, Dr. Tom Price, to head HHS portend significant change? Who knows?

But what is certain is that our present system is unsustainable. Health care now comprises 19% of GDP, by far the greatest percentage of GDP of any country. This contributes to the cost of goods produced in our country being more expensive than those produced elsewhere, and is a major contributor to our trade deficits. Entitlements for health care will burden our economic system for decades. In Alabama, 34% of the general fund is budgeted for Medicaid

coverage, and even that is inadequate for that program. The solution, thus far, out of Washington is to change the system to a pay for quality system rather than a pay for volume system. Is this just a back door means of rationing care? Is denying care the real answer to improving care? What about inefficiencies in the system? What about prevention?

The other real certainty is that we orthopaedists must remain advocates for our patients as well as for our profession. We must continue to support those ideas and principles which will provide optimal musculoskeletal care for all our citizens – the future of orthopaedics and, indeed, of the country depends on it.

Our political system necessitates raising money to support candidates who run for office. Contributing to those seeking office provides access to those candidates to try to persuade them to support our efforts. Yet, only 13% of practicing orthopaedists in Alabama contributed to the AAOS PAC this year. We must do better. Remember, if you are not at the

table, you may well be on the menu.

I encourage you all to consider a contribution to the AAOS PAC for 2017.

May the New Year bring you health, happiness and prosperity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Howard G. Miller". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Howard G. Miller, M. D.
President-Elect,
Alabama Orthopaedic Society

AAOS Board of Councilors' Report and Board Specialists

John Killian, M.D. and Howard Miller, M.D. AAOS Board of Councilors

The following is a summary of the AAOS Board of Councilors and Board of Specialists Meeting
October 21-22, 2016

Opioid Crisis and Pain Management

2.1 million US citizens are addicted to opioids. The U.S. population, which accounts for 6% of the world's population, uses 100% of the world's hydrocodone and 81% of the world's hydromorphone. The drug companies have been implicated in creating the opioid crisis by marketing that "patients should never expect to be in pain." Orthopaedic surgeons have added to the crisis by routinely "over-prescribing" narcotics compared to 20 years ago. Overregulation by state legislatures is anticipated to continue impacting the orthopaedic surgeon's ability to effortlessly treat acute orthopaedic pain. The consensus is that all chronic pain conditions be immediately transferred back to the primary care physician or a pain management specialist through preoperative and postoperative communications. States are limiting the number of medications physicians may prescribe. Some restrictions are based on morphine equivalent, some based on number of days (e.g. maximum of one week's

medication at a time).

Orthopaedic Groups Sizing

The symposium dealt with issues that new graduates and 60+ year old orthopaedic surgeons have to face when deciding whether to join a small versus a large group. The marketplace and local dynamics with a hospital eventually are dictating the size, deficiency, and profitability of the different group sizes.

Evolving Health Systems and Payment Modules

With the Affordable Care Act implementation, orthopaedic surgeons from Massachusetts found out the "good, bad, and ugly" that resulted. Massachusetts, through the Affordable Care Act, went from 92 percent to 99 percent insured patient population base. This meant that there were now several hundred thousand patients who had insurance. These newly insured patients did not, however, see that their access to care was enhanced. The emergency room visits and costs were minimally altered. The largest unforeseen cost was the transfer of a large number of patients to Medicaid. The state budget requirement now exceeds greater than 24% of the annual budget and is unsustainable. (Medicaid in Alabama accounts for 32% of

the state budget.)

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) is drafting templates for "tweaking the affordable care act" if the Democrat is elected versus "repeal of the affordable care act" if a Republican is elected.

MACRA & MIPS

Karen Clark from Ortho-Tennessee spoke about the improved reporting with MIPS in order to meet meaningful use requirements. Quality, resource use, advancing care information, care information, and clinical practice improvement activities are now being used to determine the merit-based incentive payment system.

Quality - there is a new orthopaedic specific measure that includes current medications, body mass index, rheumatoid assessment, and low back pain imaging studies that can be used in the office setting.

Resource use - improvement is that only those expenses directly attributable to the orthopaedic surgeon will affect his score card.

Advanced care information - if the practice is using a security risk analysis, electronic

(Councillors' Report continued)

prescribing, patient portal, referral of summary care forms to primary care physicians, and an ability to create a summary of care statement for the patient, then requirements can be met.

Clinical practice improvement activities can include collection of patient's satisfaction data, referral letters, and HIE participation.

Risk assessment for MIPS - emphasized the need to educate the staff regarding the complete collection of data, estimate the impact to the practice regarding a down size in payment reimbursement should parameters not be met, and how to optimize the data score, and evaluate your progress every 3-4 months.

Additional Discussions

There were additional breakout sessions dealing with the American Academy of Orthopaedic

Surgeons' annual budget requirements, cut-backs, and attempts to increase revenues. Another session dealt with the perception by orthopaedic surgeons that the current recertification process is entirely too onerous and needs to be streamlined and the expenses associated with recertification decreased. There is discussion about doing away with the high stakes exam, and aligning the process more along lines of self-assessment exam and OKU. The exam should reflect more patient care patterns, where and how to find answers and solutions, and not necessarily knowing the answers.

Advocacy

"If you are not at the table, you may well be on The Menu."

The Orthopaedic PAC

"The Orthopaedic PAC" is the only national political action committee in Washington, DC, representing orthopaedic surgeons before Congress. The PAC is your voice, your strength, and your access in the Nation's Capitol.

AOS Members who Contributed to 2016 AAOS Orthopaedic PAC

Patrick Barousse	Donald Deinlein	Chad Mathis
Ginger Bryant	John Featheringill	Daniel Matthews
Steven Buckley	Andre Fontana	Sharon Mayberry
Michael Cantrell	Vincent Genovese	Howard Miller
Joseph Clark	Michael Granberry	Rosemarie Morwessel
Stephen Cope	Albert Haas	John Payne
William Crotwell	William Haller	Thomas Powell
Richard Culpepper	Masoud Hamidian	Stephen Samelson
Joseph Curtis	Christopher Heck	Roger Setzler
Jeffrey Cusmariu	Timothy Holt	William Sudduth
James Davis	John Killian	Charlie Talbert
Jeffrey Davis	Troy Layton	Steven Theiss
Paul Davis	Philip Maddox	Robert Zarzour

To Donate Online: www.aaos.org/Advocacy/PAC

Click on: [Donate to the PAC](#)

University of Alabama Birmingham Update

Luke Hiatt, M.D.



Dr. Luke Hiatt

UAB Orthopaedic Surgery has continued to evolve under the leadership of our chair, **Dr. Steven Theiss**. There have been several faculty additions and changes over the past few months that we are eager to share with the community. We are excited to announce that the Orthopaedic Surgery division is currently in the midst of formally transitioning into a department and splitting from the General Surgery department. After undergoing a formal external review, department status was strongly recommended. We expect several meetings with consultants and representatives over the next 6 months as we formally organize the infrastructure of the new department. We anticipate full completion of the transition over the next year, which will bring us new resources, funding, and infrastructure.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, several new faculty members have joined our group. **Dr. Jason Pittman** (spine) and **Dr. Jonathan Quade** (trauma) both started their practices in August and have quickly become very busy. Both



Dr. Steven Theiss

have been well-received for their teaching abilities and operative proficiency. **Dr. Sameer Naranje** (arthroplasty) has also accepted a position and will begin his practice this fall.

In addition to the new hires, **Dr. Sakthi Rajaram** has formally joined our faculty. After completing his initial residency training in India, Dr. Rajaram completed orthopaedic fellowships at St. John of God Hospital in Australia and Queens Medical Center in Nottingham, UK. He then relocated to the United States, where he completed spine fellowships at Ohio State University and UAB. After completion of his spine fellowship at UAB, he stayed in Birmingham to pursue an additional fellowship year in trauma surgery. After completion of his most recent fellowship in July, he has transitioned to a faculty role. He has developed an elective spine practice, which he continues to augment with spine and trauma call as well.

It is with a somewhat bittersweet tone that we announce that one of our most distinguished faculty



Dr. Michael Johnson

members will be departing in December. **Dr. Joseph Khoury** has accepted a leadership position as associate chief of the Shriner's Hospital in Tampa, where he will also continue his pediatric orthopaedics practice. Dr. Khoury has been greatly admired by faculty and residents alike through his leadership as the residency program director over the past four years. He is a past recipient of the Residency Teaching Award. This new leadership opportunity represents a tremendous career advancement, and we wish him the very best in Tampa.

Dr. Michael Johnson has accepted the position of the residency program director and will be succeeding in Dr. Khoury's footsteps. Dr. Johnson has been a tremendous asset to UAB since starting his foot and ankle practice in 2013. After completing his medical school education at UAB and his residency at UT Chattanooga, he completed a foot and ankle fellowship at Harborview in Seattle. His practice has evolved with an emphasis on complex foot and ankle trauma. He is the most recent recipient of the residency

UAB AOS Update (continued)

teaching award and we look forward to progressing under his leadership.

On a more somber note, we grieved this year in the passing of one of our arthroplasty surgeons, **Dr. Stuart Stephenson**. Dr. Stephenson had a long career as a member of the UAB family. He received his Bachelor of Science from UAB in 1979, followed by his MD degree in 1983. He pursued a career in Orthopaedic surgery, as he found it a rewarding specialty in which his

patients tangibly improved. After completing his residency at UAB in 1988, he spent the majority of his career on staff at UAB and the Birmingham VA. He greatly enjoyed teaching residents and continued to teach up until the last week of his life. He was remembered with a beautiful celebration of his life after his passing in August.

We would like to invite the entire AOS community to partake in education and fellowship through our grand rounds. UAB

Orthopaedic Grand Rounds are held twice monthly at 5 pm on Thursdays in the Highlands Hospital Media Center on the first floor of UAB Highlands. CME credit is available. Please also refer to our website for new updates and information at www.uab.edu/medicine/surgery/orthopaedics

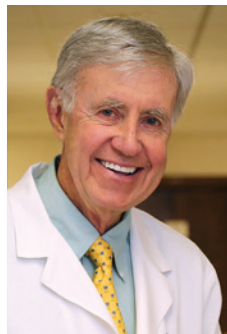
University of South Alabama Update

Patrick Barousse, M.D.



Dr. Patrick Barousse

South Alabama was once again met with tragedy when we learned that **Dr. Angus McBryde** passed away in an unfortunate accident on October 4, 2016. Dr. McBryde will be remembered by all the people he touched during his life. He spent his life in service to others, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Dr. Angus McBryde

Dr. John Marymont, the vice president of medical affairs, Dean of the USA College of Medicine, and former chairman of the LSU Shreveport Orthopaedic Department, is serving as interim chair of the Orthopedic Department. The search for a new chairman is still in progress.

In other exciting news, USA Orthopaedics will be moving into a new state-of-the-art building



Dr. John Marymont

in January. A multiple specialty physician office complex was built near the USA Children's and Women's Hospital.

The Orthopaedic Department will be interviewing new applicants for the residency program in the coming weeks. Applicants are taken to a local restaurant on the Causeway, and the following day, undergo formal interviews and tours.



Opportunities and Challenges Ahead

Medical Association of the State of Alabama

By Niko Corley, Director, Legislative Affairs, Medical Association of Alabama, Deputy Director, ALAPAC

The historic 2016 elections are behind us now, and the start of both the state legislative and congressional sessions will soon be upon us. What will the immediate future hold for orthopaedic surgeons?

Beginning at the federal level, the 115th Congress - of which both chambers are controlled by Republicans - along with Republican President-elect Donald Trump, are expected to roll out aggressive agendas aimed at chipping away or reversing entirely several signature policy initiatives of the Obama Administration.

At the top of the list will be attempted repeal or changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). With 20 million Americans having gained insurance coverage through the ACA, full repeal faces significant challenges. More likely in the short term is the defunding of critical portions of the ACA, repealing the most onerous and unpopular provisions and replacing them with Republican alternatives. Perhaps the most under-realized possibility for dealing critical blows to the ACA and other health initiatives undertaken during Obama administration will be the incoming president's ability to

appoint new heads of federal agencies (like HHS and others dealing with ACA enforcement) whose mission it is to "undo" much of the previous eight years. In such a scenario, orthopaedic surgeons and physicians overall might see relief from overzealous federal regulators on items like meaningful use, MACRA and MIPS regulations, PQRS, etc. Only time will tell. Most analysts believe, however, that under either the ACA or its successor, the progression toward more bundled payments and outcomes-based reimbursements will continue.

We know that both President-Elect Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan have identified increased use of health savings accounts as major elements of their respective health care proposals. Hence, expect that issue to be part of any serious "replacement" legislation that makes it to the President's desk. A major item of discussion for both congressional and state Republicans lately has been the idea of transforming Medicaid into a block grant program. Proponents argue block grants would allow states greater flexibility in setting eligibility and in determining which services are covered, potentially leading to creative solutions to

savings for states. Block grant opponents argue that further restricting eligibility may cut off access to care for individuals currently covered by Medicaid, possibly leading to increases in uncompensated care. The devil will be in the details, and so far specifics are scant.

Looking forward to the 2017 State Legislative Session, we will see a number of perennial issues. Shifting Medicaid to the state level, full-funding will continue to be a challenge until revenue streams capable of sustaining the program long term are found, or until Medicaid's draw on the beleaguered State General Fund is reduced. While one-time money was made available through the BP settlement legislation for 2017 and 2018, it is expected that Medicaid's budget request for the coming year will exceed what is available even with these additional one-time funds. The latest news on the RCO front indicates the start date may be pushed back even further than was previously expected, to October 2017. This and the fact that several health state systems have recently indicated they do not plan to participate in the RCO program at this time leaves the viability of that transformation in question.

Each legislative session, one of the most significant threats physicians face is on the liability front. The personal injury lawyers are always eager for new opportunities to sue physicians, and next year is unlikely to be any different. In a heavily-plaintiff lawyer-slanted article recently published about Alabama's medical liability laws, personal injury lawyers who sue physicians for a living bemoaned the fact that our state's laws have leveled the playing field and established fairness for physicians in the civil justice system. Sweeping medical tort reforms were enacted in Alabama in 1987 and 1992 (the Alabama Medical Liability Act) and ever since, the plaintiff lawyers' guild tries to "water down" those laws nearly every time the Legislature comes into session. In the past couple of sessions alone, personal injury lawyers have even tried to expand the lawsuit industry in Alabama by "piggybacking" on various pieces of health legislation.

While the plaintiff lawyers' guild wants to water down our existing courtroom-fairness laws,

a radical new proposal being shopped around to legislators would destroy the stable liability climate the Alabama Medical Liability Act has fostered over the past 30 years. That proposal, pushed by a group called Patients for Fair Compensation, would turn over medical liability in Alabama to a group of politically-appointed bureaucrats housed under a new state government agency funded entirely by a new tax on physicians. Their rallying cry? The red herring of "defensive medicine."

Also expected to return in 2017 will be legislation to expand podiatrists' scope above the dome of the talus. Previous versions of the bill would have allowed podiatrists to treat, perform surgery on and and even amputate up to the midpoint tibia. If the legislation returns, it could be drafted in a similar manner or its proponents could take an entirely different approach.

Lastly, there is always a possibility that the workers' compensation legislation, which first emerged in 2013, could resurface next year.

On that issue and all of the aforementioned items, future successes for orthopaedic surgeons in the advocacy arena will depend most heavily on continuing the strong partnership between the Alabama Orthopaedic Society and the Medical Association of the State of Alabama. Together our organizations have defeated dangerous proposals in the past while at the same time championing worthy causes.

To shape future health policies, we have to take hold of the present. Commit today to becoming more engaged with AOS and organized medicine, with getting to know the men and women elected to represent you in Montgomery and Washington and voicing your concerns. It takes only a small amount of time but the collective impact is huge. With your patients, your practices, your livelihoods and your profession on the line, you can't afford not to get more involved.



MASA 2017 Governmental Affairs Conference
January 30 - February 1, 2017
Washington DC

MASA Annual Session
April 14-15, 2017
Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa

In Memoriam



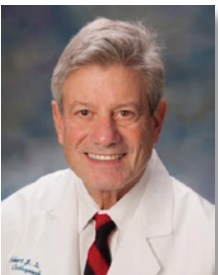
Dr. Brice Herald Brackin of Alabaster, passed away January 11, 2016. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Lou Brackin; two children, Freddie Brackin and Mirel Gill. Dr. Brackin was a graduate of the University of Alabama Medical School in 1973. He finished his Orthopedic Surgery Residency at the University of Alabama Medical Center in 1977. He was in private practice as an Orthopedic Surgeon and had practiced in both Birmingham and Alabaster from 1977 until he retired in 2008. He also received his JD degree from Birmingham School of Law in 1979 and became a member of the Alabama Bar Association in 1980.



Dr. Norman Litchenfield passed away on Feb. 22, 2016. His passion for history led him to earn a M.A. in History from the University of South Alabama and to author a book on the military service of African Americans in World War II. His other degrees include a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University, an M.S. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Miami, and an M.D. from the University of Florida School of Medicine. He is survived by his wife Ruth, son Alex, and father Seymour Litchefield.



Dr. Stuart X. Stephenson III, an Orthopaedic surgeon at the University of Alabama School of Medicine, died August 25, 2016 following a months long battle with esophageal cancer. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from UAB in 1979, followed by his MD degree in 1983. After completing his Orthopaedic Surgery residency at the University of Alabama Medical School, he joined the faculty where he was a member of the total joint service, as well as a member of the orthopedic surgery faculty at the VA even up to his last days.



Dr. Bob Zarzour passed away on Sept. 11, 2016. Dr. Zarzour practiced orthopaedic surgery at Alabama Orthopaedic Clinic for over 40 years. He was an all-academic athlete at the University of Florida and was a recipient of the bronze star while serving as a First Lieutenant in the 101st airborne in Vietnam. Bob is survived by his wife, Katherine; sons, Taylor (Betsy); Grant, (Breanne); Matt (Elizabeth); Gaines, (fiancé Anna); Ryan; and daughter, Mary Katherine.



Dr. Angus McBryde, professor and interim chair of the department of orthopaedics at the University of South Alabama, died in an auto accident on Oct. 4, 2016.

Dr. McBryde served as professor and chair of orthopaedics at USA from 1991-1996. From 1996 to 2000, Dr. McBryde served as professor and chair of the department of orthopaedic surgery at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C. He then moved to the USC School of Medicine in Columbia S.C. to join the faculty as professor in the department of orthopaedic surgery and director of USC Sports Medicine from 2000 to 2005.

Prior to returning to USA, Dr. McBryde also served as director of the American Sports Medicine Institute Ankle and Foot Fellowship at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Birmingham.. He practiced at the Andrews Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center with subspecialty care delivered to competitive athletes.



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

Due Jan. 30, 2017

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Check One Category:

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www.aosdocs.com. Select Membership Renewal

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AAOS 2017 Annual Meeting March 14-18, 2017



San Diego Convention Center
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