

## Letter from the Program Director

Darin Friess, MD



The OHSU Orthopaedics Residency Program continues to strive for excellence in 2014. We proudly graduated five excellent chief residents last spring who have moved on to fantastic fellowships. All five residents passed their Step 1 Board examination and are now looking to move on to independent practices. We have been working with a wonderful group of five new interns who should pick up this mantle of orthopaedic excellence during the next five years of their residency program.

As previously described, we have implemented significant changes to the intern year for our Orthopaedics residents. They are now spending six months on the orthopaedic service and fewer months on general surgery services. These changes have been well received by our interns, although I do believe the general surgery service has missed having our intelligent and hardworking interns on their services. The other major change enacted for the internship year is a new curriculum from the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery on surgical skills simulation. We have adopted a once-monthly skills lab here at OHSU to teach surgical skills from basic knot-tying, fracture fixation, joint aspiration all the way through the basics of arthroplasty. These sessions have been very popular with the interns, and we used the opportunity to start developing some skills training for the other junior and senior level residents. Our initial efforts this year have focused on open surgical procedures and implants, but we will be moving forward with arthroscopic skills modules over the next academic year. Please contact me if you have any interest in assisting with surgical skills training.

The residents still rotate twice through most subspecialty services in two-and-a-half month blocks. We have happily maintained long-term rotations at the Shriners's Hospital, Legacy Emanuel Hospital and the Portland Veteran's Affairs Hospital. Our newer rotation at Providence St Vincent continues to be highly rated by the PGY4 residents.

Our residents continue to formulate great research questions, and develop them into wonderful research projects. The five chief residents presented their projects at Beals Day lectureship last year to visiting professor Vern Tolo, the editor of the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery. Our visiting professor this year, Seth Leopold, the editor of Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, promises to provide an opportunity for another day of Orthopaedic inquiry. Please attend to support our residents. If you are unable to attend Beals Day, another opportunity may be to attend our bimonthly Orthopaedic Grand Rounds held on Monday mornings. These sessions are a nice opportunity to connect with other orthopaedic surgeons, and do offer Continuing Medical Education credits applicable to your Maintenance of Certification.

In short, we continue to be blessed by very smart and talented residents. Teaching them the science and art of Orthopaedics still takes hard work and dedication. I remain so grateful to everyone who has taken the time and effort to assist with their Education.

Darin Friess, MD  
Program Director