

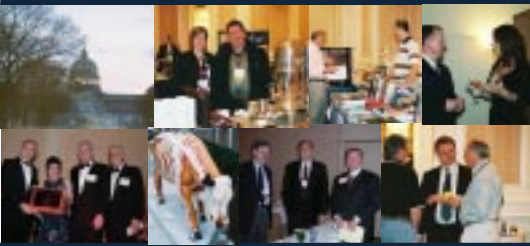
# Orthopaedics

Pennsylvania

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society

Summer 2004

## Take a look inside:



Photos by Jon Goodhart

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## President's Message . . .

Richard G. Schmidt, MD

The winter and spring months were an exceptionally busy time for our board, membership and POS staff. Now that summer has begun, I'm sure we are all anticipating a season full of fun and good times with our families.

It is a great honor to be Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society President at the time our immediate past Executive Director, **Kathy DeWittie** is recognized as the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons' 2004 Executive Director of The Year. Kathy's legacy is clear. POS is a credible voice for orthopaedic surgeons in Harrisburg and our society is recognized as an agent of change and improvement for orthopaedic medicine. The Society is proud of her and we look forward to a long and lasting relationship as she heads up the high-risk specialty coalition.

Currently, POS is promoting the extension of MCARE relief to beyond the end of this year. As part of this effort, we continue to work with obstetricians, neurosurgeons and general surgeons to become a united voice on issues important to high-risk specialty surgeons. We will need to continue to foster our relationships with the legislature and the Governor's office to achieve these goals.

Beginning in mid-May, e-mail messages have been sent each week to enlist your help with Senate Bill 9. This legislation would allow the voters of Pennsylvania to decide whether or not to change the Pennsylvania Constitution to allow the General Assembly to enact caps on non-economic damages in medical liability cases. Please pass this e-mail along to your colleagues as well as anyone else you think would be interested.

The Spring Meeting held in Las Vegas proved to be a big success—it was informative as well as pleasurable. The scientific presentations for this meeting were exceptional and our invited guests, Charlie Rockwood and Jim Herndon, enjoyed an appreciative and receptive audience.

In our constant effort to provide value to both our newest and the more experienced surgeons, POS has worked hard to solidify the settlement agreement with Independence Blue Cross so that surgeons will finally know how much they are going to be paid by the largest insurer in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Many of you saw the article in the Philadelphia Inquirer on

## Smiles from all for a successful meeting

*From the Desk of Beth Weachter, Executive Director*

I would like to personally thank Program Chair, **Gerry Williams, Jr., MD** for another exciting and successful scientific meeting. Nearly 100 physicians attended the shoulder meeting in April at the fabulous Four Seasons Hotel in Las Vegas.

With the spring meeting behind us, we now need to resume our focus on working toward our medical liability reform goals, permanent MCARE relief and CAPS on awards. Our lobbying firm, Triad Strategies, is keeping us abreast of medical liability updates and assisting POS with our political strategy for much needed reforms.

With the assistance of resident board member, **Samir Mehta, MD**, POS is continuing efforts to encourage resident involvement by developing a resident program. The main program goals are to establish early involvement with POS and to stress the importance of developing relationships with legislators. I will keep you posted in the progress of our endeavor.

Also, thanks go to our newest staff member, **Nan Edmunds** for giving our newsletter a fresh look. Have a terrific summer everyone!



David Lovett, JD, Director, AAOS Washington Office; Jim Herndon, Head of Orthopedic Surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital and Past President, AAOS; and Dave Teuscher, Chair Legislative Committee, AAOS Chair of Committee on Professional Liability discuss the quality of the POS meeting presentations.



And the winner is . . . Dick Schmidt's son Grant appears to be slowing down while his father nonchalantly munches his next pretzel.



"I'd rather be golfing," says POS member Barbara Frieman after observing first-hand the pretzel-eating contest.



OREF President Gene Wurth (left) takes a quick break with renown guest speaker Charles Rockwood, MD (right).



Gerry Williams, program chair, (right) thanks guest speaker Jeffrey Abrams (left) for his contributions to the success of the meeting.



"Good times, good food, good drink and good company is what we're all about tonight."



"Do you think they having a better time than we are? Should we go join them?"

## Welcome New Members

*POS welcomes the following new members who were voted into membership at the April 2004 Board of Directors meeting held in Las Vegas:*

### Active:

- Daniel K. Agnew MD, *Pittsburgh*
- Christopher D. Di Pasquale DO, *East Stroudsburg*
- Thomas J. Ellis DO, *State College*
- Stephanie Galey MD, *Erie*
- Christopher J. Mancuso MD, *West Reading*
- Gregg C. Mason MD, *Erie*
- Mark J. Sangimino MD, *Pittsburgh*
- Stephanie Schneck-Jacob MD, *Pittsburgh*
- Alan S. Tuckman MD, *Reading*
- Raymond M. Wolfe MD, *Upland*
- Robert M. Woods DO, *Franklin*

### Associate:

- Steven H. Kahn DO, *Cherry Hill, NJ*

### Resident:

- Thomas R. Bowen MD, *Erie*
- Glenn E. Lipton MD, *Erie*
- Mark S. Pfaff DO, *Erie*

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Check the POS website at [www.paorthosociety.org](http://www.paorthosociety.org) for updates on the IBC case, medical liability reform and other important issues.

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## POS Executive Director Receives National Honor



Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society's Kathy DeWittie, who was named AAOS Executive Director of the Year, accepts congratulations and a commemorative plaque from, from left, Dr. Robert Bucholz, AAOS President, Dr. Peter Mandell, Chair of the Board of Councilors, and Dr. Peter Meehan, Chair of the BOC State Orthopaedic Societies.

At the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference in April, the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society's immediate past Executive Director, **Kathy DeWittie** was awarded AAOS Executive Director of the Year. The AAOS Board of Counselors recognized DeWittie for more than 10 years of service to nearly 1,000 orthopaedic surgeons in Pennsylvania and especially for her efforts on medical liability reform here. "Kathy's legacy is clear," said **POS President Richard G. Schmidt** referring to DeWittie and her transition from managing the society to focusing on medical liability reform for high-risk specialists and other special projects as directed by the society's board. "POS is a credible voice for orthopaedic surgeons in Harrisburg and surgeons recognize the POS as an agent of change and improvement for orthopaedic medicine." Under DeWittie's leadership, POS has grown to include more than 75% of Pennsylvania's practicing orthopaedic surgeons. Kathy's signature contribution has been to make sure POS continues to prove value to both younger and older surgeons with specialty education programs, advocacy in key legislative and regulatory issues and heightened public awareness of matters important to orthopaedic surgeons.

## Exhibitors/Sponsors Contribute to Meeting Success

The Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society extends sincere thanks and appreciation to the following companies for their support of the 2004 Spring Meeting in Las Vegas with special thanks to those companies their sponsorship or educational grant:



Aircast, Inc.

Aventis

DePuy

Depuy Mitek

DJ Orthopedics

EBI

Exscribe, Inc.

Foundation Surgery Affiliates

GE Healthcare

Graham-Bowdler Assoc. Inc

Hand Innovations

IPM- Industrial Pharmacy

Medical Concepts - Linvatec

RS Medical

Sectra, North America

Shilling Medical Supply, Inc.

Smith and Nephew, Inc.

Stryker Orthopaedics

Synthes USA

Tri-State Imaging

W.B. Saunders/Mosby

Wyeth

Zimmer



GE Healthcare



Wyeth



### Attention Exhibitors and Sponsors

Please make note of  
upcoming POS Meetings:

- Fall 2004 Scientific Meeting  
November 11-12, 2004  
Park Hyatt Philadelphia
- Spring 2005 Scientific Meeting  
April 14-16, 2005  
Grand Floridian, Orlando

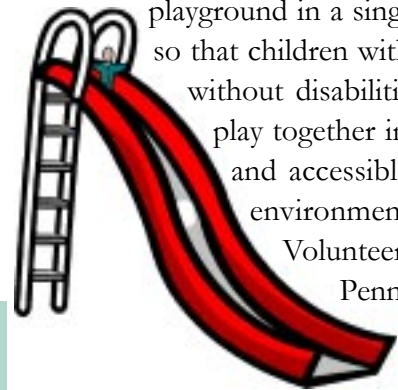
## IDEX Offers Access to Expert Witness Database

AAOS Fellows who are involved in litigation have a new resource to assist them in preparing their cases. Arranged through the AAOS Expert Witness Program, members may now access a national database of expert witnesses through IDEX, an organization that maintains the Collaborative Defense Network for Expert Witness Research. Under an agreement with IDEX, AAOS members may determine whether a certain individual has testified as an expert witness, which cases he/she has testified in, and the subject matter of the testimony. IDEX also can provide information on material that was written by or about the expert witness and any professional

disciplinary action taken against the expert's license to practice. Each search will cost approximately \$70, but there is no charge if IDEX does not have information on the expert witness. When calling IDEX at (800) 521-5596, advise the representative that you are an AAOS member. IDEX will then either fax or e-mail the appropriate request form along with a fee schedule listing available searches. The IDEX representative will provide instructions on how to make the request and be available to answer questions. Members may reach the AAOS Expert Witness Program by e-mail at: [aaosexpertwitness@aaos.org](mailto:aaosexpertwitness@aaos.org).

## Docs Roll Up Sleeves in San Francisco

**H**undreds of volunteer orthopaedic surgeons, industry partners and related organizations from all over the world assisted members of the San Francisco community during the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons annual meeting by providing volunteer labor and funding to build a new playground in a single day so that children with and without disabilities can play together in a safe and accessible environment. Volunteers from Pennsylvania



included **John Lubhan, MD**, Erie; **Jonathan Black, MD**, King of Prussia and POS Executive Director **Beth Weachter**.

This is the fifth safe and accessible playground built by the Academy. Previous playgrounds have been built in San Mateo, Orlando, Dallas and New Orleans, and have inspired numerous replica projects across the country organized by orthopaedic state societies and other local orthopaedic groups. The Academy pledges to build a similar playground each year in the city where it holds its annual meeting.

## Resident/Fellow Competition Winners Announced

*Following are the winners of the resident/fellow presentation competition held in Las Vegas at the Spring 2004 Scientific Meeting:*

**First Place: Rachel Rohde, MD, University of Pittsburgh**  
"Exposure to Commonly Used Antibiotics Inhibits Proteoglycan Synthesis of Articular Cartilage and Proliferation of Cells"

**Second Place: Samir Mehta, MD, University of Pennsylvania**  
"Rotator Cuff Tear — The Effect of Time from Injury on Repair Tension in a Rotator Cuff Tear Animal Model"

**Third Place: Ioannis Sarris, MD, PhD, Allegheny General Hospital**  
"Bipolar Hemiarthroplasty: Its Use for Chronic Rotator Cuff Tear Arthropathy"

**Fourth Place: Joel Klena, MD, Geisinger Medical Center**  
"Scapulathoracic Arthrodesis in Facioscapulohumeral Muscular Dystrophy with Pelvic Reconstruction Plate Fixation"

## Presenting "Udder-pedic"



Sponsored by the Orthopaedic Institute of Pennsylvania, "Udder-pedic" joined the CowParade in Harrisburg this past April. According to the artist, Biruta Akerbergs Hanse. "This cow provides a glimpse into the anatomy of a bovine by showing the skeleton with artificial joints as if by X-ray.

Each of the 136 life-size fiberglass cows in Harrisburg's CowParade was decorated with a whimsical theme by artists who live and work in central Pennsylvania.

The lucky cows who had already been purchased by sponsors for about \$4,000 each were recently released to their sponsors. Those remaining in the herd were offered for auction via the internet.

The project was organized as a fund-raiser for the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts in Harrisburg and was considered a huge success even before the final auction bid was made.

## POS Thanks Contributors to the Medical Liability Fund

POS thanks those of you who have already given with much appreciation and sincere gratitude. It is with your support that we can continue our efforts for medical liability reform. If you haven't yet contributed and plan to do so, please make your tax-deductible contribution payable to: "POS Medical Liability Fund," Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society, 500 North Third Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

Please call 888.772.7900 to contribute by credit card. Corporate checks, VISA, MC, and AMEX are all accepted.

### Contributors to Medical Liability Fund as of June 10, 2004:

Carl M. Adolph Jr. MD	Ronald B. Greene MD	Raymond E. Peart MD
Daniel T. Altman MD	Jack HENZES MD	John J. Pell MD
Armando Avolio MD	Paul A. Horenstein MD	Robert W. Piston MD
Frederick J. Barnes MD	Helen Meeks Horstmann MD	William J. Polacheck Jr MD
Evan Bash MD	David P. Hughes MD	Lawrence S. Pollack DO
Jeffrey A. Baum MD	Charles Hummer Jr. MD	Joshua Port MD
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C. Chad Ghigiarelli MD	James M. Moses MD	David A. Tonnies MD
Frank Giammattei MD	David C. Napoli MD	Dean W. Trevlyn MD
Alan P. Gillick MD	D. Scott Nord MD	Joseph V. Vernance MD
Robert J. Goitz MD	Charles J. Odgers IV MD	Marwan A. Wehbe MD
Gregg L. Goldstrohm MD	Vincent Paczoskie, MD	Raymond Wolfe MD
Steward Gorden MD	John A. Paglia MD	Dennis B. Zaslow MD
Thomas J. Green MD		James Zurbach MD

## Caught on Camera in Vegas



Polly Metzger and Jonathan Bigley look "pleased as punch" about something.



Josh Port stops in the Hospitality Lounge for a cool drink after a run in the hot Vegas desert.



David Neuschwander and Jon Tucker doing what comes naturally – "lookin' good."



Beth Weachter and Dick Schmidt agree that this is an "awesome" meeting event.

### President's Message . . .

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April 26, 2004 that reported on the Judge's decision in our favor. This decision will most likely be appealed by the Pennsylvania Medical Society, which will further delay the implementation of the settlement agreement. Our expectation, however, is that justice will prevail.

I will continue to remain politically active this summer with the help of our lobbyist Jonathan Bigley, to cultivate strong bipartisan relationships in Harrisburg. I hope that all of you also find some time this summer to have breakfast or lunch with your local legislators. If

you need help with this, feel free to contact me or the POS staff. Remember, it's all about relationships!

Congressman Pat Toomey asked me to extend a warm and sincere thank you to all of the members of the POS. Pat achieved national attention in his race for the US Senate. He will always remember that we were the first medical society to have our PAC support him. We have not seen the last of Pat Toomey.

Just a reminder, the fall scientific meeting, "Trauma," will be held in Philadelphia on November 11 and 12. I hope to see all of you there.

## Orthopaedic Calendar

### POS Fall Scientific Meeting "Trauma"

November 11-12, 2004  
Philadelphia Park Hyatt  
at the Bellevue

### 9th Annual Bones of PA Meeting

October 21-22, 2004  
Inner Harbor Baltimore

### Bones of PA Meeting

November 12, 2004  
Philadelphia Park Hyatt  
at the Bellevue

### PHILADELPHIA ORTHOPAEDIC SOCIETY MEETINGS:

#### Howard H. Steel Pediatric Lecture

September 13, 2004  
Leon Root, MD

#### Gartland Lecture

October 11, 2004  
Joseph McCarthy, MD

#### Steinberg-Lotke Lecture

November 8, 2004  
William L. Healy III, MD

#### Gill Lecture

December 13, 2004  
Thomas P. Sculco, MD



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Web Site: [www.paorthosociety.org](http://www.paorthosociety.org)

**Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society  
Fall Scientific Meeting**

***“Trauma”***

**Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue  
November 11-12, 2004**

**Guest Speakers TBA**

**Contact POS for more information  
888.772.7900 or [nan@paorthosociety.org](mailto:nan@paorthosociety.org)**