



# AAHKS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
HIP AND KNEE SURGEONS

# UPDATE

SPRING/SUMMER 2022 A MEMBER PUBLICATION

## Spring Meeting Wrap-Up



### WHAT'S INSIDE:

- SPRING MEETING SUMMARY • FARE GRANTS • MEMBERSHIP GROWTH
- HEALTH POLICY FELLOWS • AMERICAN JOINT REPLACEMENT REGISTRY



## **The AAHKS Annual Meeting enters a new phase!**

Get ready for an exciting and refreshed meeting experience at our new venue. Immerse yourself in the science and industry of arthroplasty with the usual, robust program of practice-altering science. Connect with your colleagues like never before at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center from November 3-6, 2022. Registration is now open!

# **EXPLORE WHAT'S NEXT.**

**Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center**  
**November 3-6 // Grapevine, Texas**



## OUR MISSION:

**Established in 1991,**  
the mission of the American  
Association of Hip and Knee  
Surgeons (AAHKS) is to  
advance hip and knee  
patient care through  
education, advocacy,  
research and outreach.

**AAHKS envisions access for  
all to the highest quality  
hip and knee care.**

## SPRING 2022



### Inside this issue:

- 2 Letter from 2022-2023 President Dr. Springer
- 4 Past Presidents & BOD (2022-2023)
- 5 Past President Highlights by Richard Iorio, MD
- 7 2022 AAHKS Spring Meeting
- 8 Membership Growth
- 9 Council & Committee Chairs
- 10 Women In Arthroplasty (WIA)
- Youth Arthroplasty Group (YAG)
- Diversity Advisory Board (DAB)
- 11 Recent American Joint Replacement Registry Developments
- 12 FARE Grant Recipients
- 14 Health Policy Fellows
- 15 Annual Meeting Registration Information
- 16 AAHKS Leaders Approve New Strategic Plan
- Call for Papers - AAHKS Publications
- 17 AAHKS Staff

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Bryan D. Springer, MD**



Dear Members,

It is one of the great honors of my career to begin my term as President of our American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS). I believe that the goal of every servant leader should be to leave the organization in better hands than when they found it. I would like to thank our immediate past presidents, Richard Iorio, MD, C. Lowry Barnes, MD and Michael P. Bolognesi, MD with whom I have served on the Presidential Line, as for certain, our growth and success is largely due to their tireless efforts and dedication to AAHKS. Not only are they friends of mine, but mentors that have taught me along the way what it means to be a servant leader of a physician-led organization. I also wish every member had a chance to work closely with our administrative leadership and see the amazing dedication and passion they have for AAHKS. They truly are the engine that makes us grow and one of the reasons I am most excited to be in this role.

The foundation of AAHKS is our pillars of Education, Advocacy, Research and Outreach. These are the bedrock on which we build and grow. Our growth is driven by our members, and I am happy to report that our ongoing census is giving us a better picture of who we are. We are a younger, more diverse and more inclusive group than ever before, yet we still have substantial work to do to ensure that we are adequately representing our members who, in turn, serve our patients. Our Diversity Advisory Board (DAB), Women in Arthroplasty (WIA) and Young Arthroplasty Group (YAG) are the future lifeblood of our organization, ensuring we represent all our members.

## Education:

As we hopefully and finally emerge from this pandemic and learn to live with the realities of what COVID-19 has created over the last 2+ years, we are forever changed. Education will fundamentally be delivered in more diverse ways as a result and AAHKS will continue to present a multitude of offerings including the FOCAL lectures and our AAHKS Webinars led by our Education Committee. What is clear, however, is that we all need and want direct human interaction. That was never

more evident than at the 2021 AAHKS Annual Meeting where we saw just how impactful face-to-face learning and interaction is.

The Annual Meeting will serve as a tremendous springboard as we open a new chapter of the Annual Meeting in a new location at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center. In addition, we continue to look towards ways to enhance our fellowship training programs with curriculum and financial support moving forward.

## Research:

Our research at AAHKS is stronger than ever. In 2021, FARE provided nearly \$150,000 in research funding with plans to increase this to \$200,000 in 2022. This high-quality research brings members together through multicenter research projects to answer important questions in our field. We continue to collaborate with The Hip Society and The Knee Society on impactful research that benefits all our members. We have teamed with the American College of Rheumatology to update our 2017 Guidelines on the Management of Rheumatic Medication in patient undergoing elective hip and knee arthroplasty and new Guideline on appropriate indication for hip and knee arthroplasty.

## Advocacy:

We as arthroplasty surgeons continue to have large targets on our backs when it comes to reimbursement and health policies related to hip and knee arthroplasty. Despite tireless efforts by our Advocacy Committee and Board leaders, we continue to be devalued at every turn. Despite our fees representing only 6% of the total cost of arthroplasty and demonstrating the tremendous value that hip and knee replacements provide to our patients, we face additional cuts in 2022 with more looming on the horizon.



## 2022 Proposed Cuts:

<u>Medicare Cut</u>	<u>Source of Cut</u>	<u>Congressional Relief</u>
2% Medicare Sequester (All Providers)	Expiring suspension of the 10-year Medicare sequester established in the Budget Control Act of 2011. Currently extended through 2030.	Q1 2022 – Suspended Q2 2022 – Reduced to 1% cut Q3 2022 – Full 2% cut restored
4% PAYGO Sequester (All Providers)	One-year sequester triggered by deficit spending under the PAYGO Act of 2010. Medicare cuts are capped at 4%.	Delayed until 2023
3.75% Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Cut (Physicians)	Expiring relief from MPFS conversion factor reductions triggered by Part B budget neutrality mechanism.	3% increase to MPFS conversion factor for 2022

Medicare Cuts: Physicians and other providers faced Medicare cuts from three different sources at the end of 2021. The task of fighting off all three cuts was an extremely heavy lift. Congressional leadership and senior health committee staff had indicated that they had significant reservations about continuing to defer, delay or mitigate these previously scheduled Medicare cuts. The good news is that Congress took up special legislation at the end of 2021 to address all three policies cutting physicians' Medicare reimbursement. The bad news is that none of the relief provided was perfect or permanent: the bottom line is that, in 2022, physician Medicare reimbursement will be cut across the board by 0.75% in Q1, 1.75% in Q2 and 2.75% in the second half of the year. In 2023 and beyond, the scheduled cuts only increase.

In addition, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the AMA/Specialty Society RVS Update Committee (RUC) failed to recognize, as promised, the well-documented pre-service time it takes to optimize our patients prior to surgery, resulting in safer, lower cost and better outcomes. We need some wins. Mitigating big loses for smaller ones should not be considered victories. With great challenge comes great opportunity and we as physicians, on the front lines, should

be shaping healthcare for the future. We will continue to fight for our members and patients for access to high-quality life changing hip and knee replacement.

### Humanitarianism:

Our Immediate Past President, Richard Iorio, MD, proposed the fourth pillar of AAHKS, humanitarianism, and I am proud to say this will be incorporated into our mission this year. Our members are diverse and talented in different ways. So many of you give back in so many ways. We want to recognize and support those efforts. We also want to encourage and support other members who have passion for giving back through outreach locally, nationally and internationally. Through AAHKS Global Outreach (AAHKS-GO) and the Humanitarian Committee, we will support the addition of this fourth pillar to our organization and encourage every member with a desire to be involved.

I look forward to welcoming you to the 2022 Annual Meeting at our new location, the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, on November 3rd –6th. I am always available to discuss any issues from our members anytime at [bryan.springer@orthocarolina.com](mailto:bryan.springer@orthocarolina.com).

# AAHKS PRESIDENTS



**1991**  
J. Phillip Nelson, MD  
Phoenix, AZ



**1992-1993**  
Chitranjan S. Ranawat, MD  
New York, NY



**1994**  
Richard C. Johnston, MD  
Iowa City, IA



**1995**  
Lawrence D. Dorr, MD  
Inglewood, CA



**1996**  
Hugh Tullos, MD  
Houston, TX



**1997**  
Merrill A. Ritter, MD  
Mooresville, IN



**1998**  
Richard H. Rothman, MD, PhD  
Philadelphia, PA



**1999**  
James A. Rand, MD  
Scottsdale, AZ



**2000**  
Richard B. Welch, MD  
San Francisco, CA



**2001**  
John J. Callaghan, MD  
Iowa City, IA



**2002**  
Douglas A. Dennis, MD  
Denver, CO



**2003**  
Clifford W. Colwell, MD  
La Jolla, CA



**2004**  
Richard F. Santore, MD  
San Diego, CA



**2005**  
Joseph C. McCarthy, MD  
Boston, MA



**2006**  
William J. Hozack, MD  
Philadelphia, PA



**2007**  
Daniel J. Berry, MD  
Rochester, MN



**2008**  
David G. Lewallen, MD  
Rochester, MN



**2009**  
William J. Robb III, MD  
Evanston, IL



**2010**  
Mary I. O'Connor, MD  
Jacksonville, FL



**2011**  
Carlos J. Lavernia, MD  
Miami, FL



**2012**  
Thomas P. Vail, MD  
San Francisco, CA



**2013**  
Thomas K. Fehring, MD  
Charlotte, NC



**2014**  
Brian S. Parsley, MD  
Houston, TX



**2015**  
Jay R. Lieberman, MD  
Los Angeles, CA



**2016**  
William A. Jiranek, MD  
Richmond, VA



**2017**  
Mark I. Froimson, MD, MBA  
Chagrin Falls, OH



**2018**  
Craig J. Della Valle, MD  
Chicago, IL



**2019**  
Michael P. Bolognesi, MD  
Durham, NC



**2020**  
C. Lowry Barnes, MD  
Little Rock, AR



**2021**  
Richard Iorio, MD  
Boston, MA



**2022**  
Bryan D. Springer, MD  
Charlotte, NC

## AAHKS BOARD of DIRECTORS 2022-2023

Bryan D. Springer, MD – President

Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS – First Vice President

James I. Huddleston III, MD – Second Vice President

R. Michael Meneghini, MD – Third Vice President

Richard Iorio, MD – Immediate Past President

C. Lowry Barnes, MD – Past President

Rafael J. Sierra, MD – Secretary

Ryan M. Nunley, MD – Treasurer

Ronald E. Delanois, MD, Lt. Col., USAF, MC (RET) – Member-at-Large

David W. Manning, MD – Member-at-Large

William M. Mihalko, MD, PhD – Member-at-Large

Kim K. Tucker, MD – Member-at-Large



## PAST PRESIDENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Looking back on my year as president

Richard Iorio, MD

It has been my pleasure to serve you as president of the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS) for the past year. I can tell you with complete faith that your organization continues to work on your behalf and fulfill our evolving core principles. As we emerge from two years of pandemic restrictions, we remain a financially viable organization with a powerful advocacy voice, the best orthopaedic education services, an exciting inclusivity and diversity emphasis, a vibrant and well-funded research foundation, and a new commitment to humanitarian initiatives. Our staff, under the direction of Michael J. Zarski, JD, has been phenomenal. They are committed to the membership and do more with less than any other organization I have ever been associated with.

This year, we recognized John W. Barrington, MD as the 2021 Lawrence D. Dorr, MD AAHKS Humanitarian Award recipient. His work through the organization he founded, MOVE Missions, provides ongoing support to meet the medical and educational needs of underserved populations in the Dominican Republic. He has delivered arthroplasty care, built schools and educated residents and medical students to continue care delivery longitudinally in these rural areas. Dr. Barrington is a terrific honoree continuing the legacy of Dr. Dorr. AAHKS will support Operation Walk as a testament to Dr. Dorr. The Operation Walk Central Board has been organized as an advisory council for the individual Operation Walk local chapters and will assist with protocols, education, logistics, financing and sponsorships to help facilitate the current work of local chapters and help get new chapters off the ground. Harpal S. Khanuja, MD and the Humanitarian Committee have spent many hours putting this infrastructure in place and should be applauded for all they have accomplished.

We also recognized Jonathan L. Schaffer, MD, MBA as the Presidential Award winner for his contributions to the Association, and especially to the growth and evolution of the Annual Meeting Learning Center/Exhibit Hall. His integration of technology and enhancement of industry relations raised the bar for the Annual Meeting to become the premier arthroplasty meeting in the world.

My congratulations to Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA for the work that she did as Program Chair. Dr. Chen and her Program Committee worked very hard on this meeting, providing a high-quality hybrid meeting that met the expectations of our members and industry partners. Dr. Chen will be an integral part of AAHKS going forward and is a trusted partner, colleague and friend. As we transition to the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center this year, the AAHKS Annual Meeting will be bigger and better than ever.

Congratulation to C. Lowry Barnes, MD and John J. Callaghan, MD for securing the Proceedings of The Hip Society and The Knee Society meetings to be published in *The Journal of Arthroplasty (JOA)* with an open-access format. Under the direction of our new Editor-in-Chief, Michael A. Mont, MD and Publications Chair, Samuel S. Wellman MD, we expect continued growth in innovation, influence and quality. All metrics continue to demonstrate that *The Journal of Arthroplasty* is the premier hip and knee journal. *Arthroplasty Today (AT)* continues to grow in popularity, and Gregory J. Golladay, MD as Editor-in-Chief is the person responsible for *AT*'s success.

We have been constantly challenged on the advocacy front. We continue to fight to maintain our wRVU credit for primary total hip, UKA and total knee replacement. It is an uphill battle in the RUC where we are outnumbered by our cognitively based colleagues. We continue to make appeals to CMS concerning perioperative optimization and the undervalued work that we do. Adam J. Rana, MD, Adolph J. Yates Jr., MD, FAOA and James I. Huddleston III, MD have devoted countless hours to this effort and we owe them a debt of gratitude. We continue to advocate for our dedication and effectiveness in the value-based care initiatives and the need to involve surgeons in the future of bundled care and disease management initiatives. We convened an Advocacy Summit with The Hip Society and The Knee Society to address these issues. We continue to cooperate and advocate with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and discuss these issues with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)

*continued on next page >*

and the AMA/Specialty Society RVS Update Committee (RUC). Many thanks to Joshua M. Kerr and Philo D. Hall, JD for their advice and stewardship of our efforts. We continue to work well with AAOS, The Hip Society and The Knee Society to present a united front in these efforts. Please contribute to the Orthopaedic PAC (text AAHKS to 41444) if you can do so, every little bit helps.

We have begun a public relations campaign to inform our patients and regulators about the good work that we do. There is a blog on the *Forbes* website staffed by one of our Health Policy Fellows, Prem N. Ramkumar, MD, MBA, whose messaging is beginning to resonate at the grassroots level. We have begun a Patient Advisory Group under the direction of Brett R. Levine, MD, MS to assist in this effort. Stefano A. Bini, MD, G. Daxton Steele, MD, Matthew S. Austin, MD, Chad A. Krueger, MD, Prem N. Ramkumar, MD, MBA, Kim K. Tucker, MD and countless others have worked with the Digital Health and Social Media, Patient and Public Relations, Advocacy, Practice Management and Evidence-Based Medicine Committees to spread our message of high-quality, cost-effective care with access for all. In addition to our traditional advocacy efforts, these initiatives should pay dividends in the future as we educate the public. Lucian C. Warth, MD, Industry Relations Committee (IRC) Chair, has started an Industry Relations Board to also aid in this messaging. We are employing more digital means to expand our message as well as traditional advocacy methods.

The Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) in their first year under the capable leadership of Co-Chairs Muyibat A. Adelani, MD and Adam A. Sassoon, MD, MS have begun to transform our organization. Their initiatives include increasing diversity among AAHKS membership, committee work and leadership; building mentorship programs for underrepresented groups; providing a venue to encourage academic and personal growth for all members; and preparing those with leadership aspirations to advance within AAHKS. The Women in Arthroplasty (WIA) and Young Arthroplasty Group (YAG) Committees continue to innovate and provide opportunity for diverse sectors of our membership. WIA produced a soon-to-be released sequel to their impactful, well-received video to increase awareness of workplace discrimination and harassment experienced by women in arthroplasty. We look forward to continuing our commitment to leveling the playing field for all members of AAHKS. We are all better as we consider and implement the benefits of inclusivity and diversity. We all improve with the addition of new thoughts and viewpoints.

The Foundation for Arthroplasty Research and Education (FARE) continues to provide funding for orthopaedic research related to total joint arthroplasty. Assisted by the AAHKS Research Committee under the direction of Ran Schwarzkopf, MD, MSc, FARE continues to fund cutting-edge research and work collaboratively with The Hip Society, The Knee Society and OREF to provide infrastructure for multi-institutional studies which are so badly needed in our subspecialty.

Education and Communications Council Chair Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc continues to expand the educational offerings of AAHKS. Members, fellows, advanced practitioners, team members and residents all benefit from the wide range of opportunities available from AAHKS. We will continue to reach out to underrepresented groups to expand the scope of adult reconstruction trainees in an effort to diversify our membership.

I cannot say enough about the AAHKS Board and Presidential Line. I have asked a lot of our committee chairs and a lot has been delivered. Thank you all. It has been a pleasure watching talented, collegial folks work in concert to achieve admirable goals. In the end, we are lucky to do what we do and this organization represents all that is good with our profession. AAHKS is well positioned in the coming years with committed and dedicated leaders at every level. Bryan D. Springer, MD, Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS, James I. Huddleston III, MD and R. Michael Meneghini, MD are the present and future thought leaders in orthopaedic surgery and adult reconstruction. Their advice and guidance have been invaluable. Their friendship has been especially welcoming in these trying times. I join Drs. Barnes and Bolognesi as former presidents of this organization but continuing friends. We have been through a lot together and are better for it. To preserve our organizational memory, we will introduce an AAHKS Historian and a Former Presidents Advisory Board to better incorporate our seasoned leaders in a consultative format to preserve our collective experience for future leaders.

I am honored to have served as the President of AAHKS, and we are in good hands with our strong Presidential Line, Board of Directors, Committees and hard-working staff. AAHKS will continue to thrive, innovate and lead. Our future is bright.



# RECAP OF THE 2022 AAHKS SPRING MEETING

Jenna A. Bernstein, MD



Thank you to everyone who was present in San Francisco, and we hope that you'll join us for the 2023 Spring Meeting in Chicago, May 4-6, 2023.

The 2022 AAHKS Spring Meeting was a great celebration of being able to learn in person again with the leaders in our field. This meeting was organized to be intimate and to be able to do case-based learning in small groups. Being able to do that in person really emphasized the benefit of learning together.

The case-based discussions were a highlight of the meeting, where expert faculty presented their own cases ranging from simple to complex to the downright brutal. They were open to discussing not only their enacted plan of action but also how they came to that plan.

There was a variety of symposia presented that inspired these case-based discussions. During the symposia, questions from the audience were not only encouraged but also appreciated. The symposium started with James A. Browne, MD leading a discussion on Primary Total Hip Arthroplasty, during which Joseph T. Moskal, MD, FACS sparked an interesting discussion about how he went from cementing many primary hips, to almost none, and now back up to almost 30% cemented hips. James I. Huddleston III, MD then led a symposium on billing and coding in 2022, and for those of you who want to maximize your returns, the information presented by Stephen M. Engstrom, MD and Bradford S. Waddell, MD was priceless (or I guess the opposite of).

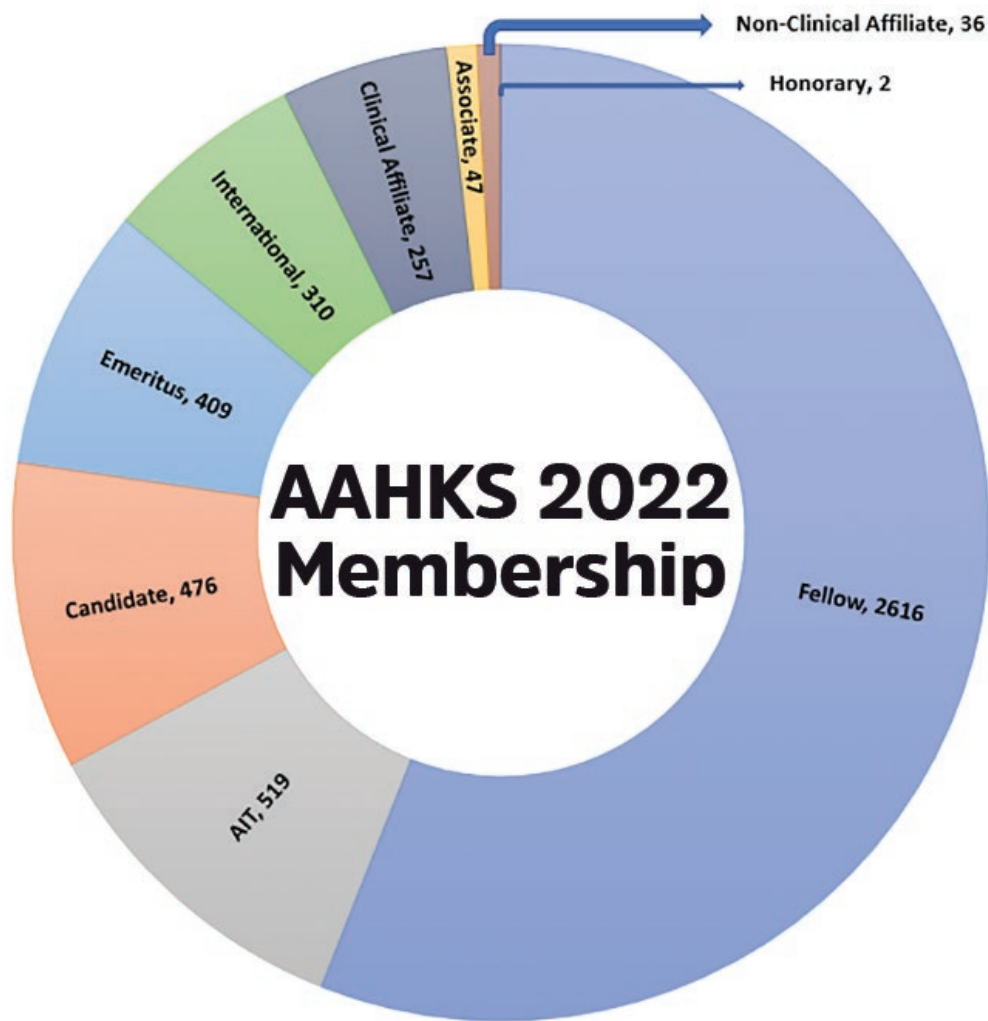
A symposium on periprosthetic joint infection was led by Bryan D. Springer, MD, with an expert group of faculty who discussed how they tackle this complex problem and comparing DAIR

versus two stage versus single stage. The final symposium for Friday was led by Richard Iorio, MD that presented invaluable information with a star-studded cast about leading within orthopedics whether in academics, private practice or in AAHKS. The takeaway was to start small and work hard.

On Saturday, the symposium commenced with Matthew P. Abdel, MD leading a discussion on successful primary knee arthroplasty and addressing a variety of hot topics including cementless total knee, tourniquetless surgery and robotics. Adolph V. Lombardi Jr., MD then led a discussion on how to achieve success within unicompartmental knee arthroplasty. The final symposium was led by R. Michael Meneghini, MD on the latest in outpatient total joint arthroplasty. It was a venerable review of how outpatient TJA is here to stay. Michael P. Ast, MD was especially thought-provoking when discussing that the vast majority of our patients can have successful joint replacement in a surgery center.

Thank you to Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc for planning an inspiring meeting, as well as to the entire AAHKS staff and our sponsors for their boundless support. Congratulations to AAHKS Leadership on a huge success, and we are looking forward to seeing even more of you in person in Dallas for the AAHKS





## AAHKS MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

### Thank you to our members who have paid their membership dues for 2022!

The vast majority of AAHKS members have renewed their 2022 membership and, again, we would like to thank those members for doing so. We value our members and want to alert those who have not yet renewed. Don't let your membership expire. You can log in at [www.AAHKS.org](http://www.AAHKS.org), send a check or call Member Services at 847-430-5071 to pay your membership dues and keep your *JOA* subscription, benefits and recognition as an AAHKS member intact. Be sure to include your full name and AAHKS ID number on the check.

*American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons*  
**9400 W. Higgins Rd, Suite 230**  
**Rosemont, IL 60018**

AAHKS is changing membership dues invoice mailing date for 2023. AAHKS memberships are on a calendar-year cycle (January 1 – December 31) and, in the past, renewal invoices were mailed in December and due upon receipt. This year, members will be invoiced for their 2023 membership dues in October. AAHKS will provide members with a grace period to renew without suspension of membership and loss of benefits.



# 2022 COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

## Council Chairs

Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc

James A. Browne, MD

Adam J. Rana, MD

James D. Slover, MD

Education and Communications Chair

Education and Communications Vice Chair

Health Policy

Membership

## Committee Chairs

Adam J. Rana, MD

Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS

Shaun P. Patel, MD

Muyibat A. Adelani, MD

Adam A. Sassoon, MD

Jeffrey B. Stambough, MD

David S. Jevsevar, MD, MBA

Michael J. Taunton, MD

Ryan M. Nunley, MD

William G. Hamilton, MD

J. Craig Morrison, MD

Lucian C. Warth, MD

Michael H. Huo, MD

Keith A. Fehring, MD

Richard Iorio, MD

Benjamin M. Stronach, MD, MS

Alexander P. Sah, MD

Jeremy M. Gililland, MD

Samuel S. Wellman, MD

Robert S. Sterling, MD

Ran Schwarzkopf, MD, MSc

Rina Jain, MD, FRCSC

Anna R. Cohen-Rosenblum, MD

Advocacy

Committee on Committees and Bylaws

Digital Health and Social Media

Diversity Advisory Board (DAB)

Diversity Advisory Board (DAB)

Education

Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM)

Fellowship Match Oversight

Finance

FOCAL

Humanitarian

Industry Relations (IRC)

International

Member Outreach

Nominating

Patient and Public Relations

Practice Management

Program

Publications

Quality Measures

Research

Women in Arthroplasty (WIA)

Young Arthroplasty Group (YAG)

## WOMEN IN ARTHROPLASTY

The Women in Arthroplasty (WIA) Committee of AAHKS is entering its 4<sup>th</sup> year of existence. So much has already been accomplished thanks to the incredible leadership of our Inaugural Chair, Audrey K. Tsao, MD, our first Vice Chair, Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA and all the committee members and volunteers.

Please note that the WIA Travelling Fellowship was approved by the AAHKS Board of Directors in March 2022. This travelling fellowship was designed as a two-week fellowship that will provide female surgeons with the opportunity to work with another female surgeon for professional growth and networking. The application process will begin once the details are finalized.

Recently, we had a virtual industry event which featured female members of industry connecting with women arthroplasty surgeons discussing various topics of relevance to women surgeons and their industry counterparts. In the very near future, you can expect many more projects from WIA. By providing educational, networking, and supportive outreach activities, we will increase the number of women arthroplasty surgeons and create space for everyone, which ultimately benefits all our patients.

## YOUNG ARTHROPLASTY GROUP

The Young Arthroplasty Group (YAG) Committee consists of residents, adult reconstruction fellows and attendings in their first five years of practice, with the goal of encouraging interest in our specialty and cultivating the future leaders of AAHKS. This past year, we had a successful event at the AAHKS Annual Meeting with a panel on industry relations and hosted our first-ever combined YAG-YOTS (Young Orthopaedic

Trauma Surgeons) symposium at the AAOS 2022 Annual Meeting. In the coming months, we plan to continue our work recording episodes of the YAG podcast, "The Augment," host a "Basics of Advocacy" webinar, develop a "peer-to-peer" mentorship program for fellows and look into expanding the involvement of residents within the committee.

## DIVERSITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) Committee was created as a resource for increasing diversity and inclusion among the membership and leadership of the organization. The committee is still very committed to one of its first initiatives: to evaluate minority representation in total joint arthroplasty through the means of completing a census. The data received from this census will assist in creating opportunities for broader involvement in major AAHKS

activities, such as the Annual Meeting. We encourage you to complete the census if you haven't yet. The census is quick and the information you provide will help to ensure that everyone is represented. At the 2022 AAHKS Annual Meeting, DAB is also planning a special industry sponsored symposium entitled "Promoting Inclusion and Authenticity: Fireside Chat with Lisa Leslie." Plan to attend when you register for the meeting.

Go to [www.AAHKS.org](http://www.AAHKS.org) and login or scan the QR code to complete the census.

**Have you completed  
the Census yet?**





# RECENT AMERICAN JOINT REPLACEMENT REGISTRY DEVELOPMENTS

The American Joint Replacement Registry (AJRR), the official registry of AAHKS, has grown to be the world's largest registry of hip and knee replacement data by number of annual procedures submitted. Over the past year, analyses from the AJRR data appeared in publications featured in *The Journal of Arthroplasty*, *Clinical Orthopaedics* and related research, and the *Journal of the AAOS*®. Poster and podium presentations using AJRR data were shared at conferences around the world. These meetings included the 2021 AAHKS Annual Meeting, the AAOS 2021 and 2022 Annual Meetings, the North Carolina Orthopaedic Association 2021 Annual Meeting and the 10th International Congress of Arthroplasty Registries.

## AJRR Released 2021 Annual Reports

New AJRR Annual Reports were also released since last spring. The AJRR 2021 Annual Report, released in November at the 2021 AAHKS Annual Meeting, showed an overall cumulative procedural volume growth of 18.3% over the previous year. It comprised findings from 2,244,587 hip and knee arthroplasty procedures performed between 2012 and 2020.

AAOS released the AJRR 2021 Annual Report Supplement at the AAOS Annual Meeting in March. For the third consecutive year, the supplement included device-specific cumulative percent revision estimates, drawn from the Registry's unique linkage with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) claims data. This year's analysis also examines data from patients with a prior diagnosis of COVID-19 whose information was submitted to the AJRR through the capture of appropriate ICD-10 coding.

Download the reports at [www.aaos.org/AJRRannualreport](http://www.aaos.org/AJRRannualreport).

## AAOS and Cohere are Reimagining Prior Authorization for Musculoskeletal Care

AAOS and Cohere Health, a digital health company, formed a partnership to improve the prior authorization process for

musculoskeletal care at a national scale. In a co-authored whitepaper, they discuss how combining technology and clinical expertise has transformed a historically burdensome process into a strategic asset for health plans that enables better patient outcomes without delays.

Download the whitepaper at [www.coherehealth.com](http://www.coherehealth.com).

## AJRR Participants Can Qualify for Aetna's Institutes of Quality Designation

Aetna's Institutes of Quality (IOQ) publicly recognizes and designates health care facilities that have demonstrated quality care for common surgical procedures based on measures of clinical performance, access, and cost. Aetna's IOQ for orthopedic care requires The Joint Commission Advanced Total Hip and Total Knee Replacement (THKR) Certification as a mandatory requirement for healthcare facilities. Once the program has attained advanced certification and the required outcomes report from AJRR has been completed, the program will then be reviewed by Aetna for IOQ designation.

The AJRR developed metrics to provide qualitative feedback on the institution level to Aetna so sites across the U.S. can report on the quality of care they deliver. These metrics are based on existing AJRR data elements and include all payer metrics for a comprehensive view of outcomes. Quantitative metric data is also available to participating institutions, which is useful for internal quality tracking and monitoring. This aligns with the AAOS Registry Program's mission to improve orthopaedic care through the collection, analysis, and reporting of actionable data.

If your site would like to become certified or recertified for Aetna IOQ designation, you can connect with the AAOS Registry Engagement team at [RegistryEngagement@aaos.org](mailto:RegistryEngagement@aaos.org) for next steps.

To learn more about the AJRR, visit [www.aaos.org/ajrr](http://www.aaos.org/ajrr).



## FARE GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Foundation for Arthroplasty Research and Education (FARE) has announced the recipients of two FARE grants for the spring 2022 cycle. Each study will receive up to \$50,000 to support their research.

AAHKS is committed to advancing patient care by supporting research projects with great potential. To apply for the next FARE grant cycle, please visit [www.AAHKS.org/research/fare-grant-application](http://www.AAHKS.org/research/fare-grant-application).



### AI-Enabled Multimodal Phenotypic Characterization of TJA Patient

Cody Wyles, MD  
Mayo Clinic

The series of studies resulting from this grant will leverage artificial intelligence (AI) methods (natural language processing of unstructured data in electronic health records and deep learning computer vision of radiographs) to phenotype arthroplasty patients in a manner that is both automatic and more comprehensive than previously possible. Detailed and large-scale patient phenotyping will enable efforts focused on preoperative individualized risk-stratification for common arthroplasty complications (PJI, dislocation, aseptic loosening, fracture) as well as postoperative longitudinal patient surveillance. Successful completion of the proposed aims will provide a series of AI-enabled tools for individual institutions and TJA registries to facilitate automated patient and implant evaluation.



## Total Joint Implant Alloy Oxide Layer Cell Induced Damage

William M. Mihalko, MD, PhD

Campbell Clinic / University of Tennessee Health Science Center

The goal of this proposal is to investigate the electrochemical and cellular mechanisms that may cause corrosive changes to the oxide layer of implant alloys used in total knee arthroplasty (TKA) implants. After surgery, 20% or more of TKA patients may have a poor patient reported outcome. We hypothesize that a subset of these patients may have a local inflammatory response to the implants generated by metal ions and macrophages that cause a cell induced corrosion, and that a patient's synovial fluid electrochemical potential may play a role in how severe this reaction may become.

We propose to measure the electrochemical potential and corrosion rate of 100 patients undergoing a primary TKA and follow them for one year after surgery comparing their outcome measures to their electrochemical profile to see if a difference in patient reported outcome is determined. To further understand the cellular mechanism of inflammatory-cell-induced-corrosion, we also will be measuring the cellular uptake and surface damage of TKA implant alloy disks cultured with macrophages and lymphocytes for 30 days.

Our lab's ICIC in vitro model has reported a significant cellular uptake of Co and Cr and surface damage to implant alloy disks and believe further study of ICIC damage with the addition of lymphocytes is needed to determine if these reactions may be clinically significant.



# Meet the 2022-2023 HEALTH POLICY FELLOWS



## Anna R. Cohen-Rosenblum, MD

Dr. Anna R. Cohen-Rosenblum is a practicing orthopaedic surgeon and assistant professor at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center New Orleans. She received her undergraduate degree in classical archaeology at Harvard College and a master's degree in skeletal and dental bioarchaeology at University College London. She then received her medical degree from Albany Medical College and completed residency in orthopaedic surgery at the University of Chicago, followed by a fellowship in adult reconstruction at the University of Virginia. She is the 2022-2023 Young Arthroplasty Group (YAG) Committee Chair as well as a member of the *Arthroplasty Today* editorial board.



## Peter A. Gold, MD

Dr. Peter A. Gold is currently an Adult Reconstruction fellow at Rothman Institute. He received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Tulane University in New Orleans. He then completed an orthopedic residency at Northwell Health's Long Island Jewish Medical Center program in New York. Dr. Gold will be joining Panorama Orthopedics & Spine Center in Golden, Colorado this fall. Peter is serving as a member of the Young Arthroplasty Group (YAG) Committee and is a social media content contributor for *The Journal of Arthroplasty*. Furthermore, he is a co-founder and executive director of Strong City, [mystrongcity.org](http://mystrongcity.org), a 501(c)(3) organization that provides support for community organizations who empower and provide opportunities for youth.



## Eli Kamara, MD

Dr. Eli Kamara is a practicing orthopaedic surgeon at the Montefiore Medical Center and Assistant Professor at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. Dr. Kamara received his undergraduate degree at Columbia University. He then went on to receive his medical degree at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine where he graduated with a distinction in research. While at Einstein, he received the National Institutes of Health Fogarty International Clinical Research award to study Pott's disease in India. He completed his residency at Lenox Hill Hospital, where he served as chief resident. He then completed fellowship in Adult Reconstruction at the University of San Francisco School of Medicine. Dr. Kamara serves as a member of the American Orthopaedic Association (AOA) Emerging Leaders Program, the AAHKS Digital Health and Social Media Committee and the Young Arthroplasty Group (YAG).



## Hayden L. Joseph, MD

Dr. Hayden L. Joseph is currently an Adult Reconstruction Fellow at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC. He completed his bachelor's degree at Texas A&M University, followed by his medical degree at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio Long School of Medicine. He then completed his Orthopaedic Surgery residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN. Upon completion of fellowship, he will return to his hometown of Longview, TX to practice.



### **Prem N. Ramkumar, MD, MBA**

Dr. Prem N. Ramkumar is a current Adult Reconstruction fellow at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School and future Sports Medicine fellow at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Born and raised in the Los Angeles and Orange County area, he subsequently moved to Houston where he studied and played tennis at Rice University,

followed by medical school at Baylor College of Medicine. After receiving a full scholarship, he attended Cornell Tech in New York City, where he earned his master's in business administration with emphasis on technology and entrepreneurship. This launched his involvement with FocusMotion, a Santa Monica-based start-up that offers a data-driven orthopaedic recovery solution remotely assessing and monitoring patients with wearable and artificial intelligence-based technologies. He subsequently went to residency in the Midwest, where he established the Orthopaedic Machine Learning Laboratory. At the Hospital for Special Surgery, he aspires to master arthroscopic and minimally invasive hip and knee preservation techniques. With specialized anatomic focus on end-to-end hip and knee care, from cartilage and soft tissue repair to resurfacing, replacement, and revision arthroplasty, Dr. Ramkumar hopes to return home to Southern California.

# ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

## Registration Now Open for the 2022 AAHKS Annual Meeting

This educational event, taking place at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas, on November 3-6, is one of the year's most eagerly anticipated and prestigious scientific meetings in the field of arthroplasty. Go to [www.AAHKS.org/Meeting](http://www.AAHKS.org/Meeting) to register.

### **AAHKS Introduces New Start-up Exhibitor Program for the 2022 Annual Meeting**

An important part of the AAHKS Annual Meeting is bringing new, cutting-edge products, science and services to the exhibit floor for AAHKS attendees to evaluate. Often, start-up companies lack the budget needed to afford a booth at the AAHKS Annual Meeting. The start-up exhibitor program will allow a limited number of companies the opportunity to exhibit at the 2022 AAHKS Annual Meeting at a greatly reduced, one-time rate.

This new program was developed by the AAHKS Industry Relations Committee at the direction of the AAHKS Board of Directors. This program is for new or start-up companies and first-time exhibitors at the AAHKS Annual Meeting. This application process is designed to enhance and protect the academic and clinical focus of the meeting. If you are working with a start-up that falls into this space, please encourage them to apply at <https://meeting.aahks.org/aahks-start-up-exhibitor-program-application>.



EMPOWR Dual Mobility™  
LOCKED IN



## AAHKS LEADERS APPROVE NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

Under the leadership of President Bryan D. Springer, MD the Board of Directors, council and committee chairs and vice chairs and Health Policy Fellows convened at the Leadership Retreat to revise and update the AAHKS Strategic Plan for 2022-2024. The Plan now includes our fourth pillar of “humanitarianism” throughout, starting with our updated

mission to “Advance hip and knee patient care through education, advocacy, research and humanitarianism,” among other innovations. The Strategic Plan is updated every three years to guide the association and the profession. View the Strategic Plan on our website at: [www.AAHKS.org/about-us/](http://www.AAHKS.org/about-us/).

## CALL FOR PAPERS- AAHKS PUBLICATIONS

Submit your next manuscript to one of the official journals of the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons. The *Journal of Arthroplasty* brings together the clinical and scientific foundations for joint replacement. *Arthroplasty Today* is the fully open-access sister journal of The *Journal of Arthroplasty* and is indexed on PubMed Central.

Submit today at [www.arthroplastytoday.org](http://www.arthroplastytoday.org) and [www.arthroplastyjournal.org](http://www.arthroplastyjournal.org).

To see if your open-access publication fee will be automatically paid for by your funder or institution, please consult this page: <https://www.elsevier.com/open-access/agreements>. AAHKS Members receive special discounts.



# AAHKS STAFF

**Michael J. Zarski, JD**  
Executive Director  
847-430-5070  
mzarski@aahks.org

**Joshua M. Kerr**  
Deputy Executive Director  
847-430-5068  
jkerr@aahks.org

**Sharon M. Creed**  
Accounting and Registration Manager  
847-430-5073  
sharon@aahks.org

**Renalin J. Malvar-Ledda**  
Senior Director of Events and Operations  
847-430-5066  
rledda@aahks.org

**Eileen M. Lusk**  
Senior Director of Membership  
847-430-5071  
eileen@aahks.org

**Jeff Mitchell**  
Director of Marketing and Corporate Relations  
847-430-5072  
jmitchell@aahks.org

**Kenneth Robinson**  
Communications Manager  
847-430-5064  
krobinson@aahks.org

**Chiara Rodgers, MPH, CCRC**  
Director of Research and Humanitarian Activities  
847-430-5062  
croddgers@aahks.org

**Stella M.G. Whitney**  
Membership Operations Specialist  
847-430-5063  
swhitney@aahks.org

**Sigita Wolfe**  
Senior Director of Education and Science  
847-430-5067  
swolfe@aahks.org



# AAHKS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
HIP AND KNEE SURGEONS



**American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons**

9400 W. Higgins Road, Suite 230

Rosemont, IL 60018 USA

