

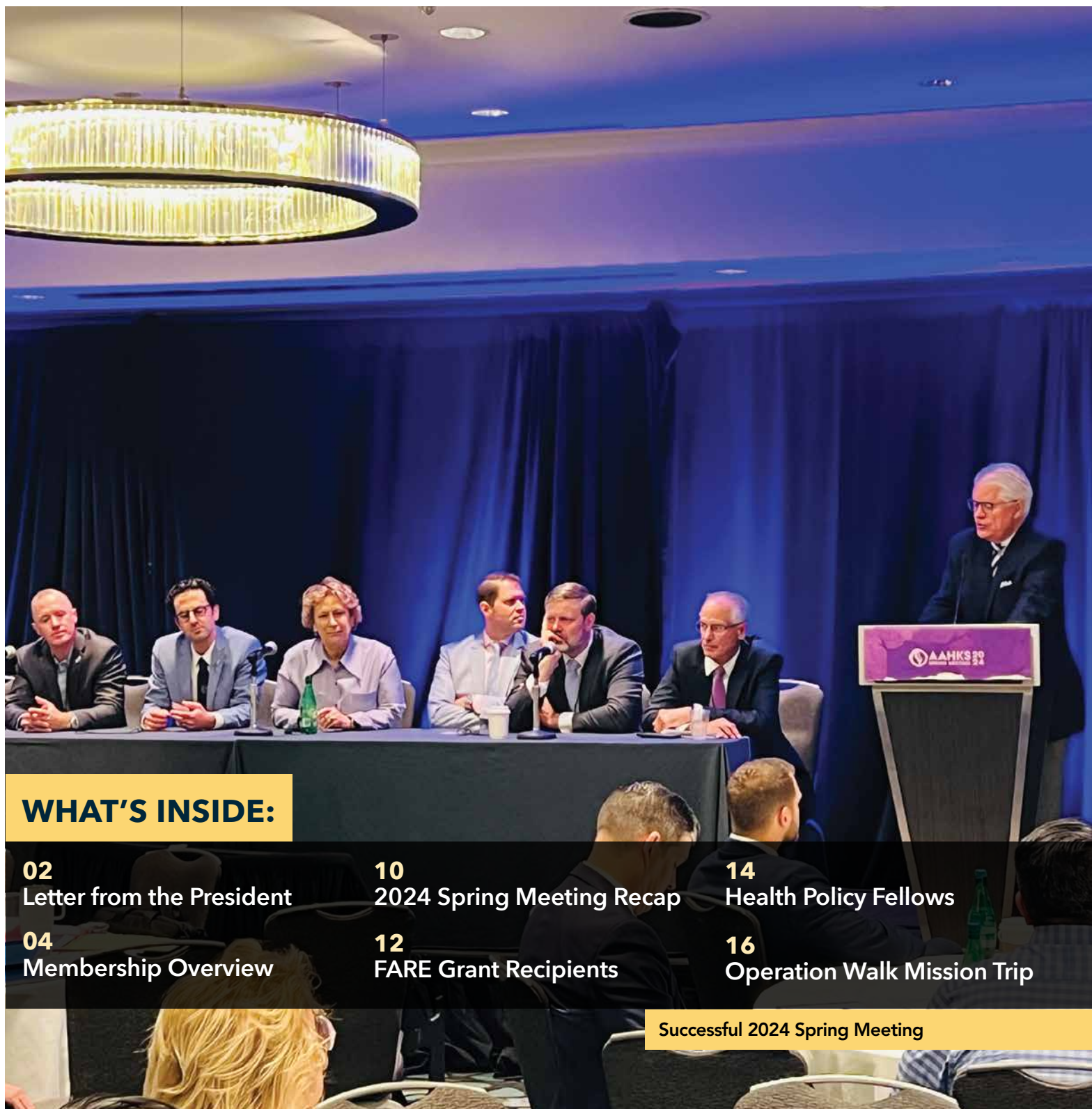
SPRING 2024



AAHKS®
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
HIP AND KNEE SURGEONS

UPDATE

A MEMBER PUBLICATION



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Successful 2024 Spring Meeting



Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center
November 7–10 // Dallas, Texas

**DEVELOPED
BY PEERS,
GUIDED BY
SCIENCE.**

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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.

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Letter from the President



James I. Huddleston III, MD

Dear Fellow AAHKS Members,

Let me express how truly honored I am to serve as the 34th AAHKS President. I owe many thanks to my mentors, colleagues and AAHKS staff for their help along the way.

My main priority as president is to make sure our AAHKS resources are deployed in the best way to address the members' needs at every stage of their career.

Our advocacy efforts will continue to protect the value of our work, payment reforms and promote efforts to reduce administrative burdens related to the care we deliver. More proactively, we are advancing the concept of Periprosthetic Joint Infection (PJI) Centers of Excellence so that all our patients experiencing this complication have the best opportunities for good outcomes.

For some time, I've been involved in the official AAHKS registry, the American Joint Replacement Registry (AJRR). To fully realize the benefits of an established registry, in most cases requires some level of government support. It's time to tell the story of AJRR, its value and its potential to our allies in the House and the Senate. Despite the relative inertia in Washington, opportunities may arise to obtain funding if the proper groundwork is conducted well in advance. That's what I'm committed to doing with funding for AJRR.

Over the last five years, it has been very satisfying to observe how responsive AAHKS has been in addressing the specific needs of our younger members, those striving to establish themselves in their arthroplasty career.

The Young Arthroplasty Group (YAG) and the Health Policy Fellowship program are two of the ways AAHKS provides that kind of support. Recognizing that many of our younger members are employed, I have directed that a white paper be released, offering a very clear assessment of the benefits and limits to unionization. Labor organizations have proven to benefit physicians in some settings and we would be doing ourselves a disservice if we didn't take a closer look at their application to some of our members.

Beyond these three initiatives, I will emulate the great AAHKS leaders who have come before me and be a good steward to the great assets of AAHKS, namely, our Annual Meeting, our Spring Meeting, our journals (the *Journal of Arthroplasty* and *Arthroplasty Today*) as well as the good works supported by our two foundations, the Foundation for Arthroplasty Research and Education (FARE) and AAHKS Global Outreach (AAHKS-GO).

Of course, my success relies on the passion and dedication of our committed volunteers, staff and a supportive membership base. I welcome receiving feedback and using it to improve the Association. I want to hear from you! Share with us the issues you face in your practice and any suggestions for how AAHKS can help.

Sincerely,



James I. Huddleston III, MD



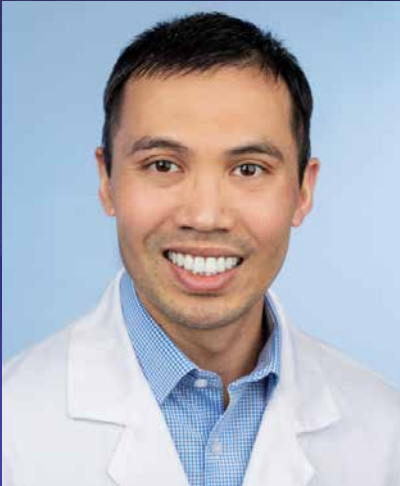
AAHKS CENSUS

EVERY MEMBER
COUNTS

We were counted by AAHKS. Complete the Census today!



MUYIBAT A. ADELANI, MD
DIVERSITY ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR



ZACHARY C. LUM, DO
DIVERSITY ADVISORY BOARD VICE-CHAIR





Thank you to all our members who have paid their membership dues for 2024! We value our members and want to ensure you're all renewed for 2024.

> **Don't let your membership expire!**

Renew by logging in to **www.AAHKS.org**, sending a check or calling Member Services at **847-430-5071** to keep your JOA subscription, benefits and recognition as an AAHKS member intact. You can also email us at **connect@AAHKS.org** for a link to pay your 2024 membership dues without logging in.

2024 Membership Overview

STILL NEED TO RENEW?

AAHKS PRESIDENTS

*Thank
You*
FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP



2024
James I. Huddleston III, MD
Stanford, CA



2023
Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS
Philadelphia, PA



2022
Bryan D. Springer, MD
Charlotte, NC



2021
Richard Iorio, MD
Boston, MA



2015
Jay R. Lieberman, MD
Los Angeles, CA



2014
Brian S. Parsley, MD
Houston, TX



2013
Thomas K. Fehring, MD
Charlotte, NC



2007
Daniel J. Berry, MD
Rochester, MN



2006
William J. Hozack, MD
Philadelphia, PA



2005
Joseph C. McCarthy, MD
Boston, MA



1999
James A. Rand, MD
Scottsdale, AZ



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

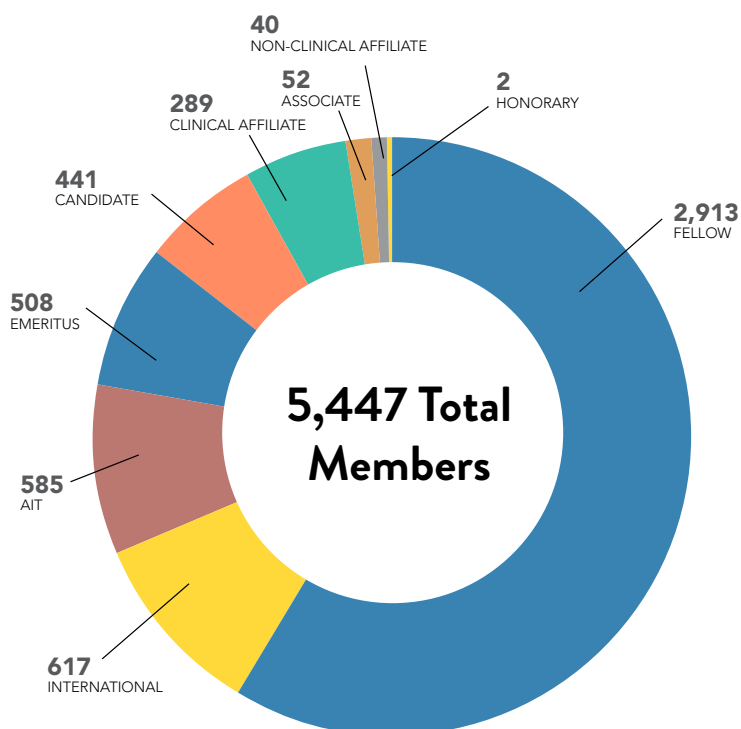


1997
Merrill A. Ritter, MD
Mooresville, IN

AAHKS membership runs on a calendar-year cycle (January 1 – December 31) with invoicing beginning in November of the previous year. This provides a three-month grace period to renew without suspension of membership. If you have questions concerning this, please give Member Services a call at 847-430-5071.

Checks (please include your full name and AAHKS ID number on checks) or any other correspondence may be sent here:

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



2020
C. Lowry Barnes, MD
Little Rock, AR



2019
Michael P. Bolognesi, MD
Durham, NC



2018
Craig J. Della Valle, MD
Chicago, IL



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



2016
William A. Jiranek, MD
Richmond, VA



2012
Thomas P. Vail, MD
San Francisco, CA



2011
Carlos J. Lavernia, MD
Miami, FL



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



2009
William J. Robb III, MD
Evanston, IL



2008
David G. Lewallen, MD
Rochester, MN



2004
Richard F. Santore, MD
San Diego, CA



2003
Clifford W. Colwell, MD
La Jolla, CA



2002
Douglas A. Dennis, MD
Denver, CO



2001
John J. Callaghan, MD
Iowa City, IA



2000
Richard B. Welch, MD
San Francisco, CA



1996
Hugh Tullios, MD
Houston, TX



1995
Lawrence D. Dorr, MD
Inglewood, CA



1994
Richard C. Johnston, MD
Iowa City, IA



1992 – 1993
Chitranjan S. Ranawat, MD
New York, NY



1991
J. Phillip Nelson, MD
Phoenix, AZ

2024-2025

AAHKS Board of Directors



James I. Huddleston III, MD
President



Rafael J. Sierra, MD
Secretary



R. Michael Meneghini, MD
First Vice President



James A. Browne, MD
Treasurer



Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA
Second Vice President



Jaime L. Bellamy, DO, MS
Member-at-Large



Matthew P. Abdel, MD
Third Vice President



Rina Jain, MD, FRCSC
Member-at-Large



Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS
Immediate Past President



Brett R. Levine, MD, MS
Member-at-Large

2024 Council Chairs

Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc
Education and Communications Chair

James A. Browne, MD
Education and Communications Vice Chair

Adam J. Rana, MD
Health Policy Council

James D. Slover, MD, MS
Membership Council



2024 Committee Chairs

Adam J. Rana, MD

R. Michael Meneghini, MD

Shaun P. Patel, MD

Muyibat A. Adelani, MD

Jeffrey B. Stambough, MD

Yale A. Fillingham, MD

William G. Hamilton, MD

James A. Browne, MD

Vivek M. Shah, MD

Julius K. Oni, MD

Cory L. Calendine, MD

Victor H. Hernandez, MD, MS

Peter K. Sculco, MD

Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS

Benjamin M. Stronach, MD, MS

Alexander P. Sah, MD

Jonathan M. Vigdorchik, MD

Christopher E. Pelt, MD

Robert S. Sterling, MD

Ran Schwarzkopf, MD, MSc

Linda I. Suleiman, MD

Jenna A. Bernstein, MD

Advocacy

Committee on Committees and Bylaws

Digital Health and Social Media

Diversity Advisory Board

Education

Evidence-Based Medicine

Fellowship

Finance

FOCAL

Humanitarian

Industry Relations

International

Member Outreach

Nominating

Patient and Public Relations

Practice Management

Program

Publications

Quality Measures

Research

Women in Arthroplasty

Young Arthroplasty Group

2024





Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS

Past President Highlights

First, I wish to express my most heartfelt gratitude to everyone for allowing me to serve as your 33rd president. In life, great opportunities may arise that can shape and change the trajectory of our career.

Without a doubt, becoming a member of AAHKS over two decades ago was one of those unparalleled opportunities for me. I attended every Annual Meeting of the organization to immerse myself in great education and learning. I was also fortunate to have access to the leadership of the organization that provided sage advice that shaped my career. I was able to witness the launch of novel and innovative products by our industry partners. I went to the meeting to learn; and for sure, I was never disappointed.

The prior leaders made it clear that our organization's mission was one and one only: Provide unbiased, high quality and relevant education to the arthroplasty surgeons and the orthopaedic community with the goal of enhancing patient care.

Under incredible leadership of the organization, I witnessed AAHKS grow from a small organization that held its Annual Meeting in one of the airport's hotels to being the largest arthroplasty organization in the world. The prior leaders made it clear that our organization's mission was one and one only: Provide unbiased, high quality and relevant education to the arthroplasty surgeons and the orthopaedic community with the goal of enhancing patient care. Even our advocacy efforts were implemented to protect patient access to care. We can all agree that our organization is now one of the best in the world that delivers on its promises and pursues its mission with vigor.

During the past year we continued the same mission. I was surrounded and guided by a fearless and erudite team of leaders that included Michael J. Zarski, JD, our beloved Executive Director, Joshua M. Kerr, Bryan D. Springer, MD, James I. Huddleston III, MD, R. Michael Meneghini, MD, Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA and our young and energetic board who had their eyes on the road to keep the organization on the straight and narrow and the vision focused on the future of our profession and well-being of our patient. We are facing unparalleled and challenging times. Access to care is being threatened ever more seriously.

Advocacy

Our advocacy efforts, though invaluable and critical, sometimes appear to fall on deaf ears. Thus, under the leadership of Adam J. Rana, MD, our Advocacy Committee Chair, and the Patient & Public Relations Committee, under the leadership of Benjamin M. Stronach, MD, MS, we implemented the "Unity Day" during our Annual Meeting. Brochures and postcards were created and distributed to our members that encouraged the patients to reach out to their representatives to raise awareness about the current state of medical care. This initiative was put in place so that we speak to Washington through the voice of our patients, as our voices seem to be insufficient for the most part.

Education Knows No Border

As our organization continues to serve the arthroplasty community in the US, we felt it was time to extend the reach of our organization even further, beyond the US borders. More and more arthroplasty surgeries are being delivered to patients across the globe and in some countries access to relevant and unbiased education

is limited. We had our first co-branded meeting in Africa with the Egyptian Pelvis and Hip Society in May 2023. The meeting was very well attended, and we extended membership to numerous surgeons from that region. Under the tireless leadership of Victor H. Hernandez, MD, MS, the International Committee Chair, and Peter K. Sculco, MD, Member Outreach Committee Chair, we were able to reach and surpass 5,000 members! We have become the leading arthroplasty organization in the world. With continued international and national growth, we will reach our goal of 6,000 members very soon. We recently made changes to our Associate Member category that allows physicians who are not arthroplasty surgeons but have a clinical role in treating patients undergoing hip and/or knee arthroplasty join the organization and receive the same great membership benefits as our surgeon members.

Fellowship Recognition Program

Our organization is committed to educating and training the next generation of arthroplasty surgeons. We have been extremely active with education for fellows and residents. This year, under the incredible leadership of William G. Hamilton, MD, AAHKS was able to roll out the Fellowship Recognition Program. All fellowship programs will be given the opportunity to rely on AAHKS for developing the curriculum for education and enhancing the educational experience for fellows. Our organization will also take charge of administering the industry-funded grants for adult reconstruction fellowships. This sophisticated program that was the brainchild of Dr. Hamilton's brilliant work will elevate fellowship education to yet another level in the years to come.

Concise Educational Snippets

With the pressure of time on us to deliver care under immense financial and administrative burden, it has become ever more challenging for us to dedicate time and energy to read manuscripts, textbooks, and keep up with new developments. The need to practice evidence-based medicine has become ever more pertinent also. In an effort to provide our members with important and pertinent facts, we have rolled out the "Did You Know" initiative that aims to provide the relevant new information to our members in a concise fashion. The simple and important facts are delivered through the AAHKS app. A library of pertinent facts will be kept on the app and be available to members during and any time after the Annual Meeting.

Implant Identification Program

We all recognize the difficulty in identifying implants in situ for some of our patients undergoing revision arthroplasty. Andrew M. Schwartz MD, a brilliant young surgeon, has dedicated the past three to four years to creating a very clever and effective digital program that recognizes a wide variety of hip and knee implants in situ, even those from the distant past. This offering to our members will enhance patient care in the future. This program is being rolled out this year and will be available as a benefit to our members. Special gratitude to Michael P. Bolognesi, MD, a former AAHKS president, who brought this initiative to our attention, Mike Zarski and the Digital Health & Social Media Committee, who made this possible.

In an effort to provide our members with important and pertinent facts, we have rolled out the "Did You Know" initiative that aims to provide the relevant new information to our members in a concise fashion.

Education, Education and More Education

I cannot finish this writing without expressing my immense gratitude to Ran Schwarzkopf, MD, MSc, my 2023 Program Chair, who did all the heavy lifting to make last year's program an incredible success. We had a record number of abstracts submitted to the meeting. We also had a record number of attendees (again). Under the sage leadership of Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc, Chair of our Education and Communications Council, and the rest of the Program Committee, we had one of the most successful meetings. Our organization will continue to grow from strength to strength. The young and the old, thirsty for education, will pour into our Annual Meeting to immerse themselves in education and take back their learning into the operating rooms to serve our patients. We should be proud of what we do.

I will, meanwhile, cherish the honor bestowed on me. To serve this incredible organization as your 33rd president. ●

THANK YOU for your trust in me and I hope I did not disappoint.

Spring Meeting Recap



The **2024 AAHKS Spring Meeting** was held at the Grand Hyatt Atlanta in Buckhead, May 2-4. Esteemed faculty and attendees gathered to discuss evidence-based practices, study emerging trends and increase our knowledge of the evaluation and management of degenerative hip and knee conditions.



Provided by:
J. Ryan Martin, MD

May 2 Sessions

The 2024 AAHKS Spring Meeting commenced with an opening address from our Spring Meeting Chair, Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc setting an enthusiastic tone for the event. Victor H. Hernandez, MD, MS then spearheaded the International Symposium, delving into a comprehensive exploration of global perspectives on hip and knee arthroplasty.

This portion of the meeting scrutinized international disparities in clinical approaches and surgical techniques, shedding light on diverse practices worldwide. Following this enlightening session, the Young Arthroplasty Group (YAG) convened, fostering networking and knowledge-sharing among the members present.

The day concluded with a friendly welcome reception, uniting all attendees and faculty members in a vibrant atmosphere of camaraderie and anticipation for the upcoming discussions and presentations at this year's meeting.



May 3 Sessions

The conference commenced with an engaging dialogue on current controversies in primary total knee arthroplasty, guided by Jeremy M. Gilliland, MD. The session addressed hotly debated topics such as patellar resurfacing, alignment strategies, cemented versus cementless fixation, and the merits of robotic versus manual instrumentation, sparking lively discussions among attendees. Subsequently, participants divided into smaller groups to analyze a series of primary total knee cases, facilitating interactive learning and exchange of insights led by faculty.

Later, Matthew P. Abdel, MD hosted a symposium on "Tips and Tricks for Revision Total Knee Arthroplasty," showcasing innovative techniques like impaction grafting for re-revision total knees. This session transitioned seamlessly into a breakout session focused on various aspects of revision total knee surgery, spanning from straightforward revisions to complex cases.

The afternoon continued with a spirited discussion on the integration of technology in total joint arthroplasty, steered by Jonathan M. Vigdorchik, MD, FAAOS. Attendees engaged in animated exchanges, debating the necessity and efficacy of technology in this field. The day's final breakout session concluded with small group sessions dedicated to clinical cases of periprosthetic joint infection, enabling a deep dive into diagnostic and management strategies.

After a brief intermission, Bryan D. Springer, MD led the final session of the day, highlighting the importance of value-based care and addressing financial and operational considerations in orthopaedic practice. This discussion seamlessly transitioned into the evening's welcome reception, providing an opportunity for participants to reflect on the day's rich educational offerings and engage in informal discussions with colleagues and faculty.

May 4 Sessions

The final day of the conference commenced with opening remarks by Dr. Polkowski, followed by the announcement of this year's FARE grant recipients, J. Ryan Martin, MD and Marcus C. Ford, MD, adding an air of excitement and recognition to the morning. Subsequently, attendees received an update on the AJRR (American Joint Replacement Registry) before diving into another stimulating symposium led by Leonard T. Buller, MD titled "Current Controversies in THA." This session explored contentious issues in total hip arthroplasty, including the direct anterior versus posterior approach, choices between cemented and cementless femoral fixation, comparisons of dual mobility versus ceramic on poly bearing and the debate over collared versus collarless femoral stems.

Following this thought-provoking symposium, participants engaged in small group sessions focusing on contemporary concepts in primary total hip replacement, facilitating in-depth discussions and case-based learning under expert guidance.

The morning continued with Muyibat A. Adelani, MD leading a compelling patient perspective panel featuring two recent total



joint replacement patients. Their firsthand accounts provided valuable insights into the recovery journey, highlighting challenges they overcame and offering unique perspectives on the patient experience.

The educational program then transitioned into another breakout session covering revision total hip topics, ranging from fundamental principles to intricate surgical considerations for complex cases.

Concluding the day's sessions, Rina Jain, MD, FRCSC led a symposium on periprosthetic fractures, exploring classifications specific to hip and knee fractures, surgical options including component retention or revision and techniques for acute arthroplasty in fracture cases. The discussion also included strategies for managing arthroplasty failures resulting from fracture fixation.

Dr. Polkowski delivered the closing remarks, bringing the meeting to a successful conclusion. Attendees departed with a wealth of new knowledge and insights gleaned from the comprehensive discussions and presentations over the weekend in Atlanta, enriching their practice and perspectives in joint arthroplasty. ●

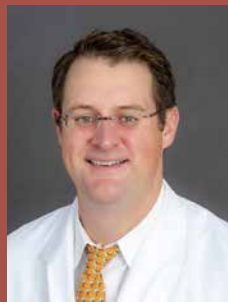


2024

FARE Grant Recipients

The Foundation for Arthroplasty Research and Education (FARE) has announced the recipients of two FARE grants for the spring 2024 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/



Marcus C. Ford, MD
Campbell Clinic

Randomized Control Trial for Oral Extended Tranexamic Acid After Total Knee Arthroplasty

Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA) is a widely utilized surgical intervention for advanced knee osteoarthritis. Tranexamic acid (TXA) has proven effective in reducing blood loss when administered perioperatively.

Campbell Clinic's prior study revealed that a 3-day course of extended oral TXA improved postoperative outcomes. This study investigates the impact of different durations (0 days, 3 days, and 10 days) of post-TKA oral TXA treatment across multiple centers. This randomized control trial involves 120 patients, with 40 in each treatment group. Patients will be monitored for a year, evaluating outcomes such as ROM, VAS pain scores, KOOS Jr, forgotten joint score (FJS), and PROMIS.

Patients will receive standard TKA care with assigned oral TXA regimens. Data on blood loss, transfusion requirements, pain scores, and functional outcomes will be collected at defined intervals. Adverse events will be monitored. Addressing a critical knowledge gap, this study aims to determine the optimal duration of oral TXA treatment post-TKA, providing insights to enhance patient outcomes, reduce complications, and optimize postoperative care.

This research has transformative potential in establishing evidence-based guidelines based on PROMs for extended oral TXA use in post-TKA care, contributing to improved patient outcomes and quality of life while reducing healthcare costs.



J. Ryan Martin, MD
Vanderbilt Orthopedics

Synovial Barium and Zirconium Ions are Promising Markers for Aseptic Loosening

Aseptic loosening remains one of the most common causes of failure following primary cemented total knee arthroplasty. Methods for detecting aseptic loosening are sparse and include radiographs, bone scans, CT and other imaging modalities with variable and limited results.

Ideally, a minimal or non-invasive test would help improve the diagnostic accuracy for detecting implant loosening. Recently, it has been identified that synovial fluid barium and zirconium appear to be promising biomarkers for detecting loosening.

Therefore, the goal of this study is to perform a multicenter study to further define the role of synovial fluid detection of aseptic loosening. This multicenter study involves collaboration with institutions including the Hospital for Special Surgery, Duke University, University of Virginia, OrthoCarolina, University of Utah and Colorado Joint Replacement.

Together, the study team aims to enroll 500 patients undergoing revision total knee replacement across these centers to determine the generalizability of this synovial fluid test. ●



Registration NOW OPEN for the 2024 AAHKS Annual Meeting

You can register now for the 2024 AAHKS Annual Meeting. The premier educational event for hip and knee surgeons is taking place November 7-10, 2024, at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center in Dallas, Texas. This is your opportunity to attend the year's most eagerly anticipated and prestigious scientific meeting in the field of arthroplasty. Go to www.AAHKS.org/Meeting or scan the QR code to register.



AAHKS Start-up Exhibitor Program for the 2024 Annual Meeting Is Now Open

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 2024 AAHKS Annual Meeting at a greatly reduced, one-time rate.

This program was developed by the AAHKS Industry Relations Committee at the direction of the AAHKS Board of Directors and is for new or start-up companies that have not been an AAHKS exhibitor previously. 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 online:

Meeting.AAHKS.org/AAHKS-Start-Up-Exhibitor-Program-Application

2024-2025 Health Policy Fellows



Robert A. Burnett, MD

Dr. Burnett is currently an adult reconstruction fellow at University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. He received his undergraduate degree in chemistry while playing basketball at Washington University in St. Louis. He attended medical school at the University of Iowa. Subsequently, he completed orthopaedic surgery residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, IL. Dr. Burnett is a member of AAHKS and the Young Arthroplasty Group (YAG). Following fellowship, Dr. Burnett will be joining Illinois Bone and Joint Institute in Chicago, IL.

Brian P. Chalmers, MD

Dr. Chalmers is a board-certified adult reconstruction surgeon at the Hospital for Special Surgery, specializing in primary and complex revision hip and knee arthroplasty. Dr. Chalmers graduated from the University of Notre Dame summa cum laude with a degree in Science-Business. He then returned home and graduated with honors from the University of Kansas School of Medicine. Dr. Chalmers completed his orthopaedic residency training at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He finished his orthopaedic training at the Hospital for Special Surgery in an Adult Reconstruction hip and knee arthroplasty fellowship, receiving the Clinical Excellence Award. Dr. Chalmers is on the editorial board for the *Journal of Arthroplasty* and the HSSJ and holds several active external research grants, including the AAHKS FARE grant and OREF career development grant.



Ameer M. Elbuluk, MD

Dr. Elbuluk is currently an adult reconstruction fellow at UC San Diego. He was born and raised in Akron, OH. He received his undergraduate degrees in Economics, and Global Health & Health Policy while playing basketball at Princeton University. He then attended the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, during which he spent an additional year completing a research fellowship under Dr. Richard Iorio at NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases. He then completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Dr. Elbuluk is an active member of AAHKS, the Society of Black Academic Surgeons (SBAS), and serves on the Gladden Society Executive Board.

Carl L. Herndon, MD

Dr. Herndon is a practicing orthopaedic surgeon and Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Columbia University Irving Medical Center in New York. A Chicago native, He completed his undergraduate degree in communications at Northwestern University. After college, he elected to take a gap year working in inner-city Chicago at the Lawn-dale Christian Health Center, where his interest in advocacy was born. He received his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Florida College of Medicine and completed his residency training at Columbia in New York where he served as executive chief resident in his fifth year. He then went on to complete his fellowship in adult reconstruction at the prestigious OrthoCarolina Hip and Knee Center in Charlotte, NC. He is a *Journal of Arthroplasty* (JOA) Editorial Board Member and co-host of the JOA podcast, The Cut.



The AAHKS Health Policy Fellowship (HPF) provides young, future leaders with an opportunity to get involved in the policy-making process and to become effective advocates. This year, AAHKS is welcoming five new Health Policy Fellows:



Ramakanth R. Yakkanti, MD

Dr. Yakkanti is a practicing joint replacement surgeon at Rothman Orthopaedics at Advent Health in Orlando, FL. He earned his medical degree from the University of Louisville School of Medicine and completed his orthopaedic surgery residency training at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital. He completed his joint replacement fellowship at the Rothman Institute in Philadelphia. Dr. Yakkanti is currently serving as the Associate Director of Arthroplasty Research at Rothman Orthopaedics in Orlando, FL. He has authored numerous publications and is actively involved in research regarding health policy issues relevant to joint replacement surgeons. ●

Expansion of the AAHKS Associate Member Category

Don't forget, non-orthopaedic surgeons can now enjoy benefits of AAHKS membership! Last year, a bylaws change was approved 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 many of 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 can do so at www.AAHKS.org/join/.





Operation Walk Mission Trip

Operation Walk is a volunteer medical humanitarian organization that provides the gift of mobility through life-changing joint replacement surgeries at no cost for those in need in the U.S. and globally. Operation Walk was founded in 1996 by Dr. Lawrence D. Dorr, but as the reputation began to grow, requests from around the world started pouring in asking for help. This is when surgeon volunteers on earlier missions decided they loved the experience so much that they offered to form individual chapters in their hometown to increase the number of patients that could be helped each year.

Currently, there are 18 different chapters of Operation Walk, all operating under the same mantra. Each chapter secures volunteers with the range of skills needed based on the Operation Walk model. With each international surgical mission, Operation Walk chapters educate in-country orthopedic surgeons, nurses, physical therapists and other healthcare professionals on advanced treatments and surgical techniques for diseases of the hip and knee joints. This creates a lasting contribution to patient care in developing countries.

patients in Honduras, this was a life-changing operation because local medical professionals don't have access to the training to provide specialty care like joint replacement.

The Denver chapter also traveled in April to Panama City, Panama. Their team of 11 volunteers carried 1150 lbs. of supplies and surgical equipment and performed clinical examinations over two days for individuals that will receive joint replacements later this year. There are currently more than 1,000 people on the joint replacement waitlist in Panama — many who have been waiting years to be pain-free.

Please consider donating to help further the mission of Operation Walk and other AAHKS Humanitarian efforts. To donate, scan the QR code. ●



Spanning three days, a total of 53 patients received mobility restoring surgeries – 49 single knee replacements and 4 bilateral knee replacements.

In February, the Carolinas chapter traveled to Honduras, providing much needed knee replacement surgeries. Spanning three days, a total of 53 patients were operated on with a total of 57 joints – 49 single knee replacements and 4 bilateral knee replacements. For many



AAHKS Staff

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**SHARON M. CREED**

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American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons

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