



2024

ORTHOPAEDICS

ANNUAL  
REPORT

 WVU Medicine

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THE CHAIR'S

# WELCOME



## Opportunity for Greatness

Change can often bring about anxiety, fear, and feelings of discomfort, but it's within this discomfort that we often find the opportunity for growth and development. If you ask any runner as they train, any athlete at the first practice of a season or a performer before the first rehearsal, the shoes don't seem to fit right, the helmet is too tight, or their dance moves feel like they have two left feet. They were nervous, they were unsure... but they were excited because they knew that the opportunity for greatness lies just past that discomfort.

For the first time in 20 years, we have a new Chair for the Department of Orthopaedics. On July 1st of this past year, it was with great humility and pride that I became the new Chair of the Department of Orthopaedics. The weight of this responsibility is not lost upon me. However, in this annual report, you will see how strong the department is and the pride we have in the great care we provide to the people of West Virginia.

### Within this annual report, we highlight:

- » Grand Celebration of Dr. Emery's Career
- » Introduction to our Newest Faculty Members
- » First-in-human Clinical Trials
- » Award-Winning Faculty and Staff Members
- » Cutting-edge patient care from Metabolic Bone to Wide Awake Outpatient Surgery

Every great result starts with a first step. Think back to your first job, or your first day as a resident or an attending. At the time, it felt like a lot, like you may never find your way. It might have felt like you would never learn how to reduce that fracture the way Dave Hubbard does or evaluate patients like John France or have the historical knowledge of John Lubicky. But you persisted, and all of a sudden, that first day seems like a small bump on the successful path that has led you to where you are today.

I am so fortunate to be the chair of a department with such dedicated and talented faculty, residents, fellows, and staff. We have an administration that is supportive of our mission and recognizes the strength that WVU Orthopaedics provides to the health system. As we continue to grow, I can't wait to share all the exciting things we have planned for the department. I also am looking forward to reconnecting with all of our alumni and partners of WVU Orthopaedics over the course of the next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew J. Dietz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'M' and 'D'.

**Matthew J. Dietz** MD FAOA  
Chair and Associate Professor  
Department of Orthopaedics  
West Virginia University

# FACULTY



**Matthew J. Dietz MD**

Chair, Associate Professor,  
Adult Reconstruction



**John C. France MD**

Executive Vice Chair, Chief,  
Spine, Director, Spine  
Fellowship, Professor



**John P. Lubicky MD**

Vice Chair of Pediatrics, Chief,  
Pediatrics, Professor



**E. Barry McDonough MD**

Vice Chair of Education, Chief,  
Sports Medicine, Residency  
Program Director, Professor



**Daniel R. Grant MD**

Vice Chair of Clinical  
Operations, Associate Professor,  
Pediatrics



**George K. Bal MD**

Associate Professor,  
Sports Medicine



**J. David Blaha MD**

Professor, Orthopaedics



**Kathryn Bosia DPM**

Assistant Professor, Podiatry



**Michelle A. Bramer MD**

Chief, Trauma, Assistant  
Residency Program Director,  
Associate Professor



**Rusty Cain DPM**

Assistant Professor, Podiatry



**Scott D. Daffner MD**

Professor, Spine



**Sanford E. Emery MD, MBA**

Professor Emeritus, Spine

# Clinical and Research



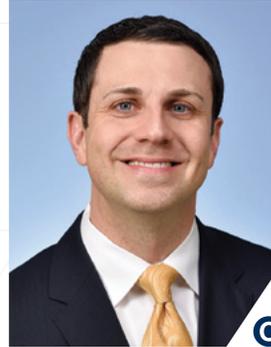
2023 **C R**

**Felicity Fisk MD**  
Assistant Professor, Spine



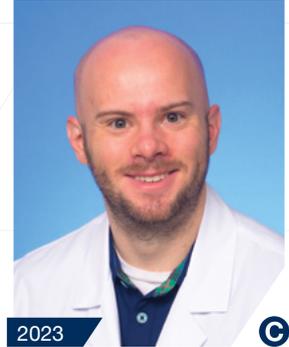
**C R**

**Benjamin M. Frye MD**  
Chief, Adult Reconstruction,  
Director, Adult Reconstruction  
Fellowship, Associate Professor



**C R**

**Derik Geist MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Sports Medicine



2023 **C R**

**John Guido MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Medical Optimization



**C R**

**David F. Hubbard MD**  
Medical Director of Perioperative  
Services, Professor, Trauma



**C R**

**Dina Jones PT, PhD**  
Professor, Orthopaedics, Human  
Performance – Physical Therapy



2023 **C R**

**Eli Joseph MD**  
Assistant Professor, Trauma



2023 **C R**

**Jonathan Karnes MD**  
Assistant Professor, Spine



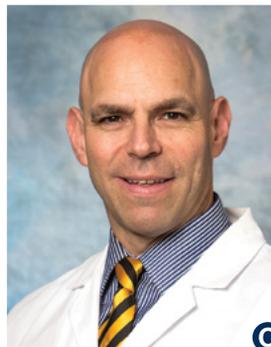
**C R**

**Kathryn Kasicky MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Medical Optimization



**C R**

**Cherie Kelly-Danhires DPM**  
Assistant Professor, Podiatry



**C R**

**Adam E. Klein MD**  
Associate Professor,  
Adult Reconstruction



**C R**

**Bingyun Li PhD**  
Professor, Orthopaedics

# FACULTY & STAFF

Clinical and Research



C R

**Naji Madi MD**  
Assistant Professor, Foot & Ankle



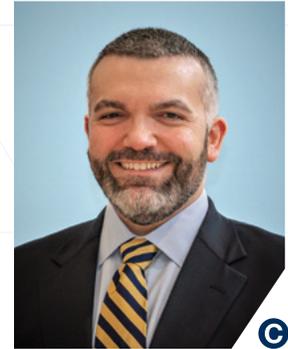
2023 C R

**Grant McChesney MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Adult Reconstruction,  
Musculoskeletal Oncology



C R

**Benjamin Moorehead MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Sports Medicine



C R

**T. Ryan Murphy MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Adult Reconstruction



C R

**Kylie Parrish MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Medical Optimization



C R

**Andrew Parsons MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Pediatrics



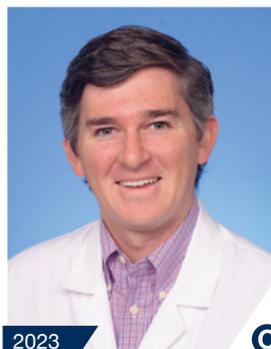
C R

**Jami Pincavitch MD**  
Director, Medical Optimization,  
Associate Chief Medical  
Information Officer,  
Assistant Professor



C R

**Ming Pei MD, PhD**  
Professor, Orthopaedics,  
Human Performance –  
Exercise Physiology



2023 C R

**Jake Powers DPM**  
Assistant Professor, Podiatry



C R

**B. Joseph Prud'homme MD**  
Chief, Hand & Upper Extremity,  
Christopher R. Cline Chair, Assistant  
Dean for Outreach and Community  
Engagement, Professor



C R

**Shafic Sraj MD**  
Director, System Integration,  
Associate Professor, Hand &  
Upper Extremity



2023 C R

**Aabha Suchak DPM**  
Assistant Professor,  
Podiatry

# WELCOME NEW FACULTY



**David Tager MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Pediatrics



**John S. Taras MD**  
Professor, Hand &  
Upper Extremity



2024



**James Moeller MD**  
Professor, Sports Medicine



**Colleen M. Watkins MD**  
Associate Professor,  
Metabolic Bone Disease



**Drew Wroblewski MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Hand & Upper Extremity



2024



**Madison Lapp MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Sports Medicine



2024



**Joanna Horstmann MD**  
Assistant Professor,  
Pediatrics

## WVU MEDICINE – 2023 BRAVO! AWARDS

Performance Improvement  
Team Award – Perioperative  
Anticoagulation Mgmt. Team:

- » **David Hubbard, MD**
- » **Kathryn Kasicky, MD**
- » **Jami Pincavitch, MD**

Press Ganey – Top Providers:

- » **G. Kelly Bal, MD**
- » **Benjamin Frye, MD**
- » **Adam Klein, MD**
- » **Colleen Watkins, MD**

## FACULTY PROMOTIONS

On July 1, 2022, the  
following faculty members  
earned promotions:

### Promoted to Associate Professor:

- » Dr. Daniel Grant
- » Dr. Adam Klein

# FACULTY & STAFF

## Grand Celebration of an Outstanding Career

After nearly 20 years serving West Virginia University, **Sanford E. Emery, MD, MBA**, professor and chair of the Department of Orthopaedics and director of Surgical Services, retired effective June 30, 2023.

For the past 34 years, Dr. Emery has been in the active practice of orthopaedic surgery and has built a nationally renowned orthopaedics training program since taking on the role of department chair in 2003.

After completing his undergraduate studies at Dartmouth College and medical school at Duke University School of Medicine, Emery completed his orthopaedic surgical residency at the University of Rochester/Strong Memorial Hospital, in Rochester, New York.

He received his fellowship training at Case Western Reserve University Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio, and remained on faculty there until joining WVU as the department chair. In addition to his medical degree, he earned an MBA at Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University.

During this time, Emery grew the department from five to 38 full-time faculty, established a resident research program, and fostered a significant increase in the funding and productivity of basic and clinical research in the field.

“It has definitely been a long-distance run, but I think we have had a real impact on the institution, state, and region,” he said. “From early on, the department internalized our goals of excellence, customer service, and productivity.”

Emery said the most important factor in sustained excellence is recruiting and hiring the right people, including faculty, fellows, residents, APPs, and staff.

“I am very proud of the people I get to work with every day who are committed to taking good care of people and doing the right thing; I have relied on them more than you could imagine. I am also especially proud of our research, medical optimization, and bone health programs. In addition to our clinical expertise, these areas keep us competitive on a national scale,” he said.

“The true impact Dr. Emery has made on the School of Medicine can’t be seen in the numbers, impressive as they are, they can be felt by the trainee and patient experiences we are able to provide, in part, because of the legacy and reputation he’s built in his specialty,” Clay



Dr. Emery with current and former orthopaedic faculty, residents, and fellows.

**“The true impact Dr. Emery has made on the School of Medicine can’t be seen in the numbers, impressive as they are, they can be felt by the trainee and patient experiences we are able to provide, in part, because of the legacy and reputation he’s built in his specialty.”**

**Clay Marsh, MD, Chancellor and Executive Dean, WVU Health Sciences**



Drs. Sanford and Gwen Emery with our WVU Mountaineer mascot.

Marsh, MD, Chancellor and Executive Dean, WVU Health Sciences, said.

In addition to his work as department chair, he served on several leadership committees, including the University Health Associates Board of Directors. He has authored over 75 publications, 35 book chapters, and a textbook.

He is a past president of the American Orthopaedic Association. He served on the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery, where he was president from 2014 to 2015. He is also a past president of the Cervical Spine Research Society and a member of several professional medical societies, including the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, North American Spine Society, Scoliosis Research Society, Orthopaedic Research Society, and West Virginia Orthopaedic Society.

“I am truly thankful to have worked here with people committed to WVU and the values of the medical profession,” Emery said. “We can always be better, and I am confident that Dr. Dietz will take our department to higher levels in clinical service, research, and education.”

On May 20, 2023, the Department of Orthopaedics hosted a Grand Celebration of Dr. Emery’s career. Over 200 guests attended the event at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Morgantown. Dr. Emery was

greeted by colleagues, past residents, former fellows, and administrators such as Albert Wright, President and CEO of the WVU Health System and WVU Medicine, Mike Grace, President and CAO of J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital and the WVU Health System, and Dr. Clay Marsh, Chancellor and Executive Dean for Health Sciences. Even the WVU Mountaineer Mascot made an appearance.

“Throughout the evening, you heard time and again the impact Dr. Emery has had not just on his patients’ lives but on those he’s trained, mentored, and worked with over the years,” said Dr. Matthew Dietz, the new chair for the Department of Orthopaedics. Dietz continued, “Dr. Emery has left some big shoes to fill but has positioned this great department in such a way that I am extremely excited for what’s to come over the next several years as we continue to grow and increase our national influence in orthopaedics through training great residents, conducting cutting-edge research and providing world-class care in West Virginia.”

Dr. Emery plans to enjoy his retirement with his wife, Dr. Gwen Emery, to whom the department also owes a debt of gratitude for her years of service to not only our department but also the health system.

Dr. Emery will assume the role of professor emeritus, and while he won’t be active clinically, he hopes to stay engaged with the department.

# FACULTY & STAFF

## Department of Orthopaedics Names Dietz Chair



After a competitive national search, The West Virginia University School of Medicine Department of Orthopaedics named **Matthew Dietz, MD** as the new chair, effective July 1, 2023.

Dr. Dietz is a longtime clinician-scientist and orthopaedic surgeon who specializes in hip and knee replacements. He has a research program centered

around implant-associated infections and has a joint faculty appointment with the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Cell Biology.

“It is an honor to have been named the chair of a department with so many talented individuals. The department’s culture is a blue-collar mentality that parallels that of the people of West Virginia we serve each day,” Dietz said. “Our goal is to keep West Virginia moving. In addition to educating and training the next generation of orthopaedic surgeons, our world-renowned faculty continue to explore exciting and innovative developments to advance orthopaedic care. We strive to improve daily so that WVU is synonymous with orthopaedic excellence.”

In addition to being a tenured faculty member, Dietz serves as a co-director of the West Virginia Clinical and Translational Science Institute’s Pilot Core. The group supports the growth of established and early-stage investigators and promotes high-quality research by providing funding through several established and innovative programs.

“Dr. Dietz is an immensely talented faculty member who places an emphasis on solving real world problems and offering solutions for patients with orthopaedic issues, as well as being a great clinician and educator,” Clay Marsh, MD, Chancellor and Executive Dean for Health Sciences, said. “His leadership will position the department to grow in excellence and service to the state of West Virginia and beyond.”

**“It is an honor to have been named the chair of a department with so many talented individuals. We strive to improve daily so that WVU is synonymous with orthopaedic excellence.”**

**Matthew Dietz, MD**

Originally from South Park, Pennsylvania, Dietz holds a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Washington and Jefferson College. He received his medical degree from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University and completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at WVU, which included a research fellowship. He completed his adult reconstruction fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, where he served as an Instructor of Medicine.

Dr. Dietz’s research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, which has led him to bring first-in-human clinical trials to West Virginia. In addition to his research, he is a member of various professional organizations, including serving as a fellow of the American Orthopaedic Association, member of the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons, and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Dietz has authored over 150 manuscripts, books, chapters, and abstracts. He frequently presents nationally and internationally on best clinical practice in orthopaedics as well as presenting his research on the prevention and treatment of prosthetic joint infection.

“The Department of Orthopaedics has grown so much over the years. We provide excellent surgical orthopaedic care and have expanded our influence to include patient optimization, and metabolic bone health; we have partnered with our infectious disease colleagues to address orthopaedic-related infections. The impact we have as a department expands beyond our back door. This influence is evident by the residents who are out in practice doing great things, the research we are producing that is influencing the care we provide, and it is all made possible by the people here at WVU Orthopaedics.”

# FACULTY & STAFF

## Awards & Honors



### WVU MEDICINE – JON MICHAEL MOORE TRAUMA CENTER: 12TH ANNUAL NIGHT OF RECOGNITION

**2023 Soul of a Surgeon Award – John Lubicky, MD, FAAOS, FAAP, FAOA**  
An honor award that is a celebration of life-long commitment and service.

Dr. Lubicky receives his “Heart of a Surgeon” Lifetime Achievement Award from Dr. Alison Wilson, Professor and Chief of the Division of Trauma, Acute Care Surgery, & Surgical Critical Care. He is pictured with his wife, Vicki, son, Jay, and our Chair, Dr. Matthew Dietz. **(inset)** Dr. Lubicky with his surgical scheduler and assistant, Melinda Quarrick.



### WVU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE – DAVID Z. MORGAN MENTOR AWARD 2023 - Benjamin Frye, MD

This award was established in honor of graduate and former Associate Dean for Student and Curricular Affairs, David Z. Morgan, MD, class of 1950. It was established in 1986 by the Alumni Association Executive Council with the selection made by a committee of WVU graduates who are currently completing their residency programs at West Virginia University Hospitals and Charleston Area Medical Center.

The recipient should be “a teacher with the ability to understand, inspire and develop in students the qualities needed to be competent and compassionate physicians.”



### AO NORTH AMERICA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS AO Spine North America – 2023 John France Educator of the Year Award: John France, MD

These named educator awards were created by each AO North America clinical division’s education committee and the One AO/LearnX 2023 Program Committee to exemplify individuals’ contributions to teaching, mentoring, and support. The chosen individual must have also contributed to the overall advancement of their clinical division and the AO North America education mission. The legacy award winner for AO Spine North America and whom the award is named after is Dr. John France.



### UNIVERSITY HEALTH ASSOCIATES: 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION Elected to a Two-Year Term (July 2023 – June 2025): Matthew Dietz, MD

UHA is the business name for the WVU Medical Corporation, a private, not-for-profit corporation composed of faculty members of the WVU School of Medicine. The WVU Medical Corporation is West Virginia’s largest multispecialty physician practice.

UHA also operates faculty clinics around the state and region, and provides support to faculty members who practice at a number of West Virginia hospitals.

# FACULTY & STAFF

## Community Service



Perry Initiative Volunteers: (From Left to Right: Dr. Michelle Bramer, Ashley Schoenian (OR Circulating Nurse), Holly Alleman (OR Scrub Tech), Leigh Vargo (CRNA), Julie Mitchell (OR Scrub Tech), Addie Armstrong (OR Scrub Tech), Dr. Felicity Fisk, Ashlee Martin (OR Scrub Tech), Dr. Julie Glener, Dr. Caitlyn Patton. Not pictured: Dr. Jennafir Ernst, Dr. Emilie Kramer).



Dr. Michelle Bramer demonstrates how to place an intramedullary nail into a saw bones femur.

### High school females get hands-on orthopaedics experience at WVU's Perry Initiative event

More than 30 female high school students were able to work alongside West Virginia University orthopaedic clinicians and educators to participate in a transformative experience at the School of Medicine through The Perry Initiative.

Michelle Bramer, MD, associate professor of orthopaedic trauma surgery, led the team of volunteers (see full list at the end of the article) to orchestrate a one day career exploration event on Saturday, December 9, 2023, at the WVU Health Sciences Center as part of the Perry Outreach Program.

The Perry Initiative collaborates with medical centers, universities, and high schools to organize Perry Outreach Programs for high school girls. These day-long events, conducted at over 45 locations nationwide, involve participants in simulated orthopaedic surgeries, biomechanical engineering experiments, and insightful sessions with accomplished women engineers and surgeons.

Students who gender-identify as women or nonbinary in grades 10 and up were encouraged to apply to the program.

“Students are provided with hands-on experiences to explore the worlds of orthopaedic surgery and engineering. More importantly, they have the opportunity to learn from and network with female orthopaedic surgeons

and other healthcare professionals who provide care to their communities and the people of West Virginia. In dedicating our time, expertise, and passion to this initiative, my team and I firmly believe that the benefits extend beyond the students, positively impacting the faculty as well,” said Bramer.

During the event, faculty, fellows, and residents from the WVU Department of Orthopaedics and WVU Department of Surgery guided students in simulated suturing, casting, placing plates and screws, spine surgery, and repairing knee ligaments.

Organizers say that the volunteers become mentors and role models, guiding attendees through the intricacies of suturing, casting, surgery and more, fostering confidence and opening doors to STEM-related careers for young women.

#### List of volunteers:

- » Felicity Fisk, MD
- » Emilie Kramer, MD
- » Julie Glener, MD
- » Jennafir Ernst, MD
- » Caitlyn Patton, MD
- » Ashley Schoenian, OR nurse
- » Leigh Vargo, nurse anesthetist
- » Holly Alleman, OR scrub tech
- » Julie Mitchell, OR scrub tech
- » Addie Armstrong, OR scrub tech
- » Ashlee Martinek, OR scrub tech
- » Dominic Lombardo, medical student
- » Ryan Blake, medical student

# FACULTY & STAFF

## Advanced Practice Providers

In addition to our many faculty and residents, the WVU Department of Orthopaedics employed the services of 22 Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) in 2024.

Our APPs included 16 Physician Assistants and five Nurse Practitioners. We also have an additional two Physician Assistants and three Nurse Practitioners who are expected to start throughout the spring and summer in 2024.

As our department continues to expand, the role of our APPs has continued to evolve to help meet the changing needs of orthopaedic patient care. These APPs also play a vital role in our clinic and operating room efficiencies. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to, evaluating and treating patients in clinic, assisting with surgeries and clinical procedures, pre-

operative examinations, patient communication, triage, follow-up, and data collection for ongoing research projects. Our APPs are involved in every subspecialty in our department as well as our Orthopaedic Medical Optimization Program (OMOP) and our inpatient service. In addition, several of our APPs participate in our satellite and outreach clinics across West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania. These providers travel with faculty to clinic locations in Fairmont, Parkersburg, Martinsburg, Wheeling, Summersville, and Uniontown, PA. In collaboration with our faculty providers, our APPs continue to work diligently to provide high quality orthopaedic care to all of our patients at WVU Medicine.

### ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS BY SPECIALTY

#### ADULT RECONSTRUCTION

Nathan Guerriere, PA-C  
Kelsey Laughery, PA-C  
Katie Seifried, PA-C  
Stacy Skidmore, PA-C

#### FOOT & ANKLE

Hannah Williams, PA-C

#### HAND & UPPER EXTREMITY

Colleen Allison, APRN  
Rachel Dearth, PA-C  
Kelsie Lusk, PA-C  
Jon Kline, PA-C

#### INPATIENT

Brooke Sargent, APRN  
Lauren Statler, APRN\*

#### METABOLIC BONE DISEASE

Jodi Miller, APRN  
Ashley Wilson, APRN

#### MUSCULOSKELETAL ONCOLOGY

Stacy Skidmore, PA-C

#### ORTHO MEDICAL OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM

Valerie Matyus, APRN

#### PEDIATRIC ORTHOPAEDICS

Holly Bonnell, PA-C  
Brittney Dzugan, PA-C

#### SPINE

Kiesha Bullough, PA-C  
Randi Davis, APRN\*  
Josh Long, APRN  
Emily Vighianco, PA-C

#### SPORTS MEDICINE

Deidra DeMoss, PA-C\*  
Travis Randolph, PA-C  
Brett Sigley, PA-C\*  
Amy Stubblefield, PA-C

#### TRAUMA

Blake Beneke, APRN\*  
Laura Stavrakis, PA-C

*\*Incoming 2024*

## ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS

(top right)  
**POC APPs –**

Left to Right: Holly Bonnell, PA-C, Brittany Dzugan, PA-C, Jodi Miller, APRN, Laura Stavrakis, PA-C, Ashley Barber, APRN

(right)

**SPINE APPs** - Left to Right: Josh Long, APRN, Randi Davis, APRN, Kiesha Bullough, PA-C, Emily Viglianco, PA-C

(bottom)

**UTC APPs** – Left to Right: (FRONT ROW) Katie Seifried, PA-C, Colleen Allison, APRN, Jon Kline, PA-C, (BACK ROW) Kelsey Laughery, PA-C, Rachel Dearth, PA-C, Travis Randolph, PA-C, Deidra DeMoss, PA-C, Kelsie Lusk, PA-C

(inset)

**POC APP** - Stacy Skidmore, PA-C



# FACULTY & STAFF

## Staff Awards & Spotlight

### Thompson receives American Orthopaedic Association 2023 Coordinator of the Year Award

**Cynthia “Cindy” Thompson, C-TAGME**, senior residency program administrator for the Department of Orthopaedics, recently received the American Orthopaedic Association Council of Orthopaedic Residency Directors 2023 Coordinator of the Year Award.

The award is presented to two residency coordinators who go above and beyond to better the program for residents and support resident wellness and endeavors in extracurricular activities such as teaching, community service, and research.

Thompson believes all those in the orthopaedic community have contributed to her success as a resident administrator.

“I have been fortunate to work with some amazing people, my program director, chairman, faculty, and residents have helped shaped me into the program administrator I am today,” said Thompson. “Being part of CORD and ARCOS has afforded me networking opportunities that have been invaluable to my growth and for that I am eternally grateful. It is truly an honor to be selected.”

Associate Dean and Designated Institutional

**“She truly cares about the residents, and it shows in everything she does. Being a program coordinator isn’t just a job for Cindy, it is a calling.”**

**Barry McDonough**, MD, *professor and director of the Orthopaedics Residency Program*

Official for Graduate Medical Education, Manuel Vallejo, MD, DMD, credits Thompson’s dedication to Graduate Medical Education.

“We are so proud of Cindy’s accomplishment,” said Dr. Vallejo. “She is a role model and mentor to our junior program administrators. This award shows the value she brings to our Graduate Medical Education programs.”

Thompson was nominated by Barry McDonough, MD, professor and director of the Orthopaedics Residency Program.

“Cindy has gone above and beyond to provide for our residents,” said Dr. McDonough. “She truly cares about the residents, and it shows in everything she does. Being a program coordinator isn’t just a job for Cindy, it is a calling.”

Thompson was recognized on March 10 at the 2023 Spring CORD Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.



### WVU MEDICINE – 2023 EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION PICNIC

The WVU Department of Orthopaedics participated in the 2023 event which had a pirate theme. Administrative staff members Kerry Fluharty, Heather Hudson, Dominique Friend, Jennifer Forquer, Stacey Sensabaugh, and Renae Di Lorenzo organized our department’s setup and provided coverage for our event tent which featured a ring toss game – complete with saw bones!

Dominique Friend (Left) and Heather Hudson (Right) waiting for game contestants. (inset) A WVU Medicine employee tries our bone ring toss game.



# FACULTY & STAFF

## Staff Awards & Spotlight



### WVU MEDICINE – 2023 BRAVO! AWARDS

Highest Performing Unit  
(Inpatient):

» **7 Northeast  
(Orthopaedics)**

### Ruby's 7 Northeast Team Shares Innovative Project at National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses (NAON) Conference

The team on 7 Northeast at WVU Medicine J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital has an innovative approach to patient care.

7 Northeast is an orthopaedics floor that specializes in joint replacement surgery and has an Advanced Certification for Hip and Knee Arthroplasty from The Joint Commission. It offers a “fast-track” surgical option to qualified patients.

With the previous approach, the unit’s Orthopaedic Medical Optimization Program (OMOP) team prepared patients for the best outcomes after surgery using strict “inclusion” criteria. Patients were cared for by charge nurses and housed in an area of the physical therapy/ occupational therapy gym. It was an approach that worked seamlessly – patients received their surgery, went to 7 Northeast to meet specific goals, and were discharged on the same day.

But, like so many things in the healthcare industry, the COVID-19 pandemic changed that. As a post-surgical unit, 7 Northeast was experiencing a decrease in cases because of limitations with admissions. So although their caseload grew, they were falling behind in their ability to get patients in for much-needed, yet elective, surgeries.

That’s when the OMOP team and their orthopaedic joint surgeons, along with Tiffany Kayla, BSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC, manager of 7 Northeast, devised a plan.

The physicians started using “exclusion” criteria, expanding their once rigid standards to include patients who fit within the newly designed plan using new criteria. Tiffany worked with charge nurses and floor nurses to expand the ability to care for these patients to the entire team. They created checklists, dotphrases, and discharge bags, and put each nurse through a brief orientation of these fast-track patients, including what they should expect, what goals were required, and the discharge process.

The results have been outstanding – the team has gone from three fast-track patients a week to upward of six each day! And they’ve maintained their previous outcomes throughout the process.

“Our physicians were happy to perform surgeries, our patients were happy to receive surgery, my nurses were happy to be a part of something new and challenging, and I was happy that everyone was happy!” Tiffany said.

Tiffany also recently had the chance to take the information to the national stage.

With the help of Jami Pincavitch, MD, the lead OMOP team provider, Tiffany and her night shift supervisor, Nicole Spinnenweber, BSN, RN, incorporated the collected data into an abstract for their first National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses (NAON) Conference.

Tiffany commended the beautiful poster Nicole created and said they were proud to represent the Orthopaedics Department and WVU Medicine at the 2023 NAON Conference, which took place in Pittsburgh in May.

“Nicole and I had a great time attending presentations and learning about what other Total Joint Arthroplasty programs are doing across the country,” Tiffany said. “We networked with a plethora of orthopaedic professionals and are already planning our poster project for next year.”



Pictured above, left to right, are Nicole Spinnenweber and Tiffany Kayla with their poster at the 2023 National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses Conference.



**HSC Staff** – Left to Right: (FRONT ROW) Kerry Fluharty (Executive Assistant), Chelsea Haas (Surgical Scheduler / Admin Assistant), Jennifer Forquer (Surgical Scheduler / Admin Assistant), Renae Di Lorenzo (Surgical Scheduler / Admin Assistant), Elaine Cumberledge (Lead Surgical Scheduler / Admin Assistant), (SECOND ROW): Kim Groves (Financial Analyst), Jackie Horton (Surgical Scheduler / Admin Assistant), Antoinette Summers (Administrator), Melinda Quarrick (Surgical Scheduler / Admin Assistant), Hannah Sparks (Surgical Scheduler / Admin Assistant), (THIRD ROW): Nancy McGalla (Surgical Scheduler / Admin Assistant), Hawa Hamidi (Surgical Scheduler / Admin Assistant), Jonathan Lewis (Administrator), Stacey Sensabaugh (Surgical Scheduler / Admin Assistant), Dominique Friend (Registration Specialist), Lisa Myles (Surgical Scheduler / Admin Assistant)

**UTC Staff** – Left to Right: Keisha Gaston (ACA), Leanna Weidman (ACA), Samantha Uphold (ACA), Tiffany Whittaker (ACA), Angie Lamp (ACA), Amber Mefford (ACA)



**UTC Staff** – Left to Right: Rodney Murray (ACA), Paula Salamone (Ortho Tech), Betsy Byrd (ACA), Jamie Koval (Ortho Tech)

**SPINE Staff** – Left to Right: Christina Lattanzo (Lead Ortho Tech), Jennifer Burns (RN)



**POC Staff** – Left to Right: Valerie Quertinmont (RN), Joshua Glover (RN), Donna Mars (Manager, Ambulatory Services)



**UTC Staff** – Left to Right: Kristen Whitehair (RN, Infectious Disease), Natalie Gilbert (RN), Cynthia Drummond (RN, Nurse Clinician), Kerry Howard (ADN, Ambulatory Coordinator), Felix Daniher (RN, Care Management), Ashlyn Baker (RN)



**POC Staff** – Left to Right: (FRONT ROW) Kailey Myers (Ortho Tech), Victoria Gifford (Ortho Tech), Renee Dillow (Lead Ortho Tech), Jennifer Malone (Ortho Tech), (BACK ROW): Todd Kinsley (Ortho Tech), Amanda Davis (Ortho Tech), Maria Powers (Ortho Tech), Heather Dawson (ACA)



# PATIENT CARE



### ORTHOPAEDIC CLINICS

We have three conveniently located clinics in Morgantown, Fairmont, and Waynesburg, PA. The Morgantown location is in the Physician Office Center, attached to J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital. The Fairmont location is housed in our WVU Medicine Outpatient Center, directly across from the I-79 Downtown Fairmont exit. The Waynesburg clinic features multiple specialties and is located off the I-79 Waynesburg exit.

### UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTRE

University Town Centre is the home for several of our Orthopaedic centers, including the Center for Joint Replacement, the WVU Sports Medicine Center, and the Orthopaedic Hand Clinic. WVU Medicine University Town Centre is conveniently located in the University Town Centre development just off I-79 in Granville. This spacious center offers patients access to their favorite primary care providers.

### CENTER FOR JOINT REPLACEMENT AT WVU MEDICINE

The Center for Joint Replacement at WVU Medicine offers patients a comprehensive planned course of treatment. We believe our patients play a key role in ensuring a successful recovery. Our goal is to involve our patients in their treatment through each step of the program.

### WVU MEDICINE SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER

WVU's Sports Medicine Center cares for athletes of all levels. We work to get all patients back to their highest level of activity possible. Our physicians manage sports-related injuries and medical conditions that include muscle and joint pain, sprains, and concussions. The WVU Sports Medicine Center has access to specialists from multiple disciplines, including Orthopaedics and experts from the WVU Spine Center. Individuals with sports injuries have same-day access to our services, which are available around the clock, seven days a week.

### WVU SPINE CENTER

The WVU Spine Center brings specialists together with a multidisciplinary team approach to provide our patients with comprehensive spinal care. We use a full range of treatment options to ensure that patients with spine problems get the treatment they need quickly, efficiently, and easily. The Spine Center combines the expertise of WVU neurologists, orthopaedic specialists, neurosurgeons, pain management physicians, and rehabilitation services to target every patient's particular problem and provide optimal treatment.

# PATIENT CARE

## WALANT Patients

WVU Medicine Orthopaedics saw a record-setting 600-plus patients in 2023 for its office-based, wide-awake hand and upper extremity surgery program, which is also celebrating its fifth anniversary.

“Patients now come to us specifically to have their surgery completed in the office,” Shafic Sraj, MD, WVU Medicine hand, elbow, and shoulder surgeon, said. “They know that they do not have to go to the hospital for their hand surgeries anymore, and they do not want to unless it is absolutely necessary.”

At the start of the program, “surgeons had to explain its benefits, including ease of scheduling, elimination of most preoperative steps associated with general anesthesia, and decreased pre- and post-op time,” Joe Prud’homme, MD, chief of hand and upper extremity surgery at WVU Medicine Orthopaedics, said.

“Over the years, awake surgery in the office has become mainstream. People talk, and we do not have to explain it as much anymore.”

The program has evolved over the years from initially offering a few simple surgeries, such as nerve and trigger releases, to more complex procedures, including

fracture, tendon, and even arthritis surgeries. Some surgeons have also adopted app-based follow-up appointments for qualifying cases, eliminating the need for a return visit to the office for a wound check.

“Patients rave about the experience,” Matthew Dietz, MD, chair of WVU Medicine Orthopaedics, said. “Drs. Prud’homme and Sraj have done a great job of sharing this work and their expertise regarding establishing this program not only regionally but also at the national level as well.”

As for the future of the program, expansion is in the near future, as in-office arthroscopy, a minimally invasive procedure used to diagnose and treat a range of joint problems, will begin later this year.

“No one likes to go to the operating room if there is a simpler, less burdensome way, especially if what is found would not require going to the hospital for treatment,” Sraj said.

The WVU Medicine Orthopaedics office-based, wide-awake hand and upper extremity surgery team.



# Hip Preservation

WVU Medicine Children's Orthopaedics is now offering periacetabular osteotomy (PAO), a surgical procedure that can help patients with developmental hip dysplasia avoid the need for a total hip replacement.

Hip dysplasia is a condition in which the hip joint does not fit snugly into the socket and can be prone to subluxation, slipping out of place. Left untreated, hip dysplasia can lead to arthritis, potentially causing pain, stiffness, and decreased range of motion. This condition is most common in females, babies born in a breach position, and those with a family history of the condition.

“The development of pain with hip dysplasia can take decades,” Andrew Parsons, MD, pediatric orthopaedic surgeon, said. “Sometimes patients will have undiagnosed hip dysplasia their entire life and not require treatment. For other patients, the hip joint will develop arthritis when the patient is in their 30s and 40s and may necessitate a hip replacement.”

When discovered in newborns, hip dysplasia can be treated with bracing to properly align the hip joint and encourage proper formation. In adolescent patients who are nearing skeletal maturity, the acetabulum, or socket of the hip joint, must be reoriented to preserve hip function and prevent the development of arthritis.

PAO is a surgical procedure that reshapes the hip socket to improve the fit of the ball-and-socket hip joint. The procedure is performed through a single incision, which minimizes pain and recovery time.

“When we are able to discover and treat this condition while our patients are young,” Dr. Parsons said, “we can help preserve their hip function so they can participate in normal activities during childhood and into their adult lives.”



**“When we are able to discover and treat this condition while our patients are young, we can help preserve their hip function so they can participate in normal activities during childhood and into their adult lives.”**

**Andrew Parsons, MD**  
*pediatric orthopaedic surgeon*

# PATIENT CARE

## Virtual Post-Operative Appointments



WVU Medicine orthopaedic hand, elbow, and shoulder surgeon Shafic Srja, MD, offers patients undergoing office-based surgery the convenience of virtual post-operative care through MyWVUChart, WVU Medicine’s online patient portal.

Dr. Srja saw adopting an app-based follow-up process as the natural progression to the wide-awake local anesthesia no tourniquet (WALANT)

procedures performed in the office setting. Patients who are comfortable using the app are offered the option to utilize its secure messaging feature for their follow-up after routine, low-risk procedures.

“We developed a standard, automated questionnaire with all the information that would be asked in a traditional office visit,” Dr. Srja said. “It allows patients to provide detailed and meaningful responses and photos so that I can assess how they are healing.”

The questionnaire was a collaborative effort between Srja and Lauren Latsnic, coordinator of telemedicine, and allows asynchronous two-way communication.

“We were able to create a tool specifically for his needs,” Latsnic explained.

“Patients do not have to be at the mercy of their connection anymore, which can be unreliable in some areas. Instead of getting a telemedicine appointment and waiting to see me on their device, they just respond to the automated questionnaire, attach a photo of the incision, and send it away,” Dr. Srja explained. “The photos allow me to check if things are progressing normally or if there is anything that needs to be addressed.”

Having a virtual option for post-operative care can be more than a matter of convenience. Srja’s patient Alyssa

Field said knowing she would not need to make additional schedule changes to accommodate post-operative appointments motivated her to finally schedule her surgery.

As an operating room technician at WVU Medicine J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital and matriarch within her family, she did not want schedule changes to negatively impact those around her. However, delaying treatment not only increased her pain but also the severity of injury to her finger.

“I waited until I just couldn’t take the pain anymore,” she said.

Nancy McKinley, MD, an orthopaedic surgeon who had no prior experience with WALANT procedures or virtual post-operative care, cited schedule disruption and caution for this approach to care as cause for delayed treatment.

“I had concerns that things could ‘slip through the cracks’ with the reliance on MyChart for follow-up care,” she said. “In the end, I had absolutely no qualms.”

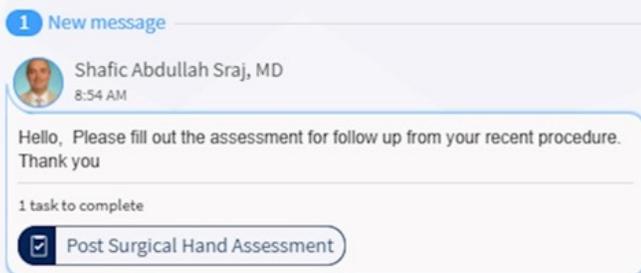
Patients are encouraged and enabled to communicate concerns throughout the entire process; something that Field needed to do when she popped a stitch at the incision site. She was impressed with the speedy response from Srja and his staff.

“They got me in that same day,” she said.

Ultimately, Srja determined that the wound was not compromised, and Field’s recovery continued without further incident.

Field and McKinley both had surgeries to address trigger finger, but follow-up using the MyWVUChart app can be an option for other procedures that are routinely done in the office, including carpal tunnel release, removal of ganglion cysts and other masses, and release of tendinitis. Surgeries that require x-rays, splinting, and therapy during their follow-ups still require in-clinic visits.

“Switching to asynchronous visits has been a huge success and helped many patients avoid the burden or spending hours on the road for simple wound checks,” Srja said.



# PATIENT CARE

## National Recognition



### AMERICAN ORTHOPAEDIC PROGRAM – OWN THE BONE

**2022-2023 Star Performer –  
WVU Medicine –  
Department of Orthopaedics**

**2023-2024 Star Performer –  
WVU Medicine –  
Department of Orthopaedics**

WVU Medicine Orthopaedics has again received the American Orthopaedic Association's Own the Bone Star Performer designation, an achievement reserved only

for institutions that perform the highest level of fragility fracture and bone healthcare.

Although more than 53 million Americans already have osteoporosis or are at high risk due to low bone mass, most will go undiagnosed and untreated. Due to an aging population, the number of Americans with osteoporosis or low bone density is expected to increase significantly.

A broken bone, also known as an osteoporotic or fragility fracture, is a serious complication of osteoporosis and often the first sign that a person has the disease. One in two women and one in four men will break a bone in their lifetime due to osteoporosis. Unfortunately, less than half of the nearly two million individuals who experience fragility fractures each year are tested or treated for osteoporosis.

Those fractures are costly – nearly \$19 billion in related costs every year. By 2025, experts predict those numbers to rise to nearly three million fractures and \$25.3 billion in costs each year.

Failing to prevent future fractures can be deadly; nearly 25 percent of patients who suffer a hip fracture die within a year. The majority who do survive experience a loss of independence and often require long-term nursing home care.

WVU Medicine Orthopaedics has taken steps to ensure its osteoporotic fracture patients receive the treatment and care they deserve through participation in the Own the Bone quality improvement program.

Through the Own the Bone program and its national web-based quality improvement registry, WVU Medicine Orthopaedics has been provided with the tools to establish a fracture liaison service (FLS) and to document, track, and benchmark care of fragility fracture patients. Through an FLS program, a care coordinator, such as a nurse or physician's assistant, ensures that fragility fracture patients are identified, evaluated, and treated.

Own the Bone Star Performers like WVU Medicine Orthopaedics must achieve a 75 percent compliance rate with at least five of the ten Own the Bone prevention measures, including educating patients on the importance of calcium and vitamin D, physical activity, fall prevention, limiting alcohol intake, and smoking cessation; recommending and initiating bone mineral density testing; discussing pharmacotherapy and treatment (when applicable); and providing written communication to the patient and their physician regarding specific risk factors and treatment recommendations.

Through participation in Own the Bone and recognition as an Own the Bone Star Performer, WVU Medicine Orthopaedics has demonstrated a commitment to helping patients understand their risk for future fractures and the steps they can take to prevent them.

“Our team evaluates patients for osteoporosis and provides both lifestyle changes and medical therapies to prevent further bone loss and reduce their chance of bone fractures,” Colleen Watkins, MD, WVU Medicine Orthopaedics Own the Bone physician champion, said. “We are honored to be recognized for our efforts.”



**Colleen M. Watkins MD**

Associate Professor,  
Metabolic Bone Disease

# PATIENT CARE

## National Recognition

**US NEWS & WORLD REPORT 2022-2023 LIST OF 50 BEST ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITALS IN THE US**  
**West Virginia – West Virginia University Hospitals (Morgantown)**



### US NEWS & WORLD REPORT BEST HOSPITAL RANKINGS

**2022-2023 - West Virginia – J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital (Best Hospital in West Virginia)**

WVU Medicine J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital has retained its title of number one hospital in West Virginia, according to the 2022-23 U.S. News & World Report Best Hospital rankings. Nine member and managed WVU Medicine hospitals, including Ruby Memorial Hospital, were recognized as High Performing.



For the 2022-2023 rankings and ratings, U.S. News evaluated more than 4,500 hospitals across 15 specialties and 20 procedures and conditions. In the Specialties category, Ruby Memorial was recognized as High Performing in Cancer; Orthopaedics; Pulmonology and Lung Surgery; and Urology.

**2023-2024 - West Virginia – J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital (Best Hospital in West Virginia)**

WVU Medicine J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital has retained its title of number one hospital in West Virginia according to the 2023-24 U.S. News & World Report Best Hospital rankings. Only 12 percent of evaluated hospitals earned a Best Hospitals ranking. Hospitals awarded a “Best” designation excelled at factors such as clinical outcomes, level of nursing care, and patient experience.

### CENTER FOR JOINT REPLACEMENT RECEIVES RECERTIFICATION FOR ADVANCED PROGRAM BY JOINT COMMISSION

The Center for Joint Replacement at WVU Medicine, led by Dr. Benjamin Frye, was recently recertified in our Advanced Certification for Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement.



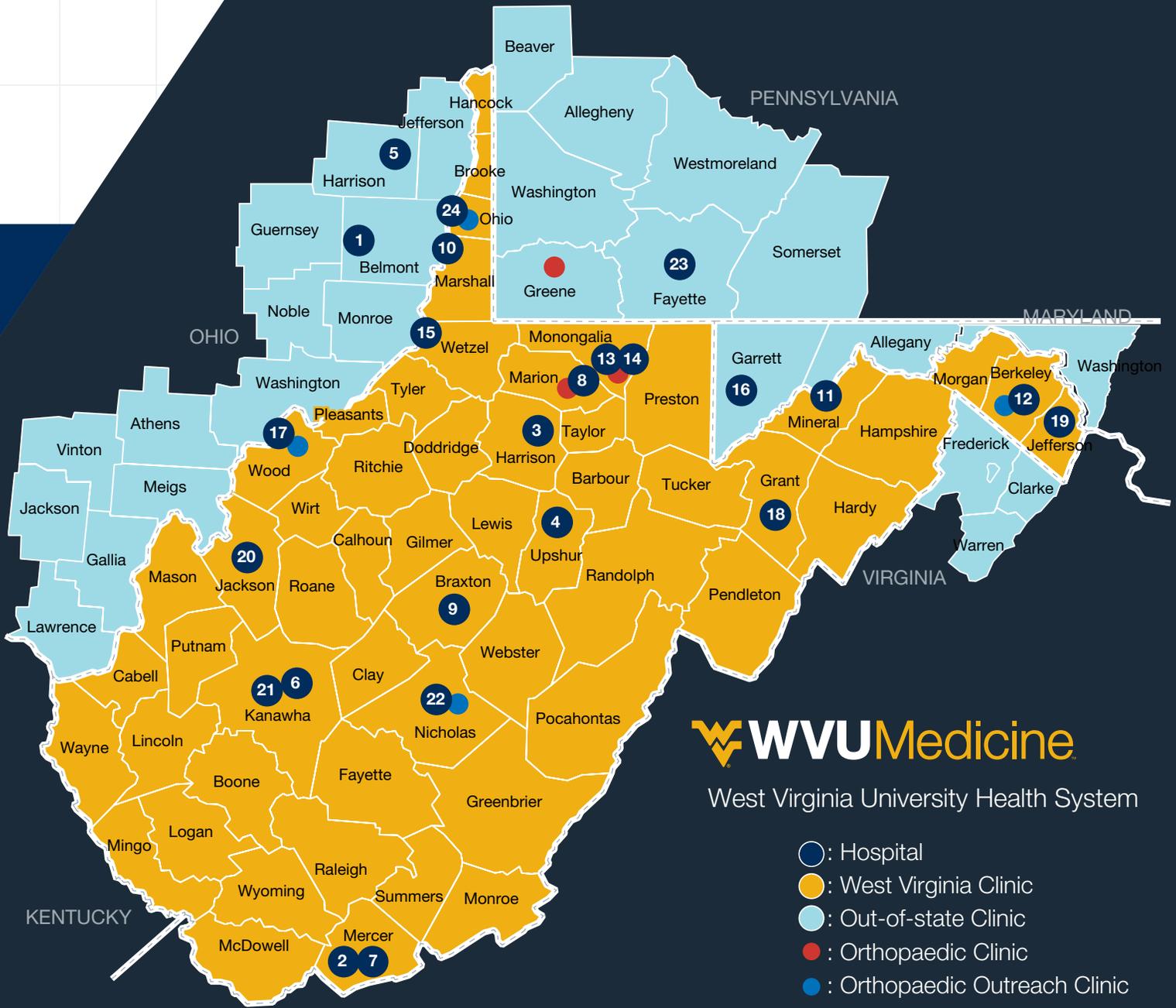
The advanced certification was developed by the Joint Commission and involves a significantly more rigorous and comprehensive review than the standard certification. Current programs are routinely reevaluated on the quality, consistency, and safety of their services and patient care in order to maintain advanced certification. This recertification award demonstrates the continued commitment to provide exceptional orthopaedic care to the people of West Virginia and surrounding areas.

### WVU ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC LOCATIONS

- MORGANTOWN**  
Physician Office Center
- MORGANTOWN**  
WVU Spine Center
- MORGANTOWN**  
WVU Medicine Sports Medicine Center
- MORGANTOWN**  
Center for Joint Replacement at WVU Medicine
- FAIRMONT**  
WVU Medicine Outpatient Center: Fairmont
- WAYNESBURG**  
WVU Medicine Outpatient Center: Waynesburg

### WVU ORTHOPAEDIC OUTREACH CLINIC LOCATIONS

- PARKERSBURG**  
Mid-Ohio Valley Medical Group
- SUMMERSVILLE**  
Summersville Regional Medical Center
- WHEELING**  
Wheeling Hospital
- SPRING MILLS (MARTINSBURG)**  
WVU Medicine Spring Mills



West Virginia University Health System

- : Hospital
- : West Virginia Clinic
- : Out-of-state Clinic
- : Orthopaedic Clinic
- : Orthopaedic Outreach Clinic

## MEMBER SYSTEM HOSPITALS

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>1. BARNESVILLE, OHIO</b><br/>Barnesville Hospital</p> <p><b>2. BLUEFIELD</b><br/>Bluefield Pavilion Campus<br/>A CAMPUS OF PRINCETON<br/>COMMUNITY HOSPITAL</p> <p><b>3. BRIDGEPORT</b><br/>United Hospital Center</p> <p><b>4. BUCKHANNON</b><br/>St. Joseph's Hospital</p> <p><b>5. CADIZ, OHIO</b><br/>Harrison Community Hospital</p> <p><b>6. CHARLESTON</b><br/>Saint Francis Hospital</p> | <p><b>7. PRINCETON</b><br/>Princeton Community Hospital</p> <p><b>8. FAIRMONT</b><br/>Fairmont Medical Center<br/>A CAMPUS OF J.W. RUBY<br/>MEMORIAL HOSPITAL</p> <p><b>9. GASSAWAY</b><br/>Braxton County<br/>Memorial Hospital</p> <p><b>10. GLEN DALE</b><br/>Reynolds Memorial Hospital</p> <p><b>11. KEYSER</b><br/>Potomac Valley Hospital</p> <p><b>12. MARTINSBURG</b><br/>Berkeley Medical Center</p> | <p><b>13. MORGANTOWN</b><br/>J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital</p> <p><b>14. MORGANTOWN</b><br/>Children's Hospital<br/>A CAMPUS OF J.W. RUBY<br/>MEMORIAL HOSPITAL</p> <p><b>15. NEW MARTINSVILLE</b><br/>Wetzel County Hospital</p> <p><b>16. OAKLAND, MARYLAND</b><br/>Garrett Regional Medical Center</p> <p><b>17. PARKERSBURG</b><br/>Camden Clark Medical Center</p> <p><b>18. PETERSBURG</b><br/>Grant Memorial Hospital</p> | <p><b>19. RANSON</b><br/>Jefferson Medical Center</p> <p><b>20. RIPLEY</b><br/>Jackson General Hospital</p> <p><b>21. SOUTH CHARLESTON</b><br/>Thomas Memorial Hospital</p> <p><b>22. SUMMERSVILLE</b><br/>Summersville Regional<br/>Medical Center</p> <p><b>23. UNIONTOWN,<br/>PENNSYLVANIA</b><br/>Uniontown Hospital</p> <p><b>24. WHEELING</b><br/>Wheeling Hospital</p> |
|--|--|--|---|

The WVU Orthopaedic Residency Program had another successful academic year in 2022-2023.

# RESIDENCY PROGRAM

## CONTINUED EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND FACILITIES

Our residents continue to receive top-notch education from our dedicated staff in the major orthopaedic sub-specialties. Through graduated responsibility, our junior residents expand their knowledge and skills with the guidance of both senior residents and faculty. There is an emphasis on clinical excellence and research proficiency. Residents receive robust operative experience and ample opportunities to expand their knowledge of orthopaedics through research projects and presentations at both local and national levels.

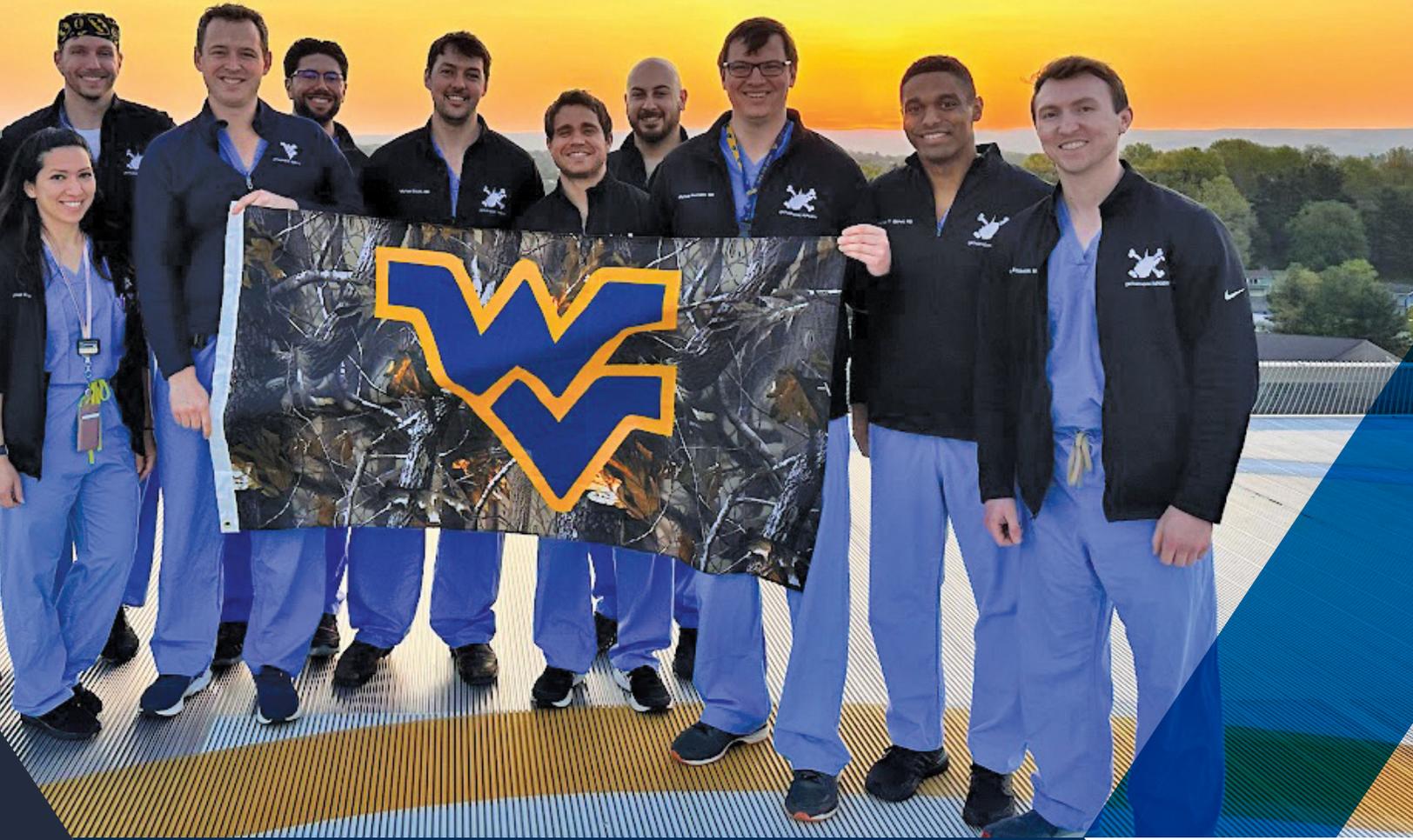
The residents also provide excellent education to others in the healthcare field and community through outreach programs, medical student anatomy labs, splinting and casting workshops, and Special Forces training labs.

The orthopaedic department has expanded their social footprint through use of social media and the popular WVU Orthopaedic Wellness Committee (WOW). The WOW committee has been responsible for various events throughout the year including WVU football tailgates, pumpkin carvings, axe throwing, and starting the resident and employee of the month awards.

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM!



Our residents representing orthopaedics on top of the WVU Children's Hospital helipad. (From Left to Right: Nate Williams, Jennafir Ernst, Grant Slack, Pat Luchini, Brendan Farley, Mike Booth, Kenny Sabacinski, Eddie Chaharbakhshi, Mike Niemann, Tyler Quinet, Brody Fitzpatrick).



## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

As the year ends, there is a departure of the graduating Chief Residents. Each matched into a competitive fellowship:

**Keenan Atwood, MD** – Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Temple Adult Reconstruction Fellowship

**Michael Booth, MD** – Massachusetts General Hospital Adult Reconstruction Surgery Fellowship

**Michael Niemann, MD** – University of Pittsburgh Hand and Upper Extremity Fellowship

**Taylor Shackelford, MD** – University of Cincinnati Mary S. Stern Hand and Microsurgery Fellowship

## ARRIVALS

Each year we welcome four new interns. The class of 2029-2030 includes:

**Tyler Agard, MD** (West Virginia University),  
**William Byrd, MD** (University of Alabama),  
**Kaley Haney, MD** (University of Texas Medical Branch), and  
**Nicholas Hudock, MD** (Penn State).

We look forward to training additional conscientious and competent orthopaedic surgeons and are excited to see what the next year brings.

# RESIDENCY PROGRAM

## Current Residents



**Keenan Atwood MD**

**SOM:** Medical College of Wisconsin

**Fellowship:** Baylor Scott & White Med. Center - Temple Adult Reconstruction Fellowship



**Michael Booth MD**

**SOM:** SUNY Upstate Medical University

**Fellowship:** Mass. General Hospital Adult Reconstruction Surgery Fellowship



**Michael Niemann MD**

**SOM:** West Virginia University

**Fellowship:** University of Pittsburgh Hand and Upper Extremity Fellowship



**Taylor Shackelford MD**

**SOM:** University of Kentucky

**Fellowship:** University of Cincinnati Mary S. Stern Hand and Microsurgery Fellowship



**Benjamin Giertych MD**

**SOM:** University of Wisconsin



**Michael Quinet MD**

**SOM:** Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University



**Kenneth Sabacinski MD**

**SOM:** Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University



**Nathaniel Williams MD**

**SOM:** Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine



**Edwin Chaharbakhshi MD**

**SOM:** Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine



**Brendan Farley MD**

**SOM:** Central Michigan University College of Medicine



**Grant Slack MD**

**SOM:** Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine



**Christopher Wilson MD**

**SOM:** Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine



**Jennafir Ernst MD**

**SOM:** University of Pittsburgh



**Vincent Morrow MD**

**SOM:** West Virginia University



**Caitlyn Patton MD**

**SOM:** West Virginia University



**John Pisquiy MD**

**SOM:** Texas Tech University Health Science Center El Paso - Foster School of Medicine



**William Cameron Beard MD**

**SOM:** University of Texas Medical Branch



**Robert DeBello MD**

**SOM:** The Long School of Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio



**Brody Fitzpatrick MD**

**SOM:** University of Wisconsin



**Emilie Kramer MD**

**SOM:** West Virginia University



**Jakub Ratkowski MD**

**SOM:** University of South Carolina



**Tyler Agard MD**

**SOM:** West Virginia University



**William Byrd MD**

**SOM:** University of Alabama



**Kaley Haney MD**

**SOM:** University of Texas Medical Branch



**Nicholas Hudock MD**

**SOM:** Penn State University

# RESIDENCY PROGRAM

## Resident Research Year

At West Virginia University, the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education offers an accredited orthopaedic surgery research position each year.

This position is a six-year track, compared to the traditional five-year categorical track. The research year is completed between the resident's first and second years.

During this time, the research resident is removed from hospital-based duties and call responsibilities, which provides them with the autonomy to establish and conduct their own research projects. They also have the opportunity to participate in ongoing studies alongside several faculty research members. The research resident is expected to prepare grant submissions, oversee and manage studies, deliver poster and podium presentations, and submit peer-reviewed manuscripts. They are also expected to present their research projects at the annual West Virginia Orthopaedic Society (WVOS) meeting and the annual WVU Department of Orthopaedics Resident Research Symposium in the spring. Matthew Dietz, MD, (Chair, Department of Orthopaedics), is the Director of the WVU Department of Orthopaedics Research Laboratory and advises lab residents during their research year.

He, along with Ming Pei, MD, PhD, and Bingyun Li, PhD, conduct the majority of the department's basic science research with main focuses on:

**NANOTECHNOLOGY**

**IMMUNOTHERAPY**

**TISSUE REGENERATION**

**INFECTION (BIOFILM)**

The department has an active clinical research focus with ongoing projects in every orthopaedic sub-specialty.

The WVU Department of Orthopaedics Research Laboratory is located on the fifth floor of the WVU Health Sciences Center adjacent to the main hospital campus. The 4,000-square-foot lab space contains state-of-the-art amenities capable of conducting basic science research with emphasis on tissue engineering, nanotechnology, and cadaver and pre-clinical model studies.

The research resident participates in daily resident education conferences, performs monthly cadaver dissection for anatomy conference, and provides lectures to students in the School of Medicine.

Numerous additional opportunities are available during the research year including leading anatomy dissections for medical students as well as the external fixator and fasciotomy technique simulations for the Army Special Forces medics. The opportunities and experiences generated from this year are meant to serve as a foundation for a career as a clinician-scientist.

Interested in  
learning more?  
Contact:

**BRODY FITZPATRICK MD**  
brody.fitzpatrick@hsc.wvu.edu  
*Current Research Resident*

# RESIDENCY PROGRAM

## 2022-2023 Presentations and Publications

### PODIUM AND POSTER PRESENTATIONS

**Booth M, Sraj S, Wroblewski A, Sabacinski K.** Establishing an Office-Based Orthopaedic Surgery Service. AAOS Annual Meeting. Las Vegas, NV. Mar 2023.

**Farley BJ, Siler A, Jennings C, Gross R, Cox S, Davis S, Sraj S.** Perioperative Distress in Office-Based Hand Surgery. 27th Annual Resident Research Symposium – WVU Department of Orthopaedics. Morgantown, WV. May 2023.

**Farley BJ, Siler A, Jennings C, Gross R, Cox S, Davis S, Sraj S.** Perioperative Distress in Office-Based Hand Surgery. ASSH Annual Meeting. Toronto (Ontario), Canada. Oct 2023.

**Morrow VR, Giertych BF, Niemann MJ, Sraj S, Lese AB, Taras JS.** Treatment of Scaphoid Nonunion Utilizing Capsular Based Vascularized Bone Graft from Second Dorsal Compartment. WVOS Annual Meeting. Roanoke, WV. Apr 2023.

**Morrow VR, Giertych BF, Niemann MJ, Sraj S, Lese AB, Taras JS.** Treatment of Scaphoid Nonunion Utilizing Capsular Based Vascularized Bone Graft from Second Dorsal Compartment. POS Annual Meeting. Pittsburgh, PA. Sept 2023.

**Niemann M, Lese A, Sraj S, Taras J.** Distal Ulna Fracture Fixation with the Specialized Threaded Pin (T-Pin). POS Annual Meeting. Pittsburgh, PA. Sept 2023.

### PUBLICATIONS

**Booth M, McDonough B, Tager D, Niemann M, Vaida J.** Combined Lateral Plateau and PCL Injury in a Pediatric Patient: A Case Report. J Orthop Case Rep. 2023 Sep;13(9):108-111. doi: 10.13107/jocr.2023.v13.i09.3896. PMID: 37753141. PMCID: PMC10519317.

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Our residents, along with our faculty, fellows, staff, and their families celebrate at our orthopaedics WVU football tailgate.



# RESIDENCY PROGRAM

## 2022-2023 Presentations and Publications (cont.)



Our residents, along with our program director, Dr. Barry McDonough and hand & upper extremity professor, Dr. John Taras enjoy a day whitewater rafting in Ohiopyle, PA.

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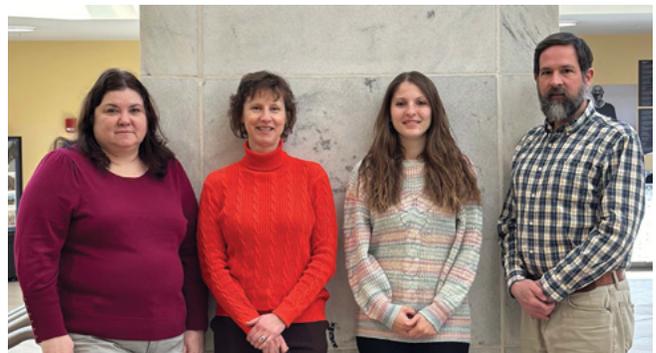
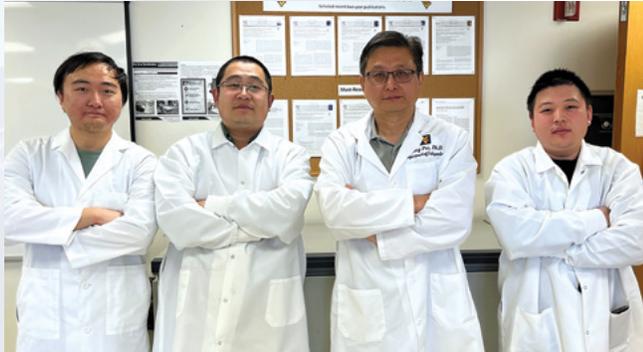
Orthopaedic residents participating in a morning anatomy lab workshop.



# RESEARCH

The West Virginia University Orthopaedic Research Laboratory conducts *in vivo* and *in vitro* research in a modern environment. The laboratory faculty and staff are multidisciplinary and include faculty from Orthopaedics, Microbiology and Immunology, Pathology, and Statistics.

Graduate students from the university's Health Sciences Center collaborate with orthopaedic surgeons and bioengineers on MS and PhD research topics. The lab is situated within the Department of Orthopaedics at WVU and provides support to orthopaedic residents in research projects, both basic science and clinical. The lab is well equipped and encourages multidisciplinary musculoskeletal research between various departments in the Health Sciences Center.



**TOP LEFT:** Dr. Ming Pei's Lab (Left to Right) – Qingqing Yu, Yiming Lu, Dr. Ming Pei, Zhuo Wang. **TOP RIGHT:** Dr. Bingyun Li's Lab (Left to Right) – Alexa Sowers, Kneisha McDonald, Dr. Bingyun Li, Qingyang Li. **BOTTOM LEFT:** UTC Research Staff (Left to Right) – Savannah Connelly (PROMs Assistant), Michelle Rademacher (PROMs Assistant). **BOTTOM RIGHT:** HSC Research Staff (Left to Right) – Jenn Eicher (Manager of Clinical Research and Patient Outcomes), Suzanne Danley (Research & Grants Analyst), Elizabeth Stewart (Research Assistant II), Josh Parenti (Research Assistant III).

# RESEARCH

## First In-Human Clinical Trial Performed at WVU

WVU Medicine physicians were the first to treat a patient with a new antimicrobial medication in the LOGIC-1 clinical trial for the treatment of periprosthetic joint infections (PJI), which is infection after joint replacement surgery. This is the first time the drug, PLG0206, is being tested in patients with PJI.

The trial, sponsored by Peptilogics, a clinical stage biotech company that engineers peptide therapeutic solutions for patients with life-threatening diseases, developed the drug, PLG0206, which is being assessed in the clinical trial for the treatment of PJI occurring after a total knee arthroplasty, or knee replacement surgery.

The drug is designed to directly address bacterial pathogens within the biofilm that have been difficult to treat with the standard care of antibiotics. The drug has been granted Orphan Drug, Fast Track, and Qualified Infectious Disease Designations by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of PJI.

The Center for Joint Replacement within the Department of Orthopaedics was the first to

treat patients. “We are excited to help advance the care of patients who have been diagnosed with prosthetic joint infection. The use of the engineered antimicrobial peptide allows us to hopefully retain knee replacements while effectively treating the patient’s infection. This is a big step in finding a solution that has plagued the orthopaedic community for years.” **Matthew Dietz, MD**, WVU Medicine orthopaedic surgeon and coordinating investigator for the study, said. “These infections have historically been difficult to treat. It is our hope that this new drug will provide a novel treatment modality.”

According to a study published by the National Institutes of Health, each year, close to three million total joint replacements are performed in the U.S., a number that is expected to significantly increase by 2030 due to an

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Matthew Dietz, MD



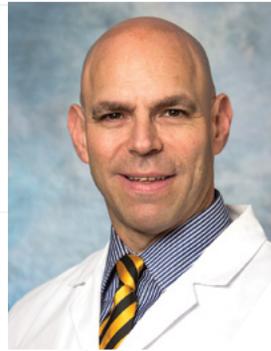
aging and active population. The WVU Department of Orthopaedics has been one of the top recruiting sites in the country with Dr. Dietz and Adam Klein, MD participating in the study.

Following joint replacement, the most devastating complication a patient can face is contracting a PJI, a serious life-threatening condition, which often necessitates continuous antibiotic usage, multiple high-risk surgical procedures, and implant removal with limited ability to resolve the infection.

The current standard of care has up to a 60 percent failure rate at four years and a 25 percent five-year mortality rate. Given the high unmet need, it is the hope



**Matthew Dietz MD**  
Chair, Associate Professor,  
Adult Reconstruction



**Adam Klein MD**  
Associate Professor,  
Adult Reconstruction

that this new treatment will reduce those rates.

“As we continue to reimagine the future of peptide therapeutic discovery, it is incredibly promising to have reached this milestone with our first program,” said Jonathan Steckbeck, PhD, founder and CEO of Peptilogics. “PLG0206 has demonstrated potential best-in-

class, rapidly bactericidal, broad-spectrum activity against a variety of biofilm pathogens in both *in vitro* and non-clinical studies, and safety in a previously completed Phase 1 study in healthy volunteers. Now we have the opportunity to determine its impact on patients with PJI, who have limited and often ineffective treatment options.”

## Faculty Spotlight

Pincavitch research featured in Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery



WVU School of Medicine Department of Orthopaedics Assistant Professor **Jami Pincavitch, MD, MAS**, director of the Orthopaedic Medical Optimization Program, was recently published in the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery for her article on 30-day mortality and complication rates in total joint arthroplasty after a recent COVID-19 diagnosis.

“Unfortunately, as COVID-19 cases increase again, our work provides pertinent knowledge for surgeons

and their patients for shared decision-making,” Dr. Pincavitch said. “Elective total joint replacement is an extremely safe surgery with a mortality rate of 0.1%. For patients with COVID-19 within 30 days prior to surgery, our work demonstrates an increased risk of pneumonia, acute myocardial infarction, readmission, and mortality. For patients with a diagnosis of COVID-19 within 14 days prior to surgery, there is an 11-fold increased odds of 30-day mortality. We believe the odds of these complications should be considered a modifiable risk factor and discussed with your surgeon as part of your perioperative evaluation plan.”

The article was featured in JBJS’s “OrthoBuzz” as the Editor’s Choice.

# RESEARCH

## 2022-2023 Active Grants

### SCOTT D. DAFFNER MD

- [Bioventus LLC](#): Bioventus-OsteoAMP LIF Study
- [Medtronic Inc.](#): Prospective, Randomized, Controlled, Blinded Pivotal Study – Transforaminal Lumbar Interbody Fusion (TLIF) At 1 Or 2 Levels Using Infuse™ Bone Graft and the Capstone™ Spinal System with Posterior Supplemental Fixation for Treatment of Symptomatic Degeneration
- [Spinal Kinetics](#): M6-C™ Artificial Cervical Disc IDE Post-Approval Study

### MATTHEW J. DIETZ MD

- [Adaptive Phage Therapeutics, Inc.](#): An Open-Label Multicenter Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of PhageBank™ Phage Therapy in Conjunction with Debridement, Antibiotics, and Implant Retention (DAIR) for Patients with First Time Culture Proven Chronic Prosthetic Joint Infection
- [American Association of Hip & Knee Surgeons](#): Clinical Relevance of the Minimum Biofilm Eradication Concentration
- [Center for Innovation and Research Organization](#): Electrochemical Test of Leukocyte Esterase as a Marker for Periprosthetic Joint Infection
- [Dartmouth College / Medical University of South Carolina](#): Comparative Effectiveness of Pulmonary Embolism Prevention after Hip and Knee Replacement (PEPPER): Balancing Safety and Effectiveness
- [Heraeus Medical](#): Palacos MV+G
- [Peptilogics, Inc.](#): A Phase 1b Open-Label, Dose-Escalating Study to Evaluate the Safety and Tolerability of PLG0206 In Patients Undergoing Debridement, Antibiotics, and Implant Retention (DAIR) for Treatment of a Periprosthetic Joint Infection Occurring after Total Knee Arthroplasty
- [Stryker](#): A Prospective, Post-Market, Multi-Center Study of Tritanium Acetabular Shell
- [US DHHS-NIH-National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal, & Skin Diseases](#): Relationship of Biomarkers and Fluorescence in Prosthetic Knee Infections
- [US NSF – Biological Sciences](#): Prescrib3d Technologies Active Antibiotic Spacer

### BENJAMIN M. FRYE MD

- [American Association of Hip & Knee Surgeons](#): AAHKS Adult Reconstruction Fellowship Support
- [OMeGA Medical Grants Association](#): Fellowship in Adult Reconstruction
- [Smith & Nephew](#): Adult Reconstruction Fellowship

### DAVID F. HUBBARD MD

- [McMaster University](#): Fixation Using Alternative Implants for the Treatment of Hip Fractures

### ADAM E. KLEIN MD

- [Zimmer, Inc.](#): Multicenter, Prospective Post-Market Clinical Follow-Up Study of the G7® Freedom Constrained Vivacit-E® Liners

### BINGYUN LI PHD

- [US DoE – Department of Energy](#): Unique Nanotechnology Converts Carbon Dioxide to Valuable Products
- [US DoD – Defense Health Agency](#): Innovative Nano-Hybrids with Controlled Drug Release for Bone Regeneration
- [West Virginia University](#): Direct Air Capture by Unique Amino Acid Solvents Integrated with Microwave-Driven Reactive Desorption CO2 Utilization

### E. BARRY MCDONOUGH MD

- [JBJS Resident Education Fund](#): Robert Bucholz Journal Club Grant

### MING PEI MD, PHD

- [US DHHS-NIH-National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases](#): CRISPR-Cas9 Genome Edited MSCs to Target Cartilage Regeneration
- [US DHHS-NIH-National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal & Skin Diseases](#): Decellularized Matrix and Cartilage Regeneration

### B. JOSEPH PRUD'HOMME MD

- [Integra Lifesciences Corp.](#): Post-Market Clinical Follow-Up Registry of Patients Requiring Nerve Gap Repair

### JOHN S. TARAS MD

- [Arthrex](#): A Multi-Center, Prospective Registry to Evaluate the Continued Safety and Effectiveness of Hand and Wrist Products

# RESEARCH

## 2022-2023 Publications

- Nandi S, Schwarzkopf R, Chen A, Seyler T, Wheeler L, Parvizi J; **AAHKS Research Committee**. [Routine Pathologic Examination of Femoral Head Specimens from Total Hip Arthroplasty May Not Be Indicated or Cost-effective: A Systematic Review](#). *Arthroplast Today*. 2022 May 9;15:182-187.e3. doi: 10.1016/j.artd.2022.03.016. PMID: 35774889. PMCID: PMC9237275.
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew J. Dietz". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a dark blue background.

**Matthew J. Dietz** MD, FAOA

Chair and Associate Professor  
Department of Orthopaedics  
West Virginia University

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