

Virginia Orthopaedic Society

Volume No. 3

Summer 2003

President's Message

Greetings fellow Virginia Orthopaedic Society members.

We have recently concluded another very successful annual meeting. This year's meeting was held in the ever-popular Williamsburg area. Attendance numbers were up in terms of our membership as well as the number of sponsor-exhibitors. Highlights of the meeting continue to be the excellent presentations of both basic science and clinical research work. The talks were relevant and of particularly high quality. Informative and thought provoking panel discussions were presented addressing the issues facing all of us in our clinical practice. Malpractice, reimbursement and legislative concerns were just a few of the topics discussed.

Next year's meeting will return to Norfolk for the first time in many years. The meeting site will be the newly opened Marriott. This site has excellent convention facilities and is very reasonably priced. Local attractions include the renovated waterfront featuring the award winning Nauticus Maritime Museum and its main attraction the USS Wisconsin battleship. Adjacent to the hotel, Granby Street offers abundant, upscale nightlife and the cosmopolitan McArthur mall. The Virginia Beach oceanfront is a short drive away. Other activities such as golfing, tennis, and deep sea fishing are available as demand warrants. Program chairman, R. Brick Campbell, is hard at work recreating some of the most popular features of past meetings, while new and innovative topics and speakers are already being scheduled. Next year's meeting dates are May 14-16. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

One of the major purposes of our Society is to foster communication amongst our membership. The primary method for this is our Society's website (www.vos.org). This highly informative resource is frequently updated by our members as well as the folks at Ruggles Service Corp., our Society's administrator. Visit this site, peruse its contents, and please offer comments or ideas that you feel might be beneficial.

At our recent Board of Directors meeting several important decisions were reached relating to membership rolls and legislative issues. Currently the society has 350 active members. Using the AAOS database there are approximately 300 orthopaedic surgeons located in the state who are not active members. A time proven effective

method to improve the number of active members involves sending an "invoice" to each non member with the name of two currently active members who will serve as sponsors. This initiative will begin soon. Hopefully we will significantly increase not only our revenue but also the number of people actively participating in our actions which are designed to benefit all orthopaedic surgeons in our state. Each of us as a current member may be asked to be a "sponsor."

Other board decisions this past year involved the all important area of legislative advocacy. Based on the advice of our past presidents, the Society will hire its own lobbyist dedicated to our specific needs. In the past we have contributed to lobbyists employed by the Medical Society of Virginia whose services were shared. This year we have contracted with Mr. Cal Whitehead, an experienced Richmond based lobbyist to work solely on our behalf.

One of the more effective methods of presenting our issues and concerns to our



John J. Schaffer, MD

Delegates and Senators is our Annual Legislative Reception in Richmond. This year in an attempt to become even more effective the Society is

Continued on page 3

VOS Leadership Commits to New Advocacy Program

One of the Society's main objectives is to serve "as a forum for discussion of scientific and political issues that are of importance to the state's orthopaedists". This is an important goal, and one of the fundamental reasons that orthopaedists, physicians, lawyers, and millions of other individuals join professional organizations. Much of the healthcare policy that governs your practices, your reimbursement, and your relationships with patients is made right here in the Commonwealth. Influencing that policy so that you can provide the best quality care for patients with as little interruption as possible is not difficult but it does take a significant commitment by an organization.

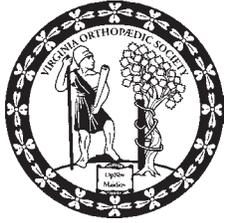
One legislator likes to say that the basics of legislative affairs are to "educate, participate, and donate". Many of you have recognized the importance of grassroots activities and faithfully contributed to candidates, attended the annual VOS legislative reception, contacted public officials regarding key bills, and made a trip to the Capitol to lobby the General Assembly. Some of you have not. The new VOS advocacy program will be developed to help Virginia's orthopaedists embrace these critical activities.

I happen to come from a medical family and understand that most physicians wish only to

practice good medicine. My work with the Medical Society of Virginia and other medical societies has helped me understand that physicians spend such an extraordinary amount of time in education, continuing education, and treatment of patients that you cannot fathom that legislators would vote to allow under-trained individuals to prescribe pharmaceuticals or perform complex *medical* procedures. And, I understand that if a physician finds some free time in their busy schedules that the last thing they'd like to do is call a legislator or rub elbows at a political fundraiser. Unfortunately, I'm unique.

Often, legislators do not understand your training and professional demands. The public does not realize the time you spend arguing coverage decisions with insurance companies. Your state Senator may not fully appreciate the complications that arise from drug interaction. Your Delegate may assume that "Doctor" is as good as "MD" or "DO". Help them understand because they need and want your input. And, use me in any way that makes access to your representatives easiest and most comfortable. I will call on you, as the experts, so that the Society is accurately represented. . . I hope you will call me too with ideas, questions, or concerns. It will be a pleasure to work with you this year.

Cal Whitehead



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

John J. Schaffer, MD
Virginia Beach

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Eric J. Guidi, MD
Arlington

SECRETARY-TREASURER

David R. Diduch, MD
Charlottesville

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

David M. Kahler, MD
Charlottesville

PROGRAM CHAIR (MAY 2004)

R. Brick Campbell, MD
Virginia Beach

COUNCILORS, AAOS

Robert P. Nirschl, MD
Arlington

Paul N. Krop, MD
Virginia Beach

MSV DELEGATE
Wilhelm Zuelzer, MD
Chester

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Julious P. Smith, MD
Joseph T. Moskal, MD
Wilford K. Gibson, MD
Gautham Gondi, MD

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Stewart A. Hinckley, CMP
Executive Director

VOS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Gautham Gondi, MD

Annual Meeting Review

Dear VOS Colleagues,

Despite the uncooperative weather in Williamsburg, the 2003 VOS Annual Meeting, May 16-18 was a success. The scientific sessions provided a broad spectrum of both basic and clinical research information from around the state. The award for best clinical presentation was given to Dr. Derek H. Ochiai for the paper entitled Iontophoretic Administration of Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate for Acute Epicondylitis: A Randomized, Double Blind, Placebo-controlled Study. The award for the best basic science presentation was presented to Dr. Joel Stewart for the paper entitled The Effects of Orally Administered Glucosamine and Chondroitin Sulfate on Articular Cartilage in a Canine Osteoarthritis Model. The Symposia were again, well attended and received, with special interest on malpractice and tort reform issues.

Our many thanks to the orthopaedic industry sponsors A. David Tyre & Associates., Distributor for Smith & Nephew, Abbot Laboratories, ArthroCare, athenahealth, Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Breg, Inc., DePuy ACE, DePuy Orthopaedics, Genzyme Biosurgery; EBI Medical Systems, Kyphon Inc., LifeNet, Merck & Co. Inc., Microaire Surgical Instruments, Organon Sanofi-Synthelabo, LLC., Orthofix Inc., Pfizer Inc., RS Medical, Sanofi-Synthelabo, Inc., Stryker Corp., Howmedica Osteonics, Synthes, USA, Synthes Spine, Inc., Transatlantic, Inc., Virginia academy of Physician Assistants, W.B. Saunders/Mosny/Elsevier, Wright Medical Technology, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Zimmer Mid-Atlantic, whose generous contributions helped make the meeting a success, and to all participants and attendees for visibly supporting your state orthopaedic society.

Thomas E. Brown, MD
2003 Program Co-Chair

We wish to give special thanks to our corporate sponsors who supported the 2003 Annual Meeting.

GOLD SPONSORS:

Pfizer Inc.

Howmedica Osteonics

Stryker Corp.

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

SILVER SPONSORS:

athenahealth

Synthes Spine, Inc.

DePuy Orthopaedics

Zimmer Mid-Atlantic

A. David Tyre & Assoc.
Distributor for Smith & Nephew



2003 Annual Meeting Highlights

Williamsburg, VA • May 16-18, 2003



President's Message

Continued from page 1

encouraging each member to invite their individual elected officials personally. The professional lobbyists indicate that the Delegates and Senators are much more likely to attend this important function if they have personal interaction with their constituents. We will be asking for volunteers and/or asking our members to each personally invite their elected official to this evening function. This year's reception is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2004. Please clear your calendar to make plans to attend.

In the last few years through the efforts of our past presidents we have significantly limited attempts by both the Physical Therapists and Podiatrists to expand their scope of practices.

Although we have won these battles, the fight has not gone away. At this point we do not know of any further attempts along these lines, but we will diligently watch for new challenges. In addition to these reactive efforts, this year our Society will pursue legislative change on a proactive basis. We will attempt to change current state law which prohibits balance billing by our members for care provided relating to personal injury claims. In practicality, now the plaintiff attorneys receive more for our work than we do. We would like to receive full payment of our billed services since this amount is what determines settlements and awards.

Our Society has initiated a Career Award. This will be presented at the annual meeting to a member whose long years of exemplary service will be recognized formally. All members are

encouraged to submit names of those colleagues whom they feel are deserving.

The practice of medicine and orthopedic surgery has grown more complicated and stressful as a consequence of our times. We are all very busy, hard-working physicians. Despite these demands I encourage all of you to become involved in our Society at least in a small way. Look at the website, contact your legislators, and give us feedback on ways to make our Society more effective at serving our needs. What is good for one of us is usually good for all of us. Contact information is prominently placed on the website. Stay involved!

John J. Schaffer, MD



Virginia Orthopaedic Society

2209 Dickens Road
P.O. Box 11086
Richmond, VA 23230-1086



PLAN NOW!

57th Annual Meeting

May 14 - 16, 2004
Norfolk Waterside Marriott

Abstract Deadline: January 15, 2004

VOS Legislative Reception

Wednesday, January 21, 2004
SunTrust Building, Richmond, Va



Welcome New Members

Abhinav (Bobby) Chhabra
Charlottesville

Martin R. Coleman
Newport News

Christopher R. Lehman
Manassas

Christopher K. Hersh
Norfolk

Jon K. Sekiya
Portsmouth

Michael H. Snedden
Fredericksburg

Patrick St.Pierre
Arlington