



Pennsylvania Orthopaedics

Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society

Summer 2006

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President's Message . . .



This July many eyes were on France for the winner of this year's Tour de France, the first in the Post-Lance Armstrong Era. Athletes who have made a career of training for this moment were fighting, possibly to the last stage, in one of sport's most grueling tests—the 22-day, 3,600-Kilometer Tour de France.

A comparable contest is taking place in Pennsylvania. The contest here isn't for a yellow jersey but for control of the upper chamber of our Commonwealth's legislature: the Senate of Pennsylvania.

In France, only a few riders emerged from the *peloton* to lead to the finish. Similarly only two of several state Republican Senators will be raised to the leadership posts which become vacant at the end of this year.

Sens. Bob Jubelirer and Chip Brightbill were defeated in the Republican Primary Election last month and will be stepping down from their respective posts as President Pro Tempore and Senate Majority Leader in November.

Just as cycle racing enthusiasts were glued to the outcome of this year's race, all who care about the future of quality orthopaedic medicine in Pennsylvania will be watching the results of Pennsylvania's general election and the Republican Senate Caucus leadership elections after that.

The issues important to us remain: continue full MCARE Abatement, maintain the workers' compensation rate structure, improve private and public health insurance reimbursement, and enact common sense medical liability reforms in order to preserve quality orthopaedic medicine in Pennsylvania.

These are uncertain times in Harrisburg. There may be some steep climbs on our course this fall, but together, developing personal and professional relationships with elected officials and candidates, we will find the best team to lead us to victory and promote our agenda.

I would like to thank all who joined us in Atlantis for a very successful and informative spring meeting. We look forward to an interesting and engaging fall meeting in Philadelphia where we hope to bring together many past presidents of the Society to celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

See you there.

Joshua Port, MD

Follow the Leaders

In just its second year of existence, the Leadership Circle has become a fixture of the Society as well as a major player in Harrisburg thanks to the forward-thinking OrthoPAC and active support from its over thirty members. The strategy remains the same as the Leadership Circle supports the political figures in the state whose decisions most directly impact health care and orthopaedic surgeons.



In February, the Leadership Circle was honored to have Speaker of the House John Perzel attend the POS Board Meeting reception (above) in Harrisburg. The Leadership Circle was most active in April, hosting dinners in Philadelphia (below) for both Senator David Brightbill and Governor Ed Rendell.



If you would like to learn more about the Leadership Circle or become a member, please contact OrthoPAC Chair, **Lewis Sharps, MD.**

MCARE Commission Seeks Solution to Retirement of Fund

Two Orthopaedic doctors are working to preserve patient access to specialty medical care in Pennsylvania as members of a state commission formed to address the future of the state's excess medical professional liability insurance fund. President **Joshua Port** and Scranton Orthopaedic Surgeon and member **Joseph Cesare, M.D.** were appointed by Sens. Jubelirer and Mellow respectively, to serve on the 11-member Commission on the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (MCARE) Fund. The Commission is charged with reviewing and recommending appropriate and effective methods to address any future unfunded liabilities of the MCARE Fund which is now estimated at \$2.3 billion

The Commission is required to submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly by November 15, 2006. The report is to include recommendations for the continuation of the MCARE Abatement program, the elimination or phase-out of the fund and other provisions for

(please turn to page 6)

Tee It Up!



3PSC's Second Annual Golf Tournament

will be held Monday, September 18, 2006 at Wyncote Golf Club in Oxford, PA. Come out for food, fun, and an excellent round of golf on this critically acclaimed Heathlands style course just off Route 1. Not only will you have a good time, you will be supporting 3PSC in its efforts to preserve patient access to specialty medical care. Orthopaedics has been on the forefront of this fight and we need your support to garner the help of the other high-risk specialties. Please go to www.3psc.org to register online or call Colin Gabler at 717-909-8901 for more information. Remember to tell your friends, colleagues, and your local drug and device sales representatives.

Parties Focus on House and Senate for Control

While the contest for the Governor's Mansion between Governor Ed Rendell and Republican challenger Lynn Swann appears to be less competitive than initially anticipated, the competition for legislative seats has taken center stage. For the first time in nearly 30 years, Pennsylvania voters could substantially change the membership of the state's General Assembly and possibly even transform the leadership and control of each chamber.

In a typical election cycle only a handful of incumbents may lose. This year, nearly 60 House and Senate seats across the state will be in play as the result of 30 retirements and 17 incumbents who lost in May's primary election. The populous uprising over the ill-fated legislative pay raise may not have culminated on May 16, but could very well send more lawmakers into retirement after the general election November 7.

While it is unlikely that the Republicans will lose control of the Senate, there will be a "changing of the guard" for the two top leadership posts, the consequence of the shockingly decisive defeat of both Senate President Pro Tempore Bob Jubelirer (R-Blair) and Senate Majority Leader Chip Brightbill (R-Lebanon). The vote for the leadership posts will occur after the November election.

In the House, the Democrats have their best shot in six years to regain the majority status they lost in 1994. Ironically enough, the Democrats' best electoral allies may be the conservative Republicans who are revolting against their more moderate party leadership.

Conservatives Flex Muscle

Statewide, conservative Republican leaders like the Club for Growth's Pat Toomey, the Lincoln Institute's Lowman Henry, and the Young Conservatives of Pennsylvania's Chris Lilik are urging Republican voters to only vote for Republican candidates who adhere to their vision of "True Republicanism," a platform built upon the principles of lower taxes and less government. More importantly, these ideologues point to the overthrow of Jubelirer and Brightbill as they encourage conservative voters to reject the electoral candidacies of RINOs—office holders right-wing leaders have determined are "Republicans In Name Only." The RINOs include most Republican legislators from Southeastern Pennsylvania including House Speaker John Perzel. Most conservative leaders believe it is more important to cleanse the Republican Party of these moderate-to-liberal legislators than to maintain their

longstanding majority status. Only then, they say, can they rebuild a pure Republican Party capable of governing according to their vision.

A *Philadelphia Inquirer* account of the potential lessons learned from the Primary election included the following analysis:

"For the first time, reformers can really talk about such things as a constitutional convention, term limits, and reducing the size of the legislature," said Mike Young, a political analyst and retired Pennsylvania State University professor. "Before, they were fantasies. Now, they are entering the realm of political possibilities."

While Speaker Perzel is all but guaranteed re-election against a Democrat opponent with ties to the Communist Party, several caucus members may not fair so well. In the primary election, Perzel lost 11 incumbents, most of whom had either voted for or had taken the pay raise. In addition, 15 campaign-hardened members of Perzel's caucus are not seeking re-election, meaning the House Republicans have political neophytes in 26 races. Add to that the fact that many Republican incumbents on the November ballot have voted for tax increases, pay raises, or both, and you have the makings of a very expensive and hard fought fall campaign. Some observers estimate that Perzel's caucus will need to raise and spend \$4 million to maintain their majority.

The advantage for Perzel, however, is that with a majority of 109 to 94 in the 203 seat state House of Representatives, he only has to defend seven seats and the Democrats have to take away eight seats while maintaining all their current seats. And that is no easy feat considering most House Democrat candidates voted for the pay raise and the 2003 tax increase. Defending seats is much easier than beating incumbents, even in the current volatile environment, but some observers say that as many as 60 house races are "in play." In contrast, only about 20 seats were truly contested in the 2004 election cycle.

So even as the gubernatorial race continues to lack luster during the dog days of summer, the battle for control of the state House is fully engaged. And you can be assured that both sides are taking nothing for granted after the May 16th Massacre.

2006 Spring Scientific Meeting a Success

It wasn't easy, but we did it—we coaxed 100 orthopaedic surgeons and 25 companies to the Atlantis Resort on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. It may have been the lure of tropical beaches kissed by the crystalline blue waters of the Caribbean, or the promise of wonderfully exotic food and drink or even the exciting action of the casino, but whatever the hook, we are certain that everyone who attended had a Bahamian good time.



Drs. Barry Snyder, Michael Okin, and Joshua Port demonstrate that they know what a "coffee break" is all about.



Jonathan Bigley—doin' what comes naturally—"telling it like it is" or is it "telling it the way he wants it to be?"



Drs. Joseph Abboud and Hari Bewada appear to be enjoying their conversation—"or a good joke?"



"... with our product, he could hold his thumb just like this again."

The outstanding program, "Upper Extremity—Shoulder-to-the-Hand Arthroplasty, Trauma, and Arthroscopy," held May 4-6, and orchestrated by **Program Chair Mark Rodosky, MD**, was thorough and packed full with stimulating presentations by fellow POS members as well as guest speakers

Drs. Gregory L. Nicholson, Gary Gartsman, and Freddie H. Fu. A



Drs. Gregory Nicholson and Mark Rodosky discuss the outcome of the spring meeting program.

special congratulations to **Gautam Yagnik, MD**, who received the Resident Award for his presentation "Defining the Functional Range of Motion of the Shoulder."

Once the ending bell rang, all headed outdoors—to bask in the sun, experience the thrill of the water rides, or explore the Lost City of Atlantis.



Gary Gartsman with POS President Josh Port and Program Chair Mark Rodosky chat at the Atlantean Fantasy Dinner.

The more adventurous among us "swam with the dolphins" or embarked on other land & sea ventures.

Following sunset, when festivities move to the beat of reggae music and the sweet aroma of Caribbean cuisine floats on warm island breezes, many pleasant memories were being captured to be summoned another time.

Thank you POS Meeting Supporters

POS extends a sincere thank you to the following companies for their support of its 2006 spring scientific meeting in the Bahamas.

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|-------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| ❖ Arthrex | ❖ Genzyme Biosurgery | Synergy Orthopedics |
| ❖ Arthrocare Corp. | Hand Innovations | Synthes (USA) |
| BONES of PA | ❖ Sanofi-Aventis | U.S. Medical Transcription |
| Buxton BioMedical, Inc. | ❖ Smith and Nephew Endoscopy | ❖ U.S. Implants |
| ❖ DePuy | Smith and Nephew | Wright Medical Technology |
| DePuy Mitek | ❖ Stryker Orthopaedics | ❖ Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer-Randall Assoc., Inc. |
| Elizur Corp. | | |

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❖ denotes companies who supported an event or an educational grant.

Noteworthy

Welcome New Members!

POS is happy to welcome three new members into the Society:

- ▶ **Frederic A. Kleinbart, MD**
Hahnemann Orthopaedics, Philadelphia
- ▶ **James A. Oliverio, MD**
Appalachian Orthopaedic Center, Carlisle
- ▶ **Derek Thomas, MD**
*Greater Pittsburgh Orthopaedic Associates
Moon Township*

POS Makes Generous Contribution to Fellow Society

POS contributed \$2,000 to the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association this May to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Like many small businesses, the LOA was devastated by the hurricane, with years worth of records, databases, logs, and even parts of the office itself being damaged or destroyed by the Category 5 storm. The Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society was one of the biggest contributors, giving more than 10% of the total amount collected from all state orthopaedic societies. The AAOS and especially the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association greatly appreciate the generosity.

New Resident Chairs Elected to Board of Directors

It was a bittersweet farewell to resident chair **Samir Mehta, MD**, as he passed the torch to three new residents on July 1. Dr. Mehta served for two years and established the position as one of great importance on the board. Now, more than ever, it is critical for resident programs across the state to have representation on the board. Likewise, it is critical for the Society to know what is happening in these programs so that an accurate cross-section can be created and more informed decisions made. POS has taken the initiative to do just that by electing three new resident chairs from three different programs to serve a one-year term:

- ▶ **Robert Cho, MD**
Drexel University, Philadelphia
- ▶ **Gregory Purnell, MD**
Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh
- ▶ **Daniel Tomaszewski, MD**
Geisinger Medical Center, Danville

POS congratulates and welcomes these new representatives and looks forward to the resident positions growing in value in the years to come.

Upcoming Events

September 18 3PSC Golf Tournament,
Wyncote Golf Club
Contact: colin@paorthosociety.org

September 25 Pennsylvania Legislature
Returns to Harrisburg

October 12-13 Annual BONES of PA Meeting
Malvern, PA

October 26-29 AAOS Fall 2006 BOC Meeting
Albuquerque, NM

November 15-17 POS Fall 2006 Scientific Meeting
"The Comprehensive Knee
Sports, Trauma, and Reconstruction"
Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue

November 16 POS 50th Anniversary Celebration
Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts

May 10-12 POS Spring 2007 Scientific Meeting
Four Seasons-Scottsdale Troon North,
Scottsdale, AZ

November 8-9 POS Fall 2007 Scientific Meeting
Nemacolin Woodlands, PA

From the AMA

Category III Codes for CPT 2006/2007

There are no Category III Codes for implementation effective July 1, 2006. The AMA has released information on implementation of new Category III CPT Codes for 2007. Category III Codes are known as T codes. It is important to note that because future CPT Editorial Panel or Executive committee actions may impact these items, codes and descriptor language may differ at the time of publication. Also, future Panel actions may result in gaps in code number sequencing. A cross reference will appear in the Category III section of the CPT to direct users to the newly established Category I CPT code.

Listed below are the Category III Codes for implementation in January 2007 that were added to the CPT July 1, 2006.

0171T Insertion of posterior spinous process distraction (including necessary removal of bone or ligament for insertion and imaging guidance), lumbar; single level

0172T Each additional level (list separately in addition to code for primary procedure)
use in conjunction with code 071T

0174T Computer aided detection (CAD) (computer algorithm analysis of digital image data for lesion detection) with further physician review for interpretation and report, with or without digitization of film radiographic images, chest radiograph(s), performed concurrent with primary interpretation
use in conjunction with 71010, 71020, 71021, 71022, 71030

0175T Computer aided detection (CAD) (computer algorithm analysis of digital image data for lesion detection) with further physician review for interpretation and report, with or without digitization of film radiographic images, chest radiograph(s) performed remote from primary interpretation

do not report 0175T in conjunction with 71010, 71020, 71021, 71022, 71030

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MCARE Commission Seeks Solution

(continued from page 2)

providing adequate medical professional liability insurance, including a review of the Fund's future unfunded liability and financing options for retiring those unfunded liabilities.

Three meetings have been held thus far and work plans, principles, and tasks have been developed to address multiple factors in the unfunded liability analysis. One task of particular interest is a survey of physicians, resident program chairs, and professional recruiters that will be conducted to determine barriers to recruitment and resident retention in Pennsylvania. The commission serves as a means of addressing one of the most significant barriers to attracting young doctors to Pennsylvania," Dr. Port commented. "The strength and quality of our healthcare system is directly linked to the cost of our medical liability system. If we can work to better control the costs of this system, we will help build a stronger healthcare system for Pennsylvania."

Other members of the Commission include: Sen. Gibson Armstrong (R-Lancaster), Lisa Thomas M.D. of Scranton, Rep. Steve Nickol (R-Hanover), David Simon, SVP and General Counsel for Jefferson Health System, Don Matusow of Philadelphia, Steven Shapiro, D.O., Chief of Pediatrics at Abington Memorial Hospital, Secretary of Revenue Gregory Fajt, Insurance Commissioner Diane Koken and Secretary of the Budget Michael Masch.

Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society

Fall 2006 Scientific Meeting



50th Anniversary Celebration

"The Comprehensive Knee –Sports, Trauma, and Reconstruction"

November 16 & 17, 2006

Park Hyatt Philadelphia at the Bellevue

Contact POS for more information: 888.772.7900 or nan@paorthosociety.org

Breaking "Da Ortho Code"

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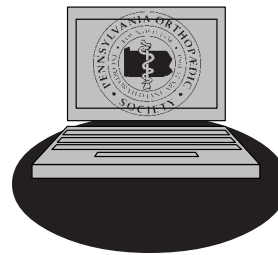
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More than 140 people came out for POS's coding seminars in April, making for two well-attended, highly educational events. Working with KarenZupko & Associates, Inc., POS held coding seminars in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to bring these important coding and reimbursement regulations to orthopaedic practices across the state. Physicians and practice managers alike gave glowing reviews, commenting on the valuable information and how it was offered in practical terms. Zupko speaker, Mary LeGrand, pleased to be a part of the POS family, is excited to speak again next year.

Thank you to everyone who attended. If you missed it in 2005 or if you are eager to learn more, make sure to sign up in 2006 as new topics will be discussed pertinent to your practice's needs. Tentative dates are March 2, 2007 in Pittsburgh and March 23, 2007 in Philadelphia.

Look for more details this winter.

Presenting Ex-SITE-ing News



The Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society will be unveiling its new website this fall. Teaming up with Grassroots Enterprises, Inc., POS has rebuilt and revamped its website, making information about upcoming events, state legislation, and fellow orthopaedic surgeons easily accessible. It will also soon alleviate tedious tasks such as completing then sending back to POS the member data update forms usually found in our newsletter because you will be able to change your personal information online, at your convenience, with just a few keystrokes. Our Weekly Update emails are coming from the new website, thereby eliminating those pesky problems generated from our office server. Remember, you will need your Medical Education Number to log in to the POS website to have access to all of our member specific information. **7**



Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society

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