

# THE PARTNERS ORTHOPAEDIC TRAUMA SERVICE

SUZANNE MORRISON



The 2008-09 academic year was a robust and fruitful one for the Partners Orthopaedic Trauma Service. It was one that bore witness to growth in all the important areas: education, clinical excellence and clinical research. In addition, 2008-09 was a year of notable change.

In October, we bid a fond farewell to our colleague, Tim Bhattacharyya, MD, who left Boston to pursue a career in Bethesda, Maryland with the *OrthoTraumaBethesda* group. Dr. Bhattacharyya joined our faculty in 2004 after training with us as one of our Fellows. During his five years with the Partners Orthopaedic Trauma Service, he was both a prolific researcher and a highly-regarded teacher, and last year joined the ranks of our other trauma faculty in winning the *Golden Apple Award*. We thank Dr. Bhattacharyya for his years of service and wish him all the best with his new endeavors.

Our Combined Fellowship program had another great year, with Drs. Henry Boateng and Nimesh Patel training with our team. Both men are talented surgeons and very well-liked by the residents and the clinic staffs. Next year we will be welcoming current HCORP resident, Dr. Mike Weaver, and University of Wisconsin resident, Dr. Erica Dafford, as our fellows.

We are very proud that we are providing top quality residents for trauma programs across the country. As stated above, Mike Weaver, MD, will join us upon graduation. His fellow resident, Julius Bishop, MD, will begin his fellowship in Seattle where our former Chief Resident, Lisa Taitsman, MD, is on the Harborview faculty. Next year, Christina Boulton, MD, will begin her fellowship at Shock Trauma where 2004 HCORP graduate, Bob O'Toole, MD, is working. Several of our younger residents have expressed interest in Trauma, and we hope we continue to excite residents for careers in our favorite subspecialty.

Of note, Trauma Fellowship programs nationally participated in the OTA's inaugural fellow match. In a dramatic shift from only a few years ago, Trauma has become a very popular subspecialty, and we are pleased to be considered one of the top programs. This new process brought us several highly qualified candidates in to interview, and we were excited that two of our top choices matched with us for the 2010-11 year.

Our faculty was again very busy traveling around the globe giving Grand Rounds and teaching courses. Some of our most rewarding teaching, however, was local. Drs. Mark Vrahas, Jesse Jupiter and Raymond White co-chaired the AO Trauma

Summit in Stowe, VT. This small intimate discussion format has become the model for AO courses worldwide, and every year we hear from both faculty and attendees how fantastic and useful the course was. Dr. Smith again ran his annual Fracture Forum with one of our former fellows, Jack Wixted, MD. Each year senior residents from all the programs in the Northeast are invited to a two-day long discussion-based course. The course was started by Dr. Jupiter and is still going strong.

Dr. Harris continued his work as the Co-Director of the BWH Physician Leadership Program at the Harvard Business School. As we stated in last year's report, the course has proven tremendously popular with mid-career physicians. Dr. Harris also remained active in national leadership positions with the AAOS, AOA and OTA. This year after completing his role as Chair of the Health Policy Committee for the OTA he was asked to represent the OTA on the Board of Specialty Society's Health Policy Committee. His work with the AOA's Orthopaedic Institute of Medicine led to the development of a "white paper" that was entitled "Report on the Crisis in the Delivery of Orthopaedic Emergency care: A Call to Action."

Dr. Vrahas remained very active with the AO Foundation. This year marked the completion of his term as a trustee of the foundation. He remains heavily involved with the Trauma Research Board, the Exploratory Research Board, and the Clinical Investigation Board.

Dr. Smith continued his work with the AO and as the Director of our Core education program. This program – which matches the Grand Rounds lecture with the Core session that immediately follows, remains a very popular model with our residents. This year also marked the third consecutive year that Dr. Smith was nominated for the Brian McGovern, MD, award. This award, which is sponsored by the Massachusetts General Physician's Organization (MGPO) recognizes clinical excellence, commitment, and compassion – three hallmarks of the late Dr. McGovern's practice.

On the research front, we were very pleased and proud that Dr. Christopher Evans was recognized with the Orthopaedic Research Society's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. This award honors an investigator who has established himself as a cutting-edge researcher in tissue regeneration with an ongoing body of work of sustained excellence. With Dr. Evans' leadership, we have established an exciting line of research devoted to developing techniques to stimulate bone healing.

After several delays, we have finally started a 1.5 million dollar collaboration with the AO Foundation to develop a computer-adapted outcome instrument for Orthopaedic Trauma. We have multiple clinical projects in various stages of completion, several of which (the completed ones) have been presented at national meetings. We predict that next year will be an outstanding one for publications.

2009 marks the Diamond Anniversary year of the Partners Orthopaedic Trauma Service. Our program has proven that cross-campus clinical collaborations are possible, and we remain very grateful to Drs. Rubash and Thornhill for their ongoing support and advocacy.

To celebrate this milestone, Dr. Vrahas and his wife, Cyndi will be hosting a special revived *Couchon du Lait* party in the Fall. We hope you all can attend!