

THE OSTEOTOME

Newsletter for the
Southern Illinois University
 Division of Orthopaedic Surgery

AUGUST 2020

The start of this academic year has looked different than years past. The pandemic and the associated restrictions have changed the way we take care of patients, train, and learn, but we have adapted and found ways to continue and improve. With the resumption of clinical activity and return of routine to our educational efforts, we are happy to bring back *The Osteo Tome* for updates and highlights on activities in our Division.

"So when the doctor stands there looking at an x-ray, he has to remember that the arm or the leg or whatever it is that's shown on the films is attached to a human being, and it's the human being he has to treat."

The Making of a Surgeon by William A. Nolen, MD

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

It has been a productive year of positive changes in our Division.

Our Residency continues to thrive. As a group, the OITE scores have significantly improved this year. We continue to attract resident applicants from around the nation.

Drs. Allan, Wottowa, and I are proud that our research program is more robust with an increase in IRBs, projects, national presentations, and publications. The residents have been instrumental in the increase in research interest and productivity under the work of Dr. El Bitar and Dr. Thuppal.

Over the past year, we have had Dr. Schatzker, Dr. Gross [pictured], and Dr. Martin (from the ABOS) visit our Residency. This upcoming year, we have Dr. Jupiter from Harvard and Dr. Anderson (AOFAS Visiting Professor).

Faculty recruits continue to demonstrate interest in our Division.

We are living in unprecedented times, but I am proud that our Residents, Faculty, and Staff have met the challenges to continually advance our Division.

Thank you all for your efforts and support of the Division.

All Monday and Wednesday conferences will return to virtual format starting Monday, August 24. Zoom links will be sent out the week prior for all sessions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 24 – AOFAS Visiting Professor:

John G. Anderson, MD

August 31 – Resident Grand Rounds:

Christine DiPompeo, MD

September 14 – Ron Romanelli, MD Trauma Lectureship Visiting Professor:

Jesse B. Jupiter, MD

September 24 – SIU Department of Surgery Teaching Awards Ceremony



Norman Y. Otsuka, MD

MEET THE INTERNS



CHRIS BEJCEK, MD

Chris was born in St. Paul, MN and soon moved to Portage, MI where he lived with his parents, older sister, and younger brother. He graduated from Portage Northern High School and then attended Michigan State University. He graduated with a BS degree in Microbiology and Genomics and Molecular Genetics. He spent the next year as a cardiology scribe before attending medical school at Central Michigan University.

When Chris is not spending time with his family, girlfriend, or friends, he is often outdoors hunting or fishing. He also spends time working in his garden, shaping his bonsai trees, playing soccer, and caring for his cat. He loves to read and watch his favorite sports teams including the MN Wild, Vikings, or Arsenal.

DAVID FORGAS, MD

David is a graduate of Virden, Illinois, where he played football, basketball, and baseball. He attended Western Illinois University with a degree in Biological Sciences and Biochemistry. After graduation, David lived in the Chicagoland area and work as a biochemist for Abbott Laboratories. David was able to return to the place he has called home for many years to attend medical school at SIU School of Medicine.

In his free time, David enjoys spending time with his wife, pets, family, and friends. He enjoys reading, jogging, and aiming for perfection with his yard.

ELLIOT JOHNS, MD

Elliot was born in Pittsburgh PA and moved to Chapel Hill NC, then Carmel IN, where he spent most of his childhood. He completed an undergraduate degree in biology with minors in chemistry and economics at Wabash College. At Wabash, he was also a scholar All-American Division III swimmer. From there he continued his education at the IU School of Medicine Evansville Campus.

He is a Pittsburgh Steelers and Indiana Pacers fan. His hobbies include backpacking, skiing, and swimming. In his time off he enjoys spending time with family and friends, especially when they can share a cold beverage on his front porch. He is excited to be in Springfield and continue his Orthopaedic education.



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Please email any questions, comments, or suggestions to abeason@siumed.edu