

News for you

American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons

President's Message

Douglas A. Dennis, MD

Our organization proceeds into 2003 with numerous recent accomplishments, yet with many challenges ahead. The recent Annual Meeting was filled to capacity and provided an exciting forum for exchange of scientific information and discussion of relevant socioeconomic issues. Highlights included the Presidential Guest Lecture, presented by the Honorable Newt Gingrich, sharing his ideas on "The Future of Medicare" and "Tort Reform," as well as many fine scientific presentations. Many thanks to Program Chairman **Dr. David Ayers** and members of his Education Committee for all of their tireless work in preparing a fine program. If you missed the Annual Meeting, the Final Program can be viewed at <http://www.aahks.org/FinalProgram4.pdf>

The Membership Committee, under the guidance of **Dr. David Dalury**, has revamped our membership categories. To encourage involvement of young orthopedic surgeons with promising careers in joint replacement, a new "Candidate Member" category has been created which allows early involvement until they meet membership criteria for Active Member status.

Additionally, the Associate Member category has been expanded to allow industry leaders as well as researchers such as engineers and laboratory scientists, with notable contributions to the field of hip and knee arthroplasty, to gain membership. New membership information and downloadable application forms can be found at <http://www.aahks.org/membership.html>

We have recently completed a three-year agreement with the *Journal of Arthroplasty* as the official Journal of the AAHKS. In addition, I am pleased to announce the new addition of an annual supplemental issue containing selected papers presented at the Annual Meeting. **Dr. Mary O'Connor** has agreed to serve as Editor of this JOA supplement that will be initially published in the fall of this year.

Recent economic review of our organization demonstrated excellent "financial health" with some funds available for new projects. I am excited to announce that the Executive Board has approved a formula for transfer of funds from the general fund to the Research Committee budget that will then be available for grant awards for our members who are actively involved in research. Twenty percent of the general fund balance above two times our operating budget expenses will be transferred annually.

Ongoing projects include continued updating of our website <http://www.aahks.org> to increase benefits to our members, and activity to eventually establish an endowment fund for the long-term future of AAHKS. Incoming President **Dr. Clifford Colwell** is spearheading development of a professionally prepared documentary that will emphasize the many benefits of hip and knee arthroplasty. Lastly, Second Vice President **Dr. Joseph McCarthy** continues his efforts as Chairman of the Committee on Committees to review our present committee structure and provide recommendations to improve the progress and efficiency of each committee.

It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve as your President. It is clearly evident that AAHKS is continuing to grow, enhancing its ability to provide the membership with valuable clinical and political information. I look forward to seeing you at the Knee Society/AAHKS Specialty Day Meeting on February 8, 2003 at the Riverside Hilton Hotel in New Orleans.

AAHKS News from the 2002 Fall Meeting in Dallas



AAHKS Presidential Guest Speaker Newt Gingrich (center) met with the Board of Directors, Past Presidents and invited Industry executives during the Fall 2002 Annual Meeting in Dallas.

Pictured here are past and current AAHKS Presidents (left to right): **J. Philip Nelson, MD** (1991); **Chitranjan Ranawat, MD** (1992); **Richard Welch, MD** (2000); **John J. Callaghan, MD** (2001); Guest Speaker Gingrich; **James A. Rand, MD** (1999); **Richard C. Johnston, MD** (1994) and **Douglas Dennis, MD** (2002).

Dr. David Ayers organized an excellent meeting, with nearly 300 attendees. More than 300 abstracts were submitted for consideration, resulting in 44 free papers, 3 major symposia and 20 scientific poster exhibits on hand. Twenty-eight Exhibitors provided additional support to the Annual Meeting offerings, and a Grand Prize consisting of an iPaq PocketPC, loaded with orthopaedic software, was donated by Aristar. The Winner of the Grand Prize drawing was AAHKS member **Munir Ahmed, MD** of Toms River, NJ. Congratulations! The AAHKS meeting was sponsored in part by an unrestricted educational grant from Pharmacia.

The Executive Board continues to encourage a greater participation in the national Orthopaedic PAC, and each member of the Board personally contributed \$1000 for 2002. If you would like to make a contribution, visit the PAC website at <http://63.141.36.80/pac/pac.cfm> (requires AAOS log-in)

An ad hoc Committee on the Fellowship Match was established with **Mary O'Connor, MD** as Chair to assess the issues regarding the Match program. A searchable Fellowship Program database has been added to the AAHKS website at http://www.aahks.org/fellowship_locator.asp

J. Wesley Mesko, MD, Research Committee Chair, announced a new policy for distribution for disbursement of research funds. The policy can be viewed on the AAHKS website. Any member with a research idea will need to apply for AAHKS designated funds through the OREF grant process by August 1, 2003. Grant application forms are available from <http://www.oref.org>.

Jay Mabrey, MD, Communications Chair, reviewed the new website proposal by Pyron Technologies which will soon provide many new capabilities. One feature already available is the online abstract submission for the 2003 Annual Meeting. See details at <http://www.aahks.org/goto-abstract.html>

Newt Gingrich Encourages AAHKS to Seek Third-Party Validation

By James Stiehl, MD - Secretary

Presidential guest speaker Newt Gingrich was the highlight of the 2002 AAHKS Annual Meeting. In terms of public policy, he stated any effort must define success as a goal. This is distinguished from success of an activity. Most revolutions in public policy are long term; the example cited was welfare reform. Mr. Gingrich stated that Ronald Reagan started welfare reform in 1970 while governor of California, but did not reach final success of being signed into law until September, 1996.

He stated that forming public policy requires plenty of time to develop strategy, and then to implement by establishing coalitions and seeking third party validation. The policy must always be defined as the "good". The greatest power comes from how many lives are improved by this "good". An important part of the strategy is third party validation. In the case of total joint replacement, this could be the thousands of citizens who are positively impacted by the benefits of this treatment.

In terms of Washington influence, Mr. Gingrich stated that all influence focuses on the members of Congress, their immediate aides and advisers. When he was Speaker of the House, he said that he worked no less than 100 hours per week, and there was simply no time to actually think about a problem. The typical Congressman will make an appointment with you, spend five to ten minutes allowing you to discuss your issue, give you a smile and a handshake, and then tell you he'll do the best he can for your issue. You feel elated, but the Congressman has twenty more meetings that day, and at the end, he'll probably not remember which one you were. The best approach is to research the issue in advance and provide the leader with an answer that can be stated in under three minutes.

Mr. Gingrich briefly defined the elements of his "21st Century Patient Centric System". He believes that we must foster personal accountability for healthcare. With application of the current technology, people will grow in their knowledge and ability to use information systems for empowerment about health. Choices of health care and costs of care can be made more efficiently resulting in better health and lower costs. We must create an information system that informs the patient and their families about best outcomes, best practices, and strategies for best health. Providers must be informed about new knowledge, practices and medication. Finally, the patient and family must be able to compare outcome records and costs to make truly informed choices.

He believes we must develop a culture of adding value, taking costs out, and building incentives for individuals and institutions to participate. An insurance system must be developed where everyone is covered. The litigation system must be reformed. Finally, a Public Health Service should be created to insure that the right investments are made across the health system and the right procedures are established. Dana Pavey, Mr. Gingrich's administrative adviser, stated that the Gingrich Group and the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research are highly involved in activities with the Bush Administration and there is frequent contact with the White House regarding issues of health care policy and national security.

Future Meetings

Next year's Annual Meeting will be held October 31 – November 2, 2003 at the DFW Hilton Lakes Conference Center in Dallas. In 2004, the Annual Meeting will move a quarter-mile down the road to the brand new Gaylord Opryland Texas Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine, TX. The Meeting dates are November 5 – 7, 2004. The new Resort will provide more space and better facilities to accommodate the ever-growing Annual Meeting requirements.

OA of the Knee Module Now Available

The new Osteoarthritis of the Knee Module is now available online at http://63.141.36.80/research/imca/OA_Knee_TOC.cfm (requires AAOS log-in)

The IMCA modules summarize current knowledge about risk factors for the condition, provide a quick review of current evidence-based literature for various treatment options, identify sources of additional information for evidence-based medicine, and summarize recent advances in medical knowledge about the condition.

Fifteen Minutes of Fame

The TJR Documentary Project is underway, with a hopeful completion date of Fall, 2003.

In order to heighten the public awareness of the benefits of hip and knee arthroplasty, the AAHKS has contracted with an Emmy Award-winning film producer, Peter Rosen, to create an hour-long documentary demonstrating the remarkable improvements in the quality of life following total joint replacement. The human-interest film will follow the lives of selected patients from pre-op through post-op, with the story unfolding through the personal commentary of the patients themselves. Mr. Rosen himself received a successful hip replacement from **Dr. Ranawat**, and he is eager to share his enthusiasm through this production, which has a very good chance of airing on PBS or the Discovery Channel.

Dr. Colwell has organized a fund-raising effort targeted to orthopaedic industry and pharmaceutical companies to support the documentary development costs. If you know of any companies or organizations that would be interested in contributing financial support to the documentary and related publicity efforts, please contact the AAHKS office.

Dues are Due...Dues are Due...

2003 Membership Dues notices were mailed Jan. 1. Please pay via check or credit card by February 1 in order to avoid additional collection activity. The AAHKS now accepts your American Express credit card for all payments.

To update your office mailing address or contact information, please email changes to helpdesk@aaahks.org, call the AAHKS office at 1-847-698-1200 or fax 1-847-825-9294. Please be sure to provide your current email address. The private Members-only Roster will be available on the AAHKS website in February. Check the website for instructions on accessing the password-protected Membership Roster.

Welcome to the New Active and Associate AAHKS members

These individuals were approved at the Annual Meeting:

Active:

Sonny Bal, MD – (Columbia, MO)
Steven Barrington, MD – (Montgomery, AL)
Eric Benson, MD – (Bedford, NH)
Thomas Blumenfeld, MD – (Sacramento, CA)
John Clohisy, MD – (St. Louis, MO)
John Coen, MD – (Corvallis, OR)
David Covall, MD – (Atlanta, GA)
Robert Dickey, MD – (Abilene, TX)
Christopher Evanich, MD – (Milwaukee, WI)
Seth Greenky, MD – (Syracuse, NY)
Karl Hamson, MD – (Baltimore, MD)
James Hartford, MD – (Lexington, KY)
James Hooten, Jr., MD – (Burlington, NC)
John Irving, MD – (Hamden, CT)
Kenneth Kress, MD – (Atlanta, GA)
Seth Leopold, MD – (Seattle, WA)
Jeffrey Nassif, MD – (Cedar Rapids, IA)
Charles Nelson, MD – (Philadelphia, PA)
Gordon Newbern, MD – (Little Rock, AR)
Michael Parks, MD – (New York, NY)
Rodney Plaster, MD – (Tulsa, OK)
Edward Pratt, MD – (Memphis, TN)
Bertram Providence, MD – (Honolulu, HI)
Andrew Shinar, MD – (Brentwood, TN)
Mark Snyder, MD – (Cincinnati, OH)
Mark Spangehl, MD – (Scottsdale, AZ)
Kenneth Stone, MD – (Marshfield, WI)
Stephen Thomas, MD – (Moon Twp., PA)
Scott Walker, MD – (Muncie, IN)
Geoffrey Westrich, MD – (New York, NY)
David Wolff, MD – (Fitchburg, WI)

Associate:

Dino Aguilar, MD – (Managua, Nicaragua)
Sang Park, MD – (Cambridge, MA)
Junnosuke Ryu, MD – (Tokyo, Japan)

AAHKS Announces New 2003 – 2004 Executive Board

PRESIDENT

Clifford W. Colwell, Jr., MD

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Richard F. Santore, MD

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Joseph C. McCarthy, MD

3rd VICE PRESIDENT

William J. Hozack, MD

TREASURER

Carlos J. Lavernia, MD

SECRETARY

James B. Stiehl, MD

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Douglas A. Dennis, MD

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

2002-2004

David G. Lewallen, MD

David C. Ayers, MD

2003-2005

Richard L. Wixson, MD

J. Wesley Mesko, MD

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Meetings Coordinator: Elizabeth Frale

