

# Letter from the Program Director

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The OHSU Orthopaedics Residency Program continues to strive for excellence this year. We proudly graduated five excellent chief residents last spring who have moved on to fantastic fellowships. All five residents passed their Step 1 Board examination and are now looking to move on to independent practices. We have been working with a wonderful group of five new interns who should pick up this mantle of orthopaedic excellence during the next five years of their residency program.

Several years ago, we implemented significant changes to the intern year for our Orthopaedics residents. They are now spending six months on the orthopaedic service and fewer months on general surgery services. These changes have been well received by our interns, although I do believe the general surgery service has missed having our intelligent and hardworking interns on their services. The other major change enacted for our residents is surgical skills simulation. We have adopted an amazing cadaver-tissue based bi-monthly skills lab here at OHSU to teach surgical skills from basic knot-tying, fracture fixation, joint aspiration all the way through the basics of arthroscopy and arthroplasty. These sessions have been very popular. Our initial efforts were focused on open surgical procedures and implants, but we are moving forward with arthroscopic skills modules and are hosting a collaborative "Arthroscopy Boot Camp" week in September with the Samaritan Health Services DO residency program from Corvallis.

The residents still rotate twice through most subspecialty services in two-and-a-half month blocks. We have happily maintained long-term rotations at the Shriner's Hospital, Legacy Emanuel Hospital and the Portland Veteran's Affairs Hospital. Our newer rotation at Providence St. Vincent's continues to be highly rated by the PGY4 residents.

Milestones have become an important component of education: we use them yearly with both medical students and residents to ensure they are making progress toward becoming independent physicians. There are milestones for development of communication skills and professionalism. There are milestones for the treatment of degenerative hip and knee arthritis. We even have milestones for production of a research project. Milestones are important to set goals to reach and look ahead, but also to look back and see how far one has traveled. Each of our hospitals and clinics statewide are setting new goals and new milestones to reach in the future. Milestones have become an important target for the Performance Excellence movement. Our patients depend on us not only reaching these milestones, but setting new goals for each new year.

In short, we continue to be blessed by very smart and talented residents. We've seen our residents grow from early learners to leaders in their orthopaedic groups around the state. Teaching them the science and art of orthopaedics still takes hard work and dedication. I remain so grateful to everyone who has taken the time and effort to assist with their education.

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