



Words of Wisdom by Werle!

Dear Members of the Orthopaedic Surgery Community,
 Happy 2026!! I hope that you had the opportunity to rest, relax, and recharge with family and friends over the holiday break. The fall was busy with many orthopaedic events including the 10th Annual Cy Frank Legacy Lecture held in September. It's hard to believe that it has been 10 years since Cy's passing. As the speakers at this year's event demonstrated, his impact on patient care and health systems within Alberta, Canada, and internationally continues.

The Orthopaedic Section held a very successful weekend retreat in Lake Louise in November. The topics of the facilitated event included trauma care delivery and call coverage to 2030 and beyond. There was excellent dialogue and many ideas were generated to improve orthopaedic care delivery into the future. The retreat report and action plans will be released in early 2026. The Orthopaedic Executive has already begun work based on the retreat. Thank you to all who attended and provided their input on these important topics.

The Annual Orthopaedic Section Family Holiday Brunch was held on November 30th at Pinebrook. It was a wonderful event and very well attended this year. Thanks to Judy for organizing the event which is always a highlight of the year.

Congratulations to Dr. Jim Powell who retired from active surgical practice at the end of 2025! Jim has been an outstanding academic orthopaedic surgeon in our Section and the Section thanks him for all his contributions to clinical care delivery, education (particularly the Arthroplasty Fellowship program), and research throughout his career at FMC. Best wishes as you make this transition, Jim!

As we look into the Spring, there are many important academic events to look forward to including The Frank Talks, the Annual Resident Research Day, and Surgeon's Day. I hope to see many of our Section members at these events.

Finally, I want to thank the Orthopaedic Section staff – Chesska Turner, Judy Crawford, and Tom Chan, for all their work over the past year. They are the unsung heroes of our Orthopaedic academic programs and the Section appreciates all that they do on a daily basis.

Best wishes to you and your families for 2026!!
 Jason Werle, Chief, Section of Orthopaedic Surgery

Education – Making the Grade!

Thank you to all residents and faculty involved in organizing and teaching the successful resident learning bootcamps this Fall. Congratulations to all residents and Dr. Schneider! The CORRg group continues to generate high-quality research publications and presentations.

The annual Resident Holiday Event was held on Thursday December 18, 2025. The Geoff Cragg Ski Day will be held on Friday February 27, 2026, at Lake Louise Ski Resort. We would like to invite faculty to join the residents for ski day. Please contact Judy Crawford (acortho@ucalgary.ca) to sign up, or to sponsor the cost of the day for a resident. The annual Resident Retreat is scheduled for May 28-29 in Canmore.

We have received our CaRMS files and we appreciate the faculty that reviewed the CaRMS files; your time is valued. The CaRMS interview date will be on Wednesday February 4, 2026. We will be hosting a virtual (Zoom-based) CaRMS social on the evening of February 3 to introduce our applicants to the program. Details will be sent out shortly, but please consider attending to showcase our program and our community.

Research – Skeletal Mentions!

Congratulations to the 2025 COREFAwardees and their Supervisors:

- Calgary Orthopaedic Resident Research Group - CORRg (Prism Schneider and Herman Johal)
- Alyssa Federico (Neil White and Koren Roach)
- Alyssa Federico (Joe Kendal)
- Reva Qiu (Joe Kendal, Mike Monument and Frank Jirik)
- Molly Rutherford (Prism Schneider)
- Gareth Ryan (Prism Schneider)
- Meredith Stadnyk (Prism Schneider)
- Ben Wajda and Reva Qiu (Lisa Phillips)

A huge THANK YOU to Nathan Evaniew who took on the role of the Chair of the COREF Review process and also to all of the reviewers – this process would not take place without your help!

The Frank Talks will be taking place on March 18, 2026 – Faculty please mark this date in your calendar and watch for an email early in the new year for your invitation to RSVP for this event.

The 13th Annual Orthopaedic Resident Research Day will be on April 23rd with visiting professor Dr. Andrew Gray from the United Kingdom.

Call for LOI Applications for two internal competitions, Orthopaedic Catalyst Grants and Fraternal Order of Eagle – FOE will be distributed soon.

News from the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health

Welcome to Kathleen Thibault who is the new Administrative Assistant for the McCaig Institute (she can be contacted at kathleen.thibault@ucalgary.ca).

Don't miss the *McCaig International Research Conference: Advancements in Osteoarthritis – From Discovery to Treatment*, happening March 11–13, 2026, in Kananaskis, Alberta. The conference will highlight emerging therapies for osteoarthritis, advances in chemical and biochemical approaches, innovative imaging modalities, and evolving clinical practices and the event will feature world-renowned speakers, trainee presentations, and the latest innovations in osteoarthritis research and care. Contact mccaig@ucalgary.ca for more information and registration details.

Cheryl Barnabe is a recipient of a 2025 Killam Annual Professor.



Awards/Honours:

Gareth Ryan is the recipient of the Cy Frank Rising Innovator Award from the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health – this award was established to mark the 10th Anniversary of the passing of Dr. Cy Frank and the award recognized a trainee whose research reflects Dr. Frank's enduring legacy in musculoskeletal health and it celebrates innovation, multidisciplinary collaboration and translational impact
Prism Schneider, Basic Science Best Poster Award - "Simulated weight-bearing CT improves hindfoot alignment assessment and offers on alternative to true weight-bearing CT scanners", and Best Basic Science Podium - "Distinct immunologic mediators are associated with venous thromboembolism in polytrauma patients" at the Orthopaedic Trauma Association Annual Meeting, October 15-18, 2025 in Phoenix, Arizona
Joe Kendal was recognized as Avenue Magazine Top 40 Under 40

Grants:

Roman Krawetz is a recipient of the John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) grant for his project "Histological Assessment of Bone and Joint Tissue Structure and Function: A Facility Approach to Increased Research".

Presentations:

Gareth Ryan "Early Prediction of Impaired Fracture Healing Using Systemic Biomarkers", Cy Frank Rising Innovator Awardee - Emerging Voices in Research, McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health - 10th Anniversary Cy Frank Legacy Lecture September 19
Taylor Bader, trainee with Ganesh Swamy, "Defining the Role of the Protease HTRA1 on Spinal Deformities Using Proteomic Profiling of Intervertebral Disc Components" at the McCaig Institute Weekly Seminar on October 29

Some recent publications:

Ha J, Oliver W, Buckley R: What is the best surgical treatment for a young patient with a combination displaced ipsilateral femoral neck and femoral shaft fracture – one or two implants? *Injury* 56, 2025. 112141
Stadnyk M, Gibbon S, Buckley R: What is the surgical approach for open operative reduction of a mid-humerus fracture – anterior or posterior? *Injury* 2025; 56: 112142
Ryan G, Topham J, Buckley R: Does the timing of debridement of an open upper extremity fracture really matter? *Injury* 2025; 56: 112300.
Halai M, Dryden P, Buckley R: Is the mini-open surgical technique as good as nonoperative care for acute Achilles tendon injuries? *Injury* 2025; 56: 112354.
Buckley R: Not to Operate – A Tough Decision. *Injury* 2025; 56: 112363
Ryan G, Buckley R, Duffy P, Korley R, Martin CR, Rondeau K, Schneider P: Fibula first fixation in same level distal third tibia and fibula fractures: A pilot randomized clinical trial. *JOS* accepted July 18, 2025
Oliver W, Ha J, Buckley R. Should all unstable ankle fractures with a small posterior malleolus fracture have lateral, syndesmotic and posterior fixation? *Injury* 2025; 56:112453
Hebert-Seropian S, Darmonkow G, Greene H, Buckley R: How should displaced olecranon fractures in the elderly be treated – nonoperatively or operatively? *Injury* 2025; 56:112579
Martin CR, Beauchamp-Chalifour P, Buckley R: Should displaced tibial eminence fractures in adults be treated with arthroscopic reduction (ARIF) or an open reduction (ORIF)? *Injury* 2025; 56:112681
Caines A, Willms S, Buckley R: Do all preoperative severe periarticular lower extremity injuries first need an external fixator to prepare soft tissues before definitive ORIF? *Injury* 2025; 56:112751
Kuntze G, Panjavi S, Henning E, Korley R, Abelseth G, Ronsky J, Johnston K: Preserving patient-specific knee motion: A randomized clinical trial of unicompartmental and total knee arthroplasty. *J Orthop Res* 2025 Oct 3. doi: 10.1002/jor.70077. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41044992. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jor.70077>
Ritchie B, Saini J, Mack ZE, Munn A, Dhaliwal G, Roach KE, Manske SL, White NJ: Weight-bearing computed tomography analysis of scapholunate ligament injury. *J Hand Surgery* 50(11):1304-1312, November 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhsa.2025.07.022>
Bruce OL, Haider IT, Cheung AM, Tile L, Bleakney R, Scher J, Edwards WB: (2025). Femur geometry influences atypical femoral fracture location. *Osteoporosis international* : a journal established as result of cooperation between the European Foundation for Osteoporosis and the National Osteoporosis Foundation of the USA, 36(10), 2009–2018. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00198-025-07654-3>
Abughazaleh N, Smith H, Chaudhri H, Seerattan R, Hart D, Reimer R, Herzog W: (2025). Investigating inflammation of adipose tissue in a diet induced obesity model of OA in female sprague dawley rats. *Scientific Reports*. 15. 10.1038/s41598-025-25432-3.

Orthopaedic Surgery Important Dates: *February 4* CaRMS Interviews // *February 27* Annual Geoff Cragg Ski Day // *March 18* The Frank Talks // *April 9-10* 3rd Annual Arthroplasty Symposium // *April 16* Annual Spencer McLean Memorial Faculty vs Residents Hockey Game // *April 23* 13th Annual Orthopaedic Resident Research Day // *June 25* Orthopaedic Surgery Year End Team Building Event

53rd Annual Paediatric Orthopaedic Seminar and Townsend Lecture took place on Friday November 14th at the Alberta Children's Hospital. Local speakers were Drs. Marcel Abouassaly, Vivien Chan and Devin Lemmex; and our Visiting Professor was Dr. Joshua Klatt from the University of Utah and his presentation was "What can we do with Stulberg IV Hips?" Those in attendance found the symposium to be very engaging. The Section thanks Dr. Lisa Phillips and Ms. Veronica Lam for organizing such a great event!



Orthopaedic Family Holiday Brunch – November 30, 2025
We had the most attendees ever for this event.. thank you for attending!
Fun was had by all!!!

