Message from the Chair

Too Much Freedom

“He who hurt no one has no need for laws” - Plato

In New York City (and several other large U.S. urban areas) a disturbing clinical practice trend has steadily evolved among many of the most elite surgical subspecialists: they have opted not to accept any patient insurance. In this age of dictatorial healthcare insurance programs imposing convoluted demands on physicians to delay and/or decrease reimbursements, the appeal of a “concierge” or “boutique” surgical practice is surely comprehensible. Morally, however, the concept that highly regarded subspecialty surgeons would intentionally restrict their expertise to only those patients capable of paying their exorbitant upfront fees (generally 5X-10X greater than the typical payor reimbursement) is despicable.

The majority of U.S. citizens have some form of health insurance and this represents the fundamental basis upon which our entire healthcare system remains functional. Concierge practices may have some limited merit among the fairly large number of family or general internal medicine practitioners who would still care for a sizeable number of patients for office visit fees well within the reach of many in our society. Any truly accomplished surgical colleague has perfected his or her technical skills on legions of insured and/or uninsured patients. To “repay” society by subsequently performing delicate or complex surgical procedures for only the few with sufficient wealth to pay is reprehensible. Our medical system has often denied appropriate care to a minority group of patients because of their inability to pay; it now seems that this spectrum of denial has been expanded by some to include the majority of patients who cannot pay enough.

All members of our medical establishment should be extremely proud of our ability to produce the finest surgeons in world. But, likewise, we should all be dismayed that our system of free enterprise legally permits these talented physicians to restrict their services merely on the basis of net worth. For some physicians this may seem like a good business decision; but this physician has always been of the belief that the principal objective of medicine was to help people, not just help ourselves. This trend hurts people.

Sometimes I think we simply have too much freedom.

New Residents

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation would like to welcome our incoming PGY 1 resident class:

Hilda Kriel
UTMB

Kevin Leffers
Indiana University

Chung-Chieh Lo
UTMB

Lattisha Rowe
Morehouse

Nicholas Vance
UTMB


Presentations


The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation (DOSR) offers outpatient services at the new Victory Lakes Specialty Care Center.

2240 Gulf Freeway South
League City, TX 77573

Honors and Awards

The annual peer-to-peer survey Best Doctors Inc. (www.bestdoctors.com), has identified 80 doctors from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston as among the Best Doctors in America. These specialists are considered to be the best in their fields through a survey of fellow physicians who were asked “If you or a loved one needed a doctor in your specialty, to whom would you refer them?” The DOSR is proud to see Kelly D. Carmichael, MD, Ronald W. Lindsey, MD, and David Yngve, MD receive this special recognition.

Congratulations to David Yngve, MD who was recognized as a Patient’s Choice physician for 2010. This honor was awarded by MDx Medical, Inc., which tabulates reviews and feedback from patients nationwide. Only 6% of the country’s 720,000 physicians receive patient review scores high enough to achieve this award.

Congratulations to Kathy Flesher for being selected as the February 2011 “Double-Star of the Month” for the Support Staff Professionals (SSP) organization at UTMB. Kathy is an active member of SSP, served as SSP secretary for three years, chaired the membership committee and other in-house events. She was previously selected as the February 2007 Star of the month. The DOSR is proud of Kathy’s achievements, for she is a “five-star” to us.

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation
Ronald W. Lindsey, MD
Department Chair
The John Sealy Distinguished Centennial Chair in Rehabilitation Sciences

Foot & Ankle
Vinod K. Panchbhavi, MD

Joint Arthroplasty & General Orthopaedics
Stanley D. Allen, MD
E. Burke Evans, MD
John W. Kosty, MD
Kelly W. Stephenson, MD
Kenneth Brooks, MD

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

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

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

Spine Surgery & Rehabilitation
Ronald W. Lindsey, MD
Thomas L. Jones, II, MD

Sports Medicine and Knee & Shoulder Surgery
Brian A. Smith, MD

The Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation
(www.bestdoctors.com)
The UTMB Orthopaedic Clinic at South Shore Harbour is an integral part of the ongoing success of the DOSR in providing our patients mainland access to a wide spectrum of high quality orthopaedic care. Located in League City, the clinic has been a mainland extension of the UTMB DOSR since 2002, and also houses the UTMB Pediatric After Hours Urgent Care Clinic in the evening and on weekends. The interior of the clinic was renovated in 2010, and its radiology was upgraded to a digital x-ray system that provides faster, higher quality imaging.

The South Shore Clinic is special because of its hardworking staff of healthcare professionals who are dedicated to providing outstanding patient service. DOSR faculty with considerable orthopaedic subspecialty expertise in sports medicine, pediatrics, foot and ankle, spine, and joint replacement maintain regular clinic hours each weekday. The clinic has a fulltime clinical manager, registered nurse, x-ray technician, casting technicians, and clerical support staff. The DOSR is extremely proud of the South Shore Clinic and its commitment to bringing the finest ideals of UTMB Health to the community which it serves.
Operation Rainbow

In March, 2011, Drs. Kelly Carmichael, M.D., Thu-Ba LeBa, M.D., and Brian Kanz, M.D., visited Ocotal, Nicaragua as part of a mission by the non-profit organization Operation Rainbow to help provide orthopaedic care to indigent children and young adults in developing countries. The volunteer team evaluated a multitude of patients in clinic, and performed over 38 specialized surgical procedures over a six-day period. For more information on Operation Rainbow: www.operationrainbow.org

Grand Rounds

Distinguished Guest Lectureship Series at Victory Lakes

On Tuesday, February 22, 2011, Todd Swanson, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor, Clinical Division, Department of Radiation Oncology, UTMB, Galveston gave a presentation titled "Strange Bedfellows, Orthopaedics and Radiation Oncology: From the Benign to the Malignant".

On Tuesday, March 15, 2011, Charlotte Alexander, MD, Clinical Associate Professor, UTMB, Galveston, Congenital Hand Clinic, Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, Houston, presented "CMC Arthritis of the Thumb".

[Images of Drs. Carmichael, LeBa, and Kanz at an Operation Rainbow event, and a photograph of a crowded group at Victory Lakes with Drs. Alexander and Swanson presented.]
GWN Eggers Lectureship and Graduation

June 24, 2011

The 2011 Distinguished Guest Lecturer for Eggers and Graduation will be Raoul P. Rodriguez, MD, Chairman, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA

Moody Gardens Hotel
Galveston, Texas

For more information:
(409) 747-5700
svgallar@utmb.edu

Voluntary Faculty

Oladapo A. Alade, MD
Charlotte B. Alexander, MD
Jeffrey Baker, PhD
James Bennett, MD
James Bocell, MD
Mark Brinker, MD
Taylor Brown, MD
George Cox, MD
Marc DeHart, MD
Allen Deutsch, MD
Andrew Ebert, MD
Bradley Edwards, MD
David W. Edelstein, MD
Daniel Eidman, MD
Gary Gartsman, MD
Stanley Gertzbein, MD
Tyler Goldberg, MD
William Granberry, MD
Thomas Greider, MD
Joseph Gugenheim, MD
Alexander Hadjipavlou, MD
Eric Heinrich, MD
Omer Ilahi, MD
Don Johnson, MD
Robert Josey III, MD
Anand Joshi, MD
Gordon L. Klein, MD
John Knecht, DPM
Marc Labbe, MD
Glenn C. Landon, MD
Adrian LeBlanc, PhD
Vasilos Mathews, MD
Anita Mercado, MD
Anthony Muffoletto, MD
Haring Nauta, MD
Jose Nolla, MD
Okay Onan, MD
Daniel O'Neill, MD
Manish Patel, MD
Rita Patterson, PhD
Michael Putney, MD
J. Clark Race, MD
David Randall, MD
Hyman Roosth, MD
R. Eric Santos, MD
Walter Sassard, MD
L. Edward Seade, MD
Jack Seaquist, MD
Jean Sibonga, PhD
Sherwin Siff, MD
Todd Siff, MD
Terry Siller, MD
James Simmons III, DO
James Simmons, Jr., MD
Roy Smith, MD
Gregory Stocks, MD
Nicholas Tsourmas, MD
Gregg Vager, MD
William Watters III, MD
Jeffrey M. Whelan, MD
Suzanne Yandow, MD

More to come in the next issue of the DOSR Newsletter...

To view previous issues of the DOSR newsletter, please visit: http://www.utmb.edu/ortho/administrative/newsletter.htm