

THE PARTNERS ORTHOPAEDIC TRAUMA SERVICE



As the Partners Orthopaedic Trauma Service enters its tenth year, we are pleased to report that our integrated service continues to grow and succeed at fulfilling its clinical, research, and education missions. We remain grateful for the support that Drs. Thornhill and Rubash have given us over the years and for their continued support of our efforts moving forward.

Similar to past years, our faculty was very active teaching courses and giving guest lectures all around the country and the world. Of note, Dr. Vrahas traveled to India to co-chair a meeting called “Trauma in Low and Middle Income Countries” where participants discussed issues surrounding trauma care in their countries. In addition to surgeons from many countries, there were representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), The International Red Cross, Doctors without Borders, The Bone and Joint Decade, and Orthopaedics Overseas.

Dr. Harris was very busy as a self-described “policy wonk,” chairing the AAOS’ and the AOA’s Orthopaedic Institute of Medicine committees on “The Crisis of ER Coverage for Orthopaedic Problems.” These groups are focused on studying and evaluating issues of professionalism associated with Orthopaedic ER call coverage.

Dr. Harris also served as the co-director of the Brigham/Harvard Business School’s Physician Leadership Course for mid-career MD’s. This year-long course is for physicians who wish to learn the business side of medicine and hospital operations. From all reports, this course had a smashing debut and is going to be offered again in the coming year.

Perhaps our most notable news this year involves our resident and fellow educational programs. On the fellowship side, 2007-08 marked the second year of a true combined fellowship – where we have full-time fellows at both MGH and BWH. In mid-October, we interviewed a record number of applicants for the 2009-10 fellowship year – close to 40 – who were able to spend the day with us, listening to Hannover’s Christian Krettek speak at Grand Rounds, participating in Core, and then interviewing with our staff. It was quite a day and we were pleased that two of our top candidates accepted our offers to join us in 2009-10.

We remain very proud that our residents continue to decide to pursue trauma as a career. Since the birth of the Partners Orthopaedic Trauma Service, we have had ten (10) residents decide to pursue careers in trauma. This speaks to the great faculty we have in both Trauma and in our partner

subspecialties like Hand, Shoulder, and Arthroplasty. We were particularly pleased that one of this year’s PGY5’s, Rob Golden, MD, (who is going into Trauma) won an award for the best thesis and that Dr. Bhattacharyya - his advisor – was awarded this year’s prestigious Golden Apple award. Aside from these accomplishments, the Trauma Core program chaired by Dr. Smith continues to grow, evolve and set the standard for the other Orthopaedic subspecialties. On a lighter note, our annual Trauma Roast – where we roast the residents and they roast us – has become one of the most anticipated events of the year.

This year, the technology side of our house really grew and matured. First, we are pleased to report that our staff is fully electronic on the LMR (Longitudinal Medical Record). Our experience with the LMR Team has been great, and we have been able to become more efficient in our practice by using this user-friendly application.

Second, Ortho DUDE became the centerpiece of both the BWH and MGH’s front end surgical billing operations. At the BWH, the Billing Team has created an automated database that links to the DUDE and LMR so that the Coding Team can code bills electronically once the operative note and DUDE bill are available. At the MGH, the long-awaited electronic interface between DUDE and IDX (through Patient Keeper) is now a reality. In this model, surgeons type their codes into DUDE where the Billing Office reviews them and makes any changes. Once the cases have been coded, the Billing Office then sends them through the interface into IDX. Both models make surgical billing paperless processes. Throughout all this, DUDE has maintained its primary role as our research database. DUDE now has over 25,000 patients who have experienced at least one traumatic injury.

In other research news, Dr. Vrahas and Dr. Evans were the recipients of a \$150,000 grant that looks at how RIA harvested bone and cells heal critical sized defects in rats. This study is very exciting and has already led to some interesting findings. Dr. Vrahas continues to work on developing a computer-adapted outcome measure for orthopaedic trauma patients. Aside from these endeavors, Drs. Harris, Vrahas, Bhattacharyya, and Smith were well-published in all of the peer review journals.

As the Partners Orthopaedic Trauma Service begins its tenth anniversary year, we want to thank all of you who have joined with us and helped make this collaboration such a success!