AOS News



A Publication of the Alabama Orthopaedic Society Spring 2023



General Sessions Southeast Orthopaedic Foot Club Southeast Hand Society



AOS 2022-23

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2023 Annual Meeting Guest Speakers Drs. Brent Bankston & Stephen White, Team Doctors for LSU and UGA at 2022 SEC Championship Game

AOS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Terri Mendez

AOS President's Message

Grant Zarzour, M.D.

Collegiality and Expanding Professional Skills

We don't talk about those who have paved the way for orthopaedics to continue to improve in Alabama as much as we should. When you think about surgeons who have had a long-lasting impact on our state, you might first think about some standout attendings from our two medical schools. Now, I've had many mentors in my life, but two attendings from my residency at South Alabama stand out. They are Fred Meyer and Prasit Nimityonskul.

FRED MEYER, MD



Fred Meyer was a former president of the Alabama Orthopaedic Society [2012-2013] and leader in the Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He also did everything possible to take care of his residents. I could spend the rest of this column listing the sacrifices he made on a daily basis to make sure his residents became great surgeons and great people. His typical day started early with 10-12 surgical cases and ended late with resident education, meetings, and administrative duties until

late in the night. There are countless other examples of his hard work.

During his AOS presidency, he wrote in this newsletter about the importance of collegiality and our "responsibility to expand professional knowledge and skills." Our Annual Meeting in May is a great way to focus on collegiality and professional expansion. Over 100 surgeons from Alabama and Mississippi will join with their families with an aim to become better colleagues, better surgeons, and better teachers.

PRASIT NIMIT, MD



I'm not aware of a longer-serving attending at a single institution than Prasit Nimityongskul ("Dr. Nimit"). He graduated from

residency at USA in 1980 and decided he liked it so much that he would stay 43 years to teach resident after resident the intricacies of managing the pediatric orthopaedic patient.

He's attended more resident conferences and Grand Rounds than anyone. Imagine all the junior resident patient presentations he has had to endure! But each time he has been there to share guidance



and wisdom.

During his over four decades of service, he has been interim chair of the department of orthopaedics at least four times. Whatever the department and the residents needed, he was always there. And try to think about all of the supracondylar elbows that deftly realigned! Also, imagine all the children whom he met while enduring severe scoliosis, and through his knowledge and skill, he allowed them to walk taller and pursue a normal life.

SEE YOU IN MAY

When you get to the Henderson Beach Resort on Thursday, May 18th later this year, I'll hope you'll join me in reminiscing over the surgeons in our state that have paved the way. Dr. Meyer and Dr. Nimit are just two of my examples. I'd love to hear from you about yours.

Grant Zarzour, M.D.

President

Alabama Orthopaedic Society

AOS President-Elect's Message

Michael D. Smith, M.D.

How Can We Serve You and Your Patients?



It's that time of year again. The Alabama Legislature has started its 2023 session and there are many important issues to the Alabama Orthopaedic community that will come before the legislature this year. If you're anything like me, you probably have a hazy understanding on how the process works in Montgomery and which bills may actually have real world consequences for you and me. Unfortunately for us Orthopaedic surgeons, we can no longer afford to ignore the inner workings of the political process in Montgomery, as there are a couple of bills that may directly affect our patients and their ability to receive high-quality musculoskeletal care.

To briefly highlight two such bills, the Podiatry Association is promoting a bill that would allow them to operate above the forefoot and the and the Physical Therapy Association has continued promoting bills that would grant them the ability to diagnose and treat patients without a prescription from a physician.

We at the Alabama Orthopaedic Society believe that musculoskeletal care is at its best when a Board-certified Orthopaedic surgeon or physician is directing that care. We have world class facilities and surgeons in our state and we believe that Alabama citizens deserve the right to have their care and treatment directed by those individuals that have undergone the rigorous medical and surgical training necessary to become an expert at diagnosing and treating musculoskeletal pathology.

Now, this may seem obvious to you and me, however, we need your help in conveying this message to our local legislators. I know that our legislators are busy and their area of expertise

is likely outside of healthcare. Therefore, just like we will consult cardiology or infectious disease to help manage complicated patients; most legislators will consult someone they know and trust to help guide their thinking on matters outside of their area of expertise. When it comes to Orthopaedic care in the state of Alabama, I want that person to be you.

I've found that the best way for a busy Orthopaedic surgeon to help advocate for their profession and for their patients is for them to get to know their local legislatures. There are two important questions, I hope every Orthopaedic surgeon in the state can answer.

Do you know who your state representative and senator are?

And

Do your state representative and senator know you?

Reaching out to your local representatives, getting to know them, and offering to be a resource to them is an invaluable way that we can all help advocate for our patients and our profession. Our local legislatures appreciate and value your expertise in musculoskeletal care and I've found that the personal relationships can go miles in advocating for positions that are important to the Orthopaedic community in our state.

It's been said that many hands make light work. Advocating for our patients and profession is one of the areas in which the combined effort of the state's Orthopaedists can have an exponential impact. This is critical for us to maintain our patient's access to great care and will be important in the

future as we continue to shape the healthcare policy for the future. I'd like to leave with a couple of simple action items that each of us can do.

Look up your state representative and senator here: https://www.sos. alabama.gov/alabama-votes/elected-official-map

Once you know your state representative and senator's name-contact them! Reach out with an email or phone call to introduce yourself and let them know that you'd like to be a resource for them in the future. You can find their contact info here: https://openstates.org/al/legislators/

Donate to the Alabama Medical Political Action Committee (ALAPAC). The ALAPAC utilizes our combined resources to help advocate for physicians and surgeons of our state and the organization cannot effectively advocate for us without the financial support of the Orthopaedic community. You can donate to the ALAPAC at www.alamedical.org. I strongly believe that it is our mission at the Alabama Orthopaedic Society to foster community and advocate for our patients and profession. Please help us in doing that this year and in the years to come, and please do not hesitate to contact me if there are ever any questions or concerns. My cell phone number is 334-332-2406 and my email is michaeldevonsmith@ gmail.com.

Michael D. Smith, M.D.
President-Elect
Alabama Orthopaedic Society

Updates from BOC Councilor,

Fleming Brooks, M.D.



It has been another interesting and busy year as one of Alabama's representatives on the AAOS Board of Councilors. The Board of Councilors is the orthopaedic community's national "grassroots" advisory body to the Academy's Board of Directors and leadership. There are representatives from each state's orthopaedic society numbering approximately 112 members who are required to meet in person at the AAOS Annual Meeting in March and the **Combined National Orthopaedic** Leadership Conference/Fall Meeting held in September in Washington, DC. In addition there are multiple standing committees that meet throughout the year via conference calls. I have been appointed to the Government Advocacy Resource Committee.

In September during the NOLC/ Fall Meeting, Michael Smith, MD (AOS president), David Michaeli, MD (USA resident board representative), Terri Mendez (AOS executive director) and I were able to meet formally and personally with all seven of our state's representatives along with Senator Tuberville. Along with issues such as physician mental health and safety we addressed our paramount concerns regarding the failed Medicare/CMS payment system and the need for meaningful prior authorization reform. In part due to the Academy's efforts the most draconian reductions in fee schedules planned for 2023 have been averted or delayed. Through the AAOS Ortho PAC, we have

been able to help shape federal policy on numerous issues crucial to preserving our ability to practice medicine while attempting to minimize detrimental delay in care and obfuscation by payers.

On the state level I and other AOS members and office holders have met and spoken to large groups of state legislators and executive officials both in Montgomery and at regional gatherings across the state. One key issue on the state level is the dangerous, seemingly continuous erosion of appropriate scope of practice boundaries by non-physician providers with much less training and experience than orthopaedic surgeons. We have also stressed the need to strengthen our health safety net while fully funding Medicaid and reforming the tort system in Alabama. I have personally lobbied to restore the vocational rehabilitation program that formerly helped many of my patients return to meaningful employment after severe injury and illness. This program kept many off of permanent public assistance and allowed them to resume work and be productive members of society.

I feel it is crucial that we ALL become involved in helping sway government policy for the sake of our patients. I also believe that in addition to personal interaction with our lawmaking representatives in Montgomery and Washington, funding the AAOS Ortho PAC and the Alabama Medical PAC (MEDPAC) with our donations is our best avenue to effect change.

In 2023 Jess Mullens, M.D. from Mobile will join me as our second **BOC** representative from Alabama replacing Trey Baird, MD who has served our state well and raised large amounts of funding/donations for our PAC over the last six years. I look forward to seeing many of you in Las Vegas at the AAOS Annual Meeting in March and at the Henderson Beach Resort in May for the Combined AOS/MOS Annual Meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Jess so that we can bring any of your concerns or ideas before the Academy leadership for consideration.

Fleming Griffin Brooks, M.D. AAOS Board of Councilors

fgbrooks@gmail.com (334)308-9797

AOS Executive Director's Perspective Terri Mendez We Hit The Road



Many thanks to our members who participated in last summer's inaugural regional receptions for physicians and legislators. Along with the MASA Governmental Affairs staff who coordinated our efforts and several other specialty societies in Alabama,we covered the state traveling more than 2,500 miles. Not only did AOS contribute financially toward the cost of the receptions, but our physicians took time away from their families to participate in the receptions and visit with their local legislators. I'm thankful to our orthopaedic surgeons who joined me to welcome the newly elected legislators. It was delightful for me to meet one new legislator in Birmingham who was previously a scrub tech for one of our orthopaedic surgeons. It will be nice to visit him during the session and discuss issues of concern related to orthopaedics.

At each of our stops, one of our orthopaedic surgeons took the stage for a few moments to thank our state representatives and to proactively educate all of the the participating legislators on topics of potential concern to patients in Alabama.

see photos on page 13

The Legislative Session began March 7. A bill has been pre-filed which would allow podiatrists to operate above the foot. Along with orthopaedic surgeons in Alabama, AOS has worked tirelessly to educate legislators of the potential dangers of expanding podiatrists' scope of practice to the ankle and above. Won't you assist our efforts by reaching out to your local legislators and offering to assist with any questions they may have regarding legislation that would affect the people of Alabama? Please watch for emails from me with legislative issues and contact information.

Terri Mendez
Executive Director
Alabama Orthopaedic Society

Jeri Mendey

AAOS AWARDS \$4,000 GRANT TO AOS

The BOC Committee on State Legislative and Regulatory awarded AOS a grant in the amount of \$4,000. This money will be used by AOS to create educational material to provide legislators with essential information regarding the vast differences in the training of podiatrists and physical therapists as compared to orthopaedic surgeons. We are grateful for the opportunity to apply for and receive this generous grant.



Evans Brown Manager, Government Relations and Public Affairs Medical Association of Alabama

New Faces in the Legislature and the Medical Association's Legislative Priorities

With elections over, a new class of elected officials has been sworn into office, and the Legislature will begin a new 4-year quadrennium starting in March. Republicans will maintain a supermajority in both chambers. In the Alabama State Senate, a small number of seats have changed hands, but leadership positions in the upper chamber for both parties remain the same. In the Alabama House of Representatives, Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon has retired and the House has elected Nathaniel Ledbetter as the next Speaker of the House. Overall, the House will see a large number of new faces (37 to be exact), with over 25% of the Legislature being incoming freshmen.

Because of all the new faces in the legislature – especially in the House – establishing relationships with elected officials in your area is critical to medicine not only having a voice on issues impacting the profession, but also important in educating the decision makers on how these issues can impact patient safety. In fact, legislators will tell you themselves they are not the experts when it comes to pieces of healthcare legislation. Nevertheless, dangerous bills from the 2022 Legislative Session and a multitude of scope-of-practice bills will be back again this session. That 25% of the Legislature -- which is new -- will need to be educated on why such proposals are dangerous.

While the Medical Association prioritizes fighting against "scope creep" legislation, the Association also recognizes the need to expand access to quality care in Alabama especially for primary care in rural areas of the state. A problem that persisted before the pandemic and has only been exacerbated since, the Medical Association plans to propose legislation that will help recruit and retain physicians to Alabama. Specific legislation to address the physician shortage will have an emphasis on reforms to attract physicians to Alabama, pipeline programs, tax credits and improving graduate medical education funding.

As Orthopaedic physicians,

legislators and other decision makers need to lean on your expertise and knowledge before casting a vote and that is why it is so important to build relationships with elected officials and get involved in the political process. If your voice is not heard, bills directly affecting medicine and patient safety could become law in Alabama. The best way to get involved is to build a relationship with your legislator, join both the Medical Association of Alabama and AOS and also contribute to ALAPAC. By texting "ALAPAC" to 91999, your efforts will go to protect and promote the future of healthcare in Alabama and ensure that medicine will have a seat in the legislative process.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON PAC CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to Alabama Medical PAC (ALAPAC) are not tax deductible. Political contributions to ALAPAC are voluntary and are not limited to the suggested amount. The Medical Association will not favor or disadvantage any person based on the amount of the member's contribution or a failure to contribute. This is not a solicitation for PAC contributions from any individuals who are foreign nationals (non-greencard holders). Contributions by foreign nationals are prohibited by Federal law.



Terri Mendez, AOS Executive Director and Evans Brown, Manager of MASA Government Relations and Public Affairs met with the Orthopaedic Practice Managers at the Medical Group Management Association Annual Meeting in Birmingham to discuss upcoming Alabama Legislative Issues that affect patients and to develop a plan.



AOS Membership

What Our Members Say



"The Alabama Orthopaedic Society is a great educational resource for me and my colleagues and provides an opportunity for statewide collaboration. AOS is a great advocate for both physicians and patients in Alabama."

Andrew Morris, M.D.



"AOS helps me focus on caring for my patients. I know AOS has my back with policy and legislative issues. It's one less thing for me to worry about. The AOS annual meeting is considered by many to be one of the best in the country."

David Atkison, M.D.

St. Vincents Orthopaedics



"In a world that seems to desperately try to become more virtual, AOS meetings provide the opportunity for camaraderie! Getting together with colleagues, experts and friends to nurture and expand our knowledge and skills is priceless."

Thomas E. Powell, M.D.

Powell Orthopaedics

Anniston Orthopaedics

GET ASSOCIATED with AOS

There are benefits to being associated. Please join us!

AOS works collaboratively with The Medical Association of the State of Alabama and the AAOS on the state and federal level to advocate for patients in Alabama at both the Alabama Statehouse and Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.

AOS offers educational opportunities at the Annual Meeting including a Foot and Hand Meeting. These meetings also provide opportunities to view and experience new products and services and enjoy comeraderie with peers.

It's More than a Membership, It's a Partnership

2023 AOS MEMBERSHIP DUES

Simplified in 2023! RENEW ONLINE: aosdocs.com Or by mail

Address:			
City:	State:	Zip	Code:
Sub-specialty (please include for AOS website sear	rch):		
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2022 **National Orthopaedic** Leadership Conference Washington, DC



Drs. Michael Smith, Fleming Brooks, and David Michaeli, along with Terri Mendez, met Congressmen Gary Palmer, Barry Moore, Mo Brooks, Mike Rodgers, Chad Carlough, Terri Sewell, Robert Aderholt, Jerry Carl as well as Senator Tommy Tubberville.

We urged our representatives to approve the "Improving Access to Workers' Compensation for Injured Federal Workers Act" (H.R. 6087)

We also asked them to fix Prior Authorization by supporting the "Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act" (H.R. 3173/S. 3018) and explained the dangers of prior authorization delays which potentially cause adverse events. (HR3173 #S3018)

Finally, we asked for support for the "Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees Act" (H.R. 7961), which would establish legal penalties for assaulting or intimidating hospital employees.

UAB Department of Orthopaedic Surgery Update







Scott Mabry, M.D.



Luke Hiatt, M.D



Mohamed Morsv. M.D.

UAB's Department of Orthopedic Surgery is continuing to excel in the growth and development of the next generation of orthopedic surgeons. Members of the current PGY4 class are pursuing fellowships in orthopedic trauma, arthroplasty, shoulder and elbow, and sports medicine.

There have been several recent additions to the department's faculty:

Dr. Scott Mabry, MD - Arthroplasty

Dr. Luke Hiatt, MD-Spine

Dr. Mohamed Morsy, MD - Hand and Upper Extremity

We look forward to all that they will contribute to the field of orthopedics and the excellent patient care that they will provide.

Follow @uabortho on Twitter and Instagram for more updates.

Hank DeBell

PGY4 Resident

Planning for 2023 Legislative Session

Jenna Roton, CEO, Southern Orthopaedic Specialists, Terri Mendez, Niko Corley and Evans Brown, MASA Governmental Affairs, meet to prepare for the 2022 Legislative Session



USA Department of Orthopaedic Surgery Update



David Michaeli, M.D. USA AOS Member-at-Large



Thomas Boyd, M.D. USA Orthopaedic Resident



Blake Dunaway, M.D. USA Orthopaedic Resident



Justin Grimes M.D. USA Orthopaedic Resident

USA Orthopaedic residents have been buzzing with activity over the last several months. Interns, **Drs. Boyd, Dunnaway, and Grimes** are settling into their intern year and doing a fantastic job!

Drs. Webb and White have been part of the USA family for approximately six months now, and they are nestling into their practices.

In recent news, **Dr. Jess Mullens** has been named the new Program Director! Dr. Mullens completed medical school training at UAB, residency at USA Health, and fellowship (Foot and Ankle) at The Steadman Clinic at Vail Health Hospital. He enjoys teaching residents about foot and ankle pathology, treatment algorithms, and the context of Foot and Ankle in the sports medicine world. Outside of the hospital setting, Dr. Mullens enjoys spending time with his family and breaking a sweat at the gym.

It is nearly fall, and the current PGY4 residents are in their fellowship application process. **Dr. Joseph Anderson, Dr. Wade Massey, and Dr. David Michaeli** are pursuing sports medicine, foot and ankle, and trauma fellowship positions, respectively.

Dr. David Michaeli won the 2022 Southern Orthopaedic Association Resident Award for his work on the acute treatment of tibial plafond fractures. He presented his research at the Annual Meeting at the Greenbrier in Sulphur Springs, WV. Someone must have found a way to get this guy out of the gym!

Dr. Patrick Young has recently been selected as the Albert Scholar Award recipient at the 2023 Spine Summit for his work on pediatric spinal deformity. His work titled "Academic Pediatric Spinal Deformity: Who is driving the field?" will be presented at this year's conference in Miami. Patrick's wife and newborn daughter are immensely proud (and we are too)!

The USA orthopaedic residency has recently finished interviewing residency candidates in preparation for next year's incoming class. We are looking forward to finding out the results of the Match! Of course, with every beginning comes an end, and we are preparing for the current chief class's graduation. We are certain that Dr. Cox, Farrel, and Williams will succeed in their endeavors.

a blastfrom the past

Legislative Receptions Around the State



Dr. Brad Sabatini visits with Senator Andrew Whitt at 2022 Legislative Reception in Hunstville.



Dr. Matthew DeOrio and Representative Terri Collins at Huntsville event.



Dr. Grant Zarzour visits with Representative Drummond at the Mobile Reception.



Drs. Kenneth Vandervoort, Andrew Morris, and Terri Mendez at Anniston Legislative event.



Drs. Michael Johnson, Jamie Worthen, Norman Waldrop, Bill Krauss, Michael Smith, John Kirchner, and Terri Mendez at Birmingham Legislative event.



Medical Association Governmental Affairs Staff, Niko Corley and Evans Brown visit Legislators in Dothan.

GLANCE 4 A MEETINGS

Thursday, May 18

Foot Club Meeting 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Destin 1 & 2

Hand Society Meeting 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Destin 1 & 2

Welcome Reception 6:00 p.m. Sunset Terrace

Friday, May 19

AOS/MOS Annual Meeting 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

President's Reception & Dinner 6:30 p.m. Grand Lawn

Saturday, May 20

AOS/MOS Annual Meeting 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



MOS Presidential Guest Speaker Felix Savoie, M.D., FAAO, President, AAOS

Dr. Savoie has made a significant and lasting impact as a physician, advocate, mentor, and researcher. He has been a leader both within his practice areas of shoulder and elbow surgery, arthroscopy, and sports medicine, and in the larger orthopaedic field. His leadership roles include serving as president of the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association (2016), president of the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons (2016), chair of the Orthopaedic Learning Center (2016), president of the Arthroscopy Association of North America (2010), and co-



AOS Presidential Guest Speaker

Dr. Stephen White attended the University of Georgia, where he lettered in football and was a member of the 2005 SEC Championship team. He graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2006 and completed his medical education at the Medical College of Georgia in 2012. He then completed his orthopaedic residency at the University of South Alabama in Mobile and further training with a fellowship in foot and ankle surgery at the prestigious OrthoCarolina Foot and Ankle Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina. He has trained in a variety of orthopedic foot and ankle procedures, including primary and revision ankle replacements, all forms of foot and ankle trauma, and complex foot and ankle reconstructions. Dr. White has a particular interest in lower extremity trauma and foot & ankle surgery. Dr. White is a team physician for theUniversity of Georgia sprorts teams.



AOS Presidential Guest Speaker

Dr. Brent Bankston has a special interest in hip surgery as well as sports medicine. After graduating from the Louisiana State University School of Medicine, he completed orthopaedic residency at the University of South Alabama and fellowship at The Center for Hip and Knee Surgery in Mooresville, ID in adult reconstructive surgery and sports medicine. Dr. Bankston is the former Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge and currently the team physician for a number of Louisiana State University's sports teams.



Southeastern Foot Club Guest Speaker Caroll Jones, MD.

Following orthopaedic residency at The Medical College of Georgia, Dr. Jones completed a one-year fellowship in foot and ankle surgery with Dr. Michael Coughlin in Boise, ID. He joined the Miller Clinic in Charlotte, NC in 2004 that subsequently evolved into OrthoCarolina, where he continues to practice today as an orthopaedic surgeon. He specializes in lower extremity trauma as well as all aspects of foot and ankle surgery. Dr. Jones is very involved with teaching residents and fellows, and lectures on a regional and national basis.

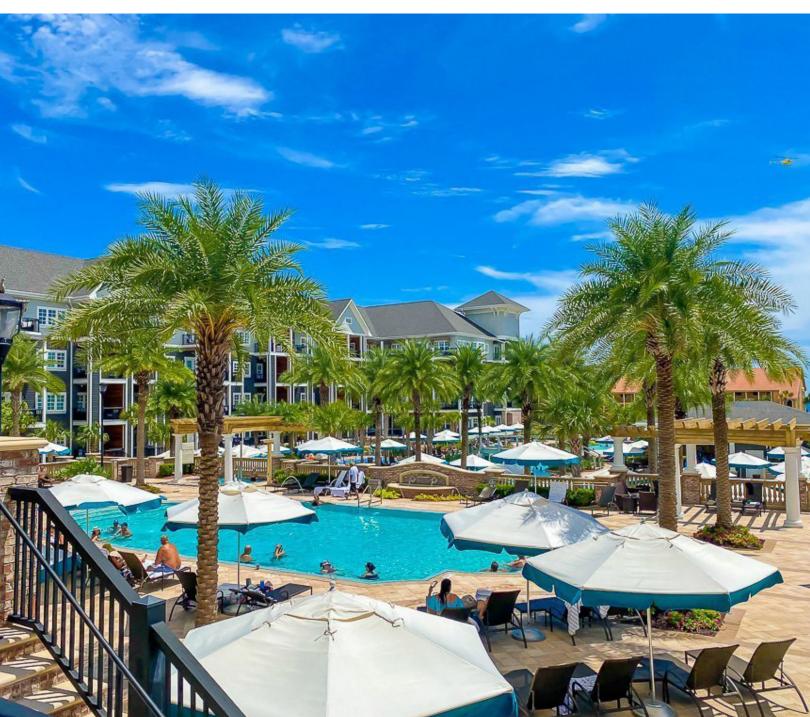


Prescribing Speaker

Rachel Hoadley-Clausen, Ph.D. (Dr. HC) is a licensed clinical and counseling psychologist in Mobile, Alabama who grew up on the Gulf Coast. She established and continues to provide the Behavioral Health services at the Neuromuscular Spine and Joint Center. She is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of South Alabama's Department of Psychology and teaches Mental Health and Law as well as Introduction to Psychology.

SEE YOU THERE!

Alabama & Mississippi Orthopaedic Meeting May 18-20, 2023



Henderson Beach Resort, Destin,FL Register Online: aosdocs.com