



Volume 8 • Issue 3 • Summer 2018

# No Bones About It

## My Advocacy Introduction



**President Stanley Tao, MD**

Well, summer has hit quickly. I hope all are doing well.

I had the pleasure of attending my first National Orthopedic Leadership Conference (NOLC) June 4-6. For those who are not familiar with this, it is an AAOS-based conference teaching and implementing advocacy on behalf of Orthopedic surgeons right on Capitol Hill. It facilitates meetings with AAOS members and their congressional constituents. It was a truly eye-opening experience for me, as I have not been directly exposed to advocacy at the grassroots level. In advocacy, they say if you are not at the table, you are on the menu! In addition to seminars put on by our

Academy, our delegation from the West Virginia Orthopedic Society attended meetings with specific Members of Congress and/or their staff. This year, WVOS Vice President Felix Cheung, Councilor Joe Prudhomme, WVU resident Lunden Ryan, Executive Director Diane Slaughter and I attended. We had specific issues to address and these included giving thanks for the repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), relating AAOS positions on opioid initiatives, and garnering support for the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act (H.R. 1876/S. 781).

Repealing the IPAB ensures that patients will continue to have access to high quality care and that health care delivery reforms can be completed with long range goals in mind. It also ensures that Members of Congress will again be able to advocate for their constituents, and that the transparency of hearings, debate and meaningful stakeholder input will remain intact.

**Advocacy**

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# WVOS and AAOS Take Capitol Hill

**Our delegation  
secured two  
co-sponsors for  
the  
Good Samaritan  
Health  
Professionals  
Act!**

The 2018 National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference (NOLC) Capitol Hill Day on June 7 featured 412 scheduled hill visits with members of Congress from both chambers and both parties, five of which were conducted by members of the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society (WVOS).

The WVOS delegation, shown below from left, included Resident Board Member Lunden Ryan, Vice President Felix Cheung, Executive Director Diane Slaughter, President Stan Tao and AAOS Councilor Joe Produ'homme.



The 2018 issues included regulatory relief, opioid policies and the Good Samaritan Health Professionals Act. These issues are covered more competely in President Tao's article on page one.

We presented each Congressional office with the "No Bones About It" opioid issue featuring student essays.

In addition, we were offered a private tour by Representative Evan Jenkins. The evening included a "back stage" look at the Capitol building and the rare opportunity to sit in the House Gallery for a series of votes late in the evening.



The tour included the beautiful marble halls of the Capitol, statuary hall, the location of the star defining the center of Washington's geographical layout and more.

See more photos on pages 6 and 7.



# 2019 Meeting: Good Things Coming

Mark your calendars for the April 26-28, 2019, for the WVOS Annual Spring Break Meeting at Stonewall Jackson Resort. The WVU and Morgantown contingent will be in charge of the meeting content this year, with assistance from panhandle practitioners, and it will be enlightening.

The tentative plans are to update us on the current trends in the practice of orthopedics along with anticipating and preparing for the future. Dr. Sandy Emery and his team will have an excellent program for us.

We conducted a member survey to determine what you want for the meeting, and survey results will be discussed at the August meeting. We'll work to incorporate your suggestions into the planning. Major findings showed a preference for a variety of clinical topics, as well non-clinical topics for practice management, advocacy, etc. When asked what would entice them to attend the 2019 meeting, respondents were



clear about a specific time for the group to golf. We'll work on it!

We have moved to a Saturday and Sunday format in an effort to improve attendance and facilitate recreation for families, as well as golfers. We will update you after the August meeting at The Greenbrier and as the schedule develops.

As we've done for the past few years, we will be having a fundraiser for the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation (OREF).

I would also like to encourage a donation to OREF and to the Orthopedic PAC. I hope all have a great summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Steel".

**Dr. Emery and  
his team will  
have an  
excellent  
program for us.**





# 5 Ways EMR Can Help Your Practice

**"The right EMR  
can help grow  
the practice and  
increase the  
quality of care  
delivered."**

Orthopaedic practices have unique needs that ortho-specific technology can help address. Doctors and staff want to take care of patients, not wrestle with a computer screen or keep up with regulatory updates. For as much time as we spend optimizing the health of our patients, we may lose sight of the health of our own practice. Here are five ways that orthopaedic EMR software can help improve a practice:

## **1. Accommodates your orthopaedic-specific plan**

One size does not fit all, and once you take the pulse of your practice and identify the clinical, financial and operational areas to improve and implement a growth strategy, you can then better assess the EMR system that suits your needs.

## **2. Access to an all-in-one orthopaedic solution**

You have your pick when it comes to orthopaedic software. You can select different vendors for your EMR system, practice management, revenue cycle management or billing and even analytics, but managing different points of contact, implementations and bridges could include extra work, additional costs and miscommunication. All-in-one orthopaedic software solutions can help streamline your work.

## **3. Improves efficiencies**

Technology should help improve efficiencies. Some orthopaedic EMRs will learn the most popular diagnoses based

on the exam and how providers usually treat these diagnoses.

Touch-based orthopaedic EMRs can help automate notes and bills and include built-in ICD-10 orthopedic codes captured during the patient encounter, meaning less time documenting after office hours.

## **4. Enhances mobility and accessibility**

An orthopaedic EMR system designed as a native iPad application allows providers to tap and swipe during the exam while facing the patient versus turning to face a computer screen. A cloud-based system also gives users access to patients' records from virtually anywhere at anytime with a secure internet connection. And when the system includes a mobile phone and Apple Watch app, users can access the system on the go.

## **5. Prepares your practice for value-based medicine**

The Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) doesn't have to be a four-letter word when you work with an EMR vendor that has the technology and the people to support your practice through this potentially cumbersome process. A MIPS intelligence platform that helps track a provider's estimated Composite Score and has built in analytics and benchmarking reports can help ease data submission.

To learn about modmed Orthopedics, visit [www.modmed.com/orthopedics](http://www.modmed.com/orthopedics).



# 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](mailto:pac@aaos.org) for ways to get involved

**Or you can give BOTH!**

# WVOS Takes Capitol Hill at NOLC

Our delegation  
met with staff  
for Senators  
Capito and  
Manchin on  
June 7 during  
the AAOS NOLC.



Members of our delegation  
met with senior staff for  
Senators Capito, top, and

Manchin, above. President Tao  
was photographed in front of  
the renovated Capitol and Rep.  
Jenkins posed with Dr. Ryan.





# We Educated Them on Our Issues



WVOS leaders  
visited both  
houses and both  
sides of the  
aisle.



**"All in all, we  
felt we had a  
very productive  
session on  
Capitol Hill."**

## **Advocacy**

Continued from page 1

The AAOS position we addressed on opioid initiatives included a caution on recommending prescription limits. This could inappropriately limit patients' access to necessary pain management. We advocated that blanket prescription limits to all procedures are inappropriate and should be avoided. There is more information at [www.aaos.org/opioids](http://www.aaos.org/opioids).

The Good Samaritan Health Professional Act would address gaps in federal and state laws to ensure vital health care services provided by orthopedic surgeons and other medical volunteers are available to patients and communities during a declared federal disaster, all while respecting existing licensure and medical liability laws in individual states. This should ensure an adequate supply of trained health care professionals who are ready, willing and able to volunteer their services during a disaster across state lines without being deterred or turned away by the threat of lawsuits.

We had scheduled meetings with Senator Manchin, Senator Capito, Representative McKinley, Representative Mooney and Representative Jenkins. We were able to meet directly with Representatives Jenkins and Mooney. They were very receptive to the Good Samaritan bill and Representative Mooney and Representative McKinley both signed on as co-sponsors of

the bill. They both understood our concerns on the opioid issue and recommended further evaluation. They both appreciated our thanks on the repeal of IPAB. We were able to meet with the other legislators' top aides. They seemed receptive to our positions and we await their additional feedback.

All in all, we felt we had a very productive session on Capitol Hill and other societies across the country felt the same. I look forward to returning next year and continuing our efforts.

I would urge all members to support and join the Orthopedic Political Action Committee (OrthoPAC) if you have not done so already. This is the only national political action committee in Washington, D.C. that solely represents the interests of the orthopedic community before Congress. More information can be found at [www.aaos.org/PAC](http://www.aaos.org/PAC). One can also learn more about all of our advocacy issues at [www.aaos.org/advocacy](http://www.aaos.org/advocacy).

In closing, I would also like to remind everyone of our fall meeting at The Greenbrier August 24-25. We will be in the Spring Room from 9:00-11:30 a.m. on Friday, August 24. The WV State Medical Association Health Care Summit is a great atmosphere and the world-renowned Greenbrier is an excellent place for some family time as well.





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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 24, at The Greenbrier.

There are a number of important issues on the agenda that need your input.

In addition, we will be identifying speakers for our 2019 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. A suggestion for the conference theme has been made; "Orthopaedic Healthcare Industry: What's

Happening to Us?" This could include tele- health, navigating payments and other reforms. Our coordinators will be WVOS members from Morgantown and the panhandles.

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 2019 legislative priorities, with members requesting consideration of certificate of need legislation and revisions to the 2018 opioid legislation.

Please feel free to send other agenda topics to [wvos@frontier.com](mailto: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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