Board: AAOS PAC Needs Your Support

A recent story in the AAOS PAC newsletter titled "Orthopaedic Surgery Residents Invest in their Future through the PAC" recognized residency programs for their high levels of support for the Orthopaedic Political Action Committee. In the publication the University of Hawaii was honored with ‘bronze’ status for achieving greater than 50 percent participation in the PAC; the residents have since been awarded "gold" status for 100 percent participation.

We can take pride that our orthopedic residency program here in Hawaii is amongst our nation's leaders where resident participation is concerned.

As the article notes, “The PAC remains committed to its efforts to engage orthopaedic residents in the importance of advocacy and investing in their professional future through involvement in the Orthopaedic PAC. Resident involvement is crucial in strengthening the stature and influence of the AAOS and the Orthopaedic PAC in the nation’s capital.”

On the other hand, the latest report indicates that only 21 percent of Hawaii's AAOS members have contributed to the Orthopaedic PAC thus far in 2014. I believe that we can do better. The lowest-paid orthopedists in Hawaii are providing an example that the rest of us should be following.

Per the AAOS newsletter, “Every orthopaedist has an important role in our advocacy efforts regardless of whether you are at the beginning or end of your career.”

The Orthopaedic PAC supports key members of Congress and candidates who are sensitive to the concerns of our profession. To do so, they need everyone’s help, not simply the 27 percent of orthopaedic surgeons nationwide who have joined the PAC this election cycle. We need each and every current and future member of AAOS to belong to the PAC in order to achieve our advocacy goals.

For the first time in HOA’s history, board participation in the PAC is 100 percent. We do not intend for it to be the last time. We understand that any donation (much less to a political organization) is a deeply personal choice, but consider that, in the advocacy of our profession, we have three options:

1. Advocate for ourselves in person.
2. Donate and let others advocate on our behalf.
3. Do nothing and let others decide our fate.

To those who have already contributed: Thank you. To those who have not, please consider doing so.

Mahalo!

2014-15 HOA Board
Update: Board of Councilors

By Jerry Van Meter, M.D.

As your newly elected Board of Councilors representative, I’d like to thank the membership in advance for their support and input during my term of service. It’s my expectation that you’ll contact me at any time with concerns that you wish me to convey to the AAOS. On your behalf, I’ll attend three annual board of councilors meetings: the Annual Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference, and the Fall Meeting. During these meetings I’ll have an opportunity to advocate on your behalf with both the AAOS leadership and our elected congressional delegation.

Current Update: I began my service term at the Fall Meeting in Nashville, Tenn., 9/18-9/20/14. During this three-day meeting the following symposia were scheduled: Changing Landscape of Payment Strategies, Don’t Get Burned by the Sunshine Act, Update on the Affordable Care Act Implementation, Opioid Abuse and the Practice of Orthopaedic Surgery, Performance Measures: Be at the Table or Be on the Menu, Communication Strategies: Utilizing Social Media and Managing Your Online Reputation. I’ll share a summary with you in the next HOA newsletter.

Web Site Updates: Please look for Board of Councilor updates on the HOA web site in the future. In particular, I receive periodic notifications from the AAOS on impending committee openings to which some of you may have an interest, as well as notifications for input on the AAOS statement of practice guidelines. These notices are often sent to me with very little time for response, usually less than two weeks. I’ll be posting these notices on the website so that all of you may have timely access to apply for committee positions or to express your opinion, should you have the interest and time to do so. I encourage you to express yourself, especially on practice guidelines.

Orthopaedic PAC: This is the only voice advocating for orthopaedic surgeons nationally. While we practice in a small state, the participation rate so far this year totals only 14 surgeons, including all of your current board members. Since your time to advocate on your own behalf is precious little, please consider participation at even $100 so that the PAC may better advocate for you. This year, successful advocacy on your behalf was seen in the continuation of payment for in office ancillaries, which is obviously justified, but is an area which Congress annually looks to terminate.

Thank you again for the opportunity and honor of representing each of you and the HOA. On behalf of our community, I thank you for the orthopaedic care you provide to the patients of Hawaii each day.

Legislative Report

By Linda Rasmussen, M.D.

Elections are around the corner and it's critical to be involved and vote. Make sure you take the time to find out where the candidates stand on health care issues. If you have any questions, I can help. Email me at lindamd1@juno.com.

The affordable care act is still being implemented. It's difficult to say how this will affect us in Hawaii. Having supportive legislators will help to protect the doctor patient relationship is critical. We great great support from HMA lobbyist, Lauren Zirbel. Please contribute to the lobbyist when you renew your membership.

This past session the podiatrists passed a bill that would allow ankle fracture care with a 3-year residency. The podiatrist still has to obtain hospital privileges and show competency to perform ankle fracture repair. Many of you were upset that we didn't fight this more, however, it was initially going to pass with only a 2-year residency. We were at least successful in getting it changed to a 3-year residency, which very few podiatrists in Hawaii have. Forty six of the fifty states allow podiatrists to fix ankle fractures.
As we progress into a fresh academic year, I would like to introduce our two new residents.

Dr. Jae You, a JABSOM graduate, joins our program in the 5-year track. Dr. You has an interest in fragility fractures and atypical femur fractures, and has worked with Dr. Kevin Christensen on the atypical femoral fractures project. Dr. Maria Opanova, in our 6-year research track, is a graduate of St. George's Hospital Medical School in the United Kingdom. She recently published a case report and literature review in the Journal of Hand Surgery (with myself as co-author) on Supracondylar Process Syndrome.

Nick Foeger, M.D., Ph.D., has begun his Research Fellowship and will be working on a number of research projects. He has been provided with work space at the Shriners Hospital. Our chief resident, Dr. Bryan Armitage, is the resident in charge of the Queen’s orthopedic trauma service and the Queen Emma Clinic. He has accepted a spine surgery fellowship (starting in 2015) under Kevin Mullaney at the Twin Cities Spine Center in Minneapolis.

Patient care, teaching, and research are the three missions of all academic programs. At UH, we are working to strengthen the research mission in the Division of Orthopedic Surgery. To that end, Dr. Byron Izuka has agreed to serve as Director of Research for our Division. He will be enlisting faculty and residents to “up their research games.” In addition, Dr. Sue Steinemann, Interim Chair, has hired a Director of Trauma Research, Chad Walton, Ph.D., for the Department of Surgery. Dr. Walton obtained his doctorate at JABSOM in molecular biosciences and bioengineering. We hope to work with Dr. Walton on interdisciplinary and translational projects. Interested faculty are invited to our research “think tank” meetings, so look for e-mail announcements from Dr. Izuka.

The ACGME will be conducting a CLER (Clinical Learning Environment Review) visit at The Queen’s Medical Center this fall. The ACGME will look specifically at patient safety and participation in quality improvement projects, transitions in care (patient handoffs), supervision of residents, duty hours compliance and fatigue management, and resident professionalism issues. Preparation for this visit is being spearheaded by Dr. Naleen Andrade, the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) who has oversight of all JABSOM residency programs and fellowships.

Megan Kuba (PGY-3) was the First Place Poster Award winner at the recent Western Orthopaedic Association Meeting held in Waikoloa. Her poster was titled “Pediatric Access to Care – A Look at Orthopaedic Access in the State of Hawaii.” In addition, Dr. Megan Kuba also won the Lloyd Taylor Award for the podium presentation of her research project: "One Brace, One Visit: Treatment of Distal Radius Buckle Fractures in Children with a Removable Wrist Brace and No Follow-up Visit". Dr. Kuba and her faculty mentor Dr. Byron Izuka are to be commended for this excellent contribution of scholarly activity.

Special thanks to all who have contributed to the Hawaii Orthopedic Research and Education Foundation during the 2014 fundraising effort. HOREF supports resident education and research with funds for travel to meetings (for paper presentations) and for capital expenditures related to resident research.

Congratulations to Dr. Craig Ono for being chosen as the new Chief of Orthopedics at Shriners Hospital.

Finally, I wish to thank all faculty for your continued participation in our residency training program.

Bob Atkinson, M.D

The Shriners Hospitals for Children welcomes Dr. Graham Fedorak as the third member of the pediatric orthopaedic surgery active medical staff. He joined the Shriners-Honolulu team in August.

Dr. Fedorak is board eligible by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and board certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He received his undergraduate degree in English literature from the University of Victoria in Canada and medical degree from Queens University in Canada where he also completed his orthopaedic surgery residency.

He most recently completed his fellowship in pediatric orthopaedic surgery at Shriners Hospitals for Children-Los Angeles. Dr. Fedorak has been involved with medical mission work in Africa. He and his wife, Hilary, have traveled to more than 30 countries and Hawaii is their favorite place. They were married in Kā`anapali, Maui and have two daughters.

In May, I was honored to be named the tenth Chief of Staff in the 90-year history of the Honolulu Shriners Hospital, after having served as acting Chief of Staff since December 2013.

The Shriners Hospitals for Children continues its support for the orthopaedic surgery residency (continued on page 4)
Kuba Sweeps WOA Resident Awards

By Tina Shelton, JABSOM

University of Hawai‘i Orthopaedic Resident Megan H. Murai Kuba, MD swept the resident research competition at the 78th Annual Western Orthopaedic Association (WOA) meeting held in July on the Big Island of Hawai‘i.

She took top honors in the poster competition for her study “Pediatric Access to Care – A Look at Orthopaedic Access in the State of Hawai‘i,” which demonstrated that patients’ access to care is affected (sometimes negatively) by the type of insurance they have.

In the podium presentation competition, Dr. Kuba won the Lloyd Taylor Award for her study “One Brace, One Visit: Treatment of Distal Radius Buckle Fractures in Children with a Removable Wrist Brace and No Follow-up Visit”. This study demonstrated a new treatment approach to common wrist fractures in children that results in improved outcomes with high parent satisfaction while lowering costs and increasing access to care. As a testament to the high quality of Dr. Kuba’s work, she has been asked to present her podium presentation again in March 2015 at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Megan is a graduate of Tufts University School of Medicine and is in her 3rd year of clinical orthopaedic residency training. Dr. Kuba and her faculty mentor, Dr. Byron Izuka, are to be commended for this honor.

Megan is a proud graduate of Moanalua High School. “I thought I needed to explore the cold so I went to Boston for eight frigid years, where I studied athletic training at Boston University and then attended medical school at Tufts University.” She is happily married to a graduate of Mililani High School and said they compete daily on who went to the better “M” high school.

As a busy resident, she doesn’t have any spare time. But if she did, she said she’d enjoy dancing, watching sports (especially the San Francisco 49ers!) and hanging out with loved ones. She said she is extremely grateful to be home again in Hawai‘i completing her orthopaedic residency at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, where she can “thaw out and enjoy the sun through the windows of the Queen’s Medical Center.”

What's Going On...

(continued from page 3)

programs by providing direct support for the University of Hawaii Research Resident, Dr. Nicholas Foeger.

At the time of this writing, Dr. Nicholas Scarcella, PGY-4 UH Resident, is in the Federated States of Micronesia participating in a Shriner's Hospital three-week long outreach clinic. Dr. Kim Driftmier, PGY-5 UH resident, recently published an article on his experience on an outreach clinic to Fiji. Dr. Justin Ernat, Tripler Army Medical Center PGY-4 resident, was awarded a Shriner's Hospitals scholarship for attendance at the International Pediatric Orthopaedic Symposium in Orlando, Florida, in December.

The Shriner's Hospitals for Children in Honolulu fully supports the Hawaii Orthopaedic Association's efforts in developing future orthopaedic surgery leaders.

Craig Ono, M.D

Tripler Army Medical Center

During this past summer Tripler Army Medical Center experienced a number of transitions. LTC Paul Ryan has taken over the residency program director position. CAPT Claude Anderson joined the Tripler Staff as well. Both are Foot and Ankle Specialists.

We currently have two staff members deployed to Afghanistan: MAJ Jeffrey Knox (Spine Surgery) and MAJ Aaron Dykstra (Hand Surgery) and we ask you to keep them and their families in your thoughts.

As with every year, Tripler has been busy interviewing residency applicants. We have conducted more than 20 interviews for our three positions and are looking forward to December when we will find out about the results of our match.

Our residents and staff continue to focus on research and have a number of podium presentations at the upcoming 2015 AAOS meeting and the 2014 Society of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons meeting.

Paul Ryan, M.D