



Volume 7 • Issue 2 • Summer 2017

No Bones About it

Protect Your Interests



President Stanley Tao, MD

Welcome to the summer edition of No Bones About It. The first thing I would like to do is thank the outgoing president, Brett Whitfield, for an outstanding job at the helm of our society. He has furthered the goals and accomplishments of the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society and I hope to follow in his footsteps.

That being said, one of the most important aspects of our society is to "stay active." We are all guilty of being wrapped up in our individual practices, families and hobbies. With the current change in the health care environment, we must strive to find time to become organized within societies to not only effect beneficial change for our patients but also to ensure that the interests

of all orthopedic surgeons is maintained in the political arena.

Our society is focused on making this as easy as possible for individual members to have their voices heard. As problems or issues arise, we as a society would like to hear about it. This will allow us to stay abreast of mainstream concerns and formulate action plans to help improve patient care and the practice of orthopedics. We would entertain ideas for future topics for this newsletter, as well. Feel free to contact myself or Diane Slaughter with any questions or concerns.

As this is my first newsletter for the society, I thought I would focus on the current problem of opioid misuse in society. Our Academy has recently launched a new public service advertisement campaign on this issue. This includes display and radio ads urging doctors and patients to exercise caution in prescribing and taking opioids.

Your Interests Cont. on page 5

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The View From K2

**“Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit, wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.”
- Steve Berry**

As an Eagle Scout, being helpful is one of the main tenets of Scout Law. My first reaction as a physician is to do anything to try and improve the quality of patient care. Living in the middle of Appalachia, this can be very difficult. In the Mid-Ohio Valley where I practice, West Virginia was once again voted in 2017 to be one of the unhappiest states in the Union. It also is in the top three when it comes to opioid abuse, obesity and smoking. This really does complicate successfully treating patients and trying to obtain outstanding results. One cannot make chicken salad out of chicken sh\$%.

Another tenet of the Scout Law is that one should be thrifty. In this day of excessive spending of the healthcare dollar, hard choices may have to be made. Patients with chronic conditions eat up 84% of the Medicare budget. Being a good steward of the healthcare dollar, one should

not be wasteful. To help solve this problem, we as physicians must educate and help our patients in taking responsibility for their own healthcare. This is an extremely difficult job, but we must begin now. It will take many hours from all health care providers, especially with patients who have complex medical problems. Until we as physicians instill in our patients individual responsibility, nothing will help us gain a control on healthcare costs.

It is now time for physicians to think outside of the box in how we take care of patients. Insurance companies, federal and state governments, hospital administrators, information technology and lawyers are all dictating how we practice medicine...not an easy obstacle to overcome. Only by working with our medical peers to help make medical decisions regarding patient care will we be able to deliver the best treatment to our patients.



Resident Reviews NOLC Experience

The AAOS National Orthopedic Leadership Conference was held April 26-28 in Washington, DC.

The WVOS sent a delegation of five, including President Dr. Brett Whitfield, AAOS Councilor Dr. Greg Krivchenia, Advocacy Chairman Dr. Joe Prud'homme, Executive Director Diane Slaughter, and me. We were able to meet with Congressmen from each district in West Virginia as well as Senator Capito. Senator Manchin was unable to meet with us due to a scheduling conflict, but we were able to meet with his healthcare liaison.

The topics on our agenda for this year were: HR 849/S 260 dealing with the elimination of the independent payment advisory board; HR 1156, a bill that lifts the ban on physician owned hospital expansion; and HR 1704 which introduces federal reforms on medical liability. Each of these topics are of paramount importance to us as orthopedic surgeons, as well as to the country.

Finally, we discussed the AAOS new campaign on prescription drug prescribing practices and abuse prevention. I was impressed by the depth of knowledge each of our Congressmen, Senator Capito and their teams had. We had great conversations about ways to lower Medicare and Medicaid spending through medical liability reform from a federal level to follow in the

same vein as previous reform in West Virginia. Our experience as a team was positive from each of the meetings and we already have support from our representatives on several of the topics discussed.

On a personal note, I was very happy with my experience in DC. I was able to observe and participate in each meeting and learn first-hand how the political process works. It certainly sparked my interest as I was able to see the importance my voice as a future leader in the healthcare field. I was able to make contacts that I will continue to use to voice my questions and concerns about current legislation and its potential impact on the healthcare field in general as well as orthopaedics. I urge each of you reading this to get involved any way you can, whether that is contacting your senator and representative from your district to support the legislation above or contributing to OrthoPAC.



The WVOS delegation met with Congressman Jenkins and others, presenting each with the AAOS poster on opioid abuse.

**Get involved
any way you
can, whether
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Senator or Con-
gressman or
contributing to
OrthoPAC.**



RESIDENT PAC PARTICIPATION

WHAT IS THE ORTHO PAC?



The strength of the Orthopaedic PAC gives AAOS crucial access to advocate on behalf of orthopaedic surgeons in Washington, DC and in the states. We are the only national PAC representing your interests before Congress.

\$3.5M 

The Orthopaedic PAC is one of the strongest medical PACs in the US, raising over \$3.5 million last cycle. Residents played a large role in this, as resident participation increased by 300% in just 3 years.

BENEFITS OF INVOLVEMENT

- Leadership
- Networking
- Personal and Professional Growth
- Opportunities to create relationships with your elected officials



WHY WE NEED RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT

- Residents are the future of the orthopaedic profession
- Ever changing field
- Residents offer new perspectives
- Others will see your efforts and want to get involved
- No one knows the issues that you face better than YOU

WHY ADVOCACY IS IMPORTANT

When the Orthopaedic PAC makes a contribution, it sends a loud, clear message from orthopaedic surgeons to the beneficiary. As the PAC grows, that message resonates louder. By supporting the PAC, you are helping us advocate for you to Congress on issues like graduate medical education, medical liability reform, Medicare reimbursement, and more.

Chances are...If you don't have a seat at the table, you are on the menu!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



You can give **MONEY**:
Text AAOS to 41444

You can give **TIME**:
Email pac@aaos.org for ways to get involved

Or you can give BOTH!

Your Interests Continued from pg. 1

The United States, and particularly West Virginia, is in the midst of an opioid epidemic, with millions of people dependent on or addicted to prescription painkillers. As orthopedic surgeons, we are inherently involved in a profession with injuries and surgeries that are painful. We must remain committed to helping our patients safely manage pain through these potential life changing experiences. We all should ensure that in our efforts to take care of orthopedic problems that we don't cause unnecessary addiction or harm.

I wanted our members to be aware of the many

resource tools available from our academy on this issue. This includes a pain relief tool kit available to members at AAOS.org/Quality/PainReliefToolKit and free wall posters by emailing media@aaos.org or online in the "store" at AAOS.org. The poster shown below was delivered to each of our Congressional offices during the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference.

Further recommendations from our academy include sharing articles, facts and statistics on opioid misuse on proactive web pages or social media platforms.

I look forward to serving as your new president and hope everyone has a great summer!

"We must remain committed to helping our patients safely manage pain."

PAINKILLERS ARE EASY TO GET INTO. HARD TO ESCAPE.

Prescription painkillers are America's most dangerous epidemic, with millions of citizens dependent or addicted. Orthopaedic surgeons recognize the life-threatening danger of these opioids and call for patients and doctors alike to minimize their use.

AAOS
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

orthoinfo.org/prescriptionsafety

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We Need Your Voice at August Board Meeting

Whether or not you plan to attend the WV State Medical Association Health Care Summit, we hope you will make plans to join the WVOS Board of Directors and members for our summer meeting on Friday, August 25, at The Greenbrier. President Tao is working to arrange a reception for the evening before; we'll keep you posted!

There are a number of important issues on the agenda, including election of our new AAOS Councilor. (Greg Krivchenia can't be elected to a third term.)

In addition, we will be identifying speakers for our 2018 CME Conference. It was decided in April to plan a course on lifestyle or business issues for Friday, in addition to clinical issues on Saturday.

Our clinical theme will be, "Duct Tape and Gorilla Glue Orthopaedics: Complications and Unexpected Intraoperative Occurrences." Our coordinators will be members from Charleston and southern West Virginia.

We'll also be discussing our invitation to join the Own the Bone Organizational Alliance. It is free for WVOS to be a member, and shows support for fragility fracture awareness.

We'll also be discussing 2018 legislative priorities, with members requesting consideration of certificate of need legislation and the AAOS focusing on scoliosis screening for students.

Please feel free to send other agenda topics to wvos@frontier.com and let us know you'll be attending.

No Bones About It
is published four times a year by the
West Virginia Orthopaedic Society (WVOS).
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