

WINTER 2025



AAHKS®

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
HIP AND KNEE SURGEONS

UPDATE

A MEMBER PUBLICATION



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AAHKS Spring Meeting

Women in Arthroplasty Celebrates
Their 5-Year Anniversary.



COMING SOON: View the 2024 AAHKS Annual Meeting and Earn CME!

Recordings from the 2024 AAHKS Annual Meeting will soon be 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 will be paired with CME assessments, allowing orthopaedic surgeons to earn AMA PRA Category 1 CME Credits™ on demand. Log into the AAHKS LEARN platform using your AAHKS username and password, 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.*



Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas
May 1–3 // Scottsdale, Arizona

2025 AAHKS Spring Meeting

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

Visit AAHKS.org for details

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OUR MISSION:

Established in 1991, the mission of the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons (AAHKS) is to be the definitive global authority on excellence in hip and knee care.

The AAHKS Core Values include Excellence, Integrity, Patient-Centered Care, Innovation, Collaboration, Lifelong Learning and Inclusivity.

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The Board of Directors approved our new 2025-2027 Strategic Plan, which you can view at <http://www.aahks.org/about-us/>.

2024 Year in Review



Michael J. Zarski, JD
Executive Director

2024

Familiar Faces Nominated for Top Health Agency Posts

The 2021 AAHKS Annual Meeting keynote speaker, Martin A. Makary, MD, MPH was nominated to be FDA Commissioner by President-elect Trump. Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, who consulted for AAHKS, helping shut down a flawed attempt by a news organization to rank arthroplasty surgeons, was nominated to be NIH Director.

Leaders Return to Washington, DC to Advance Advocacy Efforts

AAHKS leaders, including Health Policy Chair Adam J. Rana, MD and others flew to Washington, DC to continue their work to mitigate negative impacts on Medicare payment for arthroplasty. In an election year, groundwork was laid to work with a new Congress and prepare for the impact a new Administration could have on federal agency policies and priorities.



New Leaders Take Office

The annual leadership change took place in San Francisco this past February as 2023-2024 President Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS handed the gavel to 2024-2025 AAHKS President James I. Huddleston III, MD. Joining the Board were Third Vice President Mathew P. Abdel, MD, and Members-at-Large Rina Jain, MD, FRCSC and Brett R. Levine, MD, MS.

Atlanta Hosts Spring Meeting

The 2024 AAHKS Spring Meeting, chaired by Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc, Education and Communications Council Chair and Past President Bryan D. Springer, MD, was conducted in Atlanta in May. One highlight of the meeting was a patient panel that provided insight into the patient experience and the significant long-term benefits of patient optimization on overall health. This smaller case-based AAHKS educational activity will next take place May 1-3, 2025, in Scottsdale, Arizona. Members can register through the AAHKS website.



New Fellowship Committee Formed

Reflecting the increased AAHKS involvement with Fellowship training, the Association created a new Fellowship Committee and appointed William G. Hamilton, MD as its first Chair. The new committee is responsible for overseeing the Adult Reconstruction Fellowship Match, the AAHKS Fellowship Grant Program and the AAHKS Adult Reconstruction Fellowship Recognition Program. The new committee replaces the Fellowship Match Committee. The FOCAL Committee continues to address Fellowship training through monthly educational webinars by national experts designed to level-set the training of fellows.

Annual Meeting Hosts Record Numbers

The 2024 AAHKS Annual Meeting continued the trend of welcoming a record number of attendees, both surgeons and industry representatives; 5174 overall. Program Chair Jonathan M. Vigdorchik, MD, added several innovations to the Annual Meeting, including an improved system for grading abstract submissions, a Resident and Student Symposium and livestreaming of the General Session to all attendees through the AAHKS app. The 2025 AAHKS Annual Meeting will take place at the Gaylord Texan on Oct. 23-26, 2025. At the 2025 Annual Meeting, we'll celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the AAHKS Annual Meeting.



Dr. Golladay 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 2024 Award went to Gregory J. Golladay, MD. Dr. Golladay, has distinguished himself primarily through his involvement with AAHKS publications, culminating with a five-year stint as Editor-in-Chief of Arthroplasty Today. As Dr. Golladay transitions to Emeritus Editor-in-Chief, he hands off a journal that has matured into a respected and recognized source in the medical literature as well as an organizational asset that enhances the AAHKS mission, reputation and finances.

Humanitarian Award Given to Dr. Dennis

Past AAHKS President Douglas A. Dennis, MD was presented with the 2024 Lawrence D. Dorr, MD, Humanitarian Award by Julius K. Oni, MD, Humanitarian Committee Chair. Dr. Oni highlighted Dr. Dennis' leadership as founder of Operation Walk Denver which has provided more than 1,900 free joint replacement surgeries for impoverished patients in Central and South America. Along with the award to Dr. Dennis, AAHKS has donated \$5,000 to OpWalk Denver in his honor.

WIA Celebrates Five-Year Anniversary

Under the leadership of Linda I. Suleiman, MD, Chair of the AAHKS Women in Arthroplasty Group (WIA), the group celebrated its fifth year of service as an AAHKS committee and focal point for addressing the needs of women arthroplasty surgeons.



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 Solenic Medical for their technology using alternating magnetic fields to generate heat on infected metal implants to eradicate biofilm and Guard Medical for their NPseal surgical dressing designed to deliver non-powered Negative Pressure Wound Therapy.

Arthroplasty Image Registry Launches

A new AAHKS online service, the Arthroplasty Implant Registry (AIR) was launched in 2024. The purpose of AIR is to assist revision surgeons in identifying unknown implants through the matching of radiographic images. AIR is directed by Andrew M. Schwartz, MD. This first iteration of AIR relies on tags to narrow down potential image matches for the user to determine. A more advanced future release of AIR will use AI to assist with image matching. Members can access the AIR application at <https://air.aahks.net>.



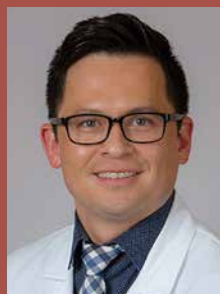
Fellowship Programs Achieve Recognition

A total of 62 of 124 Adult Reconstruction Fellowship Programs achieved AAHKS recognition through the first wave of applications, under the leadership of William G. Hamilton, MD and Elizabeth B. Gausden, MD, MPH, Chair and Vice Chair of the Fellowship Committee. Coupled with the AAHKS Fellowship Education Improvement and Innovation Grant Program, the Adult Reconstruction Fellowship Training Recognition Program will help standardize curriculum, improve training and financially support adult reconstruction fellowship training nationally. ●

2024

FARE Grant Recipients

The Foundation for Arthroplasty Research and Education (FARE) has announced the recipients of the FARE Grant, presented at the 2024 AAHKS Annual Meeting.



Nathanael D. Heckmann, MD

Keck School of Medicine of USC



Jhase A. Sniderman, MD, MSc, FRCSC

University of Manitoba

The human microbiome has recently been implicated in a number of orthopaedic pathologies. Dysbiosis or disruption in the microbiome is associated with increased virulence of resident flora. The goal of this study is to explore the relationship between dysbiosis and the presence of intracellular organisms in *Staphylococcus aureus* PJI.

The study team aims to enroll 40 patients undergoing revision TKA, 20 in the culture-positive *Staphylococcus aureus* PJI experimental group and 20 aseptic loosening controls. Patients will undergo preoperative stool and synovial fluid and intraoperative tissue sample analysis using comprehensive next-generation sequencing (NGS) to characterize their gut and knee microbiota.

By elucidating the connection between dysbiosis and *Staphylococcus aureus* intracellular invasion, this study may lead to the development of diagnostic tools to assess an individual's risk of developing recalcitrant PJI based on their microbiome profile. Additionally, targeted regimens of antibiotic and probiotic therapies may have the potential to mitigate the risk of infection.

The optimal management of patients with obesity continues to evolve. Recently, GLP-1 receptor agonist medications have become common as a treatment strategy for weight loss. While the role of bariatric surgery has been studied extensively, little is known about the influence of GLP-1 agonists on patients undergoing joint arthroplasty. We hypothesize that administering a GLP-1 agonist preoperatively will help mitigate acute postoperative complications and aid in preoperative weight loss.

A pilot randomized control trial will be conducted at a high-volume tertiary orthopaedic subspecialty hospital that routinely treats patients with class 3 and class 4 obesity. Patients who are candidates for total hip or knee arthroplasty will be randomly allocated to receive either the standard of care (counselling, patient education, dietician referral, exercise prescription) or a GLP-1 agonist. Both groups will have surgery within 4-6 months of treatment initiation, allowing for optimization of body weight.

The primary outcome studied will be wound complications requiring antibiotics or a return to the operating room within 90-days. Secondary outcomes are weight loss, metabolic laboratory markers, deep periprosthetic joint infections within 90-days and one year Oxford Hip Score, Oxford Knee Score, EQ-5D-5L, satisfaction and other perioperative complications. ●

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. You can do so in only a few short 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.

CURRENT COUNTS
As 2025 begins,
AAHKS has **5595** members.



Membership data as of December 16, 2024.

Membership Renewal

Online:

Log in at 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 **847-698-1200**.

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 Stella Whitney, Membership Operations Specialist, at swhitney@aaahks.org or call **847-430-5063**.

WHERE ARE OUR MEMBERS?

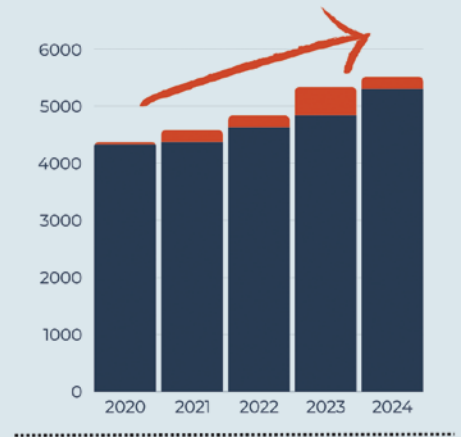
AAHKS' growing membership is represented around the globe!



Algeria, 9	Morocco, 1
Argentina, 23	Myanmar, 1
Australia, 17	Nepal, 1
Bahamas, 1	Netherlands, 3
Belgium, 2	New Zealand, 5
Bolivia, 3	Nicaragua, 1
Brazil, 24	Nigeria, 2
Canada, 73	Oman, 2
Chile, 16	Pakistan, 4
China, 8	Panama, 1
Colombia, 17	Paraguay, 3
Costa Rica, 4	Peru, 21
Dominican Republic, 8	Philippines, 1
Ecuador, 5	Poland, 2
Egypt, 20	Qatar, 1
Finland, 2	Russian Federation, 1
France, 10	Saudi Arabia, 4
Germany, 11	Singapore, 5
Greece, 2	South Africa, 2
Honduras, 1	Spain, 5
Hong Kong, 4	Switzerland, 4
India, 34	Taiwan, 7
Indonesia, 1	Thailand, 3
Iraq, 1	Trinidad and Tobago, 1
Ireland, 14	Turkey, 10
Israel, 1	Ukraine, 2
Italy, 19	United Arab Emirates, 6
Jamaica, 1	United Kingdom, England, 149
Japan, 26	United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, 2
Jordan, 2	United Kingdom, Scotland, 7
Korea, Republic of, 10	United Kingdom, Wales, 3
Lebanon, 1	United States and US Territories, 4893
Macau, 1	Uruguay, 7
Malaysia, 3	Venezuela, 5
Mexico, 55	Virgin Islands (British), 1

GROWTH

Over the past 5 (five) years (2020 to 2024), there has been a 28% membership growth.





RECIPIENT: Gregory J. Golladay, MD (on screen)
PRESENTER: James I. Huddleston III, MD

2024 AAHKS Presidential Award

AAHKS is proud to present the 2024 Presidential Award to Gregory J. Golladay, MD, in recognition of his exceptional commitment and contributions to AAHKS.

Dr. Golladay has distinguished himself primarily through his involvement with AAHKS publications. This includes long service on the AAHKS Publications Committee, eventually rising to the position of Chair of the Committee.

Dr. Golladay's tenure on the Publications Committee coincided with great changes in peer-reviewed medical journal publishing but under his leadership, AAHKS publications have adjusted to the evolving dynamics of the publishing industry and he has kept our journals thriving and fulfilling the mission of disseminating important research on hip and knee arthroplasty.

In 2018, Dr. Golladay was appointed Deputy Editor for *Arthroplasty Today* in preparation for a five-year term as Editor-in-Chief of the journal. During his run as Editor-in-Chief, *Arthroplasty Today* has made tremendous strides – growing exponentially in volume and citations while earning recognition by Pub Med for indexing and Clarivate for an Impact Factor, among other milestones. Dr. Golladay has recruited an international, diverse, and expert Editorial Board, added additional regular issues as well as the popular printed Highlights issue distributed at the AAHKS Annual Meeting and special topical issues.

In honoring Dr. Golladay with the 2024 Presidential Award, AAHKS acknowledges his long-standing contributions and leadership to the organization. ●

2024 Lawrence D. Dorr, MD, Humanitarian Award

It is with great pleasure that we present the 2024 Lawrence D. Dorr, MD Humanitarian Award to Douglas A. Dennis, MD. Dr. Dennis' humanitarian work began years ago when he was invited on a mission trip to Nicaragua by Dr. Dorr. This trip changed his life, grew his interest in orthopaedic mission work and Operation Walk Denver was created in 2002. The following year, Operation Walk Denver was on their first mission trip to Nicaragua.

Since that initial trip, Operation Walk Denver has traveled to numerous countries in Central and South America providing more than 1900 free joint replacement surgeries for poverty-stricken patients with little to no access to needed medical care. With each trip, Operation Walk Denver seeks to perform 60-70 joint replacements. This requires substantial funding to cover medical supplies and shipping costs for approximately eight tons of cargo, as well as travel, housing and feeding for a team of 50+ healthcare workers. Initially, much of the economic support needed for mission trips was funded by Dr. Dennis but thanks to expanding fundraising events, Operation Walk Denver is now able to support two trips each year.

Dr. Dennis has also helped fund repairs of vital equipment at mission hospitals, making them more efficient and safer for local surgeons. Early on, Dr. Dennis established a non-profit founda-

tion to serve as the vehicle for Op Walk Denver donations. Due to general funding plus endowment donations, Operation Walk Denver has raised \$4M.

This has afforded Dr. Dennis the resources to plan on expanding the scope of his good works. He envisions a future that would include purchasing implants for local surgeons to use throughout the year, bringing patients with extremely complex cases to Denver to be treated in a tertiary medical center and creating an "Operation Walk University." This program would bring healthcare personnel from countries visited by the Denver chapter to train in local hospitals and benefit the level of care provided in their home countries.

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.

Nominations for the 2025 AAHKS Lawrence D. Dorr, MD, Humanitarian Award are now being accepted through June 16, 2025, at www.AAHKS.org/humanitarian. ●

RECIPIENT: Douglas A. Dennis, MD
PRESENTER: Julius K. Oni, MD



Highlights



WIA Celebrates 5-Years of Service

Congratulations to the Women in Arthroplasty Committee (WIA) on celebrating their 5-year Anniversary. WIA was formed to provide mentorship, professional development and networking to the growing number of women in AAHKS. Today, WIA has a strong core of women arthroplasty surgeons who are at the heart of their work effort, aimed at increasing gender representation and diversity in the field of orthopaedic surgery.



Since their inception, the committee has organized several events during the AAHKS Annual Meetings to spotlight and support female hip and knee surgeons, including Arthroplasty Revision Hip Lab Courses. The course was led by an all-female faculty that highlighted emerging technology and surgical management both through the anterior and posterior approach. They also held a networking luncheon, where over 100 female members met and connected with other professionals in the total joint arthroplasty field. WIA is an inclusive group open to any AAHKS member, and we would like to thank you for all the amazing work you've done over the last 5 years. ●





The Arthroplasty Implant Registry (AIR)

Ever had trouble identifying a femoral stem on radiograph? Well, those days are officially over! AAHKS has a solution for you!

We've created a new online service, the Arthroplasty Implant Registry (AIR) that was designed to assist revision surgeons in identifying unknown implants through the matching of radiographic images. AIR can help even if the surgery was done decades ago or outside of the United States.

As an added benefit to our members, AIR removes the questioning of unknown implants. In the future, we're looking to enhance AIR's functionalities by using AI to assist with image matching. Give AIR a try, the application is available at <https://air.aahks.net>. ●

New Patient Education Website

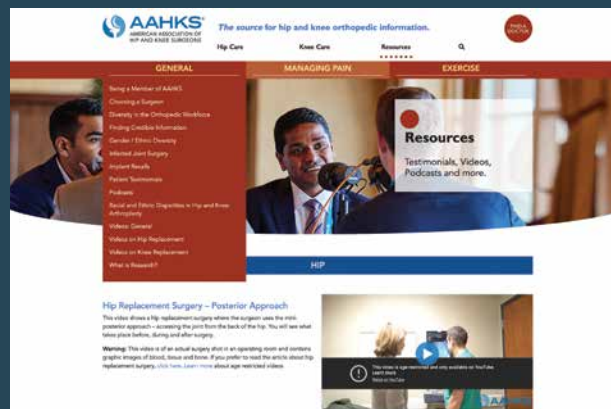
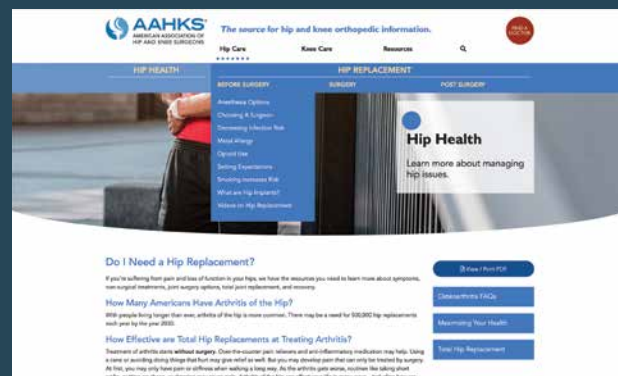
Have you visited AAHKS new patient education website yet? A few months back, we launched what we hope to be the number one source for patients who are considering or have recently undergone joint replacement surgery of their hip, knee or both.

Thank you to the AAHKS Patient and Public Relations Committee for their push to create this website. Their vision to not only create a site that hosts a wealth of valuable information for patients of the AAHKS community but to increase accessibility based on a web design that is easy to navigate and find information more intuitively and efficiently.

Additional Features the Website Offers:

- ADA friendly functionality for all users.
- Dozens of useful patient-focused articles, simply organized by procedure and topic.
- FREE printable and downloadable patient education material for your patients in English, Spanish and some Hindi.
- Patient-focused podcasts on various TJA topics, and much more!

Don't wait, visit the website today!
All your patient needs are accessible here
www.hipkneeinfo.org. ●



2025 Health Policy Forecast

Prepared for AAHKS by our Advocacy Partner National Health Advisors

Possible Short-term Congressional Action on Medicare Physician Payments

The 118th Congress was the least productive Congress for health policy in more than 20+ years. A split government, with opposing Congressional majorities with the slimmest voting margins, coupled with a House Speaker crisis all contributed to a lackluster suite of new health laws. A narrow Republican House Majority squaring off against a Democratic Senate and White House resulted in a political stalemate on the most basic legislation.

Nevertheless, up until the election, Congress had been working on a bipartisan basis to prepare a package of health care legislation to approve during the Congressional “lame duck” session in December before the new Congress is sworn in. Work on this compromise deal could still manifest, but since the election Congressional staff have suggested that these issues will be pushed off to address no sooner than March 2025.

This package of short-term health care relief, whenever it may be finalized and passed, is said to include extension of authority for Medicare reimbursement of telehealth

services, maintaining funding levels for community health centers and blocking new cuts in Medicaid payments to hospitals. The most significant likely element is some form of relief to partially or fully reverse or slow the across-the-board 2.8% cuts in Medicare physician payments scheduled for 2025, driven by mandatory “budget neutrality adjustment” for the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) conversion factor. (Due to several factors, the average Medicare rates for physician performance of TKA and THA is scheduled to fall by less than one tenth of one percent in 2025.)

This package may be paid for by some version of Medicare “site neutral payments” such as paying all hospital off-campus clinics at the Medicare physician rate as opposed to the outpatient facility rate. Congress may also generate savings through increased transparency requirements on PBMs, labs and hospitals, or by withdrawing the Biden administration nursing home minimum staffing standards regulation.

New Republican Congressional Majority

The 119th Congress convened on Jan. 3, 2025, to swear in a new Republican majority in each chamber. In an election surprise, Republicans retained the House of Representatives and Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA) will continue as Speaker of the House. As of this writing, the size of the Republican majority is yet to be determined but it will be a very narrow majority of 2-4 seats. Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO) will continue as Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee, overseeing Medicare. The new Chairman of the House Energy & Commerce Committee, which oversees FDA, Medicaid and shares a role in Medicare physician payments, is yet to be announced.

Sen. John Thune (R-SD) won the internal Republican vote to become the new Senate Majority Leader. This is probably the best

outcome for AAHKS. Sen. Thune has tended to be sympathetic to providers and is a strong champion for rural health care. He was an early proponent of tightening regulation of Medicare Advantage (MA) plans’ prior authorization practices. Sen. Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA) will assume the Chairmanship of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee. While Cassidy does not uniformly take up physician causes, and sometimes has shifting positions on policy, he has been a helpful voice for physicians on critical battles like Medicare PFS reform and surprise medical billing. Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID) taking over the helm of the Senate Finance Committee offers more of an unknown. Crapo had always been keen on supporting the Committee Chairman when it was a Democrat, but he is also a solid Republican vote.

Nominations & Trump's Health Care Team

The highest priority for any Congress aligned with a new administration is nominating and confirming personnel. The Trump administration agenda cannot be implemented until the federal agencies are mostly filled with more than 4,000 political appointee positions, 1,200 of whom require Senate confirmation. It can take up to a year for a new administration to interview, evaluate, and hire or confirm all personnel. The Senate usually devotes one to two months to confirmation hearings and confirmation votes for a new president's Cabinet. Tremendous pressure already exists for the new Senate Republican majority to swiftly confirm Trump's nominees, whether through rapid confirmation hearings and votes or by acquiescing to "recess appointments" by the President when Congress is not formally in session.

As of this date, President Trump intends to nominate Robert F. Kennedy to be Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). Kennedy is an environmental attorney and anti-vaccine activist who was a liberal democrat until late-2023. It is important to note that Kennedy would not be "President of health care". Rather, in any administration, the health care policy agenda reflects a negotiation between

various political appointees at the White House and the regulatory agencies who must factor in perspectives from the budget team, the legal team, and political team. We await announcements for HHS Deputy Secretary, CMS Principal Deputy Administrator, as well as FDA Commissioner and CDC Director, to get a sense of the direction of health policy in the new administration. When these positions are announced, along with the health care staff of the White House, we may have a clearer sense of the health care agenda and perspectives of the Trump administration.

The earliest opportunities for insights into the Trump administration will be:

- Presidential Executive Orders issued or rescinded in the first few weeks of the administration, some beginning immediately after the inauguration on Jan. 20.
- Statements and answers during Senate confirmation hearings for the nominees of HHS, CMS and FDA.
- The release of the Trump administration's 2026 federal budget proposal, expected at some point in February.

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 reintroduce in 2025 and pass 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.

Support for Medicare PFS reform 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 stakeholders while they see the need for reform, there is extensive work to be done on how to pay for it. They do not anticipate being able to truly focus on PFS reform in 2025 as Congress will first need to confirm Trump appointees, pass a major tax bill mid-year to preserve Trump-era tax cuts, and save Congressional debate time for other major priorities of the Trump administration. 2025 remains very important for physicians to lobby and educate more members of Congress so that a growing majority will understand the need to finalize reform and pay-fors and support passage as soon as possible.

CMMI, Value-Based Care and the TEAM Model

Advocates such as those for AAHKS will be reaching out to the Trump transition team to gain insights on this administration's likely approach to the CMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), which is not clear at this time. The prior Trump administration embraced and promoted testing capitation in primary care population management through models like the ACO REACH or the Global and Professional Direct Contracting (GPDC) Model, each of which has been shown to generate program savings. Otherwise, the prior Trump administration and many Republicans in Congress remain deeply skeptical of CMMI and its ability to develop models that generate savings. There is particular discomfort over mandatory models, particularly in rural areas, or the degree to which current quality measures succeed in reflecting improvements in care and outcomes.

Recall, in 2017, the prior Trump administration repealed several Obama-era CMMI mandatory episode payment models before they became effective: acute myocardial infarction, coronary artery bypass graft and surgical hip/femur fracture treatment. The Trump administration at that time also lowered the number of facilities that were required to participate in the CJR. The latest CMMI model, Transforming Episode Accountability Model (TEAM), is another mandatory model that includes lower extremity joint replacement, surgical hip femur fracture treatment, spinal fusion, coronary artery bypass graft and major bowel procedure. TEAM is scheduled to begin in 2026 and is intended to replace CJR and BPCI-A. Stakeholders will be focused on clarity from the incoming Trump team on the future of TEAM.

Medicare Regulatory Issues

The prospect of Trump administration regulatory action presents a mixed bag for Medicare providers. In the prior Trump administration, CMS pushed for increased site neutrality in facility payments, eliminating the inpatient only (IPO) procedure list, requiring hospitals and MA plans to disclose privately negotiated reimbursement rates and charges. Further, the Trump administration favors advantaging beneficiary enrollment in MA over Original Medicare. Republicans in conservative think tanks who may staff the Trump administration also oppose the APM bonus payment or otherwise linking payment to quality measures.

A reminder that when AAHKS leadership met with then-President Trump's Deputy Secretary of HHS, Eric Hargan, in 2020, we were told that if they had another term, they would like to reform the AMA RUC or the process by which CMS takes recommendations for setting RVUs under Medicare. However, this opportunity is tempered by the common con-

servative view that the AMA RUC overvalues both primary care and specialty care. Further, conservatives know they don't like the AMA RUC, but they have few ideas about what would replace it. The prior Trump administration did suggest that setting Medicare provider rates could be informed by contracted rates between providers and plans under MA and the commercial market.

For providers, these headwinds may be partially offset by efforts to reduce physician administrative burden and by enforcing regulations governing prior authorization practices against MA plans. For innovators, the administration will likely recommence its regulatory efforts to grant automatic Medicare coverage for items deemed "breakthrough devices" by FDA, grant automatic Medicare coverage for devices and services if covered by commercial health plans, and reform the drug and device reimbursement classification system.

Health Care Coverage and Health Plan Regulation

The Republican Congress is expected to allow the expiration of the Covid-era enhanced and expanded premium subsidies for individuals purchasing health care coverage through the ACA Exchanges. This will lead to an increase in the number of uninsured. Both candidate Trump and the Republican Speaker of the House have signaled that they will not

try to repeal the ACA or guarantees of coverage for those with pre-existing conditions. Instead, they favor amendments to the ACA to ease some mandated benefits in order to allow a greater variety of health plan benefit packages to be offered at a greater variety of prices.

“Make America Healthy Again”

HHS Secretaries have the capacity to focus on only a few issues at a time. Robert Kennedy, Jr. (RFK) has never worked on or shown interest in issues of Medicare, Medicaid, insurance or paying provider claims. If con-

firmed, he would likely defer Medicare issues to a Deputy Secretary or CMS Administrator while he focuses on his long-standing priorities. In announcing his intention to nominate RFK, Trump noted the following:

For far too long, Americans have been crushed by the industrial food complex and drug companies who have engaged in deception, misinformation and disinformation when it comes to Public Health. The Safety and Health of all Americans is the most important role of any Administration, and HHS will play a big role in helping ensure that everybody will be protected from harmful chemicals, pollutants, pesticides, pharmaceutical products and food additives that have contributed to the overwhelming Health Crisis in this Country. Mr. Kennedy will restore these Agencies to the traditions of Gold Standard Scientific Research, and beacons of Transparency, to end the Chronic Disease epidemic . . .

CMS Administrator

As this memo is being completed on Nov. 19, 2024, it has been announced that Trump’s nominee to lead CMS will be Dr. Mehmet Oz, cardiothoracic surgeon, television personality and unsuccessful Republican Pennsylvania Senate candidate in 2022. The media, health care industry and Congress will scrutinize Oz’s

controversial medical career and tv career. The nomination to HHS and CMS of two personalities with little or no experience in managing health care, negotiating with Congress or navigating the bureaucratic process means that unconfirmed political staff at HHS and CMS will have outsized power. ●

Get to Know AAHKS Staff

1. What is your title with AAHKS and when did you begin working for the association?

I am the Senior Director of Membership and started with AAHKS Nov. 18, 2005.

2. In your role, how do you serve the AAHKS members?

The members are what truly makes AAHKS, and I believe customer service is what it's all about. Members always come first! That's why I always keep customer service as the central component to my job and responsibilities. I love to actively engage and retain our surgeons as members by providing them with valuable services, addressing their specific needs, facilitating connections within AAHKS; all with the hope that they see the benefit and value of being an AAHKS member.

3. What is the thing you're most proud of?

My family!

4. You're retiring soon, what will you miss most about the work you do with AAHKS?

Obviously, the people! Both the AAHKS staff and members. I've been very fortunate to have encountered some unbelievably nice groups of people.

5. You've been with AAHKS for over a decade and in that time, I'm sure you've seen a lot of changes but what would you say is your most memorable moment?

What first comes to mind is serving as staff liaison to the Women in Arthroplasty Committee, which just celebrated their 5-year anniversary. When the committee initially formed with the original seven members, they all went full force into action providing mentorship, professional development and networking for all women in AAHKS. This resulted in the growing number of female AAHKS members that continues to grow and the committee growing sub-

stantially as well. The work and progress we've made as a committee is truly one of my greatest high-lights. I would be remised if I didn't include the Annual Meeting. AAHKS has a very small staff of 11 who work together all year, to see the end result live, when the meeting is in session is very rewarding for me. It's also great to see our members in person to catch up. They're always so appreciative and express gratitude for all we do.

Eileen M. Lusk



Sharon M. Creed



1. What is your title with AAHKS and when did you begin working for the company?

I started my employment with AAHKS on April 14, 2009. My current title is Registration and Accounting Manager.

2. In what ways does the work you do impact the AAHKS member community?

Being part of a member organization, member services is a large portion of my job. From working on the annual budget, to helping to reconcile membership fee payments, member registrations, and reimbursements; overseeing the AAHKS finances has allowed me to see the mission of AAHKS being fulfilled through various programs and committees.

3. What was your first job, and did you like it?

My first job was as a cashier/sales associate at Montgomery Wards in the mall. I would take the bus after school, and it allowed me to have a little money and gain responsibility. Dealing with the public can be challenging in that environment, but overall, I did like working with money, which is what I still do.

4. What's a hobby that you have that many people don't know about?

I have always done crafts like needlework, crochet and cake decorating, but this summer I started making tufted rugs, and have made several for friends and family. I am looking to expand and increase my knowledge and abilities with this new hobby, I enjoy it very much.

5. You've been with AAHKS for over a decade and in that time, I'm sure you've seen a lot of changes but what would you say is your most memorable moment?

When I started with AAHKS, it was a very small staff of 3.5. I replaced the part-time person and then became full-time. I think the expansion in every area of the organization is what's most memorable. We not only grew in membership and categories but expanded the meeting and other educational

opportunities. We added staff, diversified, and have continued to grow. I am amazed at the dedication of the Board, Committees and members as they navigate the challenges of the profession and focus on the mission.



2025 AAHKS Spring Meeting

Meet us in Scottsdale, Arizona

You can now register for the 2025 AAHKS Spring Meeting. The meeting is taking place in Scottsdale, Arizona, May 1-3. You don't want to miss this meeting. It promotes a smaller gathering of faculty and participants 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.

At the Spring Meeting 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 think you'll really enjoy 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/.



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.



2024 AAHKS Annual Meeting Award Recipients

James A. Rand Young Investigator's Award

What is the Safest and Most Effective Dose of IV Dexamethasone in TKA? A Multicenter Prospective RCT

Presented to: **Charles P. Hannon, MD, MBA**
Institution: Mayo Clinic

Co-Authors: Anne DeBenedetti, MSc, Robert L. Barrack, MD, Young-Min Kwon, MD, PhD, Jess H. Lonner, MD, Rafael J. Sierra, MD, James I. Huddleston III, MD, Charles Nelson, MD, Ran Schwarzkopf MD, MSc, Gwo-Chin Lee, MD, Thomas P. Vail, MD, Erik Hansen, MD, Jeffrey A. Geller, MD, Craig J. Della Valle, MD



AAHKS Clinical Research Award

Intraosseous Regional Diclofenac for Post-Op Pain Management in Total Knee Arthroplasty

Presented to: **Simon W. Young, FRACS**
Institution: University of Auckland

Co-Authors: Jian-Sen Ng, MBBS, Bert Van der Werf, Lance Nicholson, MBBS, William Farrington, FRCS



AAHKS Best Podium Award

Intraosseous Vancomycin Reduces the Rate of PJI Following Aseptic Revision Total Knee Arthroplasty

Presented to: **Colin A. McNamara, MD, MBA**
Institution: University of Miami

Co-Authors: Austin E. Wininger, MD, Thomas C. Sullivan, BS, Timothy S. Brown, MD, Terry A. Clyburn, MD, Stephen J. Incavo, MD, Kwan "Kevin" J. Park, MD



AAHKS Surgical Techniques and Technologies Award

Synovial Fluid Metal Ions: Diagnostic Markers for Aseptic Loosening in Cemented TKA

Presented to: **J. Ryan Martin, MD**
Institution: Vanderbilt University



Co-Authors: Courtney E. Baker, MD, Jacob M. Wilson, MD, Jaquelyn S. Pennings, MD, Stephen M. Engstrom, MD, Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc, Aleksander P. Mika, MD

2024 Poster Award Winners

To view our 2024 poster award winners, visit meeting.aahks.org/ and select Posters Achieve.

Health Policy

Medicare Reimbursements for Primary THA and TKA: Decreasing Relative to Other High-Volume Procedures

Authors: Ryan Palmer, BS, Khaled A. Elmenawi, BS, Jay R. Lieberman, MD, Charles P. Hannon, MD, MBA, Nathanael D. Heckmann, MD

Non-Arthroplasty and Miscellaneous

Do Patients Sleep Better at Home or in the Hospital Following Primary Total Joint Arthroplasty?

Authors: Nicholas M. Hernandez, MD, Gerald Y. Liao, BS, Paul A. Manner, MD, Navin D. Fernando, MD, FRCS, Howard A. Chansky, MD, Elyse J. Brinkmann, MD

Primary Hip

Should we use the Largest Femoral Head with the Smallest Acetabular Component in Primary THA?

Authors: Mark Wu, MD, Brett R. Bukowski, MD, Kristin M. Fruth, BS, Robert T. Trousdale, MD, Matthew P. Abdel, MD, Tad M. Mabry, MD

Primary Knee

Unicompartmental Knee Arthroplasty Conversion to Total Knee Arthroplasty: Modest 5-Year Outcomes

Authors: Andrew D. Pumford, BA, Harold I. Salmons, MD, Cameron K. Ledford, MD, Rafael J. Sierra, MD, Nicholas A. Be-dard, MD, Matthew P. Abdel, MD, Charles P. Hannon, MD, MBA

Revision Hip

Avoiding Dislocation in THR: Can Magnets Help?

Authors: Carlos J. Lavernia, MD, Stephen Cook, PhD

Revision Knee

Revision Distal Femoral Replacements Have Nearly a 40% Failure and Reoperation Rate

Authors: Nihir Parikh, BS, Michael B. Held, MD, MBA, Alexandra L. Hohmann, BA, Juan D. Lizcano, MD, Alan D. Lam, BS, Chad A. Krueger, MD, Yale A. Fillingham, 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 Solenic and Guard Medical as the 2024 award winners!

GUARD
MEDICAL



Guard Medical's award-winning product is the NPseal.

According to Guard Medical:

"the NPseal is an innovative surgical dressing designed to deliver continuous, non-powered Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) to support wound healing. The NPseal significantly benefits orthopedic surgical patients, offering full mobility and self-care while supporting NPWT efficacy. It's an easy-to-use and cost-effective option that promotes patient compliance and aims to reduce the incidence of SSCs and SSIs in orthopedic procedures, which may help to significantly decrease healthcare financial burden."

To listen to the Guard Medical podcast recorded at the Annual Meeting, visit here www.aahks.org/2024-innovation-winner-guard/.

Solenic
Medical



The award-winning product submitted by Solenic Medical is their patented technology using alternating magnetic fields (AMF) to generate thermal medical on the surface of the implants; aiming to eradicate biofilms, a common culprit in implant infections.

According to Solenic Medical:

"this innovative solution offers a safer and more cost-effective alternative to invasive surgeries. The FDA granted Solenic's SOLA2 AMF Knee system, a first-of-its-kind, non-contact device, an IDE authorization for first-in-human use in the operating room setting. This milestone paves the way for clinical trials to begin in November 2024, marking a significant leap forward in orthopedic care."

To listen to the Solenic Medical podcast recorded at the Annual Meeting, visit here www.aahks.org/the-2024-aahks-industry-innovation-award-winner-solenic-medical/.

**Congratulations Solenic and Guard Medical
for winning the 2024 Industry Innovation Award!**





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



**Join us Early in 2025
October 23-26**

Due to logistical conflicts with the hotel,
the 2025 AAHKS Annual Meeting will be
held earlier than usual. We'll be back to the
normal early November dates in 2026.
(November 5-8, 2026)

Gaylord Texan Resort
& Convention Center
Grapevine, Texas

Mark Your
Calendars Today

Shaping the
Future of
Arthroplasty



Reminder!! The 2025 AAHKS Annual Meeting will be early this year.
We'll be in the same great location, but a little earlier on October 23-26.
We hope to see you there!

This year, we're also celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the AAHKS
Annual Meeting. Throughout the year, you'll see our special anniversary
logo to celebrate this milestone.