

# News for you

American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons

## President's Message

**Clifford W. Colwell, MD**

**W**ith so much good news to report about the AAHKS, here are brief highlights of what I consider to be some of the major accomplishments of your Association in 2003:

The AAHKS has been working closely with COMSS to investigate the feasibility of hiring a shared employee with regulatory experience in the AAOS Washington office. The advocacy staff person would be primarily funded by the four larger COMSS societies, and would represent their specific issues and research needs on Capitol Hill and within targeted regulatory agencies. AAHKS members **Bill Robb, MD** and **Carlos Lavernia, MD** proposed this effort at the April 2003 COMSS meeting. Pending AAOS approval, we will report on this initiative at the Fall meeting.

AAHKS member **Bill Maloney, MD**, along with AAOS representatives, recently met with officials from CMS and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to discuss the national total joint registry project. Dr. Maloney discussed the pilot project and the registry's potential financial impact on the Medicare program. The registry pilot project is set to begin collecting data this fall.

Earlier this year, the AAHKS Research Committee determined that support for the development of a national joint registry was of utmost importance in research funding. To that end, the AAHKS Board approved allocating 20% of annual funds that are in excess of two times the annual budget that is kept in reserve to be used for funding research activities by the membership. The AAHKS is also a supporting member of the Bone and Joint Decade, which promotes increased funding for musculoskeletal research.

In another recent development, CMS announced its intent to issue a national noncoverage determination on arthroscopy for osteoarthritis of the knee (OA Knee). The determination, which was developed in close cooperation with AAOS and other orthopaedic groups, indicated that arthroscopic lavage alone is not reasonable and necessary for patients with OA Knee, nor is arthroscopic debridement reasonable and necessary for patients presenting with knee pain only or with severe OA Knee. AAHKS member **Bill Healy, MD** participated in the development of the position statement for CMS. However, the determination decision raised some concerns, and the AAHKS leadership

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## Annual Meeting 2003 Update

**By Thomas P. Vail, MD**

—Program Chair

**T**he Education Committee has finalized an exciting and educational program for our annual meeting that will present information regarding the latest techniques and controversies in joint replacement surgery, as well as timely socioeconomic and legal issues of interest to our membership. We urge you to plan now to be in Dallas from October 31-Nov. 2, 2003 to attend the 13th Annual Meeting.

The Presidential Keynote Speaker is former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm, who will discuss "*A New Moral Vision for Health Care*". Ample time has been allocated for questions from the audience immediately following Governor Lamm's remarks.

The Scientific Sessions will include clinical papers and videot techniques on the following:

- Outcomes in primary total hip arthroplasty
- Ligaments, lysis, and fixation in total knee arthroplasty
- Hot topics in primary total knee replacement (uni's, mobile bearings)
- Management of common complications
- Revision and retrieval in total knee arthroplasty
- Contemporary issues in hip arthroplasty
- Measurement and assessment of x-linked poly
- Focus on deep venous thrombosis
- Decision-making in revision total hip arthroplasty
- Hard bearings in total hip arthroplasty

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## President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

was again asked to work with the AAOS on this coverage issue. We will keep the membership informed of developments as they occur.

In a pioneering effort last year, the AAHKS Executive Board each contributed a minimum \$1,000 personal donation to the Orthopaedic PAC, and challenged the membership to do the same. This effort increased the AAHKS contribution rate to more than 13 percent of the entire membership—a significant growth from the average four percent attributed to PAC donations from the general orthopaedic community.

The AAHKS has established an Endowment Fund through OREF for the long-term future of AAHKS. A possible use of the proceeds includes funding an annual Award for a Young Investigator, to be named after AAHKS founding member **James A. Rand, MD**. The first annual award for clinical excellence in knee-related research will be presented at the upcoming Dallas meeting.

It is important to recognize those AAHKS members who have contributed to the growth and improvement of the Association this year—in particular, I want to thank **Tad Vail, MD**, and his Education Committee for their Herculean efforts in pulling together this year's Annual Meeting program. I am particularly pleased that former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm will be the Presidential Keynote Speaker at the upcoming meeting. **Mary O'Connor, MD** is to be congratulated for serving as Editor of the first-ever Journal of Arthroplasty supplement containing selected papers from the 2002 Annual Meeting.

Through the perseverance of the Membership Committee, Chairman **David Dalury, MD** and his group have evaluated a record number of qualified applicants—we will add 57 New Members to the AAHKS this year, including individuals in two new categories: Candidate and non-physician Associate. If this trend continues, the AAHKS may reach 1,000 members strong by 2005.

**Carlos Lavernia, MD** and the Government & Insurance Affairs Committee have been particularly active in monitoring legislative activities and responding to the oppressive regulatory morass confronting joint replacement surgeons. These issues will be discussed and dissected in-depth during the Dallas symposium.

**Norm Dunitz, MD** and **Mike Jacobs, MD** have been largely responsible for representing the AAHKS at various AMA meetings over the past several years. This job requires a sturdy constitution and an uncanny perspicacity for navigating the medical bureaucracy. We are grateful for their fortitude and hope that their replacements will be equally vigorous on behalf of the Association.

The Total Joint Replacement Documentary filming is nearly complete, and I want to thank **Tom Sculco, MD** and **Chit Ranawat, MD** for allowing themselves and their patients to be candidly filmed by Peter Rosen and his crew. We will be treated to a sneak preview of the groundbreaking patients' perspective Documentary at the

## Annual Meeting 2003 Update

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### Symposia:

- Socioeconomic Issues in Total Joint Replacement Surgery
- Professional Liability Reform: priorities and focus
- Jeopardy in the OR: how to minimize risk
- Minimally Invasive Hip Surgery
- New Bearings in Joint Replacement

Twenty scientific poster presentations will be exhibited throughout the meeting in the Exhibit Hall.

The Friday afternoon session will focus on Practice Effectiveness and will be presented by Karen Zupko, President of Karen Zupko & Associates. She will provide the insight you need to make an evaluation of your practice strengths and weaknesses, and to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the adult reconstruction practice.

Friday evening, the popular Hip and Knee Problem Case Sessions from 6:00 – 7:30 pm will precede the Welcome Reception from 7:30 – 9:00 pm in the Exhibition Hall. Please be sure to bring your most perplexing cases to discuss in an open forum with the experts!

I urge you to mark your calendars now and make your reservation to attend the 2003 Annual Meeting at the DFW Hilton Lakes Conference Center in Dallas, Texas.

The AAHKS Preliminary Program and registration form is enclosed with this Newsletter and can also be downloaded from the AAHKS website at [www.aahks.org](http://www.aahks.org). The deadline for registration is October 1, 2003.

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Dallas meeting. Many AAHKS members worked hard to encourage their industry contacts to fund the documentary through OREF grants, so there is no financial burden on AAHKS.

I am grateful for the support and leadership of our excellent Board of Directors, and if I have neglected to acknowledge any AAHKS member in particular, please know that your efforts are truly appreciated.

Finally, due to rising popularity of the AAHKS Annual Meeting as the best joint replacement conference in the US, we've outgrown our long-time meeting venue. A bigger facility is currently under construction down the road from the DFW Hilton, and the brand-new Opryland Resort will be ready for us in November of 2004. We're looking forward to expanding our educational offerings and welcoming even more members to the Annual Meeting! Don't miss this opportunity to bring your Fellows along and show them what the AAHKS has to offer.

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## Keynote Speaker:

Former Governor

# Richard Lamm

Co-Director of the Institute for Public Policy Studies, University of Denver, CO

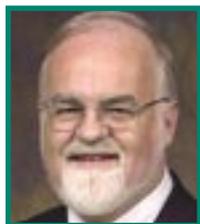


### Topic: A New Moral Vision for Health Care

Former three-term Governor of Colorado, Mr. Lamm remains at the forefront of political change. He was an early advocate of growth legislation, abortion rights, environmental protection, and campaign finance reform. He is one of the new breed of policy analysts who argues that the challenge of the 21st Century is to meet new public needs by reconceptualizing much of what government does and how it does it. You can read more about Richard Lamm at <http://www.du.edu/ipps/ipps-lamm.html>

### Additional Guest Speakers

#### John Rother, AARP Director of Policy and Strategy



John Rother is responsible for the federal and state public policies of the AARP, for international initiatives, and for formulating AARP's overall strategic direction. He is an authority on Medicare, managed care, long-term care, Social Security, pensions and the challenges facing the boomer generation.

Mr. Rother will discuss "Joint Replacement in the Retired Patient" during the Socio-economic Symposium on "Arthroplasty Surgery and the Healthcare System" scheduled for Saturday morning. You can read more about John Rother at

<http://www.aarp.org/Articles/a2003-01-27-rother.html>

Carlos Lavernia, MD, Symposium Moderator and Chair of the AAHKS Government and Insurance Affairs Committee, indicated that other symposium guest speakers may include Tommy Frist, MD, an AAOS senior staff and Board representative, a CMS officer, and a CEO from a for-profit HMO. In addition, Linda May Bowser, a Medicaid hip replacement patient who also manages an Internet patient support group, has been invited to participate in the discussion.

## Meet Karen Zupko:

### Practice Management Pro



Karen Zupko is a senior advisor who has been helping physicians navigate the waters of America's healthcare system since 1974. Her perspective stems from more than 25 years of consulting, coaching, and training experience with physicians and those who manage them. You can read more about Karen Zupko at [www.karenzupko.com](http://www.karenzupko.com)

## Visit our Exhibitors!

The following companies will be represented at the Annual Meeting to showcase new products and services. Meeting attendees who visit all the booths will be eligible to win a fully-loaded handheld iPod donated by Aristar—look for details on-site!

<b>Aesculap</b>	<b>MD Logic Inc.</b>
<b>American Red Cross</b>	<b>Millbrook Corp.</b>
<b>Aristar</b>	<b>Omni-Tract Surgical</b>
<b>Biomet Inc.</b>	<b>Organon Sanofi-Synthlabo LLC</b>
<b>Brain Lab Inc.</b>	<b>Pharmacia Corp.</b>
<b>Centerpulse Orthopaedics Inc.</b>	<b>Plus Orthopaedics</b>
<b>Corin USA</b>	<b>Precision ATR Products Co.</b>
<b>DePuy, J&amp;J</b>	<b>Pyron Technologies</b>
<b>Elsevier Publisher</b>	<b>Sanofi-Synthlabo</b>
<b>Encore Medical Corp.</b>	<b>Smith &amp; Nephew Inc.</b>
<b>Endo Pharmaceutical, Inc.</b>	<b>TissueLink Medical</b>
<b>Exactech</b>	<b>Wright Medical Technology</b>
<b>Fluoroscanner Imaging Systems</b>	<b>Zimmer</b>
<b>Howmedica Osteonics</b>	<b>OREF</b>
<b>Innomed</b>	<b>OrthoPAC</b>
<b>Lippincott Publishing</b>	

### NEW this year!

#### Practice Effectiveness mini-sessions

Friday, October 31, 3-5 PM (Sign-up on Registration Form)

Presented by Karen Zupko of KarenZupko and Associates.

Targeted specifically for surgeons to answer the following questions:

- Does your group need a managing partner?
- Is the transition to part-time practice or retirement facing your group?
- How will you deal with paying a physician who wants to "slow down"?
- Is your office administrator the right person for the job?
- Can patients be more effectively screened?
- Do you know how to figure out the return-on-investment for web marketing?

### 2003 Annual Meeting Education Committee:

Thomas P. Vail, MD— Program Chair

Mary I. O'Connor, MD

Arlen D. Hanssen, MD

Daniel Berry, MD

David A. Ayers, MD, Past Chair

## Legislative Update – mini-symposium

A focus on priorities in legislative reform will be moderated by **Edward Nebel, MD**, and addressed by David A. Lovett, JD, Director of the AAOS Washington, DC Office, as he returns to the AAHKS Meeting with his unique perspective of the current legislative and regulatory activities affecting the orthopaedic community. He will be complemented by the AAOS perspective delivered by AAOS 1st VP Robert Bucholz, MD and the AAHKS perspective delivered by **David Lewallen, MD**.

## Update on TJR Documentary

Meeting attendees will be treated to a sneak preview of the Total Joint Replacement television documentary, which is slated for national distribution in early 2004. Filmed by Award-winning producer Peter Rosen, the documentary will provide a patient's perspective



of issues confronted when considering, undergoing and recovering from artificial hip and knee replacement. It will focus on the dramatic improvements in the quality of life for patients who

had joint replacement surgery. The surgeons performing the operations on the highlighted patients include **Clifford Colwell, MD, Thomas Sculco, MD and Chitranjan Ranawat, MD**.

The documentary is supported through OREF with grants from **Zimmer, Inc., Centerpulse Orthopaedics, Stryker Howmedica Osteonics, DePuy Orthopaedics, Smith & Nephew Orthopaedics, and Dr. & Mrs. Dane Miller**.

Images from the film-in-progress and additional information can be found on the AAHKS website at [www.aahks.org](http://www.aahks.org).

## Rand Award to Acknowledge Best Clinical Knee Paper

The first annual Award named in honor of AAHKS Past President **James A. Rand, MD** will be presented at this year's Annual Meeting to the most outstanding paper in the area of clinical knee research. The Education Committee has reviewed the top-ranked knee abstracts and will announce the Award-winning presentation at the Meeting.



*James A. Rand, MD*



## Membership Update

**David Dalury, MD- Chairman**

The Membership Committee has focused on recruiting new members to our organization. The Committee has reviewed 57 applications for membership, including those in the new "Candidate" category for younger surgeons and non-surgeons applying for Associate membership.

The Board of Directors will vote on the proposed By-Laws changes and the general membership will vote on the recommended slate of applicants at the Dallas Business Meeting.

## HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION — The Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center

Reserve your hotel room on-line at the special AAHKS rate by clicking on the DFW Hilton Private Online Group page at [www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/private\\_groups/aahks\\_2003\\_dfwah](http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/private_groups/aahks_2003_dfwah)

The AAHKS negotiated "package" single room rate of \$200 per night includes the following amenities for our meeting attendees:

- A comfortable, newly renovated guest room
- Free access to the Fitness Center
- Morning coffee breaks on Saturday and Sunday
- Afternoon coffee breaks on Friday and Saturday
- Saturday lunch
- A portion of the Audio/Visual equipment rental for the scientific sessions
- Your gratuities

If you do not reserve your room at the negotiated package rate, the AAHKS is penalized with higher meeting costs and the loss of group benefits. Please reserve your hotel accommodations by the October 1, 2003 deadline in order to avoid sold-out conditions. Space is limited—reserve your room early!

**Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center**  
1800 Highway 26 East, Grapevine, TX 76051-9641  
Telephone: 1-817-481-8444 Fax: 1-817-481-3160

- just 5 minutes from the DFW International Airport - 24 hour complimentary shuttle service
- Extensive Sports Club/Fitness Center - indoor and outdoor pools
- 2 racquetball and 8 tennis courts
- Located lakeside on 40 wooded acres

**See the attached Preliminary Program and Registration Form for details. Deadline for registration: October 1, 2003.**

## Questions? Comments?

Please contact:

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