



Volume 10 • Issue 1 • Winter 2020

No Bones About it

Step Up and Be a Leader



President Felix Cheung, MD

It is with great disappointment that we have had to cancel the Spring Break Annual Meeting in 2020 due to the coronavirus outbreak. As the predictions became more severe, we felt we had no other choice. After a thorough discussion with the Board, we decided not to reschedule the meeting to later this year. Instead we have decided move the entire curriculum to April 23-24, 2021. We felt it was too good a program to scrap; the Program Committee had worked too hard on it to give up on it. Consider the irony that the program was on infections!

We are all being severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Our kids are home from

school. Bars and restaurants are closed. March Madness is now March Sadness. Our economy is taking a severe hit, and the stocks have turned into a bear market. Our healthcare systems are gearing up for the potential influx of critically ill patients, taking steps to limit clinic visits and stopping elective surgeries. Since a lot of orthopaedic surgery is scheduled, our field is one of the most affected by these changes. It would be so easy to be angry at these developments. Surely we are over-reacting! There are only a handful of COVID-19 cases in West Virginia. Besides, it only affects the old and sick, not vigorous orthopods! Why should we destroy the economy (and our retirement) over this? Why should we accept limitations to surgery or our clinics?

In times of crisis, we find out who our real leaders are. It is time to step up and be a leader in our community. The truth is, we will never know if what we are doing now was

Step Up

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Spring Break Meeting CANCELED

**"We are now
planning to see
you at
Stonewall in
April 23-24,
2021 and we
are keeping
your safety as
our
TOP PRIORITY."
- Jack Steel**

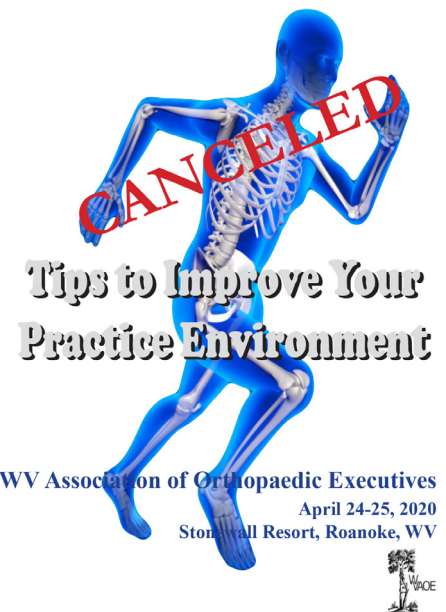
We know that public and private entities around the state are taking extraordinary measures in the face of COVID-19. Even before the first case was reported in West Virginia, we knew there are concerns. Please know your CME Committees and your WVAOE and WVOS Boards of Directors concurred with Stonewall Jackson Resort's decision to cancel meetings through the end of May.

We were given the opportunity to reschedule the conference for later this year, but no one is sure when the situation will ease and meetings will be feasible.

We have refunded conference fees already paid by our members and exhibitors and hotel rooms booked under the WVOS block will be canceled automatically, with notification coming directly from Stonewall.

With that explained, we had great meetings set for the WV Association of Orthopaedic Executives (WVAOE) and the WV Orthopaedic Society (WVOS)! Therefore, we are working to keep those programs intact for our Spring Break Meeting on **April 23 and 24, 2021** at The Stonewall Jackson Resort.

The theme of the WVAOE meeting is "Tips to Improve Your Practice Environment," and will feature topics on: secrets from top performing practices; implementing patient reported



surveys; how to keep the doors open when there are no doors; using data in an orthopaedic practice; MIPS value pathways and the future of MIPS.

Drs. Karim Boukhemis and Matthew Bullock put together an outstanding program for WVOS members and guests on "Infections Across Orthopaedics."



Joshua Tuck Scholarship Open

The West Virginia Association of Orthopaedic Executives (WVAOE) is pleased to announce the continuation of the Joshua Tuck Scholarship, thanks to a one-time contribution from the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society (WVOS).

Joshua Alan Tuck 30, died on May 8, 2017, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident on the West Virginia Turnpike. He was the Vice President of the WVAOE at the time of his death.

The Joshua Tuck Scholarship was created by the WVAOE Board of Directors to help support a student studying healthcare management. We wanted to honor his memory by assisting the education of someone who is working toward a healthcare management degree who embodies Joshua's vision.

Applicants must be:

- (1) West Virginia high school seniors;
- (2) must enroll in Bluefield State College, Fairmont State University, Marshall University or WVU Tech;
- (3) major in a healthcare management program; and
- (4) submit a 450 – 500 word essay answering the question: "Describe your community's issues with opioids and explain how you would reduce the problem."

From the applications received, the WVAOE Board of Directors will select a single one-time only \$2,500.00

scholarship recipient.

In 2018, the WVOS board of directors voted to fund the scholarship for 2019.

Other practices and members have made contributions which will allow the scholarship fund to grow for future years. If you would like to make this scholarship possible for years to come, we can accept personal or corporate checks. Please call the WVAOE office if you need to make a donation by credit card. This donation is currently deductible as a business expense.

Please help us honor Josh's life and legacy by making your check to WVAOE and including Josh Tuck Scholarship in the memo line.

Scholarship details are available at www.wvos.org.



**WVAOE is
honoring
Joshua Tuck's
legacy with a
scholarship.
You can
contribute to
keep this going
for the future!**

WVU Continues to Grow and Thrive

**WVU's program
continues to
grow in all
aspects.**

Our orthopaedic department here at West Virginia University in Morgantown continues to grow and thrive. We now have 31 full-time clinical faculty and four PhDs. The residency program is as strong as ever, and we are increasingly supplying towns and cities in the state with our graduates. We offer two fellowships: one in spine, which we have had for several years, and the other in adult reconstruction, which we have had for three years.

We continue to move forward with technology and program development. Robotics has an increasing presence in spine and total joints; outpatient total joint surgery is increasing; we are doubling the size of our Orthopaedic Medical Optimization Program (OMOP). We continue to hire for a PM&R division in orthopaedics, and will soon have institutional support for an independent PM&R department and

residency-training program. In the long run, this future department can serve the state with much needed physiatrists. Our "Own the Bone" bone health program receives national recognition.

The research division is doing extremely well in a continued tight fiscal environment. We have a substantial amount of federal funding (approximately \$4 million dollars in the last five years), and that is just federal funding. Drs. Brock Lindsey and Matthew Dietz work in both worlds as true clinician scientists with busy clinical practices and active labs in immunotherapy and biofilm/prosthetic joint infections respectively.

The institution continues to build buildings and grow programs. If anyone is in town and wants to say hello, please let me know and we will be happy to connect.



Marshall Has Phenomenal Year

Marshall Orthopaedics had a phenomenal year again. We currently head orthopaedic surgery departments in seven hospitals in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky. **Clinically**, we were nationally recognized in for being a strong department. Once again, Healthgrades recognized us as being one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Joint Replacement Surgery and America's 100 Best Hospitals for Overall Orthopaedics. We were named in the top 5% of the country for joint replacement surgery (the highest rating), received 5/5 stars for total knee replacement, 5/5 stars for total hip replacement and received the Overall Excellence Award in Joint Replacement Surgery and Overall Excellence Award in Orthopaedics. We were the only hospital in all of West Virginia to be named Health Grades 2020 America's 100 Best Hospitals for Joint Replacement and the only institution in our tri-state region to achieve The Joint Commission Advanced Certification in Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement with recognition as Top Performer on Key Quality Measures. Our surgeries with cutting edge technologies such as robotic-assisted hip, total knee and partial knee replacement surgeries, the fertilized ACL reconstruction and shoulder and knee nanoscope surgeries continue to open doors for further innovation for the department.

As far as patient satisfaction and HCAHPS scores are concerned, orthopedics continues to have the some of the highest scores in our hospital—both for overall orthopedics and disease-specific categories within our organization.

The **research** arm of the department continues to grow. Marshall Orthopaedics' work was published in multiple venues including New England Journal of Medicine; Arthroplasty Today; Arthroscopic Techniques; Archives of Bone and Joint Surgery; Anaesthesia, Pain & Intensive Care; HSS Journal; and Knee Surgery Reconstruction and Replacement. Most of our faculty are involved in research with highlights being Dr. Chad Lavender's fertilized anterior cruciate ligament reconstruction technique, which led to six publications last year, as well as his nanoscope meniscal and labral repair techniques, all of which have gained him national recognition. Our poster presentations have included Eastern Orthopaedic Society; American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons; American Academy of Hip and Knee Surgeons; and Orthopaedic Research Society. Our podium presentations have included multiple presentations at Clinical Orthopaedic Society—**MU news** More on page 8

**Marshall is
strong clinically
and in research,
residency and
philanthropy.**

A Call to Action to Enhance WVOS

**We're creating
new
opportunities
for WVOS
member
participation.**

At our board meeting last week, we decided to create more opportunities for our membership to stay active in the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society. One of the most exciting developments is the expansion of our committees. In addition to our standing committees of Membership, Education, and Legislative, we have voted to create two ad hoc committees on Research and Philanthropy. There is now a committee for just about every interest in our membership. I urge you to join one of these five committees to be an active member in our Society.

Membership

The heart of every society is its membership. This committee maintains and recruits orthopaedic surgeons and allied health professionals into the Society, and works on maximizing value to the members. Activities include having membership drives around the state at fun locations. It's a great way to connect with and have tasty beverages with other orthopaedic surgeons in the state.

Education

This committee plans the educational program at our Spring Meeting. It consists of representatives from Morgantown, Huntington and Charleston who "host" that year's meeting. Its main activity is organizing the Spring Break Meeting with speakers,

topics, format, etc. It's a great way to learn about interesting musculoskeletal topics and to share that knowledge with the rest of the state.

Legislative

This committee, with the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, monitors laws and policies being made at a federal, state and local level that may have an impact on how we are able to treat our patients. Developing relationships with policy makers and helping guide their efforts are huge parts of making sure we can care for our patients appropriately. Members can go to the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference in Washington DC to help lobby for our issues. Recent examples include Balance Billing laws, Scope of Practice guidelines for mid-levels, and getting contributions to OrthoPAC.

Research

This new committee focuses on the research mission of our field. Its purpose is to look for ways we can support research projects with grants, fundraisers, etc. It works to find multi-institutional research opportunities. Its main activity is the Resident Research Forum at the Spring Break Meeting, organizing the best research and helping choose the winners. Increasing participation in OREF donations is also part of the mission. It's a great way to further your own
Call to action More on page 7

Call to action

Cont. from pg. 6

research connections in the state and develop ideas for new projects.

Philanthropy

This new committee looks at giving back. We are all privileged to provide musculoskeletal care to West Virginia, and this is a chance to help our state even more. Its mission is to come up with activities and projects for the membership to participate in for community service. The activities can be planned for state or local impact. It's a great way to meet like-minded folks around the state and

to make a difference while including our staff and our families.

I sincerely hope you will consider participating in one of these opportunities. Contact one of the WVOS officers or the WVOS office to let us know which committee gets your input!

Thank you for being such great members of the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society.

FHC

Membership. Mentorship. Mission.

**Please consider
participating.**

**Make a
difference!**



We are shining
the most
positive light on
West Virginia at
Marshall
Orthopaedics.

one of which received the best paper award; Eastern Orthopaedic Society; and International Congress for Joint Replacement-Middle East (Dubai). We also had a podium presentation accepted to this year's cancelled AAOS meeting.

The residency arm of the department is going extremely well. Our residents continue to do well on the in-training exam, with our residents' ranking at the 97th percentile this year. Two of our residents scored 100% on the OITE, two got 99%, and one got 98%. Last year, we had 500 applicants for our three first-year positions. We interviewed 74 applicants and ranked 52. We matched our numbers four, 10 and 14. Of our current chiefs, two will be doing a sports medicine fellowship at Wake Forest, and one will go on to do a joint arthroplasty fellowship at Cleveland Clinic in Florida.

Finally, our philanthropic arm continues with the strong support of the orthopedic care of the uninsured and homeless population, care and support of various local charities including Huntington Area Food Bank, Golden Girls Group Home and Harmony House through our yearly "Joints Jog." Because of this support, our department has been given the Huntington Coalition Heart for the Homeless Award, the Distinguished Giver Award by the Golden Girls local girls' shelter as well as the Medallion Society by Cabell Huntington Hospital. As Marshall Orthopaedics' reputation continues to grow both nationally and internationally, through our department's excellence in clinical care, research, education, and philanthropy, we hope to continue to shine the most positive light on our state of West Virginia.



Step up

Continued from page 1

too much. But we will know if it were not enough. People will die. Hospitals will be overwhelmed. We will run out of personal protective equipment because we wanted to squeeze in one more case. Our waiting rooms will become hot zones because we continued to run full schedules. We will spread the disease to our vulnerable populations because we refused to be tested.

It is my sincere hope that in a few months, we will only have had a few dozen cases, no deaths, and all the pent up energy will create a new "Roaring Twenties." We will look back and say it wasn't so bad, and folks will question if we really needed to restrict our lives. And from those of us on the inside, the answer will be yes.

Sincerely,
FHC

**We are doing
the right thing.**

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THE DRIVER
STANDING NEXT TO IT.

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