I Don’t Care

The problem seemed simple enough: severe, chronic osteoarthritis of the hip in an otherwise healthy, middle-aged male with healthcare funding. Despite the patient’s diligent adherence to appropriate conservative measures, he was essentially incapacitated due to persistent, agonizing pain. The solution was fairly straightforward: an elective total hip replacement (THR).

The story within the story, however, was unquestionably more complicated and, frankly, somewhat disturbing. This individual had committed the most heinous crimes against a supposed loved one. Similar egregious acts involved a child. As the entire medical team attempted to come to grips with this chilling aspect of the patient’s history, the inevitable question was eventually verbalized, “Do we really have to treat this guy?”

Momentarily I even thought the same, but didn’t dare verbalize it. Over the ensuing days, I reflected long and hard about all my years in medicine - from the early training to the most recent lectureships. All the lectures, patient rounds, morbidity-mortality conferences, journal clubs, national medical forums, and ethical debates that I could recall provided great insight into the accurate diagnosis and optimal treatment of disease. There was not a single aspect of my medical education, formal or otherwise, that assigned to me the authority (or wisdom) to determine who was worthy of my professional services - and who was not.

Physicians are not the only persons to find themselves confronted with this type of moral dilemma (i.e., a job which demands that one’s personal convictions are left at home). In a memorable scene from the recent film The Fugitive, Lieutenant Gerard (Tommy Lee Jones) has lost his weapon to Dr. Kimble (Harrison Ford). While keeping his adversary at bay, Kimble proclaims “I didn’t kill my wife,” to which Gerard emphatically replies, “I don’t care.” Gerard recognizes that his one and only responsibility is to apprehend Kimble, not determine whether he is guilty.

I implore all my fellow MDs to do the same. Let others decide right or wrong, guilt or punishment; as physicians, our mission is not to determine who deserves our help. Our only job is to provide care. Besides, where do we draw the line: manslaughter, assault, physical appearance, socioeconomic standing, sexual or religious preference? That’s not our job.

So, I’m scheduled to perform a THR on this patient, and, as I do with my next surgical case, I hope this THR is the best I’ve ever done. The upstanding citizen in me will continue to revile the patient’s transgressions, and sincerely hope that his punishment equals his crime. But the physician in me won’t care.

--Ronald W. Lindsey, MD

Message from the Chair

Faculty Spotlight

John W. Kosty, MD, is Assistant Professor in the Division of Joint Arthroplasty and General Orthopaedics and Medical Director at UTMB’s South Shore Harbor Clinic. Born and raised near Philadelphia, he graduated from Penn State University as a biology major, earning his MD at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Shortly thereafter, he entered the US Air Force, completing a General Surgery internship at Wright Patterson USAF Medical Center. He then completed a 5-year residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of New Mexico Affiliated Hospitals. He completed his Air Force commitment in 1987 and joined the staff at UTMB in 1988 as a clinical instructor. Serving as a clinical instructor and full-time faculty member, he has been affiliated with the DOSR for over 20 years. During his time at UTMB he has also been Vice President of the Galveston County Medical Society, Chief of Staff at Mainland Hospital, and previous Department of Surgery chairs at Mainland and Danforth Hospitals in Texas City. He has recently extended his research involvement at UTMB, serving as primary investigator for a study of an injectable compound to alleviate arthritic shoulder pain. UTMB’s Office of Regional Medical Education recently awarded him Top Doc recognition for community-based education. Dr. Kosty is a dedicated teacher and surgeon and an inquisitive researcher; he never stops questioning, never stops examining and scrutinizing for ways to improve himself as a clinician, as a teacher, as a surgeon.


### Publications Erratum


### Grants & Funding

Stryker Orthopaedics has recently allocated $25,350 for a project entitled “Biomechanical Evaluation of the Surgical Treatment of Metastatic Femur Lesions in a Cadaveric Model.” William L. Buford, Jr., PhD, Toribio Natividad, MD, and Randal P. Morris, BSc, will serve as co-investigators on this project under the direction of primary investigator Christopher P. Cannon, MD, of The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

### Summer Research Student

Over the summer, local area high school student Parth Patel was assigned the project “Mechanical Testing of Rabbit Achilles Tendons,” by mentors Vinod Panchbhavi, MD, William L. Buford, Jr., PhD, Randal P. Morris, BSc, and Jinping Yang, MD. Final results of this project are shown in his poster entitled “Designing a Reproducible Model of Achilles Tendon Rupture.” That poster is currently on display in the hall outside of the faculty conference room. We invite everyone in the DOSR to stop by and view Mr. Patel’s poster.
Ronald W. Lindsey, MD  
Department Chair  
The John Sealy Distinguished Centennial Chair in Rehabilitation Sciences

Foot & Ankle and Infections & Wound Care  
Maria T. Guidry, MD  
Vinod K. Panchbhavi, MD

Hand Surgery  
J. Pat Kearney, Jr., MD  
Steven F. Viegas, MD

Joint Arthroplasty & General Orthopaedics  
Stanley D. Allen, MD  
E. Burke Evans, MD  
Michael J. Greco, MD  
John W. Kosty, MD  
Kelly W. Stephenson, MD

Orthopaedic Research  
William L. Buford, Jr., PhD  
Zbigniew Gugala, MD, PhD

Pediatric Orthopaedics & Scoliosis Surgery  
Kelly D. Carmichael, MD  
David A. Yngve, MD

Spine Surgery & Rehabilitation  
Mabel E. Caban, MD  
Lilly L. Chen, MD  
Kim J. Garges, MD  
Ronald W. Lindsey, MD

Sports Medicine and Knee & Shoulder Surgery  
Frank M. Ivey, Jr., MD  
Brian A. Smith, MD

Trauma  
Stanley D. Allen, MD  
Ronald W. Lindsey, MD

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The July 9 Galveston Grand Rounds speaker was Leonard Swischuk, MD, Professor of Radiology and Pediatrics, Director, Pediatric Radiology, Children’s Hospital, UTMB. Dr. Swischuk presented “Pediatric Musculoskeletal Imaging Correlations.”

On August 13 Dr. Mark Wylie, Medical Director at the Fort Worth Spine Center, Texas, and Assistant Professor at the University of North Texas, Department of Orthopedic Surgery in Denton presented “Stingers and Cervical Neurapraxia in the Athlete.”

The July 16 Austin Lecture Series featured Laura L. Tosi, MD. Dr. Tosi is principal investigator at the Children’s Research Institute, Center for Genetic Medicine Research and Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Pediatrics at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, both in Washington, DC. Dr. Tosi presented “Fragility Fractures.”

On August 20 Alexander M. Cherkashin, MD, with the Seay Center for Musculoskeletal Research at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas presented “Complications in Limb Lengthening and Deformity Correction: The TSRH Approach.”

Grand Rounds

The 26th Annual Conference on Innovations in Sports Medicine  
July 11 & 12, 2008

Sports Medicine and Knee & Shoulder Surgery  
Frank M. Ivey, Jr., MD  
Brian A. Smith, MD

Dr. Wylie

Dr. Cherkashin

Focus on Biomechanics

Randal P. Morris, BSc, is currently a Biomedical Engineering Specialist III and Biomechanics Laboratory Manager in the Orthopaedic Research Division. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1994 with bachelor’s degrees in Bioengineering and Biochemistry and came to UTMB in 1995. Among his many duties, Mr. Morris collaborates with faculty, residents, department personnel, and students in every stage of research—from conception and design to analysis and reporting. He has co-authored 25 peer-reviewed papers and proceedings and has given over 30 presentations at scientific meetings. He also assists in obtaining department funding through grants, corporate proposals, and institutional contracts. In addition, he performs all design and maintenance of the DOSR UTMB website. Randy has been an integral part of the research division’s success for over 13 years. Our faculty, residents, and students rely on his dependable, consistent research and biomechanics expertise; our department appreciates his efforts in advancing our core values and we look enthusiastically to the future, to the many bright and prosperous years ahead with Randy and the research division.
UTMB Galveston Grand Rounds:
--September 10: September Grand Rounds will feature two speakers:
  --Jean Sibonga, PhD, Sr. Research Scientist, USRA Basic Science Lead, Bone Mineral Laboratory and Bone Discipline Lead, Human Research Program, NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston
  --Jeffrey E. Budoff, MD, SouthWest Orthopaedics, Houston

--October 8: Clifford B. Jones, MD, Associate Clinical Professor, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Grand Rapids, MI

Save the Date: The 2009 Eggers Conference will be held March 27-28 at Moody Gardens in Galveston.

Voluntary Faculty
We are pleased to announce our voluntary faculty appointees for July/August:

Gary Gartsman, MD                Sherwin Siff, MD
William Granberry, MD            Todd Siff, MD
Thomas Greider, MD               Roy Smith, MD
Marc Labbe, MD                   William Watters III, MD
Rita Patterson, PhD              

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