

# News for you

American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons

## President's Message

Richard Santore, MD

We have embraced the concept of **advocacy** on behalf of our professional livelihoods and access to care by our patients. **Ninety-five percent (95%) of those who voted in late July expressed support to fund the AAHKS new advocacy effort.** One issue that deserves special mention is that we plan to integrate with the AAOS advocacy mission as much as possible. We will not set up our own PAC or hire an independent lobbyist. All members of our Board now contribute \$1,000 per year to the **AAOS PAC**. Under **Doug Dennis'** leadership, we were the first Board of a sub-specialty group to support the AAOS PAC at this level. Part of our effort in Washington involves using AAHKS funds to help the AAOS to support the salary of a full-time regulatory expert – clear evidence of a win-win cooperative effort. There are some areas where we need a true sub-specialty focused effort, and we are addressing this with a soon-to-be-hired regulatory consultant and our senior advocacy consultant. We encourage each of you to contribute generously to the AAOS PAC.

A five-person contingent experienced the AOA **Board Leadership** conference in Chicago in April. It was so useful that we will send the remainder of the Board and ex-officio members next year. This investment in education is good for the AAHKS and a fringe benefit in executive leadership for the board members, all of whom serve without compensation.

The **Annual Meeting** to be held November 5-7, 2004 in Dallas will be outstanding, thanks to the tireless efforts of **Mary O'Connor**, who has scripted an excellent balance of top scoring scientific papers and symposia. The new president of the AMA, John Nelson, MD, who is a surgeon, will provide one of the keynote addresses on Saturday. Billy Casper, one of the ten most famous golfers in history, will give us a "first person singular" view of THR from the patient's perspective. On Friday afternoon, we will present an optional workshop on Asset Protection as a strategy for making the orthopedic surgeon a unattractive target of the trial attorneys. This is a potentially important strategy in states with open-ended pain-and-suffering awards.

The Meeting will be held at the brand new Gaylord Texan Resort, just a few minutes from the DFW Airport. Scientific ballroom and exhibit/poster areas will be adjacent – no need to go the basement for coffee breaks or lunch. We will formally adjourn on Sunday morning at 10:30, allowing ample time for

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## Annual Meeting 2004 Update

By **Mary I. O'Connor, MD**

—Program Chair

Our 2004 Annual Meeting will highlight the latest techniques and controversies in hip and knee arthroplasty and update the membership on critical socioeconomic and legal issues which impact our practices. Selection of podium and presentation by the Education Committee was extremely difficult due to the large number of excellent abstracts submitted. The final program is of outstanding quality. Our new location, the Gaylord Texan, will further enhance our program with improved areas for both our educational sessions and vendor exhibits!

We are privileged to have two outstanding Presidential Keynote Speakers, John Nelson, MD, President of the American Medical Association, and Billy Casper, Masters Golf Champion. Dr. Nelson will discuss, "Can there be health coverage for all without price controls?" and "Liability Reform: Can we prevail at the federal level?". Mr. Casper will share with us his personal experience with total hip arthroplasty and what this surgery has meant to him. We are honored to have these gentlemen join us and are confident that the audience will find their topics of great interest. Additional information on the Guest Speakers can be found at [www.aahks.org](http://www.aahks.org).

**The Scientific Sessions will include the most current research in our specialty. Clinical papers will focus on:**

- Bearing Surfaces in THA: Is New Better?
- Minimal Incisions and Computer Assisted Navigation in THA
- Implant Designs and Outcomes in Primary THA
- Primary TKA: A Focus on the Younger Patient

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

everyone to attend the morning sessions and still get home at a good time on both coasts. Please come to the meeting and give us your feedback on this new facility.

The AAHKS-sponsored Documentary on the impact of total joint replacement on four patients made its Public Television broadcast debut in the New York City market on August 1, and it has been shown in the Baltimore-Washington DC area, Los Angeles and other locations, with more stations scheduling the one-hour film in upcoming weeks.

**Cliff Colwell** not only conceived this patient-focused effort, but raised sufficient support from industry through the OREF to cover all of the production costs. It is being well received by viewers, and AAHKS members can request additional copies of the video for their offices. When a local PBS station picks up the show in a given market, the AAHKS office contacts members in the area to prepare them with talking points for media interviews and informational materials for display and educational handouts in their offices in advance of the broadcast. Your Board has voted to fund the cost of the promotional follow-up, in order to maximize the exposure of this production effort, which took nearly a year to complete.

In addition to these efforts, AAHKS is planning to partner with the AAOS for hip/knee related CME courses, AAOS annual meeting course content and publications. Revenue sharing will occur. AAHKS will continue to fully support the PAC of the AAOS and strive to avoid the fragmentation of our specialty, as occurred in general surgery.

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### 14th Annual Meeting

November 5th - 7th, 2004  
Gaylord Texan Resort  
Dallas, Texas

The Board held a strategic planning retreat with key committee chairs and several guests at the Gaylord Texan in July. We are in the process of revamping the strategic plan for the first time in nine years, and will re-visit the Plan on a more regular

basis in the future. **Bob Bucholz**, AAOS President, spoke briefly about the new era of cooperation between the AAOS and sub-specialty groups, and the decision by the Board to move ahead with the advocacy position in Washington.

The members of your presidential line (Santore, McCarthy, Hozack and Berry) are meeting by phone with the rest of the Executive Board to formulate a shared vision and continuity of leadership. **Joe McCarthy** has formulated a new set of bylaws and committee restructuring that is included in this Newsletter for all members to review in advance of a formal vote at the Annual Meeting.

As President, I wrote to support the reclassification of the mobile bearing knee prosthesis, and to oppose the '75 percent' rule for rehabilitation hospitals.

Thank you for the many letters and calls of support, input on pending agenda items and helpful critiques.

***See you in Dallas in November!!!***

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## Annual Meeting 2004 Update

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- Computer Assisted Navigation and Minimal Incisions in TKA
- From Revision to Outpatient Surgery in TKA
- Revision THA: Instability, Bone Loss and Resource Utilization
- Additional current and controversial topics

### **Our Symposia are timely and important to our membership. Topics include:**

- Socioeconomic Issues: Insurers, Medicare and Reimbursement (presentations ranging from not accepting Medicare to successful negotiating with insurers)
- Professional Liability Reform
- Systems, Safety and Surgery: Patient Safety is an Attitude (including "report cards" on surgeons and the use of closed claims data in the battle against medical error)
- A Revolution in the Management of the Surgical Patient: How to be a Better and More Cost-effective Surgeon (updates on rehabilitation, nerve blocks, advances in pain management)
- Surgical Technique Videos: How the Experts Do It (Technical tips you can use in your practice!)

With our new location, the poster presentations have expanded to 32! These will be excellent and reflective of the extremely competitive nature of our abstract and poster selection process. Posters will be located in the Exhibit Hall immediately adjacent to the General Session Ballroom.

The optional Friday afternoon session from 3-5 PM will focus on Asset Protection. The course will be given by Robert Dowd, LL.M, JD, well recognized as an expert in this field.

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### **P.S. IMPORTANT NOTICE from the President:**

If you receive a questionnaire about how much time it takes for you to perform various hip/knee procedures, realize the implications of your answers before you submit them. Such questionnaires are not the time to brag about how fast you can do a hip. This time issue is critical because it impacts the cost component of the RBRVS reimbursement formula. Any reduction in the time factor at the occasion of the upcoming RUC five year review will result in a dramatic further reduction in reimbursement by Medicare for THR. Please take into consideration the delay as anesthesia sets up, the positioning, the time factor when the anesthesiologist is unable to establish a spinal block for thirty minutes, the realistic skin-to-skin time, transfer out of the O.R., talking with the family, post op orders, dictation, etc.. No surgeon who performs twenty hips a year should be reluctant to state that it takes 2 – 3 hours for a case. I worked with a very famous and wonderful surgeon at the Mass. General years ago as a resident who took four hours to complete a hip; additionally, there was a good surgeon at the Brigham who took just as long. Both were excellent surgeons who took great care of their patients with very low complication rates. There are very good slow surgeons and there are plenty of very bad fast surgeons. This questionnaire is the equivalent of a 'trick question' on an exam because the implications of your answers are not fully explained. Please understand that we are not asking you to be dishonest, just to be fair, and cognizant of the implications of your answers.

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## Optional Mini-Course opens Annual Meeting

### Title: Improved Patient Care Through Malpractice Protection: Advanced Lawsuit Protection Strategies

#### Objectives

Upon completion of Mr. Dowd's presentation, the attendees will know how to:

- Maintain the focus of their medical practice on improved patient care rather than malpractice defense.
- Structure their practices for malpractice protection and prevention.
- 100% protect their professional and personal assets from lawsuits through applied risk management.
- Reduce malpractice insurance costs.

Given the current medical liability climate this should prove to be very timely for all of our membership. Please consider arriving early in Dallas to attend this very inexpensive, but extremely valuable course.

The popular hip and knee case sessions will again be held Friday evening from 6 - 7:30 pm. We're all wrestling with similar challenges and problems and someone out there must have an answer - it very well could be a fellow AAHKS member! This is your opportunity to bring your worst case x-rays and draw on the wealth of others' knowledge and experience, while enjoying an informal networking event in an open forum with expert moderators. Spend an hour with other members and you might just walk away with a serious challenge solved!

The Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall will begin at 6 pm and continue after the case sessions until 8:30 pm.

We strongly suggest you make your reservations at the Gaylord Texan early. A block of rooms have been reserved; we anticipate a sell-out at this beautiful resort. The AAHKS Preliminary Program and registration form is enclosed with this newsletter and can also be accessed from the AAHKS website at [www.aahks.org](http://www.aahks.org). The deadline for registration is October 1.

On behalf of the Education Committee, we look forward to seeing you in Dallas!

## Visit our Exhibitors!

The following companies will be represented at the Annual Meeting to showcase new products and services. Company websites can be accessed through the AAHKS website at [www.aahks.org](http://www.aahks.org)

<b>Aventis Pharmaceuticals</b>	<b>Lippincott William &amp; Wilkins</b>
<b>Aesculap</b>	<b>NovaRad</b>
<b>Biomet, Inc.</b>	<b>Omni-Tract Surgical</b>
<b>BioinCare Medical Technologies, Inc</b>	<b>OREF</b>
<b>Brain Lab, Inc</b>	<b>OrthoBiotech Products LP</b>
<b>Ceramtec Medical Products</b>	<b>OrthoPAC/AAOS Medical Liability Reform Campaign</b>
<b>DePuy/J&amp;J</b>	<b>Pfizer Pharmaceuticals Group Plus Orthopedics</b>
<b>Elsevier Science</b>	<b>Pyron Technologies</b>
<b>Encore Medical Corporation</b>	<b>Sanofi-Synthelabo Inc.</b>
<b>eTrauma</b>	<b>Sectra N.A., Inc.</b>
<b>Eska America</b>	<b>Smith &amp; Nephew, Inc</b>
<b>Exactech, Inc</b>	<b>Stryker</b>
<b>Gentiva</b>	<b>TissueLink Medical</b>
<b>GlaxoSmithKline</b>	<b>Wright Medical Technology</b>
<b>Hayes Medical, Inc.</b>	<b>Zimmer, Inc</b>
<b>I.G.O.T.I.T.</b>	
<b>Innomed, Inc.</b>	

## AAHKS Releases Advisory Statements for Patients, Physicians on Minimally Invasive Joint Replacement Surgery

The American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS) has prepared two advisory statements - for patients and physicians - that provide information about minimally invasive and small-incision techniques for hip and knee replacement surgery.

The Patient Position statement and Physician Advisory statement can be downloaded from the AAHKS website.

The purpose of the statements is to provide information to surgeons and patients about the emerging use of these techniques in hip and knee joint replacement surgery. The AAHKS MIS Task Force, chaired by **Brian McGrory, MD**, concluded that minimally invasive surgery has not yet been validated with large-scale studies. More research is needed to better understand if this type of procedure will benefit most joint replacement patients, just a select group of patients or relatively few patients.

The AAHKS advisory statements report that the "most positive results" from minimally invasive surgery have been demonstrated by a small number of high-volume centers in selected patient populations.

The AAHKS patient advisory statement addresses possible advantages and disadvantages of the surgery, patient selection criteria, unknown factors about the surgical technique, background about the procedure, and what to discuss with a surgeon when considering the options.

The physician advisory statement is more technical and focuses on some of the same topics. It also covers safety/ethical considerations and future research opportunities.

## Meeting Highlights

### Friday, November 5

3-5 PM	Improved Patient Care Through Malpractice Protection: Advanced Lawsuit Protection Strategies Guest Speaker: Robert Dowd, LLM, JD (requires separate registration)
6-8:30 PM	Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall
6-7:30 PM	Hip and Knee Problem Case Sessions (bring your x-rays)

### Saturday, November 6

6:45-7:30 AM	Business Meeting (active members only)
7:45 AM - 6 PM	Scientific Sessions
6:30-7:45 PM	Cocktail Reception in the Poster Hall (A big thank you to Smith & Nephew for providing an unrestricted grant as a major sponsor of the Poster Reception)

### Sunday, November 7

6:45-10:35 AM	Scientific Sessions
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Commercial Exhibits will be open from 5-8:30 PM on Friday, and 6 AM-3:45 PM on Saturday. Scientific Posters will be available for viewing on Friday evening and all day Saturday.

## Research Update

OREF Research Grant applications are due October 1. AAHKS members are encouraged to submit clinically-relevant hip and knee studies to OREF for potential funding. Visit the OREF website at [www.oref.org](http://www.oref.org) for details.

## Update on TJR Documentary

"Total Joint Replacement: A Patient's Perspective" debuted on Public Television August 1 in the New York area, and other stations are adding the documentary to their broadcast schedules. The 52-minute film provides an inside look at four patients and their families, as they make the decision to have hip or knee replacement surgery, and explores a subject that affects about 70 million Americans with arthritis or chronic joint problems. The film features AAHKS members **Clifford Colwell, MD**, **Chitranjan Ranawat, MD** and **Tom Sculco, MD**.

The film was produced by Peter Rosen, the New York-based Emmy Award-winning producer/director, who had successful hip replacement surgery in 1999. Rosen and his crew spent eight months following the lives of these patients from New York, Michigan and California.

The documentary is sponsored by the AAHKS and the Orthopaedic Research Education Foundation (OREF). Corporations and individual donors funding the documentary project include: Dr. and Mrs. Dane Miller (Biomet), DePuy Orthopaedics, Smith & Nephew Orthopaedics, Stryker, Wright Medical Technology and Zimmer, Inc.

Videotapes of the Documentary are also available for purchase, see details at [http://www.aahks.org/documentary/more\\_info.html](http://www.aahks.org/documentary/more_info.html) Airing dates and specific channel information are also available from the website.

## Second Annual Rand Award to Acknowledge Best Clinical Knee Paper

The second 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 by a young author in the area of clinical knee research. The Education Committee reviewed the top-ranked knee abstracts and selected the submission from Amar S. Ranawat, MD of New York, NY, entitled "**Experience with an All-Polyethylene TKR in Younger, Active Patients with 2-9 year follow-up**". Dr. Ranawat will present his paper on Saturday morning, where he will receive a \$1,000 honorarium and plaque to acknowledge his clinical research.



*James A. Rand, MD*



## Membership Update

### William Hozack, MD- Chairman

The Membership Committee continues to focus on recruiting new members to our organization. The Committee has reviewed a total of 61 new member applications, including 32 Active, 24 Candidate and 5 Associate members. The general membership will vote on the recommended slate of applicants at the Nov. 6 Business Meeting in Dallas. The AAHKS currently has 857 members.

See the attached Preliminary Program and Registration Form for details, or visit the AAHKS website at [www.aahks.org](http://www.aahks.org).  
Deadline for registration: October 1, 2004.

## HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Meeting attendees can make room reservations at the Gaylord Texan Resort on line through the AAHKS Meeting Registration website. If you are unable to access the Hotel website, call the Gaylord Texan Reservations at 1-866-782-7897 for room accommodations. Please mention the AAHKS Meeting to obtain your group discount rate.

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

The Gaylord Texan is conveniently located just six minutes from the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and is a direct flight from most major U.S. cities. From the Airport, grab a \$9 shuttle or a \$20 taxi ride to the hotel. If you're renting a car, you can find driving directions from the Airport at [http://www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylordtexan/get\\_here/directions.cfm](http://www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylordtexan/get_here/directions.cfm)

**Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center**  
1501 Gaylord Trail; Grapevine, Texas 76051  
Telephone: (817) 778-1000

**SPECIAL AIRFARE DISCOUNTS** for AAHKS Annual Meeting attendees: American Airlines offers a 10% discount off the lowest applicable published fare when you book and ticket 30 days or more prior to travel. Save 5% off the lowest applicable published fare when you book within 29 days of travel. Special Zone fares with no Saturday night stayover requirement are also available. Applicable restrictions must be met.

Full mileage credit for frequent flyer club members

To make your reservation, call ITS: 800-621-1083 (outside the U.S. and Canada call 847-940-1176).

Email: [airtravel@itsmeetings.com](mailto:airtravel@itsmeetings.com)

Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm CST.

Easy payment by major credit cards. A \$20.00 service fee will be charged per ticket issued.

For information, visit <http://www.itsmeetings.com/default1.asp>

Or call American Airlines directly:

800-433-1790, Reference ID# A42N4AG

## Questions? Comments?

Please contact:

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