

SPRING 2026



UPDATE

A MEMBER PUBLICATION



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ANNUAL
MEETING



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

Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center
Dallas, Texas

Nov. 5-8

Shaping the Future of Arthroplasty



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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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Letter from the President



Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA

Dear AAHKS Members,

I am truly honored to be the 35th president of the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons, and the second female after 15 years.

I am incredibly proud to represent an organization that continues to advance the field of hip and knee arthroplasty through education, advocacy, research and outreach. My priorities are to serve the members of AAHKS, especially during these trying times.

My first priority is to focus on arthroplasty surgeon burnout and well-being. While reimbursements for hip and knee arthroplasty surgeries have dropped 55 percent over 20 years, just doing more hip and knee arthroplasty cases has contributed to burnout and decreases in well-being. We must meaningfully and tangibly address problems that we are facing as a profession: more administrative burden, less support, more expectations, more frustrations, reimbursement declines, longer hours, greater physical and emotional burden, less control, and less significance in our work.

We have formed the AAHKS Well-Being and Burnout Task Force, led by Victor H. Hernandez, MD, MS, and we have released a survey to all AAHKS members asking for their pain points in their roles as arthroplasty surgeons, then devised concrete solutions to help address the areas of burnout in our profession.

My second priority is to bring equity into the field of arthroplasty. This requires providing opportunities and tools to arthroplasty surgeons to allow them to excel in our field. This involves coaching, mentorship and sponsorship. I have been supported by so many individuals in our field, and I want to give back to others to lift the next generation of arthroplasty surgeons.

As always, I want to truly thank the AAHKS staff members who make the organization run smoothly and in an incredibly efficient manner. I also want to thank the presidential line (Matthew P. Abdel, MD, Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc, Rafael J. Sierra, MD and R. Michael Meneghini, MD) who have worked together to continue to strengthen AAHKS as an organization.

I would like to thank Adam J. Rana, MD, P. Maxwell Courtney, MD and Stephen M. Engstrom, MD for their continued advocacy efforts. A big thank you to Michael A. Mont, MD for being Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Arthroplasty* and Brett R. Levine, MD, MS for being Editor-in-Chief of *Arthroplasty Today* – we wouldn't have the publications that we have today without both of you.

Finally, thank you to the AAHKS Board of Directors, the Council and Committee leaders, and all the AAHKS member volunteers who are the lifeblood of AAHKS. Please feel free to reach out any time with questions, suggestions and input – this is our organization and we need to work together to make it even better.

Take care,



Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA

2026

Membership Overview

REJOIN TODAY!

Thank you to all our members who have paid their membership dues for 2026! We value our members and want to ensure everyone is current with their membership.

With your renewed AAHKS membership, you will continue to receive access to your FREE *Journal of Arthroplasty (JOA)* annual subscription with online access, discounted registration for AAHKS Annual & Spring Meetings, complimentary access to Ortho-Evidence Premium, discounted publishing fees to *Arthroplasty Today*, access to practice resources and patient education materials, along with an AAHKS team that advocates for your practice rights and reimbursement for hip and knee surgeons and so much more!

> [Rejoin today to continue your AAHKS benefits!](#)

Rejoin by logging in to www.AAHKS.org, sending a check, or calling Member Services at 847-698-1200 to keep your *JOA* access, benefits and recognition



as an AAHKS member intact. You can also email us at connect@AAHKS.org for a link to pay your 2026 membership dues online without logging in.

Sending a check? Please send your check (which should include your full name and AAHKS ID number) along with any other correspondence here:

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

Questions? Please reach out with any membership questions at connect@AAHKS.org.

JOIN YOUR COLLEAGUES

Here's your special invitation to become a member of AAHKS. Below are just a few benefits our members enjoy!



Excellence in HIP & KNEE CARE

Be informed on the latest innovations, challenges and opportunities in the field of arthroplasty.



The Journal of Arthroplasty

Enjoy a FREE annual subscription with online access to our monthly, peer-reviewed, clinically relevant journal valued at \$748.



Arthroplasty Today

Publishing discount in our open-access journal that's included in the Clarivate's Web of Science, the world's most trusted publisher independent global citation database.



AAHKS Annual & Spring Meetings

Enjoy deeply discounted member rates to attend the world's premiere arthroplasty events of the year with the best peer-reviewed research & educational content in arthroplasty.



Hip & Knee Research

Enjoy research that's advancing hip & knee patient care through Foundation for Arthroplasty Research and Education (FARE).



Advocacy

We advocate for our members & their patients, developing & executing strategies that affect patient care reimbursement for hip & knee surgery; overall, influencing the law-making process.

ADDITIONAL VALUABLE MEMBER BENEFITS

Patient & Practice focused
PODCASTS

Free **PATIENT EDUCATION** materials in several languages

CODING & PRACTICE
Resources

Weekly
ARTHROPLASTY NEWS

ORTHO-EVIDENCE
PeerView Access

What are you waiting for?
Become a member today!

Phone: 847-698-1200
or visit www.AAHKS.org/join



AAHKS
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
HIP AND KNEE SURGEONS

AAHKS PRESIDENTS



2026
Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA
Dallas, TX



2025
R. Michael Meneghini, MD
Indianapolis, IN



2024
James I. Huddleston III, MD
Stanford, CA



2023
Javad Parvizi, MD, FRCS
Philadelphia, PA



2022
Bryan D. Springer, MD
Charlotte, NC



2021
Richard Iorio, MD
Boston, MA



2020
C. Lowry Barnes, MD
Little Rock, AR



2019
Michael P. Bolognesi, MD
Durham, NC



2018
Craig J. Della Valle, MD
Chicago, IL



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



2016
William A. Jiranek, MD
Richmond, VA



2015
Jay R. Lieberman, MD
Los Angeles, CA



2014
Brian S. Parsley, MD
Houston, TX



2013
Thomas K. Fehring, MD
Charlotte, NC



2012
Thomas P. Vail, MD
San Francisco, CA



2011
Carlos J. Lavernia, MD
Miami, FL



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



2009
William J. Robb III, MD
Evanston, IL



2008
David G. Lewallen, MD
Rochester, MN



2007
Daniel J. Berry, MD
Rochester, MN



2006
William J. Hozack, MD
Philadelphia, PA



2005
Joseph C. McCarthy, MD
Boston, MA



2004
Richard F. Santore, MD
San Diego, CA



2003
Clifford W. Colwell, MD
La Jolla, CA



2002
Douglas A. Dennis, MD
Denver, CO



2001
John J. Callaghan, MD
Iowa City, IA



2000
Richard B. Welch, MD
San Francisco, CA



1999
James A. Rand, MD
Scottsdale, AZ



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



1997
Merrill A. Ritter, MD
Mooresville, IN



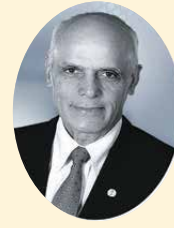
1996
Hugh Tullos, MD
Houston, TX



1995
Lawrence D. Dorr, MD
Inglewood, CA



1994
Richard C. Johnston, MD
Iowa City, IA



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



1991
J. Phillip Nelson, MD
Phoenix, AZ

Thank You FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP

FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP

2026-2027 AAHKS Board of Directors



Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA
President



Ran Schwarzkopf, MD, MSc
Treasurer



Matthew P. Abdel, MD
First Vice President



Ugonna N. Ihekweazu, MD
Member-at-Large



Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc
Second Vice President



William G. Hamilton, MD
Member-at-Large



Rafael J. Sierra, MD
Third Vice President / Secretary



Adam A. Sassoon, MD, MS
Member-at-Large



R. Michael Meneghini, MD
Immediate Past President

2026 Council Chairs

Jeremy M. Gililland, MD and
Leonard T. Buller, MD
Education and Communications Council

William G. Hamilton, MD and
Michael J. Taunton, MD
Fellowship Council

Adam J. Rana, MD
Health Policy Council

James D. Slover, MD, MS
Membership Council



2026 Committee Chairs

Advocacy

Committee on Committees and Bylaws

Digital Health and Social Media

Diversity Advisory Board

Education

Evidence-Based Medicine

Fellowship Education

Fellowship Oversight

Finance

Humanitarian

Industry Relations

International

Member Outreach

Nominating

Patient and Public Relations

Practice Management

Program

Research

Women in Arthroplasty

Young Arthroplasty Group

P. Maxwell Courtney, MD

Matthew P. Abdel, MD

Matthew W. Bullock, DO

Zachary C. Lum, DO

Timothy S. Brown, MD

Charles P. Hannon, MD, MBA

Vivek M. Shah, MD

Michael J. Taunton, MD

Ran Schwarzkopf, MD, MSc

Kevin B. Fricka, MD

Cory L. Calendine, MD

Carlos A. Higuera-Rueda, MD, FAAOS

Ashton H. Goldman, MD

R. Michael Meneghini, MD

Arjun Saxena, MD, MBA

Benjamin J. Schwartz, MD, MBA

Linda I. Suleiman, MD

Thorsten M. Seyler, MD, PhD

Kim K. Tucker, MD

Peter A. Gold, MD

2026

Past President Highlights



R. Michael Meneghini, MD

Dear Fellow AAHKS Members,

It was a true personal and professional honor to serve as AAHKS President during one of the most challenging periods in modern health care. As I look back on this term, I am proud of what we accomplished together and grateful for the collaborative spirit that defined our efforts.

I am equally confident and proud to have transitioned leadership to Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA whose steady guidance, along with the Presidential Line, Board of Directors, committee chairs, members and the AAHKS staff who have ensured continued strength and direction for our organization.

Along with organizational restructuring, advocacy and education were defining pillars of my presidential term and I am proud of the progress made in both areas.

During my tenure, and with the outstanding support of our AAHKS staff, led by Executive Director Mike Zarski, the Presidential Line, and the Board of Directors we successfully restruc-



ured our councils and committees to improve operational efficiency, strategic alignment, communication and overall function. One of the most significant achievements of this effort was the creation of the Fellowship Council. This new council now fully oversees fellowship recognition, funding, match process oversight, and education, providing clarity, consistency and long term stability to fellowship training in hip and knee arthroplasty. This restructuring has meaningfully strengthened our organizational framework and better positioned AAHKS for the future.

Along with organizational restructuring, advocacy and education were defining pillars of my presidential term and I am proud of the progress made in both areas. In an increasingly complex political and health care environment—where policy decisions and clinical practice are deeply intertwined—we adopted an all hands on deck approach. Leveraging the expertise of our Advocacy Committee under the leadership of Adam J. Rana, MD and working in close partnership with our health care advisors at Epstein Becker Green, we intensified our advocacy efforts. Our collaboration with AAOS and other partner organizations allowed us to speak with a unified voice on issues critical to our members. And although at times advocacy feels like a daunting and insurmountable endeavor, it is one that our members demand we undertake with the utmost urgency.

Through persistent engagement, we successfully raised awareness among congressional leaders regarding the harmful impact of CMS physician payment cuts in driving health care consolidation and increasing health care costs.



While challenges remain, AAHKS continues keenly focused on preserving fair compensation, reducing administrative burden, protecting independent practices and ensuring continued access to care—especially for our most vulnerable patients.

Education remained a central and unwavering priority. Our Annual Meeting, held Oct. 23-25, 2025 in Dallas, once again stood as the pinnacle educational event in hip and knee arthroplasty and set records for abstracts submitted and attendance. It brought together experts from around the world to share, debate and advance cutting edge research and clinical innovation. Under the leadership of Program Chair Leonard T. Buller, MD and through the exceptional work of the Program Committee, we delivered a highly relevant and timely program, selecting the best research from over 2,000 abstract submissions. The meeting was further enriched by our guest speaker, Chris Voss, whose insights on negotiation resonated deeply with our ongoing advocacy efforts on behalf of our profession and our patients.

Beyond the Annual Meeting, we continued to robustly support and promote our two AAHKS sponsored journals—the *Journal of Arthroplasty* and *Arthroplasty Today*—as well as our philanthropic foundations, the Foundation for Research and Education (FARE) and AAHKS Global Outreach (AAHKS GO). Each playing a vital role in advancing education, research and global service. Their continued growth is a testament to the commitment of our members.

I would like to close by expressing my sincere gratitude to those who supported me throughout this term—often on a weekly, and at times,

Our annual meeting, held Oct. 23-25, 2025 in Dallas, once again stood as the pinnacle educational event in hip and knee arthroplasty and set records for abstracts submitted and attendance.

daily basis. First and foremost is the AAHKS staff, who are truly best in class. I am also deeply thankful for the partnership and counsel of the Presidential Line—Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA, Matthew P. Abdel, MD, Gregory G. Polkowski II, MD, MSc and Rafael J. Sierra, MD—whose leadership and collegial friendship were invaluable. Finally, I extend my appreciation to the Board of Directors, council and committee leaders and all AAHKS member volunteers whose dedication makes this organization so exceptional.

Serving as President of AAHKS has been a privilege and a distinct honor. I remain confident in the strength of our organization and encourage all members to continue engaging with AAHKS leadership as we work together to better serve our profession and the patients we care for.

Sincerely,

R. Michael Meneghini, MD

Spring Meeting Recap

The **2026 AAHKS Spring Meeting**, held April 30–May 2 at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel in Chicago, delivered an exceptional blend of education, mentorship and professional connection for arthroplasty surgeons at every stage of their career. Under the leadership of Program Chair Leonard T. Buller, MD, the meeting offered a robust curriculum spanning clinical innovation, practice management, surgeon wellness and career development.



Provided by:
Thomas S. Wenzlick, MD

April 30 Sessions

The meeting opened with a powerful session led by International Committee Chair Carlos A. Higuera-Rueda, MD, FAAOS, addressing the escalating crisis of surgeon burnout. International speakers highlighted the global scope of the issue—Vishnu Senthil, MD, from India, presented data showing that 66 percent of Indian practitioners experience burnout, while Ahmed Nouh, PhD, from Egypt, emphasized its universal impact. The panel's candid discussion underscored a central theme of the meeting: the sustainability of surgical care depends on the sustainability of surgeons themselves. The group also discussed the balance of promoting wellness while continuing to emphasize the hard work, service and grit required to succeed in orthopaedics.

Evening receptions for Young Arthroplasty Group (YAG) members and all attendees fostered early networking and set a collegial tone for the days ahead.



May 1 Sessions

The formal meeting began with a welcome from Leonard T. Buller, MD where he provided an introduction to the association, reviewed the organizational structure of AAHKS, and stressed the importance of participation in our leadership. He then introduced the new “dual track” structure for the AAHKS Spring Meeting. A “Young Surgeon Track” was added this year to provide content dedicated to early-career surgeons. As the experienced surgeons had discussions about the latest evidence and techniques in primary hip arthroplasty, primary knee arthroplasty and prosthetic joint infections, I joined the junior surgeons in the Young Surgeon Track.

The Young Surgeon Track was designed with four symposia. The first was titled “From Fellowship to Flourishing Practice.” This session was dedicated to a discussion around different practice models - from employment to academics to private practice and all the variations in between. The symposium continued with unbiased and open presentations about early practice that would be helpful to any early career surgeon – how to market yourself (spoiler- it only works if you start with great patient care!), how to define your practice and knowing your worth. The first symposium closed with two topics that I think are top of mind for all early career surgeons; owning and growing from complications and tips about preparing for the boards. These two lectures alone are worth the trip for fellows and first year surgeons as the early career complications and the stress of boards dominate early practice stress. An open panel discussion followed with further discourse on the topics.

Symposium two was focused around the business of orthopaedic practice including a review of insurance types, payment schedule and compensation models. Panelists discussed the difference between surgeon fees and facility fees and how each of these contribute to your salary. Concluding symposium two was a fundamental review of billing, including office-based codes, surgical codes and modifiers that could save the early surgeon countless hours of internet searching. The third symposium on building a sustainable career reviewed how to understand your practice finances, income modes outside of direct patient care and protecting what you have with insurance. This session also included a critical discussion of balancing income, time and lifestyle by Sara Shippee Wallace, MD, MPH that nicely tied back to the international session on burnout from the day prior.

To conclude the Young Surgeon Track, there was a discussion on longevity and performance in an orthopaedic career. We discussed ways to optimize and protect ourselves both mentally and physically going forward. This was followed by a mentoring session where the young surgeons had a chance to introduce themselves and “pick the brains” of the leaders within AAHKS, including most of the Board of Directors. The mentoring session was valuable enough that many of us were late to make it to lunch before joining the main session for the remainder of the day.

The afternoon included two “Ask the Experts” panels that provided advice and perspective on challenging cases from post-traumatic knee arthritis with retained hardware and unique incisions to neuromuscular disease and knees with a lack of soft tissue balance in the total knee session. The hip session reviewed management of intraoperative fractures, severe hip dysplasia, and geriatric hip fractures. The following break provided an opportunity to visit the exhibitors and see the latest implant technology from our industry partners.

The busy educational agenda then concluded with an excellent session led by AAHKS President Antonia F. Chen, MD, MBA titled “The Surgeon as a System-Longevity, Leadership and Career Design.” She started off the symposium with a discussion of cognitive load on orthopaedic surgeons and introduced simple, realistic and employable ways to reduce the decision fatigue that is common at the end of a day in the operating room. This was followed by presentations on leadership, mentorship and aligning career choices with our life stages. Another evening reception was provided for a chance to further build professional relationships, review the days knowledge and unwind after a long day of learning.

May 2 Sessions

The third and final day of the meeting started with a presentation by Thorsten M. Seyler, MD, PhD to award the Foundation for Arthroplasty Research and Education (FARE) grants to Zachary C. Lum, DO and Jeremy M. Gililland, MD followed by an update from the American Joint Replacement Registry. The morning then proceeded with more “Ask the Experts” panels dedicated to revision total joint arthroplasty. Eleven cases were reviewed in all each presenting challenges and thoughtful discussion among the experts and attendees. This discussion included a review of exposure techniques for challenging

revision total knees, such as severe arthrofibrosis or patellar baja. Linda I. Suleiman, MD provided video examples of techniques including quadriceps snip and tibial tubercle osteotomies. During the revision total hip arthroplasty session, we discussed advanced reconstruction techniques including modular and nonmodular fluted tapered stems, inside out osteotomies, dual mobility, cup cage constructs and custom triflange implants. These discussions included many high-quality videos to elaborate on technique and were followed by question-and-answer sessions to allow further discussion.

There was a symposium dedicated to outpatient arthroplasty reviewing the current trends, financials and thoughts about future directions. This symposium discussed the possibility of outpatient revision arthroplasty and where we might be heading but also included a discussion on the “nuts and bolts” of outpatient arthroplasty including economics, OR culture and complication management. The meeting concluded with a one-hour journal club where we learned how to keep up with the overwhelming amount of arthroplasty literature published each year. Panelists discussed that over 5,000 hip and knee arthroplasty articles are published each year. They emphasized strategies such as abstract review focused on topic and findings to help narrow the number of articles you should read in entirety. Their presentation helped to make this overwhelming number of articles seem manageable for busy everyday surgeons while acknowledging the challenge. The meeting then concluded with farewell remarks by Leonard T. Buller, MD, with an invitation to attend again next year in New York City. ●



AAHKS would like to thank our wonderful sponsors. Your contribution to our Spring Meeting is greatly appreciated.

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DePuy Synthes
Enovis
Irrisept
Medacta
Smith+Nephew
Stryker
SYLKE
Zimmer Biomet

Overall thoughts:

As a regular attendee of the AAHKS Annual Meeting in Dallas, this was my first opportunity to participate in the Spring Meeting—and it exceeded expectations. The program delivered exceptional educational value while requiring minimal time away from clinical practice. In particular, the Young Surgeon Track offered some of the most relevant and unbiased early career content available in our field.

While the Annual Meeting remains unmatched in scale and camaraderie, the Spring Meeting provides a uniquely intimate, high impact environment for learning, mentorship and professional growth. It is a meeting I look forward to attending again in New York City next year.

Get to Know AAHKS Staff

1. Would you consider yourself an introvert or an extrovert? Why?

Definitely more of an introvert! I love spending time with my friends or family, but nothing beats cozy nights in!

2. Please share with us your title at AAHKS and what your responsibilities entail?

I am the Membership Specialist for AAHKS. This means I help with all things membership related. Whether it's new member applications being checked and sent to the Board of Directors for final approval or helping members sign up and check in for the Annual Meetings and everything in between.

3. You've been employed with AAHKS for a little over a year now, but do you have a member experience that really impacted you and made you feel your contributions are making an impact?

Just recently, I had the wonderful opportunity to join our members on the annual AAHKS Legislative Retreat. I saw up close the time and energy our members put in for their patients, and I thought it was really eye opening. It was a super interesting and educational experience.

4. So, last year you experienced your first Annual Meeting. What was that experience like?

It was a really great experience! Touring the exhibit hall and seeing all of the different exhibitors with new technology is always fascinating to me. A large majority of my time was spent at the membership desk helping members check in or answering questions for our members. It was really nice being able to meet the members in person, all the ones I had spoken to over the phone and email in months prior.

5. If you could have a personal chef, driver or housekeeper, which would you choose and why?

I think I would choose a personal chef, especially if they'll do all of the grocery shopping too. That would probably save me an unfathomable amount of time each week and I'm sure a personal chef could cook a lot better than I could anyway!

Ajla Smajlovic



Renalin J. Malvar-Ledda



1. What is your title at AAHKS, and what do you think is the biggest misconception about your role and responsibilities?

My title is Senior Director of Events and Operations. Based on my job title alone, it may be perceived as though I only work as an "event planner" when, in fact, the Operations part actually pertains to organizational operations outside of events. I am primarily responsible for a number of major components within AAHKS, including the nomination process for the Board of Directors, applications and appointments for hundreds of committee volunteer positions and managing the office and staff. The rich variety definitely keeps things interesting – and me on my toes – for nearly a decade now!

2. What is a hobby/talent that you have that others may be shocked to learn?

It may (or may not) be a surprise – being born and raised in the Philippines – but I grew up performing on various stages. I sang at events, danced competitively, and acted in theatrical productions. I cannot recall exactly how others convinced me, but I joined (and surprisingly won!) a couple of pageants as well. Oh, to be young again, those were the good ol' days!

3. At AAHKS, what is one of your career highlights that you're most proud of and how has that made a positive impact on the association?

I am most proud of the professional relationships I built and continue to grow. Acknowledging the fact that everyone I work with simply wants to do their very best and appreciating all the hard work people that surround me put in every day, all for the good of the organization, helps me find fulfillment in what I do which, in turn, produces the highest-quality output AAHKS, our valued members as well as my team deserve.

4. Long distance car rides or airplanes? Why?

I would say 75 percent airplane. As a former flight attendant, I will never not be in awe of how remarkably and unbelievably stunning the skies are. Also, despite having flown hundreds of times, the science and technology of flying still amazes me. The safety and (usually) time-saving benefits of air travel are great, too. The other 25 percent would be long-distance car rides. Largely because my late father loved road trips and, as it turns out, I married a man who does, too.

5. What brings you the most joy? Why?

MY CRAZY FAMILY! My husband, Franklin Jay and our daughter, Jayme Renae, are the love and light of my life. My immediate, extended and "chosen" families constantly inspire and encourage me. Making them happy makes me happy. We seem to enjoy annoying and driving each other mad but still absolutely love spending as much time together as possible.



Annual Meeting Registration is Open: 2026 AAHKS Annual Meeting

Are you just as excited as we are for this year's Annual Meeting? We hope so, because registration for the 2026 AAHKS Annual Meeting is now open! The AAHKS meeting is highly considered the premier educational event for hip and knee surgeons, that you don't want to miss! This year's meeting is Nov. 5-8. That's right, it is back to being held in November at the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center in Dallas, Texas.



This is your opportunity to attend the year's most eagerly anticipated and prestigious scientific meeting in the field of arthroplasty so, what are you waiting for? Register now!

Go to www.AAHKS.org/Meeting or scan the QR code to register today.

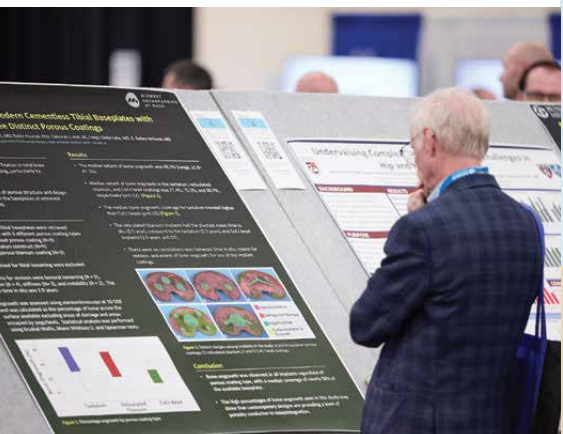


Start-Up Exhibitor Program for 2026 AAHKS Annual Meeting Now Open

An important part of the AAHKS Annual Meeting is bringing new, cutting-edge products, science and services to the exhibit floor for attendees to experience firsthand. Start-up companies often lack the budget needed to afford a booth at the Annual Meeting, so, the start-up exhibitor program allows a limited number of companies the opportunity to exhibit at a greatly reduced, one-time rate.

This program was developed by the AAHKS Industry Relations Committee (IRC) under the direction of the AAHKS Board of Directors; only new or start-up companies that have not been an AAHKS exhibitor previously are eligible. If you are working with a start-up that falls into this space, please encourage them to apply online at:

meeting.aahks.org/AAHKS-Start-Up-Exhibitor-Program-Application/



2026-2027 Health Policy Fellows



Jennifer Bido, MD, MPH

Dr. Bido is a hip and knee replacement surgeon at Endeavor Health in Chicago, IL. She earned her undergraduate degree from Stanford University, her medical degree from Harvard Medical School and completed an MPH at the Harvard School of Public Health. She completed residency at the Hospital for Special Surgery and Adult Reconstruction fellowship at Rothman Orthopaedic Institute. Her clinical and academic interests center on outcomes optimization and health care policy.

David G. Deckey, MD

Dr. Deckey is a practicing orthopaedic surgeon specializing in adult hip, knee and shoulder reconstruction. He is an Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Mayo Clinic School of Medicine and a Senior Associate Consultant at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. He is an Arizona native and grew up in Yuma, AZ. He attended Brown University for his undergraduate studies and obtained his medical degree in Boston, from Tufts University School of Medicine. He then completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. From there he traveled to North Carolina to complete a fellowship in Adult Reconstruction at Duke University. He also completed additional sub-specialty training in shoulder arthroplasty at Duke University and Mayo Clinic in Rochester. He is actively involved in research related to health policy and arthroplasty.



Justin Kuether, MD

Dr. Kuether is a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon at Maine Health Medical Center in Portland, Maine. He completed his undergraduate education at the United States Air Force Academy, followed by 10 years of service in the U.S. Army, including multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. After his military service, Dr. Kuether earned his medical degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. He completed his orthopaedic surgery residency at Yale, followed by fellowship training in orthopaedic trauma at OrthoIndy and adult reconstruction/arthroplasty at the Cleveland Clinic.

Zachary C. Lum, DO

Dr. Lum is an adult reconstruction surgeon at UC Davis Health in Sacramento, CA, where he serves as Assistant Professor and Wellness Officer. He completed his undergraduate education in biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of California, Irvine, and graduated medical school at Touro University Nevada. He then completed his orthopaedic surgery internship at Henry Ford Health Systems in Detroit, residency at Valley Consortium for Medical Education at Doctors Medical Center in Modesto, CA and fellowship training in adult joint reconstruction at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Lum has been actively involved in academic arthroplasty, with interests in periprosthetic joint infection, spine and knee kinematics, health policy and improving the future practice environment for hip and knee surgeons. He chose to pursue the AAHKS Health Policy Fellowship to better understand the policy-making process, strengthen his advocacy skills and help shape a more sustainable future for arthroplasty care.



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



Thomas S. Wenzlick, MD

Dr. Wenzlick is a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon practicing at West Michigan Orthopaedics in Grand Rapids, MI. He earned his undergraduate degree and doctorate of medicine at Michigan State University. He completed residency at Corewell Health followed by fellowship training in adult reconstruction at Wake Forest Baptist Health. He currently serves as a clinical champion for Trinity Health Grand Rapids within the Michigan Arthroplasty Registry Collaborative Quality Initiative (MARCQI). ●



Get Involved with WIA

The AAHKS Women in Arthroplasty (WIA) Committee is dedicated to promoting gender diversity in the field of adult reconstructive surgery for the betterment of patient care, enhanced surgeon well-being and education of patients and surgeons in order to advance the field of hip and knee arthroplasty.

Building mentorship pipeline programs for women students, residents and fellows is a committee goal and one that WIA is proud to offer.

If you're interested in getting or becoming a mentor, visit the website at www.AAHKS.org/Join-WIA for more information and to apply. Through WIA's mentorship program, positive collegial professional development of female surgeons is established. ●



2026



Jeremy M. Gililand, MD
Mayo Clinic



Zachary C. Lum, DO
University of California,
Davis

**Intraosseous Vancomycin
Prophylaxis in Aseptic Revision Total
Knee Arthroplasty
(received \$100K)**

This 14-site trial enrolling 1,400 patients will provide the first prospective evidence on whether adjunctive intraosseous vancomycin reduces periprosthetic joint infection following aseptic revision TKA. Findings will directly inform infection-prevention guidelines and improve outcomes in one of arthroplasty's highest-risk populations.

**Synbiotic Modulation of the
Gut–Skin–Synovial Axis in Total Knee
Arthroplasty
(received \$50K)**

This investigation will characterize peri-operative microbiome shifts across three compartments and establish contamination-aware low-biomass methodology for arthroplasty research. By probing whether a 28-day symbiotic regimen can favorably reshape host microbial ecology before surgery, Dr. Lum's work opens a new translational pathway for patient optimization. ●

The Foundation for Arthroplasty Research and Education (FARE) has announced the recipients of two FARE grants for the spring 2026 cycle. Each study will receive at least \$50,000 to support their research.

AAHKS is committed to advancing patient care by supporting research projects with great potential. To apply for the next FARE grant cycle, please visit www.AAHKS.org/Research/Fare-Grant-Application/



FARE

FOUNDATION FOR ARTHROPLASTY
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

CONSIDER DONATING

FARE mission is to advance patient care through leadership in education and research. To date, FARE has awarded over \$1,000,000 in research funding.

Consider donating to FARE today at member.aahks.net/My-AAHKS/FAREDonation.

Donations are tax deductible!

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AAHKS Podcast Channels



AAHKS Amplified

The American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons' official podcast channel is available for listeners interested in discussions on the latest scientific advancements, research findings and advocacy activities in the hip and knee arthroplasty profession. **Search "AAHKS Amplified" wherever you download your podcasts.**



The Journal of Arthroplasty: The Cut

The Cut is home for the editors of the *Journal of Arthroplasty*! On this podcast channel, they expose students, residents, fellows, practice surgeons and others in the field of arthroplasty to relevant topics from the *JOA* journal and discuss practical solutions that are applicable to practice. **Search "The Journal of Arthroplasty: The Cut" wherever you download podcasts.**



The Augment

This podcast channel gives voice to AAHKS Young Arthroplasty Group (YAG). Residents, fellows and young surgeons who are in the first five years of practice. The Augment provides an in-depth and relevant discussion about timely topics within the total joint arthroplasty subspecialty and to interview experts in the field on their experience and knowledge. **Search "YAG Augment" wherever you download your podcasts.**



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