

WINTER 2026



UPDATE

A MEMBER PUBLICATION



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View the 2025 AAHKS Annual Meeting and Earn CME!

Recordings from the 2025 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 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. ●

Here's how to claim your CME credit:

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.*



Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel
April 30 – May 2, 2026
Chicago, Illinois

2026 AAHKS Spring Meeting

- Case-based learning • Peer-to-peer education
- Practical education for practicing surgeons
- Expert faculty • Mentorship

Visit AAHKS.org for details



CONTENTS



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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Michael J. Zarski, JD
Executive Director

2025



Leaders Return to Washington, DC to Advance Advocacy Efforts

Health Policy Chair Adam J. Rana, MD and more than two dozen AAHKS leaders began the year flying to Washington, DC for the 2025 AAHKS Legislative Retreat, meeting with thirty Congressional offices. This event was held to continue their work to mitigate negative impacts on Medicare payment for arthroplasty. Throughout the year, AAHKS leaders returned to the nation's Capital to continue the fight. 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 Diego this past March as 2024-2025 President James I. Huddleston III, MD, handed the gavel to 2025-2026 AAHKS President R. Michael Meneghini, MD. Joining the Board were Third Vice President Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc and Members-at-Large Ugo N. Ihekweazu, MD and Jonathan M. Vigdorichik, MD.

Scottsdale Hosts Spring Meeting

The 2025 AAHKS Spring Meeting, chaired by Jonathan M. Vigdorichik, MD, Education & Communications Council Chair, and Leonard T. Buller, MD, Vice Chair, was conducted in Scottsdale, Arizona in May. The Spring Meeting continues to evolve in response to attendee preferences with more sessions styled after the popular "Ask the Exerts" sessions presented at the AAHKS Annual Meeting and fewer small group breakout sessions. Registration for the 2026 AAHKS Spring Meeting is now open. This will take place April 30 - May 2 in Chicago, IL. Members can register through the AAHKS website.



New Fellowship Council Consolidates AAHKS Activities

In recent years, AAHKS activities involving Fellowship training have expanded beyond the Association's traditional management of the Adult Reconstruction Match. To better coordinate all aspects of this involvement, a new Fellowship Council was created, Chaired by William G. Hamilton, MD which oversees the Fellowship Education Committee, Chaired by Vivek M. Shah, MD, responsible for enhancing Fellowship training through monthly webinars and maintaining fellowship training standards, and the Fellowship Oversight Committee, Chaired by Michel J. Taunton, MD, that oversees the Match, Fellowship Recognition and Fellowship Grants programs.

Past President Appointed to Top FDA Post

Past President Richard Iorio, MD joined the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as Principal Medical Advisor, reporting to FDA Commissioner Martin A. Makary, MD, MPH. Dr. Iorio retired from clinical practice and is Professor Emeritus at Harvard Medical School.

Journal of Arthroplasty Produces Last Print Issue

The *Journal of Arthroplasty* publisher, Elsevier, announced the *JOA* will join the growing list of journals reducing or eliminating printed editions starting in 2026. The December 2025 issue of *JOA* was the last print issue. All AAHKS members will continue receiving *JOA* through the *JOA* online site or through the AAHKS website.

Annual Meeting Celebrates its 35th Year

The 2025 AAHKS Annual Meeting continued the trend of welcoming a record number of attendees, both surgeons and industry representatives; 5,281 overall. Program Chair Leonard T. Buller, MD, led the committee in reviewing more than 2,200 original, unpublished research abstracts, submitted for sixty podium and 350 poster spots, a new record high! The Program Committee also reviewed and selected eight symposia from sixty-five symposia submissions. The 2026 AAHKS Annual Meeting will take place at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, Nov. 5-8.



Dr. Rana 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 2025 Award went to Adam J. Rana, MD. Dr. Rana has distinguished himself primarily through his years of service in advocacy. This is an area of involvement with AAHKS that requires significant travel and time away from practice calling on federal legislators, Administration officials and regulators. Dr. Rana has been highly effective at communicating the value of the work AAHKS members do and the many ways they are disadvantaged by ill-conceived laws, regulations and policies.

Diversity Award Presented to Dr. Tsao

The 2025 AAHKS Diversity Award was presented to Audrey K. Tsao, MD at the Annual Meeting. This award is bestowed, by the Diversity Advisory Board, upon a recipient who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to making the practice of hip and knee arthroplasty more diverse and more accessible to all patients, while working diligently to eliminate disparities in arthroplasty care through education, research and community engagement. Dr. Tsao easily embodies this through mentoring up and coming surgeons, empowering and increasing the number of women and underrepresented minorities in orthopaedics, and her humanitarian efforts.

Nearly all Fellowship Training Sites Achieve Recognition

A total of 116 Adult Reconstruction Fellowship Programs achieved AAHKS Recognition through the first two waves of applications, under the leadership of William G. Hamilton, MD and Elizabeth B. Gausden, MD, MPH, Chair and Vice Chair of the Fellowship Committee. Michael J. Taunton, MD, and Cameron K. Ledford, MD, took over as respective Chair and Vice Chair of the renamed Fellowship Oversight Committee in March and have continued this momentum; 116 of the 120 fellowships participating in the 2026 Match have attained AAHKS Recognition. 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.

116
Recognized
Sites

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 three exceptional award recipients from a very competitive pool of products presented at the Annual Meeting. The winners were Stryker, SYLKE, Inc. and Vertex Pharmaceuticals; the winners will be recognized throughout the year and will also appear on an episode of AAHKS Amplified to discuss the details of their award-winning innovations.

Humanitarian Award Given to Dr. Woolf

The 2025 Lawrence D. Dorr, MD Humanitarian Award was presented to Mark W. Woolf, MD, during the Annual Meeting. An accomplished orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Woolf has served consistently with Faith In Practice since 2006 as a mission team leader and lead surgeon on more than twenty-five missions to Guatemala. He has served through raising donations, leading medical missions and helping to provide more than 500 total knee replacements to patients in that country. ●

The Foundation for Arthroplasty Research and Education (FARE) has announced the recipients of the FARE Grant, presented at the 2025 AAHKS Annual Meeting.



Ramakanth R. Yakkanti, MD
Rothman Orthopaedics
at Advent Health

Evaluating a Non-Opioid Analgesic Strategy for Enhanced Recovery After Total Knee Arthroplasty: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Suzetrigine

Despite modern Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) pathways, many total knee arthroplasty (TKA) patients still rely on opioids in the early postoperative period. This exposes them to avoidable risks and contributes to persistent opioid use, underscoring the urgent need for safer, effective, opioid-sparing pain management strategies in arthroplasty.

In this FARE Grant-funded randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial, 210 adults undergoing primary unilateral TKA at a tertiary orthopaedic hospital will be randomized 1:1 to receive either suzetrigine (Journavx), a novel oral NaV1.7/NaV1.8 channel inhibitor, or placebo, alongside standardized multimodal analgesia with acetaminophen, meloxicam, and as-needed oxycodone. The primary outcome is total opioid consumption (morphine milligram equivalents) over the first 14 postoperative days, with secondary measures including pain scores, early functional recovery (range of motion, length of stay), patient-reported outcomes (KOOS and PROMIS), and safety with a focus on opioid-related adverse events.

By evaluating suzetrigine within contemporary ERAS protocols, this study will determine whether a non-opioid oral analgesic can meaningfully reduce opioid requirements while maintaining or improving pain control and recovery after TKA. If successful, the findings could support broader clinical adoption of suzetrigine, inform future FDA labeling, and help drive scalable opioid-sparing strategies in arthroplasty practice.



Derek F. Amanatullah, MD, PhD
Stanford University

The Biomarkers for Dormant Infection Predict when to Stop Antibiotics after Infection-related Surgery

Surgical infections after joint replacement are often driven by biofilms, communities of bacteria that hide within protective layers and evade antibiotics. Biofilms are responsible for most implant-related infections and contribute to more than \$386 billion in healthcare costs worldwide each year. Even when infected implants are removed and powerful antibiotics are used, next-generation sequencing shows that biofilm-residing bacteria can persist. These “dormant” infections are invisible to today’s diagnostic tests and can quietly trigger infection relapse months or years later.

In our research published in the *Journal of Translational Medicine*, we analyzed the inflammatory proteins present in joint fluid and discovered a distinct biological fingerprint that separates healthy joint replacements from those harboring a dormant infection. We identified nine key biomarkers that can reliably detect these hidden infections and predict infection relapse after surgery. Patients with a negative biomarker profile had no recurrence of infection, while those with a positive biomarker profile experienced relapse in over 20 percent of cases, providing the strongest evidence to date that dormant infections can be biologically defined and predicted.

This work lays the foundation for a new way of caring for patients with infection-related joint problems. Instead of relying on rigid, time-based antibiotic protocols, we propose using these dormant infection biomarkers, measured with a simple ELISA test that we are developing, to determine when it is truly safe for a patient to stop antibiotics. By incorporating dormant-infection biomarkers into future diagnostic criteria, we aim to make joint replacement care safer, more personalized, and more responsible in the fight against antibiotic overuse.



Vinay K. Aggarwal, MD
NYU

FARE Disparities Grant

Assessing Disparities in Patient Understanding and Attitudes Towards Total Knee Replacement (TKR) Among Minority Populations: A Multicenter Study

Across New York City, thousands of patients walk into orthopedic clinics hoping for relief from knee pain, but not everyone starts that journey with the same tools. For many who speak little or no English, even basic conversations about surgery, rehab, or expectations can feel like piecing together a puzzle with missing parts. Our team is launching a project to fix that. We're creating short, easy-to-follow educational videos and rehab handouts in patients' own languages, so every person walking into a TKA appointment can feel informed, confident, and genuinely understood.

The study will follow non-English speaking patients at NYU Langone and Bellevue from their first surgical visit through recovery. Patients will watch a video before surgery and get another video plus simple, picture-based rehab guide around the time of surgery. After surgery, they'll receive another video plus illustrated exercises to help them navigate rehab without confusion or guesswork. We'll check in with patients along the way to see how much these tools improve understanding, communication, and their ability to stick with rehab.

If this works, and we believe it will, it could reshape how orthopedic care is delivered for multilingual communities. Instead of struggling with medical jargon or rushed interpreter calls, patients get clear guidance in their own language at the moments that matter most. It's a small shift with the potential for a big impact: better conversations, smoother recoveries, and a more equitable path to pain-free movement for everyone. ●

2025 AAHKS Annual Meeting Award Recipients

AAHKS Clinical Research Award

Maximizing Bearing Diameter Markedly Lowers Dislocations in Primary Total Hip Arthroplasty

Presented to: **Matthew S. Hepinstall, MD**

Institution: NYU Langone Health

Co-Authors: Eric Wang, BA, Theodor Di Pauli von Treuheim, MD, Catherine Di Gangi, BS, Ran Schwarzkopf, MD, MSc, Morteza Meftah, MD



AAHKS Surgical Techniques and Technologies Award

What Is the Ideal Technique and Construct in Aseptic Revision Total Knee Arthroplasty?

Presented to: **Wayne T. Hoskins, FRACS, PhD**

Institution: Whangarei Hospital

Co-Authors: Charles Gusho, MD, Michael J. McAuliffe, FRACS, Chris Wall, MD, Qunyan Xu, MS, Kelly G. Vince, MD

James A. Rand Young Investigator's Award

Synovial Metal Ions in "Nickel Free" vs. Standard Cobalt-Chrome Containing Total Knee Replacement

Presented to: **Michael E. Neufeld, MD, MSc, FRCSC**

Institution: University of British Columbia

Co-Authors: Gerard A. Sheridan, MD, Arsh Sidhu, MD, Lisa C. Howard, MD, FRCSC, Nelson V. Greidanus, MD, Bassam Masri, MD, Donald S. Garbuz, MD



2025 AAHKS Presidential Award

Dr. Rana has been a committed member of AAHKS since 2011, serving as the 2012-2013 Health Policy Fellow and then joined the Advocacy Committee in 2013. Dr. Rana currently serves as chair of the Health Policy Council and the Advocacy Committee.

Dr. Rana's diligent work as an advocate for AAHKS has consisted of tireless work in developing health policy resources, advocating for AAHKS with CMS and in Congress. His contributions have had great impacts for both patients and physicians in hip and knee surgery. His devotion to the field consistently furthers arthroplasty surgery, education and practice.

AAHKS acknowledges not only his extensive list of accomplishments in advocacy but also the embodiment of leadership and education. Dr. Rana's scientific contributions have included a vast amount of published material that have improved the practice of hip and knee surgery. It is with great pleasure that we recognize Dr. Rana as the 2025 Presidential Award recipient, an honor bestowed upon a dedicated member who has made significant contributions and created a lasting legacy in the field. ●



RECIPIENT: Adam J. Rana, MD
PRESENTER: R. Michael Meneghini, MD

AAHKS President R. Michael Meneghini, MD was proud to bestow the 2025 Presidential Award on Adam J. Rana, MD, for his many contributions to the organization.

2025 Lawrence D. Dorr, MD, Humanitarian Award

AAHKS is proud to present the 2025 Lawrence D. Dorr, MD Humanitarian Award to Mark W. Woolf, MD. An accomplished orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Woolf has served consistently with Faith In Practice since 2006, as a mission team leader and lead surgeon on more than 25 surgical mission teams.

Through Faith In Practice, Dr. Woolf has participated in many short-term medical missions to Guatemala providing knee replacement surgery to underserved patients over the last 20 years. Dr. Woolf completed two or three trips each year, recruited 40+ volunteers of orthopaedic surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, physical therapists and support staff. He even generated monetary and in-kind donations in excess of 1.5 million dollars. It's estimated that Dr. Woolf has performed more than 500 total knee replacement surgeries and cared for 700+ patients in the screening clinics of Guatemala.

Today, he's providing patient care by serving the medical clinic missions. He also continues to serve as a board member and sits on several Faith In Practice committees.

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 2026 AAHKS Lawrence D. Dorr, MD, Humanitarian Award are now being accepted through April 19, 2026, at www.AAHKS.org/humanitarian. ●



RECIPIENT: Mark W. Woolf, MD
PRESENTER: Kevin B. Fricka, MD

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.

Highlights



Annual Meeting 35th Anniversary

This year's Annual Meeting was a little more special for us as we celebrated the 35th Anniversary of the meeting. From our very first meeting on Nov. 15, 1991, AAHKS has strived to bring you the premiere arthroplasty event of the year. Now, 35 years later, we are thankful that nearly 6,000 accomplished, highly skilled surgeons have decided to join us as members in our pursuit to make the Annual Meeting the premiere arthroplasty event of the year.

In celebrating this milestone, we couldn't resist doing some extensive research on AAHKS – looking at the evolution of our company logo, researching who were past Program Chairs for each meeting, the locations of each meeting, our attendance numbers over the last 35 years

and who the presidential leaders were each year. A snapshot of a lot of this information was printed and put on display at our meeting for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you for your commitment, loyalty and traveling this journey with us. Lastly, a very special thank you to our History Task Force for all your dedicated work:

- Muyibat A. Adelani, MD, Chair
- Richard F. Santore, MD
- Stephen M. Engstrom, MD
- Mike Zarski, JD
- Fatimah Abuhasna
- Kenneth Robinson



The Journal of Arthroplasty is now Online

In response to challenges to the traditional subscription/advertising-supported business model for scientific publications, the *Journal of Arthroplasty* (JOA) publisher, Elsevier announced that JOA has now joined the growing list of journals reducing or eliminating printed editions.

This change has affected all AAHKS members who receive a subscription to the JOA as a member benefit. Most AAHKS members already access the JOA online, and the JOA AAHKS Annual Meeting Proceedings have been online-only for several years. AAHKS is still working with Elsevier to improve the JOA online user experience for AAHKS members who can now access full-text papers by logging in to their AAHKS member account through the AAHKS website and accessing the *Journal of Arthroplasty* tab. There are plans for Elsevier to offer a "print on demand" service to the JOA subscribers for a fee of \$200.

If you require assistance with your member login to access the JOA online, you can contact AAHKS Member Services at connect@aahks.org or 1-847-698-1200.

AAHKS PODCAST CHANNELS

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wherever you download podcasts



Diversity Advisory Board Celebrating Five Years

Congratulations to the Diversity Advisory Board (DAB) on their 5th Anniversary. Since its inception, DAB has been a valuable resource for increasing diversity and inclusion within AAHKS' membership and leadership. DAB has created the AAHKS Diversity Award that recognizes AAHKS members who are distinguished in their commitment to making hip and knee arthroplasty more diverse and more accessible to all patients. This award is administered annually at the AAHKS Annual Meeting. DAB has also been the leading force behind the AAHKS census to collect demographic data on our membership so there's a better understanding of the racial and ethnic makeup of the organization.

Thank you to all current and past members of the Diversity Advisory Board for your commitment to making AAHKS inclusive for all.

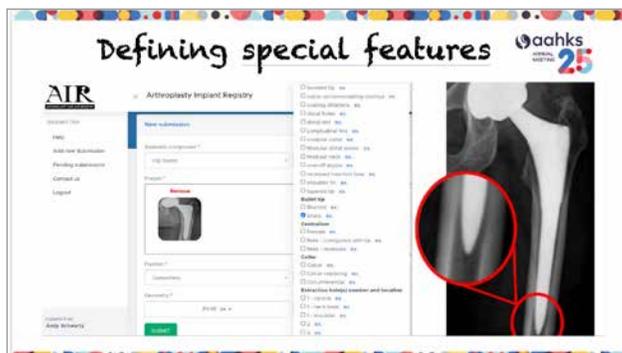


The Arthroplasty Implant Registry



Ever had trouble identifying a femoral stem on radiograph? Well, those days are officially over! Have you tried AAHKS Arthroplasty Implant Registry (AIR)? It's a free offering to help identify unknown implants. The goal is to help prepare you for revision surgery. The breadth of our registry includes almost 900 unique femoral stems from 155 companies and 36 countries. In the near future, this will also include another 800 total knees, acetabular cups and partial knees.

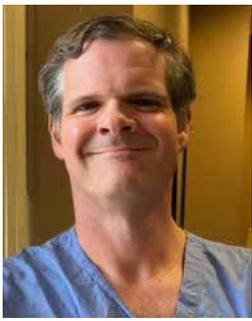
Give it a try and share your experience with us. Your feedback helps us optimize, expand and enhance the registry: <https://air.aahks.net>.



The Digital World Awaits You Follow Us on Instagram

We have expanded our reach – we are now on Instagram! Instagram is a visual social media platform that's primarily used for sharing photos and short videos, but within that construct, we'll continue to communicate, share and educate members with engaging and thought-provoking content.

Be sure to follow us at [@AAHKS.OFFICIAL](https://www.instagram.com/AAHKS.OFFICIAL).



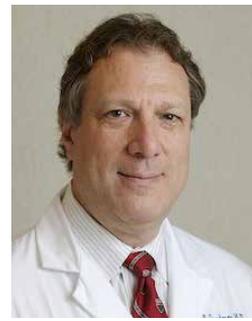
Paul M. Lichstein, MD, MS



Brett C. Perricelli, MD



Ronald E. Delanois, MD



Stuart B. Goodman, MD

Arthroplasty Today Reviewers of the Year

Congratulations to *Arthroplasty Today* Reviewers of the Year! Paul M. Lichstein, MD, MS and Brett C. Perricelli, MD were honored at the journal's editorial board meeting during the AAHKS Annual Meeting in Dallas, TX. From the editor-in-chief, deputy editor, AAHKS, and Elsevier, thank you for your contribution and keep up the great work!

The Journal of Arthroplasty Best Reviewers

It is with great pleasure that we congratulate the 2025 *Journal of Arthroplasty* Best Reviewers. Ronald E. Delanois, MD and Stuart B. Goodman, MD, received this honor in recognition of the outstanding work they've contributed as reviewers for the journal. Thank you, in appreciation for your contributions to the readers of the *Journal of Arthroplasty*.

Patient Testimonial Portal



Don't forget, in just a few easy steps, your patients can provide testimonials that will assist with advocacy and marketing campaigns. Patients can submit audio and video testimonials about their expectations during surgery.

Your patients can go to <https://kneehip.org/register> or scan the QR code to submit their testimonial.



All New for you and Your Patients

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.

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



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!



2026 Health Policy Forecast

Prepared for AAHKS by our Advocacy Partner National Health Advisors

Short-term Congressional Action on ACA Enhanced Premium Tax Credits

The federal government stopgap funding bill, enacted on Nov. 12, 2025, keeps most federal agencies operating through Jan. 30, 2026. The deadline gives Congress and the Administration time to negotiate a longer-term funding plan. If they fail to reach agreement, another funding impasse or an omnibus spending package could emerge.

As part of the agreement to reopen the government, the Senate Majority Leader agreed to bring the issue of the expiring ACA Enhanced Premium Tax Credits (EPTCs) forward for a Senate vote in December. Recall, the EPTCs were established under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to temporarily expand eligibility for lower health insurance premiums on the ACA Marketplaces to Americans whose income exceeds 400% of the federal poverty level. The credits also reduce the maximum household contribution (resulting in larger subsidy amounts) at all eligible income levels. On Dec. 11, 2025, the Senate voted on the Democratic proposal to extend the EPTCs for three years, which failed by a vote of 51-48, short of the 60 votes needed for passage.

Senate Republicans offered an alternative that would have avoided subsidizing health insurance premiums and instead directed subsidies to low-income individuals through health savings accounts (HSAs) or flexible spending accounts (FSAs). On Dec. 11, the Republican alternative also failed to pass by a vote of 51-48. The EPTCs are therefore set to expire on Dec. 31, 2025, when the premium tax credits and subsidies revert to the levels enacted under the ACA.

Congress may again attempt to resolve the expiring EPTCs in January as a part of an overall government funding agreement, perhaps with the House of Representatives generating a proposal. Other health care legislation could be considered in the same timeframe. Bipartisan interest in Congress persists around issues of PBM regulation and reform of Medicare Advantage (MA) funding. With Congressional midterm elections approaching in late-2026, the window for successful passage of substantive health care legislation closes early in 2026.

More Oversight and Scrutiny of the AMA

In 2025, CMS finalized sweeping reductions in Medicare rates for most physician services for 2026. As CMS Administrator Dr. Oz said at a conference, "We think primary care is underfunded. Investing in primary care is shown to drive down health care costs. Therefore, we took money from specialties and gave it to primary care." The reductions were also motivated by CMS' allegations that physician service values determined by the AMA RVS Update Committee (RUC) are overinflated for specialists. Stakeholders will be monitoring the AMA RUC throughout 2026 to see if the focused criticism and Medicare cuts motivate the AMA RUC to take more initiative in reducing physician service values.

The AMA is facing another form of pressure from Sen. Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA), the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Chairman Cassidy says the AMA is "abusing" its proprietary and widely adopted Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) coding system with "exorbitant fees" that drive higher health-care costs. He alleges that the CPT "status quo focuses on enriching the AMA at the expense of patients, while the organization subsequently uses the revenue to advance a political agenda that is not representative of the majority of the medical community." Cassidy has threatened to compel the AMA to disclose more information on the CPT business model, AMA House of Delegates role in advocacy, and the use of membership fees.

Implementing the Medicaid Cuts in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act

Medicaid will be in transition throughout 2026. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), which was signed into law on July 4, 2025, contains a series of reductions in federal Medicaid funding to states. Most significantly, restrictions on “provider taxes” and “state-directed payments”, which primarily support hospitals, are projected to reduce federal funding to state Medicaid programs by \$340 billion over 10 years. These cuts go into effect in 2027, so states will spend 2026 determining how to adapt to the funding reductions through a combination of reductions in provider rates or cuts to benefits.

OBBBA also contains new work requirements as a condition of Medicaid eligibility for able-bodied adults between 19 and 64 years, requiring 80 hours of work or equivalent community services per month. CMS must promulgate implementation guidance to states by June 2026. States must establish work requirements beginning 2027, an extraordinarily short implementation timeframe. A one-time two-year delay of state implementation for hardship/good-faith-effort

may be granted by Secretary of HHS. How work requirements are implemented will depend heavily on state politics. Some states may pursue strict policies intended to shrink enrollment, while others may try to preserve flexibility and keep people covered. Either approach could dramatically affect who remains insured and how easily populations can maintain access to care.

The other major component of the OBBBA is the Rural Healthcare Transformation Program (RHTP). The program will provide \$50 billion in grants to states to be used for payments to rural health care providers and other purposes. \$25 billion will be distributed equally across states with approved applications. The remaining funds will be distributed by CMS based its determination of rural infrastructure need. The five strategic goals of the RHT are (1) new access points to promote preventive health and address root causes of disease, (2) sustainable access, (3) workforce development, (4) innovative care, and (5) technological innovation. Awards were due to be announced by CMS by Dec. 31, 2025.

Continued Focus on Prescription Drug Prices

The Trump administration continues to put pressure on drug prices through a variety of initiatives, including the Medicare drug price negotiation law enacted during the Biden administration.

On Nov. 6, 2025, the White House announced a pricing agreement with Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk to lower the cost of GLP-1 medications for patients with diabetes, heart disease, obesity and related conditions. Through the TrumpRx platform, Ozempic and Wegovy will be priced at \$350; Zepbound and Orforglipron (pending approval from FDA) at \$346; and future oral GLP-1s at \$150. The FDA has also announced a fast-track review for these oral therapies. The deal extends additional discounts for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries with obesity and related comorbidities. While current law prohibits

Medicare from covering weight-loss drugs, this signals a policy shift in 2026 or 2027 to allow coverage when used to treat obesity with other health conditions. CMS stated a demonstration project from the Medicare Innovation Center was under development that would permit Medicare and Medicaid plans to cover GLP-1s for weight loss.

At some point in 2026, the Medicare Innovation Center will release details of two much-anticipated new drug pricing pilot programs: the Global Benchmark for Efficient Drug Pricing (GLOBE) Model and the Guarding U.S. Medicare Against Rising Drug Costs (GUARD) Model. These programs are likely steps towards establishing a “most-favored nation” drug pricing model within Medicare and Medicaid.

Prior Authorization Oversight

Another continuing theme for 2026 will be prior authorization. Patients and providers continue to experience delays, denials and administrative hurdles. CMS regulations of MA prior auth and utilization management practices went into effect in 2025, with additional regulations on all plans becoming effective in 2026. Earlier in 2025, at an event with CMS Administrator Dr. Oz and HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., major national health plans announced a series of commit-

ments to narrow prior authorization practices. The question now is whether those changes will significantly improve the patient and provider experience or simply shift the burden in different ways. Dr. Oz stated that the government will step in if health plans do not improve on their own. Stakeholders are watching to see if 2026 will bring the first federal enforcement actions against plans for prior authorization practices.

Rising Health Care Costs and Potential for More Cuts to Hospitals

After years of moderate increases, health costs are projected to increase sharply again in 2026. Some analysts project the average cost of a family policy for employers could approach \$30,000. Therefore, cost sharing and deductibles are expected to rise again after plateauing for several years. Retail drug spending is only 9% of overall health spending (16% for employers) and there is growing focus on hospitals as the single largest share

of the health care dollar. Notwithstanding upcoming Medicaid cuts to hospitals from the OBBBA, policy makers in CMS and Congress are likely to further scrutinize Medicare payment rates to hospitals. Ideas such as site-neutral payment, global budgets, or caps on certain hospital charges may re-emerge as policy makers look for more ways to manage costs and spending.

Impact on the Uninsured and Health Coverage Markets

Between the expiration of the ACA EPTCs and the upcoming Medicaid work requirements, there will be some impact on covered lives and uninsured. Stakeholders are watching how enrollees actually respond in the Marketplaces without the EPTCs. What share

of the 24 million Marketplace enrollees switch to cheaper high-deductible plans? How many millions choose to be uninsured in 2026 and who are they? What happens to the uninsured rate in the U.S.?

Vaccine Policy Remains in Flux

Few issues reveal current political and policy fault lines more clearly than vaccine policy. The removal of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) leadership, Secretary Kennedy's revamping of the Advisory Committee on Vaccination Practices (ACIP) and a

wave of high-level resignations have raised concerns about the nation's ability to coordinate consistent guidance. Bipartisan policy makers remain concerned and will closely monitor corresponding impact on vaccination rates and outbreaks.

Health Care Coverage and Health Plan Regulation

The Trump Administration's Make American Healthy Again (MAHA) strategy represents an ambitious pivot toward chronic disease prevention. Four in 10 Americans say they identify in some way with the MAHA agenda. The plan emphasizes early detection and longitudinal management of heart disease, diabetes and mental health conditions, coupled with digital tools and data-driven quality metrics, yet its success will hinge on a workforce and health care system already stretched thin.

Funding and coverage policies have accelerated clinician migration from certain states and rural areas, creating "health professional deserts" that undermine the very access gains MAHA seeks to achieve. In 2026, the policy conversation will increasingly center on how to deploy technology, AI capabilities, remote monitoring, telehealth supervision and digital therapeutics to fill those gaps without widening disparities. ●

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. You can do so in only a few short minutes. Details are below on how you can renew 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@aahks.org.

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 May 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, Director of Membership, at swhitney@aahks.org or call **847-430-5063**.

CURRENT COUNTS

As 2026 begins, AAHKS has **5698** members.



WHERE ARE OUR MEMBERS?

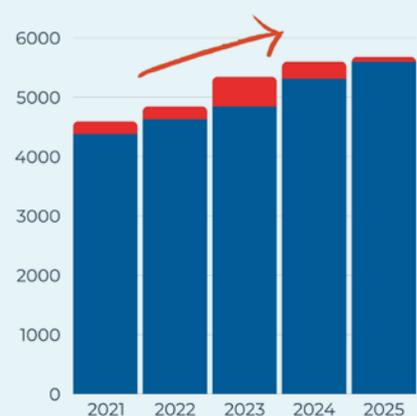
AAHKS' growing membership is represented around the globe!



Algeria, 7	Morocco, 1
Argentina, 23	Myanmar, 1
Australia, 23	Nepal, 1
Bahamas, 1	Netherlands, 3
Bahrain, 1	New Zealand, 6
Bangladesh, 2	Nicaragua, 1
Belgium, 2	Nigeria, 2
Bolivia, 1	Oman, 2
Brazil, 21	Pakistan, 4
Canada, 72	Panama, 1
Chile, 18	Paraguay, 3
China, 10	Peru, 12
Colombia, 15	Philippines, 1
Costa Rica, 4	Poland, 3
Dominican Republic, 6	Qatar, 1
Ecuador, 5	Russian Federation, 1
Egypt, 10	Saudi Arabia, 5
Finland, 2	Singapore, 6
France, 11	South Africa, 2
Germany, 12	Spain, 7
Greece, 3	Switzerland, 3
Honduras, 1	Taiwan, 9
Hong Kong, 4	Tanzania, 1
India, 41	Thailand, 4
Indonesia, 1	Trinidad and Tobago, 1
Iran, 2	Turkey, 12
Iraq, 2	Ukraine, 3
Ireland, 14	United Arab Emirates, 5
Italy, 23	United Kingdom, England, 87
Jamaica, 1	United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, 2
Japan, 25	United Kingdom, Scotland, 8
Jordan, 2	United Kingdom, Wales, 3
Korea, Republic of, 8	United States and US Territories, 5029
Lebanon, 1	Uruguay, 7
Libya, 1	Uzbekistan, 3
Malaysia, 3	Venezuela, 5
Mexico, 55	Virgin Islands (British), 1

GROWTH

Over the past 5 (five) years (2021 to 2025), there has been a 28% membership growth.



Get to Know AAHKS Staff

Sigita Wolfe, MBA



1. What is your title with AAHKS and what do your job duties entail?

Fairly recently, it has been published in *JOA* that I am a professional cat herder. While I am convinced beyond reasonable doubt that the *JOA* thoroughly fact checks, my formal titles here at AAHKS are Senior Director, Education and Science, as well as Executive Director, Foundation for Arthroplasty Research and Education (FARE). In these roles, I manage all aspects of AAHKS Education and Science Programs, including education strategy; planning, implementation and evaluation of all educational programming; education accreditation; and evidence-based medicine projects. I work with the FARE Board of Directors on setting the strategic direction and programs for the foundation, managing day-to-day operations of the foundation.

2. What is something you haven't done (personally or professionally) that you would love to try and why?

To write a book because I love writing and I love books.

3. Unrelated to the work you do at AAHKS, what would you say is your greatest accomplishment to date?

I cannot completely untie my greatest accomplishments from AAHKS, or my career in general, as it is less of a job and more of a lifestyle. I am fortunate to have worked with many brilliant individuals over the years, which pushed me to be my best personal and professional self. A few years ago, I went back to school and obtained a terminal degree, Executive MBA, at the Loyola University of Chicago, which I am very proud of. One other big highlight was going on a mission trip to Honduras with the "OpWalk Carolinas" team to bring joint replacement surgery to disadvantaged locals. Forever astonished with the depth of heart and skill of AAHKS surgeons and their surgical teams, and grateful to have experienced a day in a surgeon's life under less-than-optimal conditions. I am a semi-pro ballroom dancer. Proud of and grateful for every practice/rehearsal and performance, because movement is life as we all know it.

4. Select one and explain your reasons why – personal chef, housekeeper, or chauffeur?

I'd select the chauffeur because I hate traffic. Can they double as a bodyguard too? Laughing out loud.

5. Your role can be very demanding, especially during Annual Meeting time, so is there a regimen that you have to help you decompress and/or relax once the meeting concludes to help replenish your cup?

A couple of days of uninterrupted sleep. Mostly for the excitement to simmer down. Honestly, a day with family and my beloved Spotty boy (fur-child), a home-made meal works wonders most of the time. No special routine other than getting back to my daily routine.

Fatimah Abuhasna



1. What is a talent you wish you had and why?

A talent I wish I had was being able to play an instrument like the piano or violin. I always admired the sound of those two instruments as it creates calm/relaxing sounds for anyone to listen to.

2. What's your role with AAHKS and in what ways do you think you contribute to AAHKS membership the most?

I am the Administrative Specialist for AAHKS and some ways I think I contribute to AAHKS membership the most are making sure current and future members are up to date with AAHKS and addressing any concerns immediately.

3. You've been with AAHKS for a little less than a year now, but you've had the opportunity to attend both the Spring and Annual Meeting, which meeting did you enjoy the most and why?

I enjoyed both meetings, but the Annual Meeting gave me the opportunity to see more attendees and be front row in everything AAHKS does for the team and attendees.

4. You recently worked on the taskforce for AAHKS' 35th Anniversary and learned a great deal about the history of the organization. What did you learn that shocked you the most?

The thing that shocked me the most was that although AAHKS was established in 1991, it continues to grow significantly each year. Also, I noticed that the faculty rarely changes, meaning everyone is here for a great cause.

5. What is the first thing you wanted to be in life growing up and why?

I actually wanted to be a surgeon growing up! I admired how one human being helps out another human being. In Islam, if you save one life it means you have saved the whole mankind, and I wanted to be part of that.



2026 AAHKS Spring Meeting

Registration for the 2026 AAHKS Spring Meeting is now OPEN! This year's meeting will be in Chicago, Illinois, April 30 – May 2. 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 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

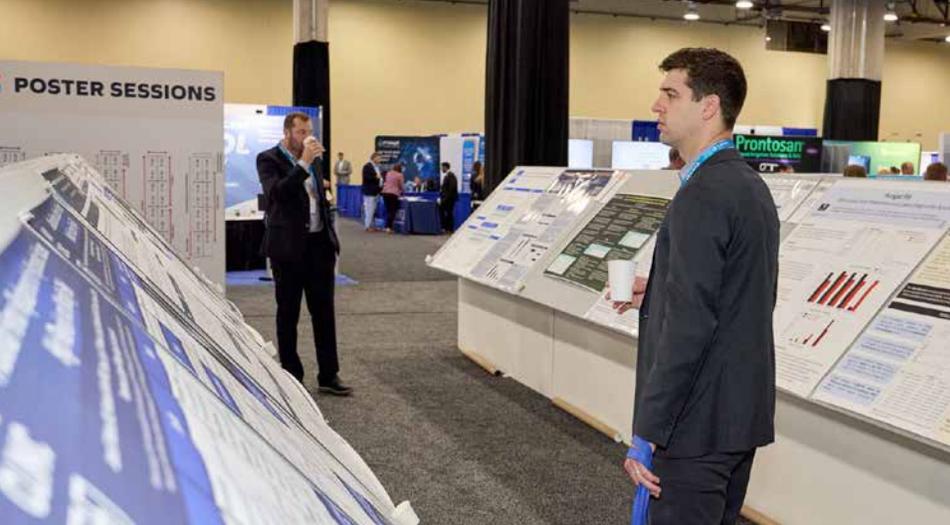
- Analyze total hip and knee arthroplasty cases.
- Investigate the patterns contributing to effective total hip and knee primary arthroplasty and revision.
- Determine the strategies contributing to optimal perioperative and post-operative care, including complication management.
- Consider effective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





2025 Poster Award Winners

To view our 2025 poster award winners, visit aahks.scientificposters.com.

Complications

Classification and Outcomes of 214 Periprosthetic Patellar Fractures in Primary TKA

Authors: Merrick T. Ducharme, MD, Nicolas A. Selemou, MD, Nicholas A. Bedard, MD, Mark J. Spanghel, MD, Bryan D. Springer, MD, Krystin A. Hidden, MD, Brandon Yuan, MD, Daniel J. Berry, MD, Matthew P. Abdel, MD, Charles P. Hannon, MD, MBA

Database

Random NSQIP Predictor-Outcome Pairings Often Show Statistical Significance Without Clinical Meaning

Authors: Whisper Grayson, MD, Aritra Chakraborty, BS, Nicholas M. Brown, MD

Infection

Pretreatment with Vancomycin Prevents Staphylococcal Biofilm Formation on Marlex Mesh

Authors: Christina A. Chao, MS, Tyler Hoskins, BA, Mohammed Hammad, MD, Suenghwan Jo, MD, Mathias P.G. Bostrom, MD, Alberto V. Carli, MD, FRCS

Miscellaneous/non-arthroplasty

Creatine- and HMB-Enriched Protein Supplementation for Hip Fracture Recovery in Elderly Patients

Authors: Hadi Kalantar, JRRC, MD, Mohammad Poursalehian, MD, Javad Mortazavi, MD

Policy

The Shrinking Value of Septic Revision TKA: A 12-Years of Analysis of Physician Reimbursement Trends

Authors: Juan D. Lizcano, MD, Kaitlin Bernabe, MPH, Jesus M. Villa, MD, Nicolas S. Piuze, MD, Jorge Manrique, MD, Carlos A. Higuera, MD

Primary Hip

Safety of Povidone-Iodine in Iodine-Allergic Patients Undergoing Total Joint Arthroplasty

Authors: Natalia Cruz-Ossa, MD, Aneesh Samineni, MD, Hal-lie B. Remer, BS, Faaris Khan, BS, Gireesh B. Reddy, MD, Colin A. McNamara, MD, Victor H. Hernandez, MD, MS, Michele R. D'Apuzzo, MD

Primary Knee

Comparative Survivorship & Patient Satisfaction at Five Years in UKA vs TKA: An RCT

Authors: Anne DeBenedetti, MS, Robert A. Sershon, MD, Craig J. Della Valle, MD, Kevin B. Fricka, MD, William G. Hamilton, MD, Nancy L. Parks, MS, Ajay S. Potluri, BS, Denis Nam, MD, MSc

Revision Hip

Powered Acetabular Extraction Reduces Force, Time, and Burden vs Manual Tools in Revision THA Model

Authors: Dimitri J. Mabarak, MD, Shujaa T. Khak, MD, Cha Zhang, MS, Viktor E. Krebs, MD, Michael Bloomfield, MD, Peter Surace, MD, Michael Erossy, MD, Nicolas S. Piuze, MD, Matthew E. Deren, MD

Revision Knee

Revision TKA for Aseptic Failure After Two-Stage for PJI: High Rates of Reoperation and Reinfection

Authors: Hervé Poilvache, MD, PhD, Baochao Ji, MD, PhD, Devin L. Froerer, MD, Charles P. Hannon, MD, MBA, Matthew P. Abdel, MD, Nicholas A. Bedard, 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 Stryker, SYLKE and Vertex Pharmaceuticals as the 2025 award winners!



Stryker's award-winning product is their latest advancement in Mako SmartRobotics™.

According to Stryker:

"now with the introduction of Mako Total Hip with Advanced Primary and Revision, Stryker is revolutionizing robotic hip replacements from primary to revision. The expanded application is the first-to-market robotically enabled revision hip solution in a single application. Mako Total Hip now serves primary, complex primary and revision indications with advanced planning features like screw and augment planning, plus stem planning, and is now compatible with Stryker's revision hip products, including Restoration® Modular. Additional intraoperative features include bone mapping, cup clocking and more."

To listen to the Stryker podcast recorded at the Annual Meeting, visit here <https://www.aahks.org/2025-industry-award-winner-stryker/>.

SYLKE, Inc.'s award-winning product is the SYLKE® Skin Closure.

According to SYLKE:

"SYLKE® Skin Closure is a topical skin closure dressing that could be used on clean incisions or simple lacerations, offering a comfortable, flexible, and breathable solution that effectively helps secure wound edge approximation for optimal patient outcomes."

To listen to the SYLKE podcast recorded at the Annual Meeting, visit here <https://www.aahks.org/2025-industry-innovation-award-sylke/>.



Vertex Pharmaceuticals' award-winning product is JOURNAVX™.

According to Vertex Pharmaceuticals:

"JOURNAVX is a first-in-class, oral, non-opioid, highly selective pain signal inhibitor that is selective for NaV1.8 relative to other NaV channels. NaV1.8 is a voltage-gated sodium channel that is selectively expressed in peripheral pain-sensing neurons (nociceptors), where its role is to transmit pain signals (action potentials). Because JOURNAVX blocks pain signals only found in the periphery, not in the brain, JOURNAVX provides effective relief of pain without the limitations of currently available therapies, including the addictive potential of opioids."

At the time of print, Vertex Pharmaceuticals hadn't recorded their podcast yet. We look forward to sharing it with you soon!

Congratulations Stryker, SYLKE and Vertex Pharmaceuticals for winning the 2025 Industry Innovation Award!



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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
HIP AND KNEE SURGEONS

American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons

9400 W. Higgins Road, Suite 230

Rosemont, IL 60018 USA



aahks

ANNUAL
MEETING



The 2026 AAHKS Annual Meeting is back in November, mark your calendars for Nov. 5-8

Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center

Grapevine, Texas

Nov. 5-8

Shaping the Future of Arthroplasty



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