

THE PARTNERS ORTHOPAEDIC TRAUMA SERVICE



The Partners Orthopaedic Trauma Service now has a logo thanks to Dr. Lhowe's wife Laurel who provided an outstanding design. More important than the logo itself is what it represents. Thanks to the support of Drs. Rubash and Thornhill, the Partners Orthopaedic Trauma service remains intact and continues to thrive.

Very stable clinical services at both hospitals have allowed us to extend our reach in education and research. The number of guest lectures and courses our faculty have arranged or participated in is too extensive to list. However, two particular events demonstrate the breadth of our activity. Drs. Lhowe and Ring chaired an AO Basic course in Burlington. In this capacity they were able to invite many of our former trainees. In all, we have trained 9 surgeons as residents or fellows who are in academic orthopaedic trauma practice. Two of our current fellows have accepted academic positions, and 2 residents are in the pipeline. The other event of note was Dr. Smith's "Bring Your Children to Work Day." This started a few years back for a few children, but has grown dramatically. This year we had 28 10-12 year olds garbed out to learn what happens in the OR. We like to start generating interest in trauma early.

The DUDE (Data Utility for Documentation and Education) continues to contribute beyond its initial role as a research data base. Over the past three years Drs. Harris, Glowacki, LeBoff have worked diligently to create admission and discharge path-

ways for fragility fracture patients. To support this program, the DUDE was modified so that the resident receives a pathway prompt every time a fragility fracture is entered. This DUDE notification has increased admission pathway enrolment from 33% to 60% and discharge enrolment from 67-88%. More importantly, Drs. Harris, Glowacki, LeBoff have established an excellent program which we hope to use as a template for a similar program at the MGH.

The DUDE has also moved us towards fully paperless billing. The MGPO has been working with Patient Keeper to establish electronic billing options. They accepted the DUDE as a front end for surgical billing and have worked with our developers to design the interface. We are currently testing the system and expect that our billing will be fully electronic within the month.

Our research effort continues to grow. In total, the service has published 32 peer reviewed articles over the past year. Our collaboration with Chris Evans to study bone healing remains strong. Projects funded last year have resulted in at least two manuscripts as well as on going lines of research. We recently received a \$200,000 grant to study bone defect healing using genetically modified muscle and fat in rats, and \$50,000 CIMIT grant to study similar possibilities using human fat. A retrospective review of periprosthetic fractures in collaboration with Drs Estok and Malchau revealed a lower-than-expected mortality rate with revision surgery, and a higher than expected rate with ORIF. To extend this work, we received a \$50,000 CIMIT award to study methods to prevent intraoperative periprosthetic fractures in collaboration with Drs. Muratoglu and Malchau. On the clinical research side we continue to collaborate with Drs. Katz and Ferris to further our studies of Pay for Performance in orthopaedic surgery. Finally, we received a 1.5 million dollar award from the AO Foundation to create a computer-adapted outcome measure for orthopaedic trauma.

In summary, the Partners Orthopaedic Trauma continues to thrive as an integrated service. We look forward to providing an update again next year.