



Words of Wisdom by Werle!

Dear Orthopaedic Surgery community members,
I hope you are all having a good spring so far.

The activities of the Section in the last few months have included important discussions regarding the development of an Orthopaedic Consult Line (OCL) to triage patients in the Calgary Corridor. This is one of the deliverables from the November 2025 Retreat. Preliminary discussions with Medical Affairs have been positive and the Section/Department are working on a Briefing Note for executive approval. The goal is to have the OCL in place by the start of next fiscal year (April 2027).

Vendor rebates that are used to support the U of C Orthopaedic Academic Program will continue into the spring of 2027. The Section thanks the Alberta Orthopaedic Society for their support in these negotiations with Surgical Care Alberta.

A trial for Robotically-assisted Arthroplasty Surgery in the zone is being developed by Surgical Care Alberta and Acute Care Alberta. Initial meetings have been organized with the plans to roll the two-year pilot project out at multiple sites in Calgary beginning this fall.

The Section is welcoming three new orthopaedic surgeons to the University of Calgary/Calgary Corridor in the next few months: Dr. Kevin Chan (Hand & Wrist – SHC), Dr. Joon Ha (Foot & Ankle and Trauma - PLC), and Dr. Sarup Sridharan (Pediatric Ortho – ACH). We look forward to their clinical and academic contributions in the years ahead.

Congratulations to three retiring orthopaedic surgeons: Dr. Simon Goldstein (ACH), Dr. Cory Cundal (RGH) and Dr. Nick Mohtadi (PLC). The Section thanks you for your dedicated service to your patients, to the Section, and to the University of Calgary. Best wishes in your retirement!

I hope to see many of you at the Canadian Orthopaedic Association Meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland, on June 10-13, 2026. Calgary has the honour of hosting the 2027 COA in no small part due to the success of the 2023 event.

Finally, best wishes for the upcoming summer season! I hope you find time for rest and relaxation with family and friends.

Sincerely,
Jason Werle, Section Chief, U of C Orthopaedic Surgery

Education – Making the Grade!

Thank you to all those who volunteered to be part of the CaRMS process this year as file reviewers, interviewers, or members of the CaRMS Senate. We are excited to welcome the following incoming PGY-1s to our program: Alexander Drover (UCalgary), Jennifer Kaminker (Queen's), Mikayla Rudniski (UofSask), Daniel Smith (Dalhousie) and Asha Swamy (UofOttawa).

Thank you to all those who participated in the Annual Geoff Cragg Ski Day and to those who sponsored a resident. We had beautiful weather, and the event was a great success. Thank you also to all those who participated in the highly competitive (and social) Annual Spencer McLean Classic Hockey Game.

The Annual Resident Retreat is taking place at the end of May. Guest speaker is Dr. David Paskevich (Sports Psychologist and UofC Kinesiology Professor), and he will be discussing psychological methods to overcome the load of residency education.

Research – Skeletal Mentions!

The 13th Annual Orthopaedic Resident Research Day (RRD) took place on Thursday, April 23, 2026 with our adjudicators being Andrew Gray from the UK, Sarah Manske from the McCaig Institute, and Joe Kendal from the University of Calgary. The attendance was excellent and the judges were very impressed by the quality of the resident presentations making it difficult to choose the award winners. All residents are to be congratulated, and the winners are acknowledged below: *Full Podium Awards*: 1st Place – Gareth Ryan “Defining Hypercoagulability in Patients with Surgically Managed Diaphyseal Tibia Fractures: A Pilot Study”; 2nd Place – Meredith Stadnyk “An Evaluation of the TRiP Cast Score for Post-operative Thromboprophylaxis Recommendations for Patients with Tibia and Ankle Fractures”; People’s Choice – Ben Wajda “GLP-1 Receptor Agonists in Total Hip and Knee Arthroplasty: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Perioperative and Postoperative Outcomes”. *Abbreviated Podium Awards*: 1st Place – Tim Lasswell “In Vitro Comparison of Virtual Anterior Cruciate Ligament Graft Lengths during Knee Motions for Selected Femoral Tunnel Locations”; 2nd Place – Reva Qiu “Non-operative Management of Fifth Metacarpal Neck Fractures: Impact of Angulation on Patient Reported Outcomes”; People’s Choice – Gurprit Girn “One Size Does Not Fit All: Ergonomic Implications for Orthopaedic Surgical Instrumentation Based on Hand Size – A Study Proposal”. *3 Minute Thesis Awards*: 1st Place – Mallika Makkar “A Structured Rapid Review to Support the Development of a Primary Care Foot and Ankle Orthopaedic Clinical Pathway in Alberta”; 2nd Place and People’s Choice – Reva Qiu “Investigating the Radiosensitivity of PTEN-Deficient Osteosarcoma after Treatment with a Synthetic Lethality-Based Therapy”.

The Inaugural Section of Orthopaedics *Dragon’s Den Competition* took place within the RRD program, with three teams presenting. The projects were very well received with the winner being Dan You and the two runners-up were Ryan Martin and Prism Schneider – Congratulations to all!

Internal Grant Competitions 2026-2027: In April the Call for Letters of Intent were distributed for Fraternal Order of Eagles, Mentored Early-Stage Career, and Catalyst Grants – all currently in the review stage with final decisions expected in June 2026. Call for COREF Applications will be distributed in July 2026 with a deadline date of end of October 2026.

CORRG will be presenting a poster at the 2026 COA Meeting in St. John's, so please plan to visit our poster: “Impact of Fracture Type on Recovery Timeline Following Surgically Treated Upper Extremity Injuries”.

News from the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health

Congratulations to Cheryl Barnabe who received the Canadian Rheumatology Association’s 2026 Distinguished Investigator Award. McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health Upcoming Events: September 18 – Annual Cy Frank Legacy Lecture and November 7 Annual Wood Forum.

Orthopaedic Surgery Important Dates: June 25 Orthopaedic Surgery Year End Team Building Event // August 21 Orthopaedic Residents Annual Golf Tournament // October/November (exact date TBA) Annual Townsend Day // November 29 Orthopaedic Family Holiday Brunch

Abstract Deadlines for Various Meetings in 2027: AAOS due June 1, 2026; COA due late October 2026; OTA due mid-late January 2027

Course Organization/Participation:

Prism Schneider was the moderator for the 5th Annual The Frank Talks which took place on March 18 and the following individuals presented: Danielle Whittier “In vivo Assessment of Bone Adaptation During Fracture Healing Using HR-pQCT”, Neil White “The SCRUBS Journey”, Ganesh Swamy “Plans for Spine Research at the UofC – Shachnowich Spine Initiative”, Nick Mohtadi “35 Years as a Surgeon-Clinician-Scientist”, and Cheryl Barnabe, “McCaig Institute: Progress, Priorities & Potential”

Jim Powell and Chesska Turner organized the Modern Motion: 3rd Annual Arthroplasty Symposium which took place on April 10th

The following individuals were presenters at the Modern Motion: 3rd Annual Arthroplasty Symposium on April 10th: Denis Joly (“The Role of Unicompartamental TKR”); Richard Ng (“The Role of Cementless TKR”); Raj Sharma (“Subvastus Approach”); Jeremy Kubik (“Wound Closure Techniques”); “Triple Taper Stem Design in THR”); Jim Powell (“Report from ICM 2025”)

Devin Lemmex, Kelly Johnston, and Chesska Turner organized the 2026 Glen Edwards Day CME event which took place on April 17 “The Non-Arthritic Hip: Diagnose, Treatment & Refer”

The following individuals were presenters at the 2026 Glen Edward Day on April 17: Marcel Abouassaly (“Hip Pain in the Adolescent: Acute or residual paediatric conditions”), Kelly Johnston (“Surgical Treatment of Hip Pain in the Young Adult”), Devin Lemmex (“Labral Tears”, “Surgical Treatment of Hip Pain in the Young Adult”, “Lateral Hip Pain & Gluteal Tendon Pathology”), Nick Mohtadi (“Approach to the Young Hip”, “Diagnostic Imaging”, The Limits of Hip Preservation”) Jim Powell (“Displasia”), Alex Rezanoff (“FAI”)

Grants:

Prism Schneider and team (including Andrew Dodd, Paul Duffy, Herman Johal, Rob Korley Dan You) was awarded a CIHR Priority Announcement – Female Athlete Health grant \$100,000.00 for their project “Refining the TRiP cast score: Using thrombelastography after lower extremity injury surgery to inform personalized thromboprophylaxis”

Roman Krawetz and team was awarded a CIHR grant \$791,775.0 for their project “Liver-derived Prg4: Regulator of woundhealing and hemostasis”

Presentations:

The following individuals gave presentations at the 25th Annual Scientific Conference of the Canadian Spine Society in Banff, from March 3-6.

Podium Presentations: Chloe Cadieux (Fellow) “Measuring Spinopelvic Parameters in Patients with 6 Lumbar Vertebrae: A Matched Comparison of Asymptomatic Volunteers”, Taryn Ludwig (Fellow) “Effects of Childbearing on Spinopelvic Alignment (EChOS)”, Ganesh Swamy “Adult Degenerative Scoliosis is Caused by Disproportionate Loss of Mechanical Properties of the Annulus Fibrosus”, Maxime Bedard (Trainee/Medical Student) “Decompressions Alone in Patients with Adult Spinal Deformity have Variable Outcomes – Pilot data from the CSORN ASD Registry”.

Poster Presentations: Ganesh Swamy “Do Males and Females have Similar Patient-reported Outcomes in ASD Surgery?” and “Development & Assessment of a Patient Decision Aid for Adult Spinal Deformity Fusion Surgery: Using Visual Art to Draw a Better Understanding”, Chloe Cadieux (Fellow) “Routine Practices in Anesthesiology for Spine Deformity Surgery: A Preliminary Multi-Centre Comparison”, Heidi Chan (Fellow) “The Effects of Class III Obesity Among Patients Undergoing Surgery for Degenerative Lumbar Conditions: An Observational Study from the Canadian Spine Outcomes and Research Network (CSORN)”, Michael Mulcahy (Fellow) “Unexpected Intraoperative Positive Culture in Presumed Aseptic Revision Spine Surgery: A Propensity Score-matched Cohort Study”, Drew Mulhall (former Fellow) “Endoscopic Spine Surgery: A Scoping Review of the Literature”

Marcia Clark, “Gender and the Surgical Environment: Understanding the dilemma and leading change” at the McCaig Institute Weekly Seminar on March 4

Erin Roberts (trainee with Roman Krawetz), “Investigation of Spatial Heterogeneity, Gene Expression and Expansion Kinetics in Pluripotent Stem Cell Aggregates Expanded in Bioreactors” at the McCaig Institute Weekly Seminar on March 11

Alyssa Federico, “Evaluating the Patient-Reported Outcome Measure Information System (PROMIS) and Mobility Metrics as Indicators of Postoperative Recovery in Sarcoma” at the McCaig Institute Weekly Seminar on March 11

Kasara Toth (trainee with Roman Krawetz), “Modelling joint injury: an equine perspective on post traumatic osteoarthritis” at the McCaig Institute Weekly Seminar on April 29

Other:

Daniyya Chaudhry (trainee with Prism Schneider) successfully defended her PhD “Measuring the extent, duration, and underlying mechanisms of hypercoagulation following total hip and total knee arthroplasty in April.

Some recent publications:

Waugana TH, Mangat R, Chen C, Smith ACJ, Al-Khoury Y, Kuczynski MT, Turmezei T, Anderson DD, Edwards WB, Manske SL. Repeatability of objective bone and joint measures using weight bearing CT: quantification of bone mineral density, joint space width, and subchondral bone plate thickness. JBMR Plus. 2025, ziaf194. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jbmrpl/ziaf194>

Kuczynski MT, Hasselaar C, Dhaliwal G, Hiscox C, White NJ, Whittier DE, Manske SL. Region-specific variation in trapeziometacarpal joint bone microarchitecture in females with osteoarthritis assessed using HR-pQCT, Bone, Volume 204, 2026,117759.

Shimomura K, Yarimitsu S, Jacob G, Akimori T, Nakamura M, Ando W, Hart DA, Fujie H, Okada S, Nakamura N. (2026). Comparison of 3 forms of clinically available hydroxyapatite artificial bone for use in biphasic implants with synovial mesenchymal stem cell-derived tissue-engineered constructs for osteochondral repair. American Journal of Sports Medicine, 3635465251407260. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03635465251407260>

Wu X, Hamzatova A, Aulin C, Sun W, Struglics A, Hart DA, Ackermann PW, Ahmed AS. (2026). Network Analysis Identifies Microsomal Glutathione S-Transferase as a Potential Regulator of Oxidative Stress and Proteasome Dysfunction in Human Osteoarthritic Menisci. FASEB bioAdvances, 8, e70101. <https://doi.org/10.1096/fba.2025-00302>

Chen J, Fu X, Ahmed AS, Hart DA, Zhou Z, Ackermann PW. Systematic Review of Relevant Biomarkers for Human Connective Tissue Repair and Healing Outcome: Implications for Understanding Healing Processes and Design of Healing Interventions. Advances in Wound Care. 2026;15(4):246-263. doi:10.1089/wound.2024.0233



13th Annual
Orthopaedic
Resident Research
Day - April 23

Annual Spencer McLean
Memorial Faculty vs Residents
Hockey Game - April 16
Faculty once again were the
winners of this annual sporting
event!

