

Rady  
Children's  
Hospital  
San Diego

UC San Diego  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



# Connections

A Newsletter from the Rady Children's Orthopedic and Scoliosis Program

# 2024

Issue 20



## Message from the Chief

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Welcome the Rady Children's / UCSD orthopedic Connections Newsletter for 2024. As always, the year in review is filled with details and fun photos I am sure you will enjoy. I'm proud of our top 5 USNWR ranking. The team continues to grow and excel with spectacular contributions from each of our physicians, advanced practice providers, researchers, and staff.

Our focus remains in providing the absolute best orthopedic care for patients, passing the knowledge and experience to future stars, and leading in the pursuit of new knowledge. This year we welcome 3 new surgeons to our team: Matt Schmitz, MD (sports, hip preservation), Rachel Thompson, MD (CP, gait, muscle research) and Madeleine Jackson, MD (foot, lower extremity, trauma). A fourth, Mike Kwon, MD is joining us later this year to bolster our busy hand/upper extremity service.

Per usual we are graduating a wonderful class of fellows and welcoming in an equally impressive new group. The training program led by Dr. Upasani remains a jewel of our program and we highly value the opportunity to train the future generations/leaders of our specialty. We initiated a new Non-operative fellowship program this year and welcome Brandon Barsky, MD to the inaugural position. Dr. Schmitz has taken on the residency training with a similar commitment to the residents' (UCSD, Balboa Naval, San Antonio Army/Air Force) educational experience.

A special congratulations to Dr. Eric Edmonds, MD as he serves as the president of PRISM and has joined the presidential line of POSNA. We appreciate Dr. Edmonds' leadership both at home and abroad.

Our research team has always been strong but this year Dr. Edmonds' team led by Tracey Bastrom and Christy Farnsworth hit it out of the park. We are always searching for "orthopedic truths" and this year was particularly productive with more than 70 published manuscripts. A big congrats to everyone for their commitment to discovery and innovation. We are happy to welcome pre-med undergraduate and medical students to a new gap year program in our division – Rady Orthopedic Academic Research (ROAR) program. We encourage interested students to apply online.

We celebrated a very special David Sutherland visiting professorship this year. 2024 marked the 50th anniversary of this event and we hosted the two people that really made the Rady Children's / UCSD pediatric orthopedic program what it is today. Scott Mubarak, MD and Dennis Wenger, MD shared their wisdom and wit in classic educational form with a large audience of current and former fellows and staff.

From our Rady / UCSD orthopedic family to you and yours, we wish you all the best in the coming year. Enjoy the newsletter, find joy in the smiles and inspirations from the stories, and always keep the connections strong.

Most sincerely,

Peter Newton, MD  
Chief of Orthopedic Surgery  
Surgeon-in-Chief

# Message from the Clinical Fellowship Program Director



Dear Friends and Rady Orthopedic Family,

The 2023-24 academic year has many important milestones for our clinical fellowship and academic program. We are excited to welcome our 40th fellowship class of pediatric orthopedic surgeons to join our growing family at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego. We also welcome our first non-operative orthopedic fellow. Additionally, we celebrated a very special 50th anniversary of our David H. Sutherland Visiting Professorship. Thank you so much to all the alumni who could join us for a fun-filled day of sharing research ideas and accomplishments, and learning from our favorite orthopedic stalwarts Dr. Dennis Wenger and Dr. Scott Mubarak. We plan to continue to invite alumni to future VP programs and would like to see classes return for their 10 and 20-year reunions to give updates on their success and upcoming adventures.

The fellowship class this year was especially strong. Dr. Tanner Campbell completed his residency at the University of Kansas and will be joining Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. Campbell was also selected as this year's Lena Sefton Clark fellow for his commitment to orthopedic resident education. Multiple residents from UCSD and from Balboa Naval Medical Center commented on Tanner's teaching style in the operating room and the important life lessons that he bestowed on them during the many late nights on call.

Dr. Madeleine Jackson completed her residency at the University of Washington and will be joining us at Rady Children's after taking a few months off after fellowship. We are very excited that she decided to stay on board and will be working to develop her interests in foot and ankle as well as trauma and lower extremity deformities. Dr. Jackson (better known as Mad Jack) also won the 2024 Best Paper award during the 3rd an-

nual Surgical Fellows Research competition, bringing the trophy back home to the Orthopedic Department!

Dr. Taylor Jackson completed his residency at the Mayo Clinic and will complete a second fellowship at Columbia University to sub-specialize in adult and pediatric spinal deformities. Not only was he a rock star in the Spine OR, but he also crushed it at the end of the year karaoke night with several amazing, unforgettable performances.

Dr. Lukas Keil completed his residency at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and will be joining Rady alums at Prisma Health in Greenville, South Carolina. Lukas was an exemplary fellow, with never-ending energy and driven to succeed in all aspects of the fellowship.

This year, we're happy to welcome Alex Boulos from Brown University, Ena Nielsen from University of Washington, Stephanie Kha from Stanford University and Amy Steele from Harvard University. Our first non-operative orthopedic fellow is Brandon Barsky who completed a peds residency at Nationwide Children's Hospital and a Sports Medicine fellowship at Kettering Health. They are looking forward to spending time with Dr. Mininder Kocher who will be the 51th Annual VP on April 11, 2025. Please save the date and plan to join us in San Diego.

Best,

V. Salil Upasani, MD  
Clinical Fellowship Program Director



## Rady Children's Hospital Orthopedic Surgery

*Ranked #5*

The US News and World Report magazine makes an important contribution to consumer perception of medical quality in North America by publishing an annual national ranking of medical institutions. This includes ranking children's hospitals in the U.S.A. and, more importantly for us, ranking children's orthopedic programs. In addition to standardized quality measures, the ranking also includes the opinions of other academic leaders in children's orthopedics. We are happy to note that the Rady Children's Hospital made the honor roll and the Rady Children's Hospital/UCSD orthopedic training program was ranked 5th in the nation for the 2024 ranking.

From the beginning, we have made a concerted effort to have a balanced program focused on patient care and surgery quality, teaching, and research. This has been hard work for all of us, and also reflects the energy and effort of our large group of fellows who we have trained over the past 30+ years. Finally, we are fortunate to work within a hospital and university that are highly committed to excellence. **Rady Children's has made the Honor Roll again with five specialties ranked in the top ten!**



### The 3rd Annual Scott Mubarak Surgical Grand Rounds

Each year, near the end of the fellowship year, a special grand rounds is held in which surgical fellows from various departments are offered the opportunity to present their research. Orthopedics is always well represented at this event with all four of our fellows presenting. The 2024 Best Paper award went to our own Madeleine Jackson for her paper on the outcomes of high hip dislocations in walking age children. Dr. Jackson will be joining us as a staff physician following fellowship graduation. Congratulations Dr. Jackson!



# The End of an Era



The Grand Opening of the Motion Analysis Lab in Building 12 in 1995.

In 1951, as San Diego was badly affected by the polio epidemic, the Board of the San Diego Society for Crippled Children initiated construction plans for a new children's hospital. On August 19, 1954, San Diego Children's Hospital officially opened as a 12 bed facility that included the three story brick structure that has been known as Building 12. This building was then used for outpatient clinics (OPC), including Dr. Mubarak and Dr. Wenger's orthopedic OPC for several years. One of the world's first comprehensive motion analysis laboratories was established at San Diego Children's by David Sutherland, MD in 1976. Building 12 was the home of this Motion Lab from 1995 until 2022 when it moved and joined the Southern Family Center for Cerebral Palsy at 7920 Frost Street.

In the early 2000's, the Orthopedic Research Team moved from offices at 3030 Children's Way, Suite 410 to Building 12 to join the Motion Analysis Lab group and to be close to the Orthopedic Biomechanics Research Center (the "shed" or "garage"; a single-story cinder block building housing our MTS Testing frame). Rady Children's Hospital is undergoing a major expansion that will include a new seven-story medical tower and a renovated emergency department. The new tower will include 84 treatment rooms in the emergency department, 140 intensive care rooms, and four more operating rooms. The existing Nelson Pavilion will be dismantled to make way for the new tower. Building 12 is also scheduled for demolition to make room for a power plant. In June 2023, the Orthopedic Research Team moved to completely renovated offices on the first floor of 7920 Frost Street, next to the Southern Family Center for Cerebral Palsy and Motion Analysis Lab.



Farewell to Building 12 – set to be demolished in 2024

# 2023-2024 Fellows – Rady Children’s Hospital



**Tanner Campbell, MD**

Dr. Campbell graduated from medical school at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and completed residency at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Following graduation, Dr. Campbell will be joining Cook Children’s Medical Center in Forth Worth, TX with a practice focusing on general pediatric orthopedics. Dr. Campbell came to us with experience in researching success rates of ulnar epiphysiodeses. He continued that work while here producing a variety of manuscripts evaluating various aspects of epiphysiodeses of the distal radius and ulna. He also studied the effects of a Salter osteotomy on the acetabulum as the child ages.



**Madeleine Jackson, MD**

Dr. Jackson graduated from medical school at the University of California, San Diego and completed residency at the University of Washington, Seattle. After fellowship, Dr. Jackson will be joining us here as the newest member of the RCHSD Orthopedics team. Her practice will focus on foot and ankle, as well as trauma. During her fellowship, her research focused on foot injuries in ballet dancers. She also won the best paper award at the SJM Surgical Grand Rounds for her work on high hip dislocations in walking age children.

# 2023-2024 Fellows – Rady Children’s Hospital

Dr. Jackson graduated from medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern and completed his residency at the Mayo Clinic. Once he completes our fellowship he will be moving on to the Adult and Pediatric Comprehensive Spine Fellowship at Columbia University to further his education. Dr. Jackson’s fellowship research focused on spine with studies including the 3D analysis of anterior release for scoliosis, as well as growth modulation and tensioning of the spine.



**Taylor Jackson, MD**



**Lukas Keil, MD**

Dr. Keil completed his undergraduate work, medical school, and residency all at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Upon graduating fellowship Dr. Keil will have a practice focusing on general pediatric orthopedics as well as scoliosis at Prisma Health in Greenville, South Carolina. During his fellowship, his research primarily focused on the hip. He evaluated the benefits of neuromonitoring during periacetabular osteotomies as well as the effect of secondary ossification centers on acetabular coverage.

# 2024-2025 Incoming Fellows

The process of applying, interviewing, and being accepted to one of the top-ranked fellowship programs in children's orthopedics is a demanding one. Each year we receive 40-50 applications and narrow these down to a smaller group that we can interview and

then select the very best of these candidates. The surgeons listed below arrive August 1, 2024 to begin their academic year. They are outstanding young orthopedic surgeons from throughout North America and we look forward to working with them.

## Alex Boulos, MD

Undergraduate:  
George Washington University,  
Washington DC  
BS Public Health  
Medical school:  
Brown University, Providence  
Residency:  
Brown University



## Brandon Barsky, MD

Undergraduate:  
University of Miami  
BS Biology  
Medical school:  
Florida Atlantic University,  
Boca Raton  
Residency:  
Nationwide Children's Hospital,  
Columbus



## Stephani Kha, MD

Undergraduate:  
University of Arizona, Tucson  
BS Biochemistry  
Medical school:  
Case Western Reserve University,  
Cleveland  
Residency:  
Stanford University



## Ena Nielsen, MD

Undergraduate:  
University of Southern California,  
BA History  
Medical school:  
University of Southern California  
Residency:  
University of Washington, Seattle



## Amy Steele, MD

Undergraduate:  
Northeastern University, Boston  
BS Health Science  
Medical school:  
University of California, Davis  
Residency:  
Harvard University



## Future Fellows – 2024 Match (for 2025-2026 Academic Year)

We are happy to announce that we have matched with the outstanding residents listed below

### Steven Burekhovich, MD

SUNY Downstate – Brooklyn

### Jonathan Pire, MD

Medical University of South Carolina

### Richard Campbell, MD

University of Virginia Medical Center

### Katherine Wood, MD

University of Oklahoma



# International Fellows

**SeeWook Lee, MD**

Korea

March 2024 through  
February 2025



**Jun Ouchida, MD**

Japan

April 2024 through  
September 2024



## Rady Orthopedic Academic Research Scholarship



RJ Grewal, a medical student who recently completed his third year at California Health Sciences University (CHSU) in Clovis, CA, has been awarded the prestigious 2024-2025 ROAR Scholarship. RJ's passion for orthopedics began as a former athlete dealing with injuries. This experience led to a close collaboration with the orthopedic and sports medicine team at Valley Children's Hospital in Madera, sparking his interest in the field. Years later, RJ returned to Valley Children's Hospital for his third-year rotations to serve his community. He is now looking forward to continuing his training at Rady Children's Hospital, where he is excited to further his expertise in orthopedics. RJ's dedication to orthopedic surgery is fueled by his desire to give patients the same second chance and hope that he received.

**Rajvarun (RJ) Grewal, BS**

*2024-25 Rady Children's Hospital,  
San Diego ROAR Scholar*

His journey into research began at UCLA during his undergraduate studies at the MacDonald Research Laboratories. Despite the interruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, RJ reignited his research passion by participating in the Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) program at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine during the summer of 2022. Working with the GeneSTAR team, RJ cultivated and honed his research skills. This experience paved the way for collaborative projects with faculty from both Johns Hopkins Orthopedics and University of Southern California Orthopedics.

RJ is excited to join the ROAR Scholarship program, expressing gratitude to Dr. Upasani, Dr. Edmonds, and Dr. Newton for their support and belief in him. He is eager to meet and learn from the esteemed orthopedic faculty at Rady Children's Hospital, further enriching his journey toward becoming a well-rounded orthopedic physician-scientist. RJ also looks forward to advancing his research and clinical skills, particularly in Pediatric Orthopedics, where he aims to combine his passion for research and clinical care to make a significant impact.



## Notes from a Former Fellow

**Robert Cho, MD, FAAOS, FAOA**

*Shriners Children's Southern California  
(Fellow – 2009-2010)*

It is such an honor to write this year's "Notes from a Former Fellow" column. As someone who keeps each year's Connections newsletter since fellowship began, I got probably a bit too excited when asked to do it. It's like getting invited to the all-star game, except for nerds. Thanks for reading!

I was born in Seoul, South Korea but moved to the United States with my family at the age of 1. My family settled in the Philadelphia area, where I developed a lifelong addiction to Philadelphia sports, cheesesteaks, and hoagies. I was the captain of my football team in high school (1995 Bicentennial League Champs!) and became interested in orthopaedic surgery after I broke my ankle in my sophomore year. From then on, my goal was to either make it to the NFL or become the team doctor of the Philadelphia Eagles. Apparently, you need be bigger, stronger, and faster than I am to make it to professional sports, so medicine it was. I went to Cornell University for undergrad, and then came back to Philadelphia to Drexel University for both medical school and residency.

I soon learned in residency that taking care of professional athletes is not as rewarding as I thought it would be. There was little to no appreciation or gratitude given from the athlete, family, or agent to the surgeon and staff. As a resident, I got even less. Thankfully, I had subsequent rotations in pediatric orthopaedics at St. Christopher's Hospital and Shriners Hospitals for Children Philadelphia. Although I had no initial interest in pediatric orthopaedics, those 9 months of pediatrics solidified my love of taking care of children, particularly with spinal problems. Dr. Randy Betz, then Chief of Staff at Shriners Philadelphia, was the one who recommended that I do my fellowship at Rady Children's, mostly to learn under Dr. Newton, whom he called an "up and coming superstar". He could not have been more correct.

Interviewing in those days was a bit of a crapshoot. There was no fellowship match, so if you were offered a position, you had to take it or risk getting no spot whatsoever. Thus, my plan was to interview in my preferred order. If I got a spot, I would cancel my other interviews. If I didn't, I would just go down my rank list until someone took me. When I interviewed with Dr. Wenger, he asked his classic question of: "What do your parents do?" I said that they owned a deli in Philadelphia, with my dad making hoagies and my mom was the cashier. He then asked what they did before immigrating to the US, to which I responded that my dad was formerly a chemical engineer until the OPEC crisis dried up jobs in Korea. Dr. Wenger then remarked:

*"So you have the intellect of chemical engineer, and the work ethic of a man who makes sandwiches?"*



Surprise visit by Dr. Wenger at my house in LA



The class of 2010 then and now.

Knowing that neither was completely true, but that denying this would hurt my chances of fellowship, I did what any person in my position would do and said “YES”. I then made a proposition to Dr. Wenger—if he accepted me, I would cancel my other interviews. He replied that there was a gentleman’s agreement amongst the fellowships that they would all wait until January to tell fellows that they got a position. It was September, and I told him that I was on my way to other fellowships in the next few weeks and would take whatever spot opened up first. Three days later, he called me while I was eating a taco at a Mexican gas station and offered me the position. Well, technically he asked if I was “interested in the psychology of the fellowship,” but I knew what he meant. I responded that if there was a contract with my name on it when I got home I would cancel my other interviews. I went on one interview and got my dream fellowship position. Sorry to out you, Dr. Wenger.



We suffer together as a family

When my wife Joy and I got to San Diego, we moved to Coronado and fell in love with it. The “island” was idyllic: perfect weather, beaches everywhere, and enough military presence to feel safe from any perceived boogymen that the right wing media told me I should be afraid of. I also had an incredible group of co-fellows. We were like a boy band, but with none of the looks or singing talent. Geordy was the professor—such a great teacher to students and staff. So much so that Dr. Wenger kindly “asked” him to refrain from teaching in the OR because he felt that the attending should be the only voice heard during surgery. Rob was the technician—such great hands in the OR and also while scarfing down a California burrito. Ray was the genius—he was so smart that I felt like Ben Affleck to his Matt Damon in *Good Will Hunting*. I didn’t really know where I fit in until I was told by Dr. Wenger after two weeks:

*“Robert, you have very good hands but your knowledge base is far below your peers.”*

That feedback was incredibly hard for me to hear but it was completely true. From that point forward, I read every day and night so that I could keep up with the other three. With my continued reading, I felt much more comfortable giving an opinion at preop/postop conference. Not that we needed any more, as it was the only place I had ever seen that had 10 attendings and 12 opinions for each case. The smarter I got, the more I got confused with Ray, which is one of the biggest honors of my lifetime. I learned so much that year and I am so grateful to all of my attendings who taught me so much about how to be both a good surgeon and a precise thinker towards complex problems.

I came to San Diego to learn the principles of correcting spinal deformities in children, but I didn’t expect to also learn so much about the rest of pediatric orthopaedics. Dr. Wenger taught me to really pay attention to a patient’s history to help choose the correct operation for them. He also taught me to “read the patient’s T-shirt” in clinic, which helps to break the ice and have the patient and family trust you. Dr. Mubarak taught me to do everything the same way every time to minimize variability in outcomes. Dr. Wallace taught me both how to treat clubfeet and eat a California burrito properly. Dr. Pring tried to teach me about deformity correction in the lower extremities, but mostly I remember her husband’s delicious cioppino. Drs. Edmonds and Chambers let me hold the scope for hours on end. Dr. Chambers also taught me that the squiggles all mean something on a gait analysis chart.

Drs. Newton and Yaszay taught me almost everything I know about spinal surgery, both in the clinic and the OR. I once asked Dr. Newton, “I know that Firoz Miyajani or Stefan Parent were probably your best spine fellows, but I’m the funniest right?” He replied completely deadpan, “Yeah, they were funnier too.” Good times.

I learned a ton from the APPs as well and appreciated how much they added to a patient’s care. Phil Stearns and Rod Lazo, in particular, tried to make sure I did no wrong. I still did, but thanks for trying guys. The research team, led by Tracey Gaynor Bryan, always kept things fun and fresh, which is hard to do when you’re talking about stats. I learned a lot from them on how to think about a research idea and then bring it into the world as a presentation and subsequent paper.

After I completed my fellowship, I took a job at Shriners Hospitals for Children Los Angeles. When I started, I did nearly all spine and took care of mostly international children with neglected spinal deformities and very large curves. But the training in the other parts of pediatric orthopaedics helped me as we transitioned over time to taking care of more local patients and less international ones. When I became full time Chief of Staff in 2016, I asked Dr. Newton and Dr. Wenger to help me figure out what to do. Their advice helped me organize my priorities and revamp our program to become much more academic and efficient. When I got very sick in 2017, they were the first to wish me well. Once a Rady Fellow, always a Rady Fellow.

I’d be remiss if I didn’t thank my wife, Joy, for all of her support during all of my training and beyond. I’ve tried to support her as much as I can with her burgeoning career as a designer. She became the most followed person on Pinterest and she continues to thrive as a social media personality. I’ve been relegated to arm candy duty at events, which is nearly as difficult as spine surgery. We’ve been blessed with two amazing daughters who I’m proud to say do not support Los Angeles sports and suffer with their dad every postseason.

As I’ve gotten more of a presence in the academic societies and as a newly crowned “digerati”, I know it is largely due to the incredible mentorship of the Rady staff and also the large alumni network that support each other. Not only are many of the Rady staff legends, many other staff and alumni are academic superstars or superstars in the making. I’m honored to be in the same room as these fine surgeons. It was the best year of my training and I look back on it fondly. I know if you’re reading this you either feel the same or will feel that way in the future.



# POSNA 2024 & Ortho Reunion

POSNA 2024 was held in National Harbor, Maryland this year and was a combined meeting with EPOS. We presented 7 podium presentations this year as well as 2 ePosters. Please enjoy these photos from our annual Fellowship Reunion.



Dr. Newton moderating a discussion.



Dr. Souder (class of 2013) presenting his work on tibia fractures.

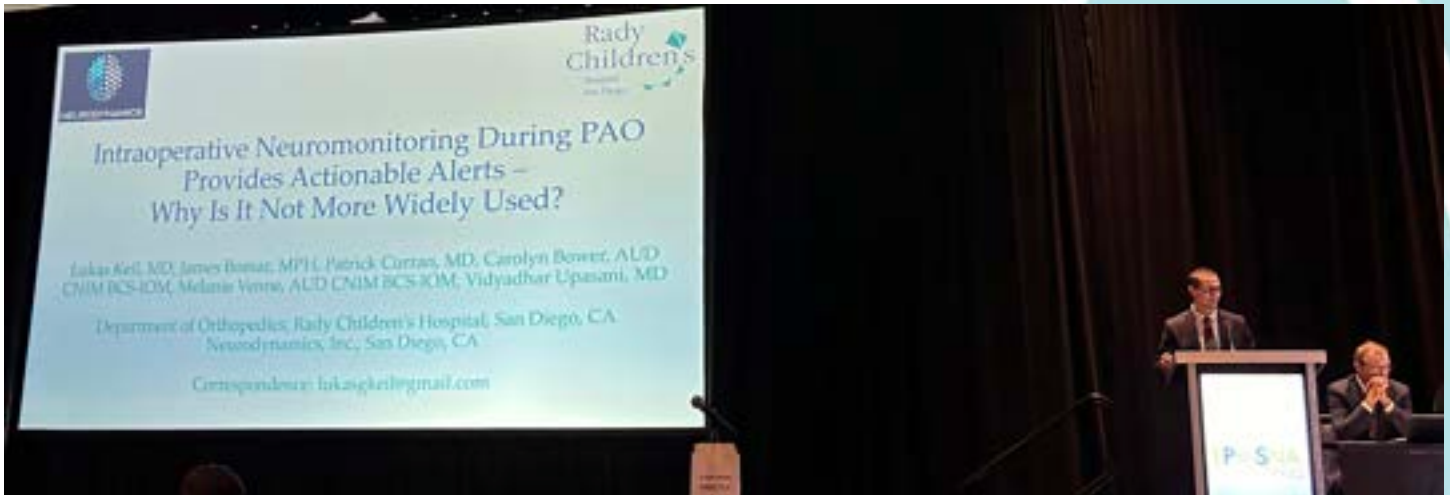


Dr. Edmonds (class of 2008) presenting his FACTS Study Group project on midshaft clavicle fractures.



Brock Kitchen (class of 2021) presenting his work on cast types for tibia fractures.

# 2024 POSNA & Ortho Reunion



Lukas Keil (current fellow), presenting his work on neuromonitoring during PAOs.



Dr. Pennock presenting his work on distal femur fractures.



Megan Severson and Jessica Burns (both class of 2020) with Dr. Edmonds (class of 2008).



Dr. Curran (class of 2021) presenting his work on bone scans and proximal femoral AVN.



Anthony Catanzano (class of 2021), Dr. Pring (class of 2003), Lukas Keil (current fellow), Sunny Park, Mark Katsma (class of 2023)

# 2024 POSNA & Ortho Reunion



Brian Scannell (class of 2013), Katherine Hollnagel (class of 2022), Dr. Mubarak, John Kemppainen (class of 2013), David Lazarus (class of 2016), and Matt Ellington (class of 2016).



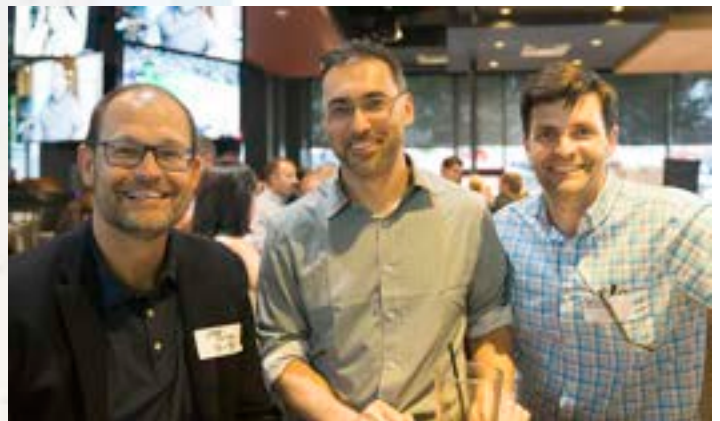
Amelia Lindgren (former UCSD resident), Tracey Bryan, Dr. Cidambi, Lissette Salgueiro (class of 2014).



Joshua Holt (class of 2018), Dr. Wenger, and Bubba Carveth (class of 2023).



Josh Tadlock (class of 2023), Craig Louer (class of 2018), Lukas Keil (current fellow), and Dr. Upasani.



Steve Frick (class of 1998), Imraan Ahmed (class of 2015), and Geordy Gantsoudes (class of 2010).

# 2024 POSNA & Ortho Reunion



POSNA Presidential Line – Kevin Shea (class of 1998), Dr. Edmonds, (class of 2008), and Todd Milbrandt.



Tracey Bryan and Bob Cho (class of 2010).



Kate Hollnagel (class of 2022), Madeleine Jackson (current fellow), and Amelia Lindgren (former UCSD resident).



Dan Bland (class of 2017).



Dr. Newton, Stefan Parent (class of 2004), and Bob Cho (class of 2010).

# 2024 POSNA & Ortho Reunion



Lissette Salgueiro (class of 2014) and Humberto Guzman (class of 2009).



Vineeta Swaroop, John Schlechter, and Dr. Edmonds (all class of 2008).



Phil Wilson (class of 2001) and Dr. Pennock.



Kate Hollnagel (class of 2022), Josh Speirs (class of 2022) and Dr. Pring (class of 2003).



# Hands On Infant Ultrasound Course



In continuing with the tradition that Dr. Mubarak started decades ago, Dr. Upasani holds an annual infant hip ultrasound course. Typically held near the start of each fellowship year, Dr. Upasani invites a family with a newborn child to come in so that our fel-

lows and residents can have hands on training in infantile hip ultrasonography. Fellows and residents are given a lecture on hip ultrasonography by Dr. Upasani and then Natalie McNeil guides them in performing an ultrasound examination on a volunteer baby.





## 50th Annual *David H. Sutherland* Visiting Professorship

### **Scott J. Mubarak, MD & Dennis R. Wenger, MD**

*Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego – May 3, 2024*

Known to all who have studied pediatric orthopedics in the last several decades, the Rady Children's Hospital Orthopedic practice founders returned from retirement for the 50th anniversary of the David H. Sutherland Pediatric Orthopedic Visiting Professorship.

Drs. Mubarak and Wenger both grew up in the Midwest and completed their fellowship at the world-class Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. After Fellowship, Dr. Mubarak returned to San Diego where he had been a resident, and started the private practice that would become the Orthopedic Department at Children's Hospital San Diego in 1982. Two years later he recruited Dr.

Wenger away from Texas Scottish Rite Hospital where he started the renowned TSRH Fellowship program.

Once the two of these thought leaders began working side-by-side they quickly expanded their practice, started their own Clinical Fellowship, and changed the field of Pediatric Orthopedics forever. Having trained well over one hundred clinical and international fellows, as well as several times that number of residents and medical students, the Pediatric Orthopedic world owes a debt of gratitude to these two luminaries. We were very proud to welcome them back for our 50th Annual Visiting Professorship.



# 50th Annual David H. Sutherland Visiting Professorship



Many of our former fellows came back to say thank you to Drs. Wenger and Mubarak.



Dr. Cidambi moderating one of the case presentation sessions while Dr. Jackson presents a case.



Dr. Liane Chun (UCSD resident) presenting a case.



Dr. Ernie Sink (class of 2000) presenting a paper on changes in the sagittal plane after PAO.



Dr. Keil presenting his work on neuromonitoring during PAOs.



## Research Team *Year in Review*

*Written by Tracey Bryan, MA*

The research team has had a busy year and have settled in nicely at the new offices over on Frost Street. Despite the move across the street last summer, we have remained productive with at least 79 co-authored publications from our attending staff in 2023.

The 50th Annual David Sutherland Visiting Professor is a month away at the time of writing. We are looking forward to a wonderful day of education, knowledge sharing, and networking with the numerous alumni that are planning to attend. Our current fellows are in the process of finalizing their presentations. I know our audience will be engaged in the content of their projects covering various topics from hip surgical techniques, hip dislocation in walking age children, epiphysiodesis of the ulna following distal radius fractures, to 3D sagittal correction for different approaches in AIS surgical treatment.

We are also looking forward to seeing everyone at EPOS-NA this year and particularly for our alumni gathering! The team has 7 podiums on the program and 3 ePosters. We are proud of our sports & trauma research centers which have 5 of the 7 podiums. Our hip research center will be represented with the other 2 podiums. Dr. Edmonds will be presenting a collaborative project with the FACTS Study group entitled “Outcomes Following Operative vs. Non-Operative Treatment of Completely Displaced Midshaft Clavicle Fractures in Adolescent Baseball Players and Other Overhead Athletes”. This will be presented during the clinical award nominee session of the meeting. We are honored to be involved in this work as it also won Best Surgical Intervention and Management Scientific Paper at the 2024 PRISM meeting.

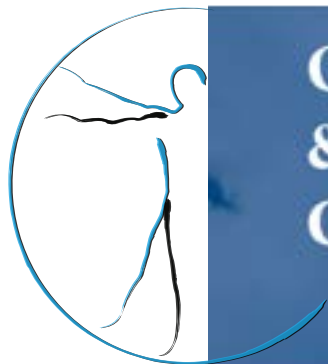
The team is also excited for Dr. Edmonds in being elected as the current president of the PRISM society.

We have an outstanding clinical research team that works hard to ensure we have top notch data and quality publications and presentations. Between myself, Christy Farnsworth, MS (Translational Research Manager), JD Bomar, MPH (Coordinator, Supervisor – Hip, Sports, Trauma), and Carrie Bartley, MA (Coordinator, Supervisor – Spine) we have over 90 years of experience in the department. This longevity and knowledge is truly invaluable to our research productivity and quality. We have some amazing Research Assistants that have joined the team in the past 3 years as well that have shown incredible dedication to the mission of our department to advance care for pediatric orthopedic patients. Sarah Brunel, Macy Dexter, and Miranda Guzman have become incredible teammates and much welcomed additions to the department. Sara Acevedo has been our administrative assistant for almost 8 years and truly helps keep our research team operational.

I wish you all joy for the remainder of 2024. Thank you for taking the time to read our research team update.



Dr. Edmonds presenting his research in Puerto Varas, Chile at Sociedad Chileno de Ortopedia y Traumatología in October 2023



# Orthopedic Biomechanics & Translational Research Center

## Year in Review



*Written by Christy Farnsworth, MS*

The Orthopedic Biomechanics and Translational Research Center (OBTRC) provides tools and resources for orthopedic research, clinical care and the training of future orthopedic surgeons, physicians, scientists and engineers. The toolbox is growing! In October, after an extensive search, we happily welcomed Byron Beasley, the first engineer at the Rady Children's Helen and Will Webster Foundation 3D Innovations Lab



Welcome Byron!

(3DI Lab) who is dedicated to orthopedic research and clinical care. Byron's background in audio recording, gaming software development and virtual reality technology provides a completely unique skill set. We are so excited to discover how these skills will integrate with his personal interest in optimizing medical care for children. He has already greatly improved our legacy spine and hip analysis codes. Byron, the 3DI Lab and OBTRC provide the 3D images and 3D printed models that many of the surgeons rely on for patient-specific surgical planning. This quarter, Dr. Pring used our 3D printed tibia models of achondroplasia, physal growth deformity and Blount's for a limb deformity course where residents and fellows practiced osteotomy and pinning techniques in their assigned "patients."

pedic fellows (Drs. Campbell, M. Jackson, T. Jackson, Keil) and additional national and international attendees. They practiced approaching the spine through ports, discectomies, and tether instrumentation via thoracoscopic visualization. Thanks to Miranda and Sarah, from to our Spine Research Team, for pitching in to make this annual course successful!



Thoracoscopic spine tutorial and lab



Limb deformity course

Academic year accomplishments include ten presentations (posters or podium) at conferences including the International Congress on Early Onset Scoliosis, Orthopaedic Research Society, European Pediatric Orthopaedic Society and Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America combined meeting, and the International Meeting on Advanced Spinal Techniques. The thoracoscopic spine tutorial and lab was held in October 2023. Drs. Newton, Upasani, and Kelly instructed our pediatric ortho-

We are very grateful for our ongoing research collaborations, both near and far. With Dr. Mannen and the Boise Applied Biomechanics of Infants (BABI) Lab, we aim to include some motion analysis work in an animal model of DDH with the support of the Rady Children's Motion Analysis Lab in the Southern Center for Cerebral Palsy. Collaborative studies with the UCSD Department of Bioengineering, Cartilage Tissue Engineering Lab, PI Robert Sah MD ScD comprise multi-level (macro-, meso- and micro-scale) imaging of growth cartilage and articular cartilage development. We have access to state of the art MRI imaging (3 and 7T!) and image processing at UCSD with the partnership of David Berry PhD. We also get to work with UCSD Orthopaedic Surgery and the Wu Tsai Human Performance initiative, the University of Minnesota and the Rady Children's Genomics Institute Biorepository on several research studies that involve tissue accession protocols.

In June 2023, the Orthopedic Research Team moved out of our space in the brick building known as Building 12. We now occupy completely renovated offices on the first floor of 7920 Frost Street, right next to the Southern Center for Cerebral Palsy and the Motion Analysis Lab. The space includes offices, cubicles, a machine shop with work bench and 3D printer, and a conference room and kitchenette.



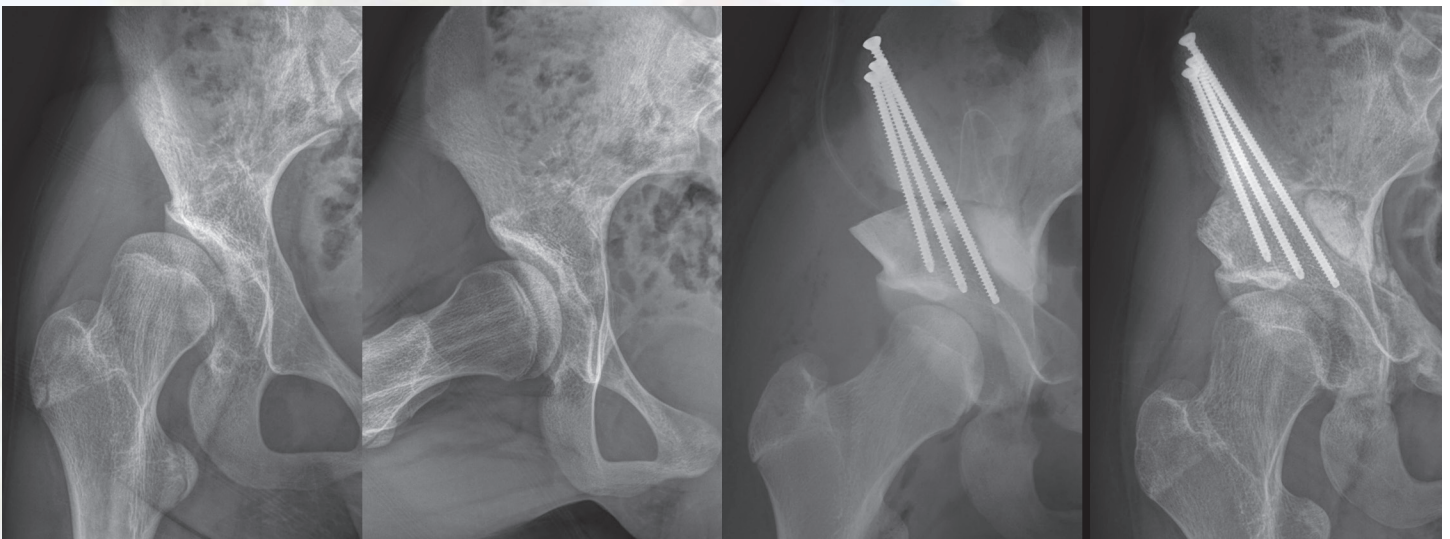
## Hip Team *Year in Review*

*Written by Matthew Schmitz, MD*

What an incredible year for the International Center for Pediatric and Adolescent Hip Disorders (ICPAHD) at Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego. We continue to be a leading referral center for simple and complex hip conditions, treating patients from infancy to young adulthood with a comprehensive team of surgeons, non-operative physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, athletic trainers, and physical therapists helping our patients obtain the best possible outcomes for their hip conditions. The theme for this past year and moving forward will be continued growth and the expansion of our education efforts. We are excited to welcome Dr. Matthew Schmitz to the team as he joins us after completing a 20-year military career. Dr. Schmitz established the first Hip Preservation Program in the Department of Defense and brings a wealth of experience to our team. He has been a member of the Academic Network of Conservative Hip Outcomes Research (ANCHOR) since 2017 and is excited to bring Rady Ortho into the fold with ANCHOR. With 37 current surgeons in this multi-center research group, there is a great deal of collaborative academic power available to help answer important research questions with regards to hip preservation. At this year's AAOS Meeting, ANCHOR was awarded the Kappa Delta award for work in studying the quality of care in pre-arthritis hip disease and we are confident that the hip team at Rady will be able to help set the standard for the next series of studies on hip preservation in adolescents and young adults.

The team has continued to be prolific with research and education on a national and international scale. Drs. Schmitz and Upasani both participated in multiple Instructional Course Lectures on hip preservation at the 2024 AAOS meeting in San Francisco, while Dr. Upasani also taught and presented research in Singapore at the Singapore Orthopaedic Association/Asia Pacific Pediatric Orthopaedic Society combined meeting. Dr. Upasani also visited the Mexican Pediatric Orthopaedic Society to help educate international colleagues on the research and outcomes from our Hip Team.

Our orthopaedic fellows complete their year seeing a variety of cutting-edge hip techniques including both open and arthroscopic surgeries (often combined) that are only done at a handful of medical centers around the globe. This gives them the educational base to take those techniques out to their future jobs across the country as we continue to expand our academic reach. We look forward to the continuing expansion of the Hip Team with a goal of increasing our reach as a tertiary referral center from across the country for patients with hip preservation needs.



This is a 13 year old female referred to Dr. Upasani from Alaska for painful DDH. Our fellow Dr. Jackson assisted Dr. Upasani in performing a PAO. Dr. Pennock also performed a labral repair via hip scope.

# Scoliosis & Spine Deformity Center *Year in Review*



*Written by Michael Kelly, MD*

The Spine Service had a busy year, increasing our clinical output while the world of academic travel is open again and, seemingly, busy as ever. We continue to grow our regional base, getting consultations for difficult cases from other Southern California and Southwest United States surgeons. We have grown the spine academic program with 2 residents matching to fellowships and 2 more planning their applications. With each of these residents we have seized the opportunity to improve both our academic output and the quality of the education for the residents in our program. Tuesday night conference is alive and well, though sometimes difficult in the thick of the AIS Summer.

We are active in the Scoliosis Research Society, the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America, the Harms Study Group, the Pediatric Spine Study Group, the International Spine Study Group, and the AO Spinal Deformity Knowledge Forum. We hosted the Scoliosis Research Society traveling fellows, Drs. Emmanuelle Ferrero (Paris), Seung-Jae Hyn (Seoul), Qianyu Zhuang (Beijing) and Kenny Kwan (Hong Kong), putting them in a beautiful home in La Jolla. The senior fellow, Mr. David Marks (Birmingham), had a great time at Cars and Coffee. A San Diego research symposium included their talks on spinal alignment and a randomized trial of Schroth therapy. We look forward to lifelong friendships and academic collaborations with these surgeons. Our surgeons also served as mentors in the SRS L.E.A.D. program and will continue to do so in the future.

Our research program remains one of the most productive pediatric spine programs, with over 50 peer-reviewed publications in 2023. We completed a study examining the immunophenotype expressed in the wound versus the peripheral blood in neuromuscular scoliosis surgery. Our work in 3D imaging continued, looking at factors associated with selective fusion success and failure. Dr. Newton continues to push for appropriate use of vertebral body tethering, with hybrid constructs more common than isolated tether procedures. Our work in patient-specific alignment targets remains a requested topic of discussion with Grand Rounds invitations. Jun Ouchida, visiting from Nagoya, Japan, is examining the effect of these tether procedures on the sagittal plane. The team has presented at meetings worldwide, including the SRS, POSNA, Spine Summit, and Global Spine. Our collaborations with neurosurgery at Rady Children's and outside continue as we push towards a "One Spine" team.

Our program graduates four fellows per year plus several visiting surgeons. While neither Madeline nor Tanner will do much spine, we are eager to follow their careers and successes. Lukas Keil and Taylor Jackson both plan careers to include spine surgery and we will see them often. Hopefully we can entice one of the four this year to pursue a career in spine surgery.



SRS Traveling Fellows



## 360 Sports Medicine Year in Review

*Written by Eric Edmonds, MD*

Twelve years old. That's the age of the 360 Sports program this fiscal year. And much like any other kid that age, we have come into prepubescence as we experience tremendous growth, changing priorities, new experiences, and the fledging of old ways. But, as with all members of a high-powered type A family, we continue to excel despite (or perhaps because of) our growing pains. Dr. Chambers has officially passed the torch for performing arthroscopy cases and is no longer helping us in the operating room; even though, thankfully, he continues to help us with the clinical load. This shift in the OR and the further growth of our clinical team with the addition of Dr. Pruss has resulted in Drs. Pennock and Edmonds seeing roughly three-month wait lists to get surgery done. This tremendous volume growth has seen some innovation in the operating room (thanks to Dr. Pennock) to finally push the hospital to let us operate out of two rooms to reduce the turnover times and improve the through put of our patients. We look forward to welcoming Dr. Schmitz to the ranks of surgeon though, because it would be great to bring our wait times closer to our patient-families expectations of having surgery yesterday.

The Sports Medicine team continues to rock it with Drs Achar, Cheng, and Kaufmann, in addition to Dr. Pruss. It seems that the surgeon clinics are now seeing almost 30-50% "need surgery" cases, compared to what it was yesteryear when it was only 11.1% (not that we were counting). Moreover, with the hiring of Dr. Pruss, we are now set to have our first Non-Operative Pediatric Orthopedic fellow starting this summer. She will work closely with the Sports team and Dr. Upasani to develop and deliver a world-class fellowship that will no doubt become the premiere destination for folks that want to join this unique field. Moreover, she has brought an interest and expertise in how to incorporate our 360 mission of managing even the mental health and nutrition of the young athletes that we work with.

The nursing team grew by one this year, with the addition of a new care coordinator in Jamie Lantz, MSN, BSN, RN. We welcome her contributions and thank her for taking on half of the patients. Jamie has a wealth of experience stemming from her time at the Hospital for Special Surgery in NYC, and down the road at UCSD. She spent the 3 years prior to joining us as a traveling nurse and we are happy to have her on board. Although anchored by the perennial favorites of the clinic (seriously, everyone wants to hang out with them): Domanique Peretti, Gabe Saltzman, and Kevin Berning, our athletic trainer core also grew by one team member. We

welcome the addition of the new Team Edmonds superstar Meg Montjoy, MS, ATC. Meg is originally from Southern CA but did her ATC residency at the Steadman Clinic. She made such an impression that she continued to work there for 3 years following her residency.

Academically speaking, Drs. Pennock and Edmonds continue to represent our practice at PRiSM, AAOS, POSNA, AOSSM and beyond. They had a combined 17 peer-reviewed publications go into print since the last Connections publication. They continue to promote trainees from UCSD and UC Riverside, as well as Balboa Naval Medical Center. As part of our multi-center work, Dr. Edmonds was awarded the Best Surgical Intervention and Management Scientific Paper at PRiSM for the groups work on clavicle fractures based out of Boston with Dr. Ben Heyworth. All this work on the academic stage could not have been completed with the success that it has seen without the efforts of our research team. JD Bomar again gets all the kudos that we can lavish upon him, and we congratulate him on his new role as Research Supervisor. A title and job well deserved! It also means that we were able to revamp our Sports/Trauma research silo and get him some help with the hiring of Macy Dexter and Emma Wadsworth, as our new research assistants. They are proving to be good choices and we look forward to what we hope is years of growth and maturity within our Sports program. Last, but certainly not least, Dr. Edmonds took over the reins at PRiSM this January as the newly-installed President of the society.



Dr. Edmonds was announced the President of PRiSM at the 2024 annual PRiSM meeting in Anaheim.



# Advanced Practice Providers *Year in Review*



*Written by Chrissy Paik, MPAP, PA-C*

## Advanced Practice Provider Team Members

|                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Casey Abare, MSN., CPNP  | Chrissy Paik, MPAP, PA-C      |
| Justin Anderson, PA-C    | Sunny Park, CPNP              |
| Amanda Asaro, MPAS, PA-C | Raquel Sanchez, PA-C          |
| Jaspreet Bimbh, PA-C     | Lexi Santellano-Bartsch, PA-C |
| Erynn Krasovic, PA-C     | MaryLou Scott, MSN, CPNP      |
| Linh, Munch, PA-C        | Philip Stearns, MSN, CPNP     |
| Abigail Nakamitsu, PA-C  | Katy Yeagerova, MPAS, PA-C    |
| Kimberly Padilla, CPNP   |                               |

The APP team continues to contribute their specialized medical knowledge, gift of teaching, and commitment to Rady Children's Orthopedic support of patient-centered care. As more than half of the clinical team in Orthopedics, the PAs and NPs continue to take great pride in assisting in the clinical teaching of the UCSD Medical Students, the UCSD, Navy, Army, and Air Force Orthopedic Residents, and our Pediatric Orthopedic Fellows. Alexandra and Dr. Cidambi have taken over orthopedic resident onboarding. Together they have updated and expanded the online resident orientation handbook. Additionally, after many monthly meetings with the ED attendings, Alexandra and Dr. Cidambi have not only increased communication between the ED and orthopedics, but they have collaborated and created new online clinical resources such as the Ortho ED Treatment Poster Guideline, ED Ortho Management Care Guideline, and the ED Ortho Consult Pathway. Raquel and Chrissy continue to provide much sought after shadowing opportunities for our San Diego community's pre-PA students. Amanda continues her role as the pediatric orthopedic site preceptor for Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU) PA school students.

This year all four of our newest hires, Jaspreet, Justin, Alexandra, and Katy, attended IPOS 2023. Together they immersed themselves amidst top quality and highly specialized educational lectures and skills labs, gleefully absorbing all that they could. They also had opportunities to mingle and become better acquainted with each other as well as many more members of our Rady orthopedic "family". This educational experience was also an experience in team building and bonding. Returning to work with an inspired feeling of belonging, up-to-date specialty knowledge, and a thirst for more, Jaspreet, Justin, Alexandra, and Katy are already excited for their next continuing education conference. "What we learn with pleasure we never forget"- Alfred Mercier.



As one of the nation's consistently high ranking pediatric orthopedic departments, we are always re-evaluating ways that we can better serve our patients. Last year Erynn, Chrissy, Alexandra, Jaspreet, and Katy were the first APPs in department history to rotate taking on the daytime inpatient and call pager shift. They rounded with the ortho team, attended morning education conferences, followed up with consulting teams, assisted in medication reconciliation and discharge planning. They also performed new inpatient and ED consultations for pediatric orthopedic patients. Through long hours learning a new patient care setting and with dedication and hard work, Erynn, Chrissy, Alexandra, Jaspreet, and Katy were able to provide a consistent point of contact for the inpatient floor team while our attendings, fellows, and residents were in the operating room or in clinic. This resulted in less delay in patient discharges or initiating treatment changes, less pager turnover and thereby less risk of patient errors, and it improved the relationship between orthopedics and the floor nurses and consulting teams. Over nine months these five PAs documented and detailed everything of importance to this role, thereby creating a thorough inpatient tip sheet and handbook. Now, in the months to come, our department will be hiring two full-time inpatient PAs to take on this role.

We look forward to what changes this next year will bring.



# Rehab Team

## Year in Review

*Written by Talia Soto, BA, Alyssa Wieand, BS, and Anna Burch, MA*

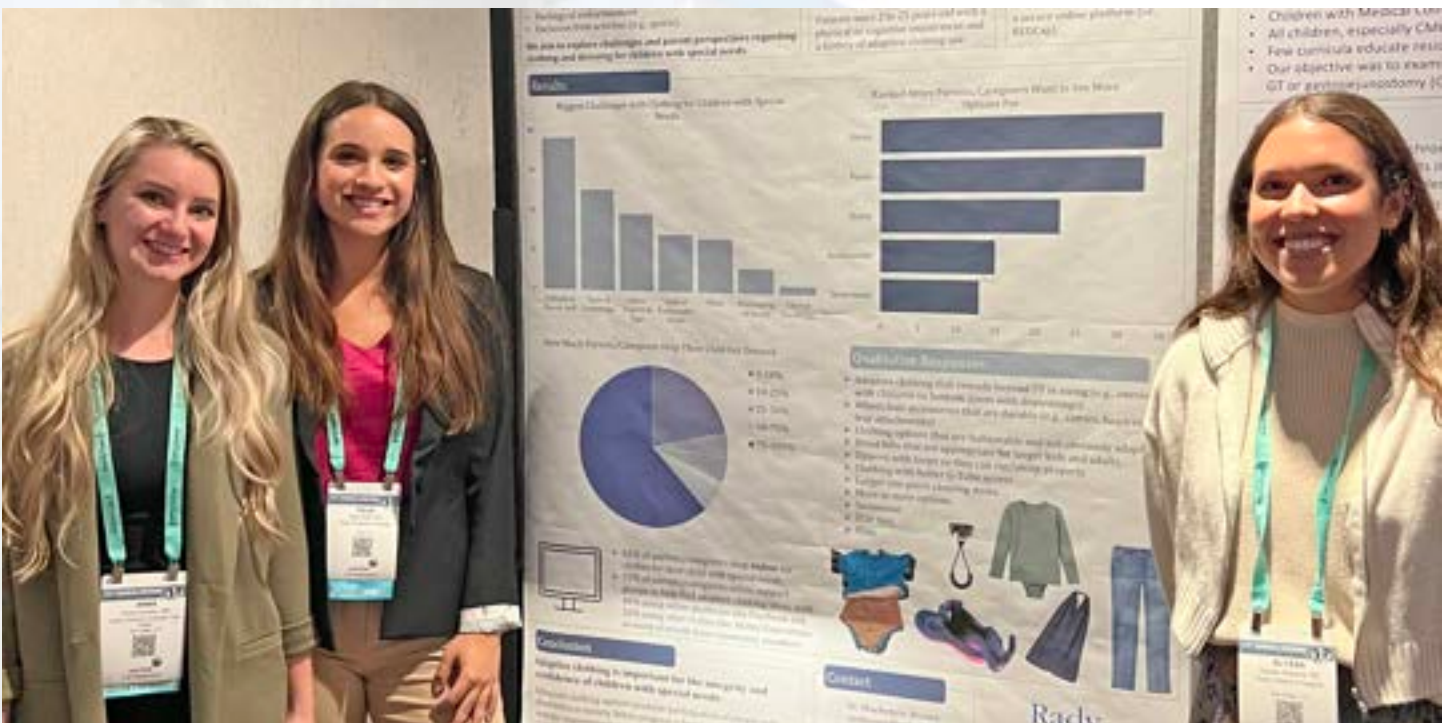
The Rehabilitation Medicine Department has been actively engaged in over 30 comprehensive research studies, including retrospective and prospective studies, sponsored clinical trials, and collaborations with the Orthopedic Department. Dr. Andrew Skalsky is leading a study to assess the impact of intrathecal baclofen pumps on length of hospital stay and pain management in cerebral palsy patients undergoing spinal fusion surgery, as well as leading a study investigating the safety and patency of catheter access point aspiration and its associated complication rate.

Dr. Susan Biffi and Dr. Kyle Ryan continue to be underway with a sponsored clinical drug trial aimed at validating Valbenazine’s efficacy in treating dyskinesia among pediatric and adult cerebral palsy patients. Our team has successfully completed our first patient, are half-way through with our second, and have three strong candidates upcoming for their first visits, leaving Rady Children’s Hospital as the leading recruiting site among this global-wide trial.

In September 2023, our research team and physicians traveled to Chicago, Illinois to present findings from our research at the 77th Annual AACPD Conference. Dr. Skalsky discussed results from a pilot study completed in collaboration with UCSD Jacobs School

of Engineering, where we assessed hypertonia between treatment groups using an instrumented glove. Additionally, the research team presented the results of Dr. Mackenzie Brown’s findings of patient and family experiences of barriers, trends, and accessibility of adaptive clothing in pediatric patients. Later this year, we anticipate returning to the AACPD Conference to be held in Quebec City, Canada to deliver Dr. Skalsky’s findings on the effects of AFOs on walking distance within the CMT patient population, his case study on a novel delivery of baclofen via intranasal administration, and Dr. Brown’s study investigating the effects of stretch casting on gait for idiopathic toe-walkers.

Shortly after returning from Canada, physicians and the research team will present several studies right at home in San Diego for AAPM&R’s Annual Conference later this year. Studies include Dr. Pritha Dalal’s longitudinal exploration of chronic pain management outcomes from the Rady Children’s inpatient pain program, Dr. Skalsky’s retrospective study of the accuracy of fetal ultrasound in predicting the neurological level of lesion in patients with myelomeningocele, and Dr. Biffi’s study assessing functional outcomes in brain tumor patients undergoing proton radiation therapy and concurrent inpatient rehabilitation.



# Motion Analysis Lab & Human Performance Center

## Year in Review



*Written by Patrick Curran, MD*



MAL gait review team including orthopaedists, physiatrists, kinesiologists, engineers, an orthotist, and neurologist.

The Motion Analysis Lab had another exciting and productive year. In our third year now as a lab, we have enjoyed continuing to expand upon our clinical and research volumes, while growing as a lab.

We continue to enjoy our weekly gait analysis review sessions. These have grown in attendance to include regular input from our multidisciplinary team of orthopaedists, physiatrists, physical therapists, kinesiologists, and engineers. We have been particularly thankful to our PM&R colleagues who have shown an increasing interest through attendance and input over the last year! We have also enjoyed starting to see our preoperative assessments coming back down for their one-year postop review.

This year, our lab grew by two – with the addition of a new physical therapist and engineer to the lab. We welcomed with great enthusiasm Christine Amacker DPT as our second physical therapist to the lab, who brings an abundance of clinical experience. New to the field of motion analysis, she has been a keen learner and now leads our weekly gait lab readout sessions. At the same time, we welcomed a new kinesiologist to the lab, Riley Horn BS. A recent graduate, Riley brings a sense of enthusiasm and energy to the lab. He has quickly joined our lab kinesiologist, Avery, to get up to speed on data acquisition and processing. He has been working on several of our research projects, including the development of our normative markerless motion capture database.

As a lab, we have completed several research projects this year

with presentations at international meetings, including the Gait Society and CP Academy. This year, the team looks forward to leading a webinar on the clinical application of markerless motion capture technology. Later this year, we will join Dr. Chambers to lead a session at the CP Academy on comprehensive assessment and management of knee problems in children with cerebral palsy. We have completed studies looking at quantifying forces in the wrist for tumbling athletes, application of markerless motion capture for toe walkers, and ballet pointe assessments.

As this year ends, we say thank you and farewell to our first lab kinesiologist, Avery Takata MS, who will transition to a role within the Kinesiology and Athletics Departments at her alma mater, Point Loma Nazarene University. Avery helped build the lab from the ground up over the last three years. She has a keen intellect, curiosity, strong work ethic, collegiality, and true kindness that we will miss. She spearheaded our clinical and research efforts since reopening the lab. We are thankful for all her hard work!

We continue to appreciate having this invaluable tool for clinical assessments and research at Rady Children's Hospital. The successes of the lab are due to the hard work by our Director, John Collins, MA, ATC; lab Kinesiologists, Avery Takata, MS and Riley Horn, BS; and Physical Therapists Heather Waters, PT, DPT and Christine Amacker PT, DPT. We are thankful for all their hard work and commitment to excellence in patient care and research. We look forward to the upcoming year!



## Spreading the Word Our Publications & Travels

The Rady Children's Hospital orthopedic program continues as one of the world's leading centers for children's orthopedic clinical and biomechanical research. Our work is published in the most important orthopedic journals and is widely quoted. The publications listed below were produced by our department between January, 2023 – December 2023.

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The Newtons and the Fricks celebrating New Years in Napa.

C.E., Bastrom, T.P., 2023a. *From PHQ-2 to SRS-22: how a depression screening tool relates to SRS scores in patients with adolescent idiopathic scoliosis.* Spine Deform.

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Dr. Chambers was the 2023 Brandon Carrell Visiting Professor at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, TX. He gave lectures on cerebral palsy, treatment of patellofemoral problems in sports and disability and a talk on medical advances secondary to war. As Hank approaches retirement, he is enrolled in a Master's in Military History Program at the Citadel in Charleston, SC.

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Dr. Wallace and team were the recipients of the Patient Experience Spotlight award this year.

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Dr. Newton educating fellows and residents during the annual spine tutorial.

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Dr. Schmitz, Kevin Shea (class of 1998), and Dr. Chambers at the Dr. Kevin Shea Visiting Professorship at Children’s Hospital of San Antonio - October

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Dr. Brian Scannell (2013) with Dr. Matt Schmitz (2012), Dr. Eric Fornari (2012), and Dr. Jake Schulz (2012) at their annual pilgrimage to Ecuador with Project Perfect World in October

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Dr. Schmitz's textbook confirms he knows all about complications in peds ortho.

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Dr. Edmonds becoming the President of PRiSM and receiving the Presidential Gavel from David Howell, PhD of Colorado.  
Anaheim January 2024

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Dr. Jen Bauer (Seattle), Dr. Upasani, and Dr. Keith Bachman (class of 2016) moderating a session at IPOS 2023.



There was a lot of RCHSD representation at the Kaye Wilkins Fracture Course in February. Dr. Matt Ellington (class of 2013), Dr. Edmonds (class of 2008), Dr. Katie Rickert (class of 2017), Dr. Schmitz (class of 2012) and Dr. Souder (class of 2013) were all in attendance.

al Spine Study Group, 2023b. *Adult Cervical Deformity Patients Have Higher Baseline Frailty, Disability, and Comorbidities Compared With Complex Adult Thoracolumbar Deformity Patients: A Comparative Cohort Study of 616 Patients*. Global Spine J 21925682231214059.

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Dr. Edmonds and Dr. Ellis instructing former UCSD resident Brendon Mitchell at IPOS.

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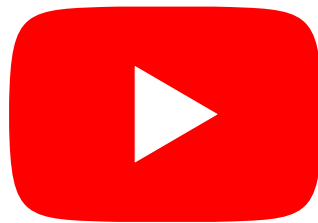
Dr. Si Wook Lee (International Fellow – Korea), and all 4 clinical fellows helping and observing in the OR with Dr. Upasani.



The ROCK study group celebrated their 15-year anniversary at the PRiSM meeting. Congratulations on that milestone.

From All of Us to All of You,  
Thank you for another successful year!

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