

WINTER 2024



**AAHKS**  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
HIP AND KNEE SURGEONS

# UPDATE

A MEMBER PUBLICATION



## WHAT'S INSIDE:

**Inside Cover**  
CME Credit

**02**  
2023 Year in Review

**06-09, 16**  
Annual Meeting Awards

**10**  
Health Policy Forecast

**13**  
AAHKS Spring Meeting

**14**  
FARE Grant Winners

Ran Schwarzkopf, MD, MSc  
2023 Program Committee Chair



## View the 2023 AAHKS Annual Meeting and Earn CME Now!

Recordings from the 2023 AAHKS Annual Meeting are available for members and non-members to purchase on LEARN, the AAHKS online education resource, at <https://learn.aahks.net/>. The cutting edge research presentations and discussions were recorded and paired with CME assessments, allowing orthopaedic surgeons to earn 21.25 hours of *AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits™* on demand. Log into the AAHKS LEARN platform using your AAHKS username and password, then select "2023 Annual Meeting Recorded Course for CME Credit" to purchase and access the content. ●

If you attended **AAHKS' Annual Meeting**, don't forget to claim your CME credit! Here's how:

1. Log in to AAHKS' website (<https://member.aahks.net/>)
2. Click the "Claim CME Credit" link in the My AAHKS menu
3. Click "Edit" in the first column; a new window will open
4. Enter your hours
5. Click the "Save" button

*\*You can print a copy of the transcript by clicking the "Print Transcript" button on the page.*



Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead  
May 2–4 // Atlanta, Georgia

### 2024 AAHKS Spring Meeting

Case-based learning • Peer-to-peer education  
Small-group setting • Expert faculty

Visit [AAHKS.org](https://AAHKS.org) for details



# CONTENTS



## 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.

- 02** 2023 Year in Review
- 05** Membership Renewal
- 06** Presidential Award
- 07** Lawrence D. Dorr, MD, Humanitarian Award
- 08** Women in Arthroplasty Empowerment Award
- 09** Diversity Award
- 10** Health Policy Forecast
- 13** 2024 Spring Meeting
- 14** FARE Grant Recipients
- 16** Annual Meeting Awards
- 16** Poster Award Recipients
- 17** Industry Innovation Award Winners

# 2023 Year in Review



**Michael J. Zarski, JD**  
Executive Director

# 2023

## New Leaders Take Office

The annual leadership change took place in Las Vegas this past March as 2022-2023 President Bryan D. Springer, MD handed the gavel to 2023-2024 AAHKS President Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS. Also joining the Board were Third Vice President Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA and Members-at-Large Jaime L. Bellamy, DO and Mathew P. Abdel, MD.

## AAHKS Welcomes Non-Ortho Physician Members

A Bylaws amendment approved at the 2023 AAHKS Business Meeting expanded the Associate Member category to include other physician specialists, such as anesthesiologists and internists who focus their practice on the treatment of hip and knee arthroplasty patients. Please encourage your qualified colleagues interested in joining AAHKS to do so at [www.AAHKS.org/join/](http://www.AAHKS.org/join/).

## Chicago Hosts Spring Meeting

The AAHKS Spring Meeting, chaired by Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc, Education & Communications Council Chair and Immediate Past President Bryan D. Springer, MD. was conducted in Chicago in May. This smaller case-based AAHKS educational activity will take place next May 2-4, 2024, in the Buckhead-Atlanta area. Members can register through the AAHKS website. We look forward to seeing you there.

## New Member Practice Resources Available

AAHKS and the American College of Rheumatology released a new CPG, Optimal Timing of Total Hip and Knee Arthroplasty, which provides evidence-based consensus recommendations for the optimal timing of hip and knee arthroplasty on patient important outcomes from AAHKS and the American College of Rheumatology. The guideline can be found at [www.AAHKS.org/clinical-practice-guidelines/](http://www.AAHKS.org/clinical-practice-guidelines/).

AAHKS continues to develop resources on utilization of the Principal Care Management (PCM) CPT codes for pre-optimization of TJA patients. A step-by-step primer on how to bill for these codes is now available at [www.AAHKS.org/practice-resources/](http://www.AAHKS.org/practice-resources/).

## Leaders Return to Washington, DC to Advance Advocacy Efforts

AAHKS Leaders, including Health Policy Chair Adam J. Rana, MD and others flew to Washington to continue their work to mitigate negative impacts on Medicare payment for arthroplasty. A clear strategy for recognizing the full value of the services provided by AAHKS members continues to be advanced.



## Annual Meeting Hosts Record Numbers

The 2023 AAHKS Annual Meeting welcomed 4,800 total attendees, up by 20 percent from 2022. Program Chair Ran Schwarzkopf, MD, MS, produced an exceptional program for the event. The 2024 AAHKS Annual Meeting will take place at the Gaylord Texan on November 7-10, 2024.

### Dr. Polkowski Receives Presidential Award

The AAHKS Presidential Award is given to an AAHKS member in recognition of exceptional service to the Association and the profession. The 2023 Award went to Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc. Currently, Chair of the AAHKS Education and Communications Council, Dr. Polkowski has had significant influence on the educational activities of the Association, including the Annual Meeting and the Spring Meeting.

### JOA Editorial Masthead Sees Changes

Michael A. Mont, MD, Journal of Arthroplasty (JOA) Editor-in-Chief, commemorated the tenure of J. Bohannon “Bo” Mason, MD who stepped down as an Associate Editor at the end of the year, after serving for 14 years. Dr. Mont also welcomed new Associate Editors Tracy L. Kinsey, PhD, MSPH and Giles R. Scuderi, MD.

### All-Women Faculty Robotics Bio-Skills Course Held

A unique event at the AAHKS Annual Meeting, under the leadership of Linda I. Suleiman, MD, the AAHKS Women in Arthroplasty Technology Symposium brought together eight companies and offered seven different stations to provide participants with a comprehensive, hands-on update on the latest advances in technology in hip and knee arthroplasty. The event, featuring an all-female faculty, highlighted how emerging technology can impact and enhance patient care.



### Women’s Empowerment Award Presented to Dr. Chen

AAHKS presented the “Women in Arthroplasty Empowerment Award” to AAHKS Third Vice President Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA. The WIA Empowerment Award recognizes a member who has gone above and beyond to elevate and support women in arthroplasty in a unique and impactful way. Many AAHKS members can attest to the support Dr. Chen has provided to women through mentoring, sponsoring and advocating for their advancement.

### Humanitarian Award Given to Dr. Stocks

Gregory W. Stocks, MD, was presented with the 2023 Lawrence D. Dorr, MD, Humanitarian Award. Through the organization Walk Strong, Dr. Stocks provides state-of-the-art, low-cost implants for needy patients around the world, allowing them to access life-changing hip and knee replacement surgery.

### AAHKS Member Leads Academy

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) inducted AAHKS member Kevin J. Bozic, MD, MBA, FAAOS, as its president for 2023–2024. Dr. Bozic was a previous recipient of the AAHKS James A. Rand Young Investigator Award and Surgical Techniques & Technologies Award and has actively participated in various roles in AAHKS.



## Industry Innovation Recognized by AAHKS

The AAHKS Industry Innovation Award recognizes cutting-edge innovation in the field of orthopaedic hip and knee arthroplasty by Annual Meeting exhibitors. The Industry Relations Committee, led by Cory L. Calendine, MD, selected two exceptional award recipients from a very competitive pool of products presented at the Annual Meeting. The winners were OrthAlign for the addition of the Balance application to their Lantern® application and Force Therapeutics for the addition of Remote Therapeutic Monitoring (RTM) to their digital care platform.

## AT Designated an Impactful Journal

*Arthroplasty Today* has been included in Clarivate's Web of Science, a publisher - independent global citation database. As a result, *Arthroplasty Today* will be ranked along with other ortho journals with an impact factor. This breakthrough, achieved through the long-term efforts of Gregory J. Golladay, MD, Editor-in-Chief enhances the prestige and credibility of the journal.

## Fellowship Recognition Program Launched

As adult reconstruction fellowships continue to expand with a total of six programs added in the last two cycles, an AAHKS task force, under the leadership of William Hamilton, MD has developed an Adult Reconstruction Fellowship Training Recognition Program. Coupled with the AAHKS Fellowship Education Improvement and Innovation Grant Program, the new recognition program will help standardize curriculum, improve training and financially support adult reconstruction fellowship training nationally. Applications for both the grant and the recognition programs opened in January.

## Diversity Award Recognizes Dr. O'Conner

The AAHKS Diversity Award recognizes an individual committed to making hip and knee arthroplasty more diverse and accessible to patients, increasing women and underrepresented minorities in the field and eliminating disparities in arthroplasty care through education, research and/or community engagement. Past President Mary I. O'Conner, MD has now added the AAHKS Diversity Award to her many awards, honors and accolades. Dr. O'Conner is a nationally recognized leader in health equity and as a Yale School of Medicine educator, she has been a champion for diversity in orthopaedics.



## New Diversity Research Grant Awarded

At the behest of the AAHKS Diversity Advisory Board (DAB), The Foundation for Arthroplasty Research and Education (FARE) added a new grant category in 2023 to support research focused on racial and ethnic disparities in hip and knee arthroplasty. The first grant award went to Linda I. Suleiman, MD for her study "Supporting Equitable Diagnosis and Treatment of Knee Osteoarthritis: Co-Designing Digital Capture of Patient-Reported Outcomes. Members can help support our research grant programs by contributing to FARE. ●

# Membership Renewal

Thank you for being a member of AAHKS. We hope you enjoy your membership and take advantage of the many membership benefits we offer. That's why we make it easy for you to renew your membership. It can be done in only a few minutes, see details below about renewing your membership today!

## Via Invoice:

You should have received an invoice via email that includes a unique URL which allows you to securely submit payment without having to log in. If you need to receive that link again, please reach out to the AAHKS office at [connect@aaahks.org](mailto:connect@aaahks.org).

## Online:

Log in at [www.AAHKS.org](http://www.AAHKS.org), click on "Renew" and enter payment information. You can select the one-time payment option or sign up for automatic renewal. AAHKS memberships are on a calendar-year basis (January 1 – December 31), and renewals are due by December 31 for the upcoming year. AAHKS provides members with a grace period until June 1, to renew without suspension of membership and loss of benefits.

## Phone:

Call the AAHKS office Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CST at **847-430-5071**.

## Pay by Check:

Please make checks payable to AAHKS. Include the member's full name and AAHKS ID # on the check for proper credit.

**Questions?** Please contact Eileen Lusk, Senior Director of Membership, at [Eileen@AAHKS.org](mailto:Eileen@AAHKS.org) or call **847-698-1200**.

## Expansion of the AAHKS Associate Member Category Non-Orthopaedic Surgeons can now Enjoy the Same Benefits as you!

At the 2023 AAHKS Business Meeting, the AAHKS membership voted to expand the Associate Member category to include other physician specialists, such as anesthesiologists and internists who focus their practice on the treatment of hip and knee arthroplasty patients. If you have colleagues and/or partners who qualify, please encourage them to sign up. They'll enjoy the same membership benefits that you receive – member rates to attend the AAHKS Spring and Annual Meetings, access to AAHKS' official monthly peer-reviewed journal, *The Journal of Arthroplasty (JOA)* and member publishing rates in AAHKS open-access journal, *Arthroplasty Today*.

Physicians who qualify and are interested in joining AAHKS can do so at [www.AAHKS.org/join/](http://www.AAHKS.org/join/).

**CURRENT COUNTS**  
As 2024 begins,  
AAHKS has **5341** members.



## WHERE ARE OUR MEMBERS?

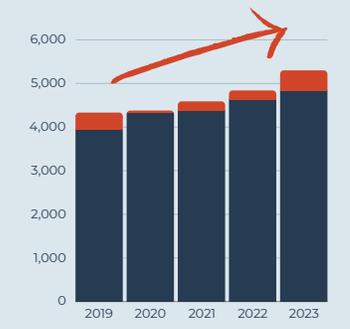
AAHKS' growing membership is represented around the globe!



Algeria, 2	Malaysia, 3
Argentina, 18	Mexico, 49
Australia, 12	Netherlands, 3
Bahamas, 1	New Zealand, 5
Belgium, 1	Nicaragua, 1
Bolivia, 1	Nigeria, 2
Brazil, 25	Oman, 1
Canada, 64	Pakistan, 3
Chile, 15	Panama, 1
China, 6	Paraguay, 2
Colombia, 18	Peru, 11
Costa Rica, 3	Philippines, 1
Dominican Republic, 5	Poland, 1
Ecuador, 4	Qatar, 2
Egypt, 23	Russian Federation, 1
Ethiopia, 1	Saudi Arabia, 3
Finland, 2	Singapore, 6
France, 11	South Africa, 1
Germany, 10	Spain, 4
Greece, 2	Switzerland, 4
Honduras, 1	Taiwan, 4
Hong Kong, 4	Thailand, 2
India, 28	Trinidad and Tobago, 1
Indonesia, 1	Turkey, 10
Ireland, 11	Ukraine, 2
Israel, 2	United Arab Emirates, 4
Italy, 19	United Kingdom, England, 130
Jamaica, 1	United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, 2
Japan, 26	United Kingdom, Scotland, 6
Jordan, 2	United Kingdom, Wales, 3
Korea, Republic of, 12	United States and US Territories, 4726
Lebanon, 1	Uruguay, 9
Libya, 1	Venezuela, 4

## GROWTH

Over the past 5 (five) years (2019 to 2023), there has been a 34% membership growth.





**RECIPIENT: Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc**  
**PRESENTER: Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS**

## 2023 AAHKS Presidential Award

AAHKS is proud to present the 2023 Presidential Award to Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc in recognition of his exceptional commitment and invaluable contributions to the organization. Since joining AAHKS in 2009, Dr. Polkowski has been an unwavering advocate for the advancement of hip and knee arthroplasty surgery and education.

“It is a great honor to recognize Dr. Polkowski as this year’s Presidential Award recipient as he has exemplified a relentless pursuit in the advancement of hip and knee replacement surgery who advocates for patients, his colleagues and the profession.”

– Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS, President of AAHKS

Dr. Polkowski’s journey with AAHKS commenced as an Annual Meeting abstract reviewer from 2012 to 2017, where a very thorough review process ensured the high quality of

academic content presented at AAHKS events. This dedication extended into roles on the Program Committee and as faculty for the Resident Course, starting in 2012, significantly impacting the educational initiatives of the association.

In 2015, Dr. Polkowski assumed the pivotal role of Program Chair for the Annual Meeting, with involvement to this day in subsequent roles on the Education and Communications Council. As the AAHKS delegate, he was the co-chair for the AAOS Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) for Hip Osteoarthritis from 2015 to 2017, demonstrating a commitment to shaping industry standards. He subsequently served again as AAHKS Delegate and co-chair for the AAOS CPG for Periprosthetic Joint Infections (PJI) from 2016 to 2018.

In honoring Dr. Polkowski with the 2023 Presidential Award, AAHKS acknowledges not only his extensive list of contributions but also the embodiment of leadership, dedication and innovation. Dr. Polkowski has not only helped shape the educational landscape within AAHKS, but he has also demonstrated a commitment to the betterment of hip and knee arthroplasty surgery on a much larger level. ●

# 2023 Lawrence D. Dorr, MD, Humanitarian Award

At the 2023 AAHKS Annual Meeting, Gregory W. Stocks, MD was presented with the prestigious Lawrence D. Dorr, MD, Humanitarian Award. Dr. Stocks has had the privilege of working with Walk Strong since 2019, where he brings state of the art, FDA-approved, low-cost implants to surgeons and hospitals that provide humanitarian care for needy patients in Mexico, South America, Caribbean and Africa, specifically Ethiopia and Kenya. It was from his earlier work in the Middle East and then in Africa that Dr. Stocks noticed that access to hip and knee replacement surgeries were very limited for two reasons – the relatively high cost of implants and access to surgeons with adequate training to perform these operations. Walk Strong was created to address these barriers.

The joy Dr. Stocks feels from his work with Walk Strong is immeasurable. Recently, he trained three Ethiopian consultant surgeons on how to properly use lower-cost knee implants and, after three weeks, they successfully performed 30 TKAs. Because of this success, 100 more sets of implants were ordered from Walk Strong at a fraction of the previous costs.

This new sustainable paradigm of providing high-quality, low-cost implants, and training local surgeons that work at appropriate charity hospitals to use them, elegantly meets the needs of low- and middle-income countries.

This same model is currently being developed in Kenya. There will be an initial roll out at Tenwek Hospital, the largest missionary hospital in East Africa, and Kijabe Hospital. Both hospitals are equipped with orthopaedic residency training programs and capable faculty surgeons. With these low-cost implants now in Kenya, access to hip and knee replacement surgery is significantly improved for the local population, and hospitals are able to provide a life-changing operation and not lose money.

The Lawrence D. Dorr, MD, Humanitarian Award recognizes AAHKS members who have distinguished themselves by providing humanitarian medical services and programs with a significant focus on musculoskeletal diseases and trauma including the hip and knee in the United States or abroad.

Dr. Stocks graduated from Baylor College of Medicine and completed his residency at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. He is fellowship trained in bone and joint research and major joint reconstruction.

Nominations for the 2024 AAHKS Lawrence D. Dorr, MD, Humanitarian Award are now being accepted through July 8, 2024 at [www.AAHKS.org/humanitarian](http://www.AAHKS.org/humanitarian). ●

**RECIPIENT: Gregory W. Stocks, MD**  
**PRESENTER: J. Craig Morrison, MD**





**RECIPIENT: Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA**  
**PRESENTER: Rina Jain, MD, FRCSC**

## 2023 AAHKS Women in Arthroplasty Empowerment Award

It is with great pleasure that AAHKS presents the 2023 Women in Arthroplasty (WIA) Empowerment Award to Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA. Dr. Chen is an inspiring and talented surgeon, mentor and leader who goes out of her way to set an example for others to follow. She has made it clear, through her acts of service, that she supports women orthopaedic surgeons unconditionally. As the Program Chair of the 2021 AAHKS Annual Meeting, she strongly advocated for the inclusion of multiple symposia

with women faculty. She strives, both privately and publicly, to increase the representation of women in adult reconstruction.

In addition to being an accomplished surgeon, Dr. Chen has broken multiple barriers and glass ceilings while carrying women up the ladder with her. She continues to mentor and sponsor women in arthroplasty and is always thinking about how to incorporate women in leadership roles at AAHKS. ●

“ Dr. Chen is tireless in her pursuit of excellence and lifts us all up as she rises in the world of orthopaedic surgery. She is quick to offer opportunities to everyone, especially women and underrepresented minorities who otherwise would not have been considered for presentations, collaborations, committees or other endeavors. She uses her esteemed credentials to give a voice to others. She is a powerful force in orthopedics and uses that power responsibly and with grace. We are grateful to Dr. Chen for her leadership and providing all of us a platform to be integral participants in orthopedics.”

– Rina Jain, MD, FRCSC, Chair of AAHKS Women in Arthroplasty (WIA)

# 2023 AAHKS Diversity Award

It is with great joy that we acknowledge Mary I. O'Connor, MD as the 2023 AAHKS Diversity Award recipient. Dr. O'Connor is Professor Emerita of Orthopedics at Mayo Clinic and past Professor of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation at Yale School of Medicine. She practiced at Mayo Clinic in Florida until 2015, during which time she served as chair of orthopedic surgery and an executive leader. In 2015, she became the inaugural Director of the Center for Musculoskeletal Care at Yale School of Medicine and Yale New Haven Health.

In February of 2021, she co-founded Vori Health, a virtual-first musculoskeletal medical startup company with an integrated care delivery model. She is a nationally recognized leader in health equity, chairing Movement is Life, a non-profit multi-stakeholder coalition committed to addressing musculoskeletal health disparities, since its inception in 2010. Dr. O'Connor is also AAHKS' first woman president, serving in 2010. ●



During her remarkable career of breaking down walls and breaking through ceilings, Dr. O'Connor has seemingly done it with one hand, keeping the other behind her to help others along the way. She is a model of mentorship. It is no surprise that when the Diversity Advisory Board was founded within AAHKS, Dr. O'Connor was selected as our inaugural faculty advisor. So, on behalf of DAB and AAHKS Leadership, it is my honor to bestow the AAHKS Diversity Award to Dr. O'Connor.”

– Adam A. Sassoon, MD, MS, Co-Chair of the AAHKS Diversity Advisory Board (DAB)

**RECIPIENT: Mary I. O'Connor, MD**  
**PRESENTER: Adam A. Sassoon, MD, MS**



# 2024 Health Policy Forecast

Prepared for AAHKS by our Advocacy Partner National Health Advisors

## Short-Term Congressional Action on Medicare Physician Payments

CMS has scheduled the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) conversion factor to be reduced, effective January 1, 2024, to \$32.74, a 3.4% decrease from 2023 levels. This cut is largely due to the statutory “PFS budget neutrality adjustment” which requires across the board PFS payment reductions to offset increases in reimbursement for other services, or in this case, the creation of add-on code G2211. When faced with such large one-year reductions previously, Congress has acted to phase-in the cuts over several years.

AAHKS, the AMA and other specialty societies continue to work with allies in Congress to pass legislation that will reduce, delay

or otherwise mitigate the cut in 2024. A “stretch-goal” for physician allies is to include provisions that may lessen the size of any future cuts the Medicare PFS conversion factor. As of December 12, 2023, legislative action is viewed, as most likely in January 2024, to be tied to must-pass federal government funding legislation. Any successful mitigation of the cuts would be retroactive to January 1, 2024.

Our Congressional allies are also working on the same timeframe to reauthorize the “geographic practice cost index (GPCI) adjustment”. This statutory adjustment to the Medicare PFS formula sets a national floor value of 1.0 to the GPCI for physician work RVUs.

## Work Towards Long-Term Congressional Reform of Medicare Physician Payments

AAHKS will continue to work with the AMA and other specialty societies to persuade Congress to enact the *Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act*. This legislation will eliminate the need for Congress to annually act to mitigate conversion factor cuts by adding an inflation update to the Medicare PFS formula. This would be accomplished by tying the PFS conversion factor to the Medicare Economic Index (MEI). The PFS presently lacks any means to increase payments to account for inflation, as is done for Medicare facility payments. This bipartisan legislation is being pushed by Reps. Raul Ruiz, MD (D-CA), Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN),

Ami Bera, MD (D-CA) and Mariannette Miller-Meeks, MD (R-IA).

Support for the *Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act* is growing as more Congressional members learn of drastic reductions in Medicare physician payments over 30 years when adjusted for inflation. Congressional Committee staff and Leadership staff have counseled AAHKS that, while the bill may not pass in 2024, the year will be very important to lobby and educate more members of Congress so that a majority will understand the need and support passage in 2025.

## Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI or “the Innovation Center”)

CCMMI will soon release a proposed rule titled *Alternative Payment Model Updates* which will likely address mandatory or voluntary Medicare payment models for AAHKS members in 2025. First, the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) Model currently runs only through 2024. By spring 2024, CMMI must announce its plans for the CJR which could be (1) expansion, (2) modification or (3) termination and replacement

with an alternate new model. Every few years that CMMI modifies the CJR, it has included improvements as suggested by AAHKS.

Second, CMMI may formally propose a new *Specialty Care Episode Payment Model* that CMMI officials have been discussing for two years. CMMI leadership under the Biden administration have said that “accountable care requires access to and coordination of



AAHKS leaders and Health Policy Fellows on Capitol Hill as part of NOLC to advocate for prior authorization and payment reform, safety in the health care workplace, and preserving the doctor-patient relationship.

primary care and specialty care to meet the full range of patient needs.” Therefore, their focus is on building new models, including mandatory models, that can integrate specialists into primary care and population-based models.

We know CMS is considering at least the following for the *Specialty Care Episode Payment Model*: (1) making available more specialist outcome data to inform primary care physician referrals; (2) using e-consults

and enhanced referrals in primary care models to improve access and reduce wait times for specialty visits; (3) making capitated payments to specialists for their role in managing defined chronic conditions; and (4) condition and procedure-based spending targets to promote active longitudinal management of high-volume and costly conditions. The eventual release of this model will clarify whether CMML intends it to replace or run parallel with the CJR.

## Prior Authorization and Medicare Advantage Oversight

New CMS rules governing prior authorization procedures and utilization management review by Medicare Advantage (MA) plans went into effect January 1, 2024. The new rules require that: (1) once an enrollee is granted prior auth approval, that authorization remains valid for the full course of treatment; (2) prior auth policies can only be used to confirm the presence of diagnoses or other clinical criteria and/or ensure that an item or service is medically necessary; and (3) all MA plans must establish a Utilization Management Committee to review policies annually and ensure coverage and medical necessity standards are no more restrictive than those for Traditional Medicare. Congress, CMS and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) will continue their oversight of MA plan prior auth practices to see if plans are complying with the law. AAHKS and other stakeholders will track whether CMS sanctions any plans that fail to comply with the new rules.

We expect CMS to release in 2024 a second regulation on prior authorization. The *Advancing Interoperability and Improving Prior Authorization Processes* Final Rule will require MA plans, Medicaid plans, and Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) issued through Federal Exchanges to build and maintain automated prior auth processes for providers. The new processes require plans to send decisions to providers within 72 hours for expedited requests and 7 days for routine requests. Plans will also be required to share with providers a specific reason when denying a request. Further, plans will be required to annually post on their websites prior auth metrics, including denial rates. This rule will be effective in 2026.

Also, Congress will continue to push prior auth legislation. The *Improving Seniors Timely Access to Care Act* would allow Medicare Advantage plans to provide “real time decisions” for prior auth requests of items and services that are routinely approved.

## Prospects for Bipartisan Health Care Legislation in 2024

The narrow party control margins in the House, along with those in the Senate (52-48), make passage of any legislation unlikely without broad bipartisan support. House Republicans' slim majority is down to three seats following the expulsion of Rep. George Santos (R-NY) and the imminent mid-term retirement of former Speaker of the House, Kevin McCarthy (R-CA).

One of Congress' highest priorities for 2024 is to enact some level of regulation over the practices of pharmaceutical benefit managers (PBMs). While there is widespread, bipartisan support in Congress to address PBM issues, there is wide variation in the level and type of regulation preferred by many members of Congress and as pushed by PBMs, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and health plans. So, notwithstanding that the House and the Senate and various health care committees therein may work to advance individual PBM reform bills, negotiations over a compromise that can pass all of Congress will continue

through 2024. The most likely timeframe for final enactment of PBM reform legislation is as a part of a large omnibus legislative package in December 2024 during a Congressional "lame-duck session" following the election in November.

Congress will continue work to reauthorize the *SUPPORT Act* to address opioid use and substance use disorder. Proponents believe passage is possible with a smaller package, narrowly focused on opioids and non-opioid pain management concerns. Advocates for physicians and health care workers continue work on preventing and responding to violence in health care settings. Nevertheless, legislation to confront that issue, the *SAVE Act*, faces an uphill battle due to disputes over state and federal jurisdiction over criminal justice issues. Congress is overseeing the FDA's implementation of the *NO PAIN Act*, which expands patient and provider access to FDA-approved non-opioids in all outpatient surgical settings beginning in 2025.

## 2024 Election

Health care issues will play, perhaps, a minor role in the Presidential election. President Biden has stated he will campaign on a plan to make permanent the enhanced level of federal health insurance premium subsidies offered to help people afford coverage on the Obamacare exchanges. The subsidy amounts were enhanced during the Covid Public Health Emergency and are set to expire after 2025. This and any other new spending would be paid for by expanding the number of prescription drugs subject to the federal Maximum Fair Price (aka "*Medicare Drug Price Negotiation*") as established by the Inflation Reduction Act. Biden's announcement of health care priorities was made in response to a statement from Don-

ald Trump that he would repeal the Affordable Care Act if elected.

Both the House and the Senate are seen as up for grabs by either party. Congressional candidates and Presidential candidates are all expected to campaign on addressing rising health care costs, focusing on industries or services in which prices are perceived to be rising: prescription drugs, health plans, private-equity backed providers, among others. Democrats may again propose creating a "Public Option" federal health plan. In previous campaigns, Public Option proponents argued that the Public Option plan would be more affordable because it would negotiate lower rates with providers. ●



## 2024 AAHKS Spring Meeting

### Meet us in Atlanta, Georgia

Online registration is now open! Join us in Atlanta at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead, May 2-4. The Spring Meeting is a smaller gathering of faculty and surgeons that's intended to equip practicing orthopaedic surgeons with state-of-the-art information and cutting-edge strategies to enhance overall surgeon competence related to the care of patients with arthritis and degenerative disease.

You'll enjoy breakout sessions, emphasizing case-based learning in a small-group setting with some of the leading faculty in the field of arthroplasty. With attendance capped at 250, this gives participants the unique opportunity to meet face-to-face with faculty and discuss hip and knee patient care.

We are truly excited about this year's program and with limited spots for registration, be sure to reserve yours soon. For more information, visit us online at [www.aahks.org/aahks-spring-meeting/](http://www.aahks.org/aahks-spring-meeting/).



### Objectives

- Analyze total hip and knee arthroplasty cases
- Investigate the patterns contributing to effective total hip and knee primary arthroplasty and revision
- Determine the strategies contributing to optimal perioperative and post-operative care, including complication management
- Consider effective practice management tips and related health care policy

### CME

The American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS) designates this live activity for a maximum of 15.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.





**David Novikov, MD**  
Boston University



**Sumon Nandi, MD, MBA**  
University of Maryland  
School of Medicine

## FARE Grant Recipients

The Foundation for Arthroplasty Research and Education (FARE) has announced the recipients of the FARE Grant, presented at the 2023 AAHKS Annual Meeting.

### The Role of Peri-Operative Adjunctive Probiotics in the Prevention of Recurrent Prosthetic Joint Infection of the Hip and Knee

The study team intends to conduct a multi-centered randomized controlled trial at two academic, tertiary care centers that routinely treat PJI (Boston Medical Center and NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital) to determine the impact of probiotics on recurrent infection following treatment for PJI. Controls will receive Standard of care (SOC); study patients will receive a probiotic for the duration of their antibiotic therapy plus seven days, in addition to SOC.

The primary outcome is re-operation for recurrent infection within one year. Patients undergoing debridement, antibiotics, implant retention (DAIR), single-stage and two-stage revision TJA will be included. Based upon a re-infection rate of 20 percent following two stage revision TJA for PJI, in order to demonstrate a 12 percent reduction in recurrent infection from baseline, and to allow a loss of follow-up of roughly eight percent, a sample size of 152 patients total (76 in each group) provides 80 percent power at alpha of 0.05.

Perioperative probiotics are a novel, potentially beneficial adjuvant to PJI treatment that warrant structured, rigorous investigation.

### Is Formal Postoperative Physical Therapy Clearance Necessary for Safe Home Discharge After Total Joint Arthroplasty?

Conventionally, physical therapy (PT) evaluation and clearance are sought prior to total joint arthroplasty (TJA) discharge. However, PT staffing limitations may preclude same-day home discharge in patients having surgery late in the day.

Failed same-day home discharge in eligible TJA patients results in unnecessary hospital bed occupancy, which increases costs, limits operating room throughput for patients requiring inpatient admission, and introduces risks associated with longer length-of-stay. In collaboration with our institutional PT department, we developed a protocol for discharging same-day TJA patients without formal postoperative PT clearance.

Single-institution pilot data from two hospitals demonstrates no increased risk of falls, emergency room (ER) visits, or readmissions with this protocol over a one year period.

We will now conduct a prospective, controlled, multicenter study to expand on our pilot data. Our study aim is to assess the safety of our novel TJA discharge protocol consisting of day-of-surgery preoperative PT-administered gait training and postoperative ambulation with PACU nursing.



**Linda I. Suleiman, MD**  
Northwestern University

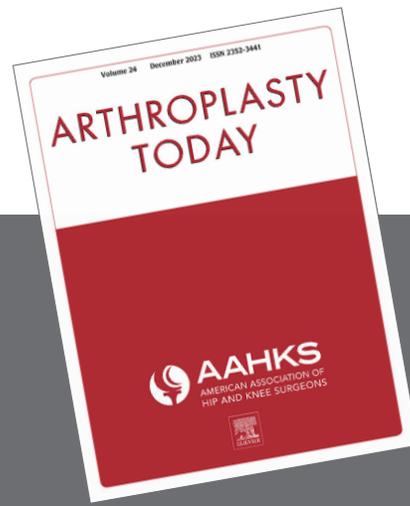
### Supporting Equitable Diagnosis and Treatment of Knee Osteoarthritis: Co-Designing Digital Capture of Patient-Reported Outcomes

Despite the prevalence of knee OA and its impact on function, screening for knee OA symptoms among aging adults is not routine, and inequities in its timely diagnosis and treatment persist. For example, Black and Hispanic patients report a similar or greater prevalence of knee OA as non-Hispanic white adults but receive fewer treatments and referrals for orthopaedic surgeon evaluations.

The over-arching goal of this research is to define a sustainable knee PROM screening system to support the equitable and timely diagnosis of knee OA, and the subsequent use of evidence-based treatments among diverse patients receiving primary care. An efficient and user-friendly knee OA symptom screening system for use in primary care, including FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) settings, is needed to support the equitable identification and evidence-based treatment of knee OA.

This research will pilot test and evaluate an existing patient-centered PROM screening system to support equitable and timely diagnosis and treatment of knee OA in primary care. The ideal knee OA PROM screening system will enable patients to self-assess symptoms from home before office visits using the phone and inform knee OA care decisions at clinician visits. Our team has established and tested such a knee OA PROM system in orthopaedic care using patient-centered technologies (e.g., SMS texts) to capture PROMs from thousands of knee OA patients in community practices.

The system scores PROMs for patients and clinicians to document knee OA symptom severity to inform care. This prototype will be adapted to serve primary care patients with knee OA, deployed, and evaluated in this pilot. We hope this screening process will increase access and utilization of arthroplasty for historically marginalized patients. ●



## Congratulations, Arthroplasty Today

### Welcome to the Web of Science

*Arthroplasty Today* has been selected for inclusion in Clarivate's Web of Science, the world's most trusted publisher independent global citation database. Now being a part of the Web of Science, this will enhance the journal's credibility and reputation, be more thoroughly indexed and ranked along with other ortho journals with an impact factor.

Articles published after 2021 will be included in the Emerging Sources Citation Index and in the future, possibly added to additional Clarivate products to meet the needs of the scientific and scholarly research community.

Thanks to Elsevier and Gregory J. Golladay, MD, Editor-in-Chief for all the hard work and dedication it took to make this happen. ●

# 2023 AAHKS Annual Meeting Award Recipients

## James A. Rand Young Investigator's Award

Keeping it Simple: Are all MSIS Tests Useful to Diagnose PJI?

Presented to: **Vinay K. Aggarwal, MD**  
Institution: NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital

Co-Authors: Jason Kreinces, BS, Ittai Shichman, MD, Mackenzie A. Roof, MD, MBA, Hayley Raymond, BS, Alana Prinos, BS, Itay Ashkenazi, MD, Ran Schwarzkopf, MD, MSc



## AAHKS Clinical Research Award

Postoperative Oral Tranexamic Acid in TKA: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Presented to: **Marcus C. Ford, MD**  
Institution: Campbell Clinic Orthopaedics

Co-Authors: Mateo J. Kirwan, MD, Zachary R. Diltz, MD, Derek T. Dixon, BS, Carlos A. Rivera-Peraza, BS, Christal J. Gammage, PhD, William M. Mihalko, MD, PhD, James W. Harkess, MD, James L. Guyton, MD, John R. Crockarell, MD



## AAHKS Surgical Techniques and Technologies Award

Inferior Screw Fixation in Revision Acetabular Reconstruction Decreases Acetabular Component Failure

Presented to: **Christopher M. Melnic, MD**  
Institution: Rothman Orthopaedic Institute

Co-Authors: Amy Z. Blackburn, BA, Ashish Mittal, MD, Brian Velasco, MD, Colin M. Baker, DO, Nicholas Vandal, BA, Saad Tarabichi, MD, Paul M. Courtney, MD, Neil P. Sheth, MD, Hany S. Bedair, MD



## AAHKS Best Podium Award

One Stage versus Two Stage Treatment for Prosthetic Joint Infection: A Prospective, Randomized Trial

Presented to: **Thomas K. Fehring, MD**  
Institution: OrthoCarolina Research Institute



Co-Authors: Jesse E. Otero, MD, Keith A. Fehring, MD, Brian M. Curtin, MD, Bryan D. Springer, MD, Alexis N. Ready, BS, Taylor M. Rowe, BA, Susan M. Odum, PhD

*The institution listed is the research project's home institution (per the abstract submitted) and not the accepting author's institution.*

## Poster Award Winners

### Complications Not Including Infection

Effect of Surgical Approach and Lumbar Spinal Fusion on Dislocation Following Total Hip Arthroplasty

**Authors:** Nathan A. Huebschmann, BA, Kyle Lawrence, BS, Joseph X. Robin, MD, Joshua C. Rozell, MD, Ran Schwarzkopf, MD, MSc, Vinay K. Aggarwal, MD

### Health Policy

Defining "Success": Comparison of Performance Measures for Lower Extremity Total Joint Arthroplasty

**Authors:** Daniel A. Driscoll, MD, Mihir S. Dekhne, MD, Vanessa J. Ruiz, BS, Stephen Lyman, PhD, Vinicius Antao, MD, PhD, Catherine H. MacLean, MD, PhD, Alexander S. McLawhorn, MD, MBA

### Infection

A "Dry Tap" in PJI Workup of Total Hip Arthroplasty is Not Reassuring for the Absence of Infection

**Authors:** Emily A. Treu, MD, Nathan Behrens, BS, Brenna E. Blackburn, PhD, Christopher E. Pelt, MD, Daniel Cushman, MD, Michael J. Archibeck, MD

### Large Administrative Database Study

Matched-Cohort Survivorship Comparison of Cemented vs Cementless TKA from a Single Manufacturer

**Authors:** Foster Chen, MD, Matthew P. Kelly, MD, Liz W. Paxton, PhD, Kevin T. Hug, MD, Brian H. Fasig, PhD, Heather A. Prentice, PhD, Richard N. Chang, MPH

### Non-Arthroplasty

The Multiplicative Effects of Individual Risk Factors in Development of Osteonecrosis of the Hip

**Authors:** Sarah E. Lindsay, MD, Mackenzie Kelly, MD, Duncan Ramsey, MD, Ryland Kagan, MD, Jung Yoo, MD

### Primary Hip

No Revisions Attributable to Wear of Highly Cross-Linked Polyethylene Liners: A 20-Year Follow-Up

**Authors:** Matthew L. Hadley, MD, Joshua R. Harmer, MD, Breydan H. Wright, MD, Kristin M. Fruth, BS, Rafael J. Sierra, MD, Cory G. Couch, MD

### Primary Knee

10-Fold Increased Risk of MUA Following TKA When Previous Contralateral TKA Required MUA

**Authors:** Sonia K. Chandi, MD, Joseph D. Hawes, BA, David A. Kolin, MD, Eytan M. Debbi, MD, PhD, Michael P. Ast, MD, Steven B. Haas, MD, Brian P. Chalmers, MD

### Revision Hip

Aseptic Revision THA Using Modular Fluted Tapered Stems: Long-Term Update of 515 Cases

**Authors:** Christopher N. Carender, MD, Dirk R. Larson, MS, Robert T. Trousdale, MD, David G. Lewallen, MD, Daniel J. Berry, MD, Matthew P. Abdel, MD

### Revision Knee

Revision Total Knee Arthroplasty in the United States-Arthroplasty Surgeons are Doing More for Less

**Authors:** Coltin R. Gerhart, MS, Sayi P. Boddu, BS, Joshua S. Bingham, MD, Jack M. Haglin, MD

# Industry Innovation Award Winners

The Industry Innovation Award is a competitive product award for companies exhibiting at the AAHKS Annual Meeting. It recognizes cutting-edge innovation in the field of orthopaedic hip and knee arthroplasty by exhibitors. All industry partners and exhibitors were encouraged to apply for the award. We are proud to announce OrthAlign and Force Therapeutics as the 2023 award recipients!



The award-winning product submitted by **OrthAlign** was the addition of the Balance application to their Lantern® Platform.

According to OrthAlign, Lantern Balance:

“delivers an efficient, easy-to-use, cost-effective technology that aids surgeons in soft tissue balancing during primary and revision knee replacement procedures. The application expansion was designed to provide computer-assisted alignment and soft-tissue balance for accurate component positioning during partial and total knee arthroplasty.”



**Force Therapeutics'** award-winning product is the addition of Remote Therapeutic Monitoring (RTM) to its Force Therapeutics digital care platform.

According to the company:

“its RTM solution, which allows health systems, physician practices, and ambulatory surgical centers to provide patients with virtual physical therapy and remote monitoring that adheres to CMS guidelines. The company’s provider-prescribed digital care management platform is validated to provide compliant documentation for the new RTM Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes finalized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.”

Congratulations OrthAlign and Force Therapeutics for winning the 2023 Industry Innovation Award!





# AAHKS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
HIP AND KNEE SURGEONS

**American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons**

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## Hip and Knee Website:

**NEW Hip and  
Knee Website  
Coming SOON!**



Something AWESOME is in the works. Healthcare is constantly changing, so our website should also.

Our new and improved website is going to be more user-friendly with direct access to information your patients find useful.

## Newsletter Feedback:

We're happy you're enjoying the new Update design.



If you have ideas of what we should include in future issues, please email us at [connect@AAHKS.org](mailto:connect@AAHKS.org).

## Patient Testimonial:

Encourage your patients to submit a testimonial



1. To access the registration page, go to [kneehip.org/register](http://kneehip.org/register).
2. Complete the registration page and receive a text message with a link to the Portal.
3. Click the link in the text message you receive to gain access to the Portal and submit the testimony.
4. Press submit when completed.

## Follow Us:

Don't forget to follow AAHKS on social media:



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