

William McMaster Alumni Association Newsletter

Message from the Chair



Dear UCI Orthopaedic Surgery Alumni:

I believe that I speak for all of us, when I say that 2020 has been a year unlike any other. As we entered this year, the department continued on its trajectory of clinical expansion, research growth, and enhanced academic pursuits. We have been very fortunate to have recruited several

outstanding young faculty members who have benefited from the mentorship of our senior faculty. In 2019, the department's clinical volumes and research output achieved levels never before seen. As such, our national reputation and regional referral status was further enhanced, driven by the work of our amazing alumni in communities around the nation.

And then COVID-19 happened. Somebody much smarter than me summarized 2020 in the following way: "No person when asked in 2015 where they would be in five years answered the question correctly." As with most of our colleagues around the county, our research projects and clinical work essentially stopped on a dime. We had to find ways to redesign our research program, educate our residents, and provide care in manners never before done or even considered like telehealth and patient video visits. Orange County's infection rate is rapidly rising. We're experiencing stay at home orders and our census is the highest since the beginning of the pandemic. We have been fortunate to receive support from some of our alumni to help engage the residents with new teaching modalities. Our research program is back on track, and, interestingly, the short term clinical slow down actually allowed many pending projects to be pushed forward rapidly.

Dr. Scolaro and the educational committee have done a tremendous job ensuring that resident education has continued at a high level through the changes brought on by COVID-19.

It is times like these that force us to reflect on what is truly important, including family, friends, and our unique ability to care for others. I am proud that all of us, as members of the UCI orthopaedic surgery family, continue to work closely together to make the program better, to help train the future generations of orthopaedic surgeons; and to help our communities with the skills we helped develop here at UCI.

Thank you for being part of our alumni family, and please feel free to reach out at anytime.

Sincerely,

Nitin Bhatia, MD
Professor & Chair
Chief, Spine Service

From the Program Director



It is safe to say that the last nine months have been unlike any other. The residency program at UCI has similarly been affected, but much credit must be given to the residents themselves who adapted to the constantly changing hospital environment. Almost overnight, the program switched from in-person to virtual conferences and, before we knew it,

the hospital shut down elective surgical procedures. Shortly thereafter, emails went out about plans to platoon the residents, the possibility of cross-coverage for other services, and contingency plans if there was a confirmed case or exposure within the residency.

Much of medical education, and the resident experience, relies on in-person gatherings and group activities, but this has obviously had to change. In addition, with regional and national meetings canceled, there have been no opportunities for residents to travel for courses, have the experience of presenting research at the podium, or mingle with peers from other programs.

Despite all of these unpredictable and dynamic factors, the residents remained enthusiastic and are making the best of the current situation while continuing to learn how to take great care of patients at UCI. Thankfully, the elective surgical shutdown lasted just short of two months and with a new group of residents who joined us in July, the program continues to press ahead. We have had no confirmed COVID-19 cases within the residency (knock on wood), and that is largely due to the precautions that have been implemented.

The upcoming resident application season will bring with it challenges never before seen as in-person interviews have been suspended. Like everything else, we are prepared to adjust accordingly and remain resilient and strong in our mission. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to the next time we can all gather again in person.

John Scolaro, MD, MA
Residency Program Director
Chief, Orthopaedic Trauma

Alumni Spotlight



Alexandre Rasouli, MD

Years at UCI:
2002-2007

Fellowship:
University of Miami/Jackson Memorial
Combined Neurosurgical Orthopaedic
Spine Fellowship; Miami Children's
Pediatric Spine Fellowship

Current Practice:
RasouliSpine

Favorite Attending:
Rosenfeld

Best memory (or part) of residency:
Pediatric Rotation at CHOC



Steven J. Schroder, MD

Years at UCI:
2008-2014

Fellowship:
Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard
School of Medicine Adult Reconstruction
Fellowship

Current Practice:
Assistant Professor in Adult Reconstruction,
Department of Orthopedic Surgery –
University of Texas McGovern Medical School

Favorite Attending:
William C. McMaster, MD

Best memory from residency:
Running chief clinic at the VA in the morning
then going to the dentist for an emergent
root canal during lunch. All so that I wouldn't
miss clinic that afternoon. Many memories
in the OR but taming a femoral nail with
Steinmann pins under the guidance of a
bright-eyed and fresh-out-of-fellowship
orthopedist who penned the technique, John
A. Scolaro – still a worthwhile read – Scolaro
JA, Endress C, Mehta S. Prevention of cortical
breach during placement of an antegrade
intramedullary femoral nail. Orthopedics.
2013;36(9):688-692.

UCI School of Medicine, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery is committed to patient care, education and research. We utilize an interdisciplinary approach, catered to each individual as we provide exemplary patient care. Our surgeons are consistently recognized as "Super Doctors," "Physicians of Excellence," and "Top Doctors" by their colleagues and patients. As professors, we are at the cutting edge of modern and successful techniques, and our research is recognized world wide as evidenced by the numerous awards won by the group.



New Faculty

2020 Orange County Medical Association Physician of Excellence Award:

Nitin Bhatia, MD
Ranjan Gupta, MD
Andrew Hsu, MD
Yu-Po Lee, MD
Greg Rafijah, MD
John Scolaro, MD
David So, MD



2020 Southern California Super Doctors:

Nitin Bhatia, MD
(Hall of Fame, 10 consecutive years),
Ranjan Gupta, MD
Greg Rafijah, MD
John Scolaro, MD
David So, MD



2020 Southern California Rising Stars Award:

Andrew Hsu, MD
Jesse Kaplan, MD
James Learned, MD
David So, MD
Russell Stitzlein, MD
Dean Wang, MD



Tyler Johnston, MD

Undergraduate:
Stanford

Medical School:
Stanford

Residency:
Stanford

Fellowship:
Duke Sports and Shoulder Surgery;
Shoulder Arthroscopy and Arthroplasty,
University Institute of Locomotion and
Sports, Nice, France

Clinical Interests:
Sports-related musculoskeletal injuries
of the upper and lower extremities.
Arthroscopic reconstructive techniques
of the meniscus, ACL and other knee
ligaments, as well as shoulder instability,
rotator cuff repair, and complex shoulder
replacement.

What Makes UCI Special?

The awesome team of colleagues and residents that inspire me and make it a pleasure to come to work! I interviewed for quite a few different jobs and this environment is really unique in the genuinely positive and collaborative atmosphere of our department... And the fact that I can ride my bike to surf with Dr Kaplan when I'm not in the hospital!



Steven Yang, MD

Undergraduate:
UC San Diego

Medical School:
University of Miami

Residency:
Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

Fellowship:
Columbia University

Clinical Interests:
Primary and revision hip and knee
arthroplasty, anterior hip replacement,
navigated total knee arthroplasty,
healthcare advocacy, artificial
intelligence in orthopaedics

What Makes UCI Special?

I am thrilled to join the UCI faculty this year. As an Orange County native, I am familiar with UCI's crucial role in the area both in academics and in health-care. As someone who has recently finished a Southern California residency, I know that the UCI orthopaedic surgery program has an excellent reputation. I look forward to working with the stellar faculty and residents!

International Care

In February 2020, with funding from the UCI Orthopaedic Surgery Department and Dr. Gupta, David Wright traveled to Coimbatore, India for two weeks to complete a microsurgical training course and clinical observership at Ganga Hospital. Led by Dr. Raja Sabapathy, the hospital specializes in orthopaedic trauma and reconstructive microsurgery, serving as the quaternary referral center for most of South Asia. The five-day micro course is run through the Ganga Hospital Microsurgery Training Institute and is founded on Dr. Robert Acland's



Dr. David Wright, pictured with colleagues from Ganga Hospital in Coimbatore, India

University of Louisville microsurgery course. Since its inception in 2000, over 1,200 surgeons from around the world have completed the course at Ganga Hospital, including several hand fellows from Washington University, St. Louis who attend the course as part of their formal fellowship training.

After completing the course, Dr. Wright stayed on for an additional 1-week clinical observership with a focus on brachial plexus and lower extremity microsurgical reconstruction. Moderate-energy road traffic accidents involving unprotected moped riders are a leading cause of brachial plexus injuries and lower extremity trauma in India. Open fractures are treated at Ganga with early aggressive debridement and expedient soft tissue coverage within 72 hours, if indicated. During his one-week observership, Dr. Wright observed and participated in procedures ranging from upper extremity replantation, to free functioning gracilis muscle transfers, to osteocutaneous free fibula flaps. Since returning from India, he has taken advantage of the microsurgery laboratory on-site at UCI Health Medical Center to continue practicing and improving his microsurgical skills. He is currently applying to fellowship in hand and microsurgery and is interested in incorporating lower extremity reconstruction as part of his future practice.

Dr. David Wright, MD
Class of 2022

The Hatching of a Falcon

I didn't actually believe UV light could kill germs, so I set up a lighting lab and a microbiology lab in my oversized basement, complete with electronics, ballasts, UV lamps, meters, incubators, a vortex machine, live bacteria and hundreds of culture plates (my wife must really love me). By trial and error, I figured out some nuances of optimizing UV application to kill germs. I built a machine (yeah, the basement has a pretty good machine shop, too) using UV to rapidly disinfect sports and playground balls. I licensed that invention in 2012.

Around 2014, I got sick of getting sick after flying. It turns out the airlines never disinfect their aircraft. I watched SARS, MERS and Ebola trot the globe and realized commercial aircraft, like mosquitoes, are mechanical vectors for disease. I built an anthropomorphic robot that fits in the aircraft aisle and extends a pair of UV laden wings. I smeared some seats from the airplane graveyard with Staph and annihilated them with the contraption, now named the GermFalcon.

My son, Mo, came home from business school (too smart for medicine) and saw what I was tinkering with. I told him the GermFalcon could prevent a global pandemic and save countless lives. He saw a dollar value I had not. He turned down Wall Street offers and started a business named Dimer for the UV induced damage to microbe DNA. Unlike mosquitoes, the airlines didn't bite. We then built the UVHammer for healthcare.

In March 2020 Covid-19 devastated the airlines and about everything else in its path. The GermFalcon is highly effective against SARS-CoV-2.



Elliot "Mo" Kreitenberg with his father, Dr. Art Kreitenberg, class of 1988.

By April, demand was far beyond our (basement) production capacity. Honeywell contacted my son, brought a team of engineers and C level executives to Dimer HQ (still, the basement) and by May made a deal to mass produce and globally sell the GermFalcon (now blandly renamed the UV Cabin System). It's already in use on aircraft domestically and abroad. It's had national and international media coverage and has been nominated for TIME magazine's invention of the year.

My advice: pursue something outside of orthopaedics as a passion while using the knowledge and skills acquired in our shared training. Be driven to help people and to make discoveries. Be grateful for and to your family. These are the antidotes to burnout.

Art Kreitenberg '88

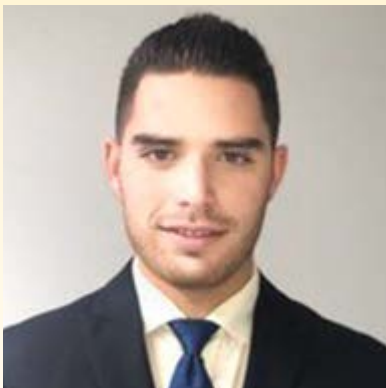
UCI Orthopaedic Surgery Class of 2025



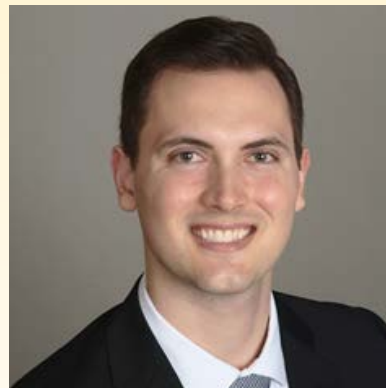
Hunter Bohlen, MD, MBA
Tulane University School of Medicine



Justin Chan, MD
UCI School of Medicine



Huthayfa Kahf, MD
University of California, Riverside
School of Medicine



Eric Smith, MD
Case Western Reserve
School of Medicine

UCI School of Medicine

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

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