



SOMOS Sentinel

The Official Publication of the Society of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons

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July 2009

President's Message

Daniel W. White, MD
LTC, US Army

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great honor that I serve as the President of our Society for this year. The SOMOS Board of Directors and I have been working on many challenges and opportunities throughout the past year. It is an exciting time to be part of our organization and I hope to share my excitement with you.

SOMOS Management: I am excited to inform you that we have changed the management company that serves our organization. In 2002, SOMOS was managed by the president and the Board of Directors (BOD). We made a change in 2003 to have an outside organization (TRUE Research) manage the society and our Annual Meeting. The improvement in the quality of the products of SOMOS was evident. Over the past several years, our organization has grown in its emphasis and involvement in the national and international orthopaedic community. Unfortunately, TRUE Research has not been able to grow with us, and many of the essential factors of managing our organization were dropped or ignored. It became increasingly evident to the BOD that a change was required.

Over the past 2 years, the BOD has conducted a search of non-profit organizations to manage SOMOS. After reviewing over 20 proposals, we selected Data Trace Management Corporation, LLC as our partner. Data Trace currently manages the Eastern, Western and Southern Orthopaedic Associations, publishes the Foot and Ankle International, and their business is orthopaedic surgery. The leadership of the organization has strong and established relationships with the AAOS leadership, the orthopaedic device and industry leadership, and has a strong history of quality society management. I am excited to announce that they will be involved with us and help us as we go forward.

AAOS Partnership: The AAOS has fully accepted and respects SOMOS as a subspecialty society. The AAOS leadership constantly asks our society for official opinion, involvement, co-branding, and leadership in many of the challenges that face orthopaedics nationwide.

A prime example is the AAOS/OTA/SOMOS sponsored Extremity War Injury Symposium. I am proud to announce that we are in the preparation of the FIFTH Annual Meeting. This meeting serves as a working meeting to discuss the challenges of war injury management as well as inspiring research efforts to improve the care of our patients. The AAOS and OTA have seized this opportunity to lobby congress and now have secured nearly 100 Million Dollars of congressional money that is directed towards funding orthopaedic research. This year, the verbiage changed to eliminate "trauma" from the text; a move that will allow this funding to hopefully support all areas of our orthopaedic research.

Additionally, from this meeting the OTA has conducted the Visiting Scholars program at Landstuhl Germany and continues to be involved in assisting with management of these patients. Furthermore, each SOMOS member is still offered "free" OTA membership.

The future of this meeting and this collaboration is promising with SOMOS membership leading the way in areas such as disaster preparedness and management.

Annual Meeting: Once again, the Army has selected to return to Hawaii for another great meeting, December 14-19, 2009. The venue may be the same, but the program is going to be exciting and fun. Kudos to our Navy colleagues as last year's meeting was a great success. This year we will continue and expand upon the ICL symposium with an exceptional list of national leaders of orthopaedics at the podium. The Army Surgeon General, LTG Eric Schoomaker will be the presidential guest lecturer, and we look forward to his unique insights and thoughts during this challenging time.

Last year we introduced the distinguished COL Brian Allgood Military Orthopaedic Leadership Memorial Award. This year we will continue the honor of another award winner. In addition, we will have a new symposium on orthopaedic leadership opportunities in the military. This is going to be a symposium you won't want to miss.

The trauma committee also has a great line-up with the Combat Extremity Surgery Course and a new feature is being worked on; ATLS at the meeting. Your leadership is working to make this meeting the "Main Event" for military orthopaedic surgeons!

This year we will bring back the Commander's Cup competition between the services. Bring your board shorts, running shoes, and golf clubs. We are going to have an outrigger canoe race, a mini-biathlon (swim and run), and of course a golf tournament. Points will be awarded by service to bring back the rivalry. GO ARMY!

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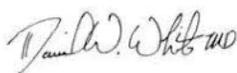
**Data Trace
Executive Director
Chuck Freitag**

President's Message continued

The packed academic schedule, leadership symposium, deployment preparation, tri-service competition, and social and networking opportunities; and all will be available in the paradise of Hawaii. This is a meeting that you won't want to miss!

SOMOS Membership: There are many exciting features of our society today. Many of these features are dependent upon membership participation. I encourage everyone to visit our newly formed website www.somos.org and renew your membership. Data Trace has secured a membership bonus that allows all who sign up to get free CME from the *Journal of Surgical Orthopaedic Advances* (JSOA). Don't miss this opportunity, sign up for your membership today!

It has been a great honor to be your president and I look forward to seeing you in Hawaii in December.



Daniel W. White, MD
LTC, US Army
2009 SOMOS President

Board Announcement

At its meeting on January 26, 2009, the Board of Directors elected a 2nd Vice President and three new AAOS Board of Specialty Society Representatives to the SOMOS Board.

As a Society, we were extremely fortunate to have had interest in the position expressed by three excellent and worthy candidates: CDR Michael Mazurek, MC, USN; CDR Eric Hofmeister, MC, USN; and Lcdr Matthew Provencher, MC USN.

While it was a challenging decision, the Board is pleased to announce the election of Lcdr Matthew Provencher as 2nd Vice President. Matt has done an excellent job as Board Treasurer and we are confident that he will meet the responsibilities of this new appointment in an exceptional way. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Provencher.

We would like to offer our sincere appreciation to Dr. Mazurek and Dr. Hofmeister, who will continue to make strong contributions to SOMOS and will be inherent in the Society's future success.

Additionally, the Board wishes to express its thanks to the members who have demonstrated interest in representing SOMOS on the AAOS Board of Specialty Society (BOS). The applicant pool was filled with several well qualified and distinguished military orthopaedic leaders to include COL Joac Tenuta, MC USA; COL Bertram Providence, MC USA; Lt Col Anthony Brothers, MC USAF; Lt Col Warren Kadrmas, MC USAF; Maj Mark Slabaugh, MC USAF; Maj Michael Peelle, MC USAF; Maj Brandon Horne, MC USAF, Maj C. Dain Allred, MC USAF; MAJ Joseph Hsu, MC USA; and Lcdr John-Paul Rue, MC USN. The leaders selected to represent SOMOS at the AAOS Board of Specialty Society are Lt. Col Warren Kadrmas, MC USAF; Lcdr John-Paul Rue, MC USN; and MAJ Joseph Hsu, MC USA. Please join me in congratulating these officers. We would also like to offer sincere appreciation to all the applicants for their volunteerism.

In order to allow sufficient opportunity for appropriate review and discussion of the nominations, the Board elected to postpone a decision on the resident representative to the SOMOS Board of Directors for a later date. We will provide the membership with an update when a decision has been finalized.

Once again, our congratulations to Dr. Provencher, Dr. Kadrmas, Dr. Rue, and Dr. Hsu, and thanks to all who participated.

Consultant's Corner

Air Force Colleagues,

I hope that this letter finds you enjoying an outstanding start to the summer of 2009. I am looking forward to an outstanding meeting at SOMOS in Hawaii this December and hope that you will be able to make it also.



Deployments have become a regular part of our clinical practice, with the large majority of us having served overseas. Thanks to each of you who have served our military men and women in a deployed location over the past year.

The GME Integrated Forecast Board will release the fellowship openings for 2011 training year starts in late June/early July. I am anticipating that we will have fellowship slots for Hand, Spine, Peds, and Shoulder/Elbow approved. Keep your eyes posted for the official release. I will be conducting interviews in August and September at your convenience.

Thanks for all of your efforts to pursue excellence. It has been a great pleasure to serve as your consultant over the past three years. Please let me know if there is anything that I can be doing to help you in your Air Force orthopedic practice.

*James A. Keeney, MD
Lt Col, USAF, MC, FS
Orthopaedic Surgery Consultant to the USAF Surgeon General
James.Keeney@lackland.af.mil*

Dear Colleagues,

I represent the U.S. Air Force Reserve on the SOMOS Board of Directors. The reservists who are SOMOS members have many issues that are identical to their active duty colleagues, and some issues, such as their civilian employment, that are different. SOMOS responded to these differences by creating AMOS, the Association of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons, to represent the specific needs of our reserve colleagues to the AAOS.

*Reserve Representative - Air Force (Voting Member)
Brig. Gen Michael Yaszemski, MD, PhD*

About The Sentinel



Welcome!

The primary mission of the *SOMOS Sentinel* is to share information with our SOMOS membership. We would like to provide a forum where information may be conveyed from our orthopaedic consultants/ service advisors, SOMOS leadership, and annual meeting organizers to all our members. We encourage you to give us your input for future editions. We, the SOMOS Board, are here to serve you, our members.

The *SOMOS Sentinel* is the official publication of the Society of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons. Our Society's mission is to provide a forum for the interchange of medical knowledge as it relates to the practice of orthopaedic surgery in the military. This newsletter serves as an important link.

Each member of SOMOS must be or must have been an orthopaedic surgeon or resident orthopaedic surgeon of the Armed Forces. This includes active duty, retired, and honorably discharged members of all three military services, Army, Air Force, and Navy. Additionally, we have established an Allied Member category that includes military surgeons from allied nations.

SOMOS Newsletters are sent electronically. Newsletters are sent April, July and October. Please renew your membership and/or update your information (to include a current email address) online at www.somos.org.

Membership Dues

Eligible members: Update your 2009 membership dues online at www.somos.org

As a reminder, 2009 membership dues must be current to attend the Annual Meeting in Honolulu.



**NATIONAL
TRAUMA
INSTITUTE**

ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

AUG 31 - SEP 01, 2009 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

The next Combat Extremity Surgery Course (CESC) will be held in San Antonio, Texas on Aug 31 – Sept 01, 2009 in coordination with the National Trauma Institute Annual Symposium. The CESC provides deploying surgeons the skills necessary to manage extremity trauma. During this course, deploying surgeons will receive didactic and practical cadaveric lab surgical training that will prepare them to stabilize and resuscitate extremity trauma. Attendees will also learn the appropriate deployed-setting soft-tissue coverage techniques for these wounds. Central funding is available for attendees, please contact MAJ Jess Kirby at jess.kirby@amedd.army.mil or (786) 295-4669 for details and TDY arrangements.

51st Annual Meeting Information

December 14-19, 2009 • Hilton Hawaiian Village • Honolulu, HI

Call for Abstracts



The Society of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons will present its next Annual Meeting on December 14-19, 2009 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu, Hawaii. The SOMOS Meeting is one of the premier meetings for military orthopaedists. The Scientific Program will be developed to present timely reviews of practice-related techniques and clinical research findings in orthopaedic surgery through accepted key papers.

We invite you to submit one or more abstracts/papers for the meeting, as this is an excellent opportunity to present a paper to your peers. The submission deadline is **September 1, 2009**. Abstract applications may be submitted online through the SOMOS's web site. Visit us at www.somos.org and click on the "Call for Abstracts" link.

We look forward to receiving your abstract/paper and to seeing you in Hawaii.

Abstract submissions are being accepted online between May 1 and September 1, 2009.

Special Events and Activities Schedule

December 14 - Welcome/Exhibitor Reception

Visit with colleagues, friends and industry professionals during this great start to the meeting.

December 15 - Outrigger Canoe Race

Enjoy an invigorating outrigger canoe race off the beautiful shores of Hawaii.

December 15 - Hawaiian Luau

Have a great time at a luau in the gorgeous Hale Koa Luau Gardens.

December 16 - Vendor Workshop

Come see the vendors at this special workshop while enjoying lunch.

December 17 - Golf Tournament

4 Person Scramble Tournament at the Kaneohe MCB Golf Course for all the golf enthusiasts.

December 18 - Mini Biathlon

Join the competition with a vigorous swim in the Hilton Lagoon and run in the great outdoors.

December 18 - Annual Awards Reception

Enjoy a wonderful evening to close out the meeting and recognize the exceptional attendees.

Conference Location

Hilton Hawaiian Village occupies 22 lushly landscaped oceanfront acres on the widest stretch of famous Waikiki Beach in Honolulu on the Island of Oahu. The resort has 2,860 guestrooms in five towers, and offers a range of accommodations from standard rooms to presidential suites with garden to spectacular ocean views. This fabulous Hawaii hotel is inhabited by exotic wildlife and woven among tropical gardens, waterfalls and resort pools, including the stunning Super Pool framed by towering palms just steps from the beach.



There's something for everyone at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, with 20 restaurants and lounges as well as 90 shops, boutiques and the exquisite Mandara Spa. Daily free activities are offered, along with easy access to activities and recreation of every kind, including snorkeling, surfing and Atlantis submarine excursions. Resort activities include nightly torch lighting with poolside entertainment and Friday night King's Jubilee and Fireworks Show. In addition the resort has a children's program – Rainbow Express Keiki Club. An ocean of fun is just steps away, or guests can choose to relax around their favorite of five sparkling pools.

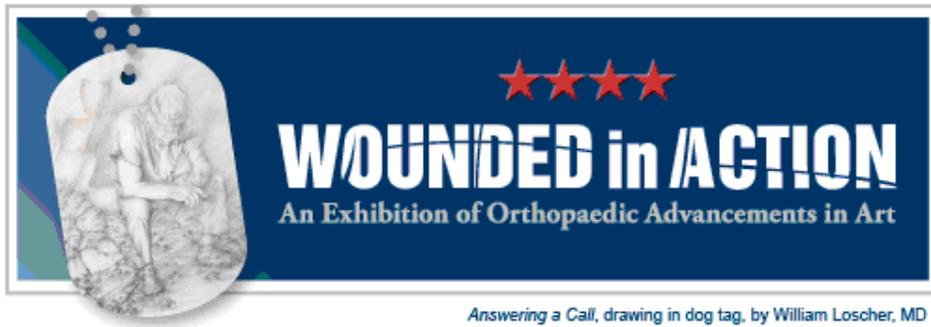
Combat Extremity Surgery Course

This year the Combat Extremity Surgery Course (CESC) will once again be offered at the Annual Meeting. The purpose of the CESC is to provide deployed surgeons the skills necessary to manage extremity trauma. In addition to fractures, it is not uncommon for battlefield extremity injuries to also have complex soft tissue injuries, vascular injuries and/or burns.

During the intensive 3 day course, deploying surgeons will receive didactic and practical surgical training that will prepare them to stabilize and resuscitate extremity trauma. Attendees will also learn the appropriate deployed-setting soft-tissue coverage techniques for these wounds.

COL Brian Allgood Military Orthopaedic Leadership Award Submissions Open

The prestigious COL Brian Allgood Memorial Leadership Award, established in 2007, will be awarded at the Annual Meeting opening ceremonies and will be a highlight of the meeting. It is awarded annually for leadership excellence in military Orthopaedic surgery in honor of COL Allgood, United States Military Academy Class of 1982. An example for all military surgeons, COL Allgood served his country as an Orthopaedic surgeon, a leader of character, and a champion for the wounded warrior. He was killed in combat in Iraq on January 20, 2007. Candidates for the Brian Allgood Award are military Orthopaedic surgeons who have distinguished themselves as exceptional leaders in military Orthopaedic surgery. This award will be presented to the individual who best exemplifies COL Allgood's attributes of selfless leadership, commitment to excellence in military Orthopaedics, and loyalty to the ideas of Duty, Honor and Country.



Answering a Call, drawing in dog tag, by William Loscher, MD

“War is the only proper school for surgeons”
— Hippocrates

A Program of the AAOS 75th Anniversary Celebration

Juried Exhibition:

March, 2010

Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, La.

Submission Deadline:

October 15, 2009

Theme: **Wounded in Action: An Exhibition of Orthopaedic Advancements in Art** celebrates those heroes who have had orthopaedic injuries as a result of serving our country in war. From World War II to Korea to Viet Nam, from the Gulf War to Afghanistan to Iraq, thousands of military troops serving the United States have had extreme and severe musculoskeletal injuries.

This exhibition also recognizes those orthopaedic surgeons who, throughout history, have risked their own safety to care for our troops, to save lives and limbs, to advance medical treatments, and to conduct research and learn from war in order to better treat those who sustain orthopaedic trauma.

The art in this exhibition will reflect what has been learned in trauma care throughout history that affects how trauma patients are treated today and the impact war injuries have on the lives of those injured, their families, and the doctors who treat them.

This Exhibition is a tribute to injured troops, civilians, and the orthopaedic surgeons who are caring and have cared for them as they served and/or serve our country in time of crisis.

Eligibility: This exhibit is open to artists in three categories:

- 1.) Military personnel who have sustained orthopaedic/musculoskeletal injuries in any war or family members of any age (children included) who have been affected by those injuries.
- 2.) Orthopaedic Surgeons who have provided medical care for wounded warriors throughout history, either in the military, in the Distinguished Visiting Scholars Program, in the course of their practice, or through orthopaedic research.
- 3.) Injured civilians or artists of any age whose lives have been affected by war and have been touched in some way by the loss of extremity and/or other musculoskeletal injuries of war.

Submissions will be accepted at woundedinactionart.org beginning May 15, 2009, and due October 15, 2009.

Contact: Sandra R. Gordon, Director, Public Relations
American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

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E: gordon@aaos.org

“War makes a better human being out of you because you are exposed to war’s inhumanity, so the value of humanity becomes very dear. War is an obscene laboratory experience, but perhaps it has to be. If we don’t gain something positive from the horrible negatives of war, we’ve not done our duty. What we as doctors should come away with is better care of the wounded, greater survival and less disabilities. That seems to be where we should be headed, but the real goal is just to get rid of all wars.”

— John T. Hayes, MD

