



# SOMOS Sentinel

The Official Publication of the Society of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons

July 2011

## President's Message

Matthew Provencher, MD  
CDR, USN



Dear SOMOS Colleagues:

I am incredibly proud and honored to serve you this year as our organization continues to enjoy an incredible surge in membership, and has clearly become a leader within the musculoskeletal specialty societies. Our continued success is

largely due to an incredibly talented pool of SOMOS members, committee staff, and volunteers who have helped steer us in many positive and exciting new directions. Just to summarize a few of SOMOS' recent accomplishments:

- **Vail, CO Annual Meeting 2010** – under the leadership of Lt. Col “JT” Tokish and Program Chairman Lt.Col Robert Sullivan, SOMOS enjoyed one of its most successful meetings (52nd Annual!), particularly in terms of educational content, attendance, and vendor support.
- **Collaborative efforts with AAOS and Specialty Societies.** SOMOS has worked diligently with the AAOS, OTA, and other societies in order to become the pre-eminent authority on disaster relief and humanitarian assistance training. Utilizing our well-honed deployment skills to austere environments, our disaster relief efforts under the leadership of COL Tad Gerlinger are particularly exciting as we embark on new educational endeavors. The first of which will be showcased at the upcoming SOMOS Meeting and will be called the 1st Annual SOMOS Disaster Response Course (DRC) at the SOMOS Annual Meeting in Dec 2011 in San Diego, CA.
- **Launch of the SOMOS Disaster Preparedness and Trauma Care Toolbox.** In conjunction with our management organization (Data Trace Management

Services), SOMOS has pioneered a website dedicated to the education and training for disaster relief. LtCol Benjamin Kam and COL Tad Gerlinger have been instrumental in spearheading the efforts to stand up the first website dedicated to the care of the wounded in austere environments and training to assist all those who are providing orthopaedic care in the face of natural disasters or other conflicts. Copy and past the address below into your browser to get more details.

[http://www.wheelsonline.com/ortho/disaster\\_preparedness\\_toolbox](http://www.wheelsonline.com/ortho/disaster_preparedness_toolbox)

- **Clarified investment strategies.** The goals are to maintain financial solvency of the SOMOS Organization, and fund in perpetuity multiple educational and philanthropic ventures, including the Allgood, Kirk and Founder's Award.
- **Instituted the CDR Michael Mazurek Clinician Scholar Award** In conjunction with the AAOS Clinician Scientist Development Program (CSDP). Additional details found on page 4.
- **Other collaborative efforts with specialty societies** such as the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH), and the Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA). Educational events such as the AANA-SOMOS Shoulder Course in 2010 were a resounding success and in 2011 AANA will again partner with SOMOS for a Knee Course. The ASSH has also provided scholarships for military surgeons.

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## President's Message Continued...

- **Continued success of the Extremity War Injury (EWI) Symposium.** Under the SOMOS Leadership of Col Ficke, the first 5 EWI symposiums have been incredibly successful to help poise SOMOS as the leader in wartime and disaster relief orthopaedic casualty care. This continues to be a marquee event for SOMOS in conjunction with the AAOS and OTA to showcase the best military and civilian trauma research and serves to define current knowledge regarding management of extremity war injuries for the NIH, Congress, DOD, surgeons, researchers, and other relevant government agencies.
- **Multicenter collaboration.** One of the main goals this year is to ensure that SOMOS becomes a leader in multicenter clinical research. From war injuries to scaphoid fractures, low back pain, young joint arthroplasty and ACL tears, the military population is an ideal environment to determine what is working best for our young active warriors. SOMOS is working hard to introduce easier methods in which to conduct research and propel us to the forefront of excellent clinical outcomes studies with consolidated protocols and IRB submission templates.

The program for the 2011 Annual Meeting is nearly finalized and we have an incredibly talented civilian and military faculty. There will be several exciting new additions to the meeting including Instruction Course Lectures available each morning where you will have the opportunity to interact in an up close and personal format with our civilian faculty in a case-based presentation format. We will also have multiple networking meetings, presentations by the current AAOS President, Dr Dan Berry, a leadership symposium chaired by COL(Ret.) Dean Taylor as well as cutting-edge talks, symposia, and social opportunities including a reception on the USS Midway.

It is an incredible time to be a part of SOMOS as we embark on many new and exciting opportunities. We will continue our mission to be the leader in military trauma and now disaster relief expertise in addition to our dedication to excellence in education, research, and synergistic collaborative efforts. Thank you for all of your support, and spirit of volunteerism.

See you in San Diego,



Matthew T. Provencher, MD CDR MC USN  
SOMOS President

## 53rd SOMOS Annual Meeting December 12-16, 2011

Visit [www.somos.org](http://www.somos.org) for details



Hilton San Diego Bayfront

Join us in California this December for the premier scientific meeting for military orthopaedic surgeons. In addition to the exceptional scientific program, presentations and awards, we have some fantastic activities and events planned:

- Welcome Reception
- Industry Workshops
- Awards Dinner on the USS Midway
- Commander's Cup Events - Volleyball, Climbing Wall, 5k Run
- And much, much more!

Visit us online at [www.somos.org](http://www.somos.org) for complete meeting details and online registration.



## 2011 SOMOS Officers

CDR Matthew Provencher, MD  
*President*

COL Tad Gerlinger, MD  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President*  
*AAOS BOS Education Rep*

Lt Col. Robert Sullivan, MD  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President*

Lt Col. John (JT) Tokish, MD  
*Immediate Past President*

CDR Eric P. Hofmeister, MD  
*Secretary*

Lt Col. Benjamin Kam, MD  
*Treasurer*  
*AAOS Board of Councilors Rep*

Col. (Ret) Theodore Parsons, MD  
*Managing Director*

COL Edward Arrington, MD  
CAPT Dana Covey, MD  
*AAOS Board of Councilors Reps*

COL (Ret) Hudson Berry, MD  
COL (Ret) Alonzo Diodene', Jr., MD  
*Historian - Retired Representative*

Brig. Gen Michael Yaszemski, MD, PhD  
*Reserve Representative - Air Force*

Wallace "Brad" Brucker, MD  
*Reserve Representative - Army*

CDR Daniel Solomon, MD  
*Reserve Representative - Navy*

COL James Ficke, MD  
CAPT Daniel Unger, MD  
Lt Col. Warren Kadrmas, MD  
*Members-at-Large*

LCDR Christopher Dewing, MD  
LCDR Leo Kroonen, MD  
*2011 Program Committee Chairs*

LTC Joseph Hsu, MD  
*AAOS BOS Research Representative*

CDR John Paul Rue, MD  
*AAOS BOS Communications Representative*

James A. Keeney, MD  
*AAOS BOS Health Policy Representative*

CPT Daniel Stinner, MD  
*Army Resident Representative*

LT Jonathan Roth, MD  
*Navy Resident Representative*

Capt. Dustin Lybeck, MD  
*Air Force Resident Representative*

William Hennrikus, MD  
*Philanthropy Representative*

COL Peter Sharwood, MD  
*Allied Forces Representative*

## About The Sentinel

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.

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.

SOMOS Newsletters are distributed electronically in February/March and August/September. Please renew your membership and/or update your information (to include a current email address) online at [www.somos.org](http://www.somos.org).

## 2011 Membership Categories

**Active Members:** Active duty, reserve, retired, or honorably discharged orthopaedic surgeons in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

*Annual Dues: \$150*

**Resident Members:** Active duty, reserve, retired, or honorably discharged resident orthopaedic surgeons in the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

*Annual Dues: \$0*

**Allied Members:** Orthopaedic surgeons who are active, reserve, retired or honorably discharged members of foreign military services.

*Annual Dues: \$150*

**Associate Members:** Non-military orthopaedic surgeons, either active in practice or retired, who reside in the United States.

*Annual Dues: \$125*

**Affiliate Members:** Military or non-military physicians (active practice or retired) and physician assistants who have demonstrated interest in the advancement of military medicine and the mission of SOMOS.

*Annual Dues: \$75*

**Emeritus Members:** Upon request of the member, Emeritus Membership may be conferred by the Board of Directors upon an Active Member who has reached the age of 65 and has retired from active practice.

*Annual Dues: \$0*

## Save the Dates

AANA SOMOS - A Combined Advanced  
Knee Arthroscopy Course  
August 26-28, 2011  
Chicago, IL

SOMOS Member Reception at the AAOS  
Annual Meeting, San Fransisco, CA  
February 2012

Visit [www.somos.org](http://www.somos.org) for more  
information.

## Annual Meetings



**53rd Annual Meeting**  
December 12-16, 2011  
Hilton San Diego  
Bayfront



**54th Annual Meeting**  
December 10-14, 2012  
The Naples Grande  
Naples, FL



## News from the Front

Wade Gordon, MD Lt Col, USAF USA

Bagram AF, Afghanistan – January, 2011

The Craig Joint Theater Hospital at Bagram Air Field is a Role 3 facility which currently functions as the hub for evacuation of casualties in the Afghan theater. Most casualties stop at Bagram prior to departure to Landstuhl en route to CONUS, and the hospital is staffed with three orthopaedic surgeons. The mission is to provide acute and sub-acute trauma to US and NATO casualties as they pass through, as well as definitive management of combat extremity wounds for local national civilians, Afghan Army and Police forces, and detained personnel.



*(Wade Gordon, MD - Lt Col USAF MC , Will "Hannibal" Hallier, MD - Lt Col, USAF, MC and Michael Howard, MD - Maj, USAF MC - January 2011)*

Unfortunately, the tempo of orthopaedic casualties has remained high, and with a seemingly higher level of acuity than seen in the Iraqi theater. This increase in injury severity, particularly two and three extremity amputees, is likely resultant from an increased percentage of blast injuries to soldiers on foot, rather than in vehicles. The signature injury we have seen since the “surge” in Afghanistan, is the bilateral high transfemoral amputee with associated abdominal injury, and wounds extending into the perineum and groin. In November and December, 2010, 272 orthopaedic cases were performed: 139 on US and coalition troops, and 133 on Afghan nationals. Among the latter are acetabular fractures, pilon fractures, calcaneus fractures, distal humerus fractures, non-union and deformity surgery, and circular external fixation cases.

## Leading the Way in the Community



Since 2000, members of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons have arrived at the Annual Meeting a day early to help build a playground for the local community. While many of you have volunteered in previous years, last year was the first that SOMOS organized a group of volunteers, with just over 10 participating. This year the support was overwhelming with well over 30 SOMOS volunteers participating. We want to thank you for your efforts in helping to make the 2011 AAOS Family Fitness and Fun Park build a success.

We look forward to your support in San Francisco,

Dan Stinner and Chad Krueger



## 2010 SOMOS Award Winners

SOMOS would like to acknowledge and congratulate the following Award Winners from the 52nd Annual Meeting in Vail, Colorado:



James R. Ficke, MD, COL USA  
*COL Brian Allgood Memorial Leadership Award*

Jessica D. Cross, MD, CPT USA  
*Founder's Award*

James M. Mok, MD, MAJ USA  
*Norman T. Kirk Award*

Jessica D. Cross, MD, CPT USA  
*Louise House Award*

Visit [www.somos.org](http://www.somos.org) for a full description of each award.

## 1st Annual CDR Michael Mazurek Clinician Scholar Award

Established in 2011, the CDR Michael Mazurek Award will be presented annually to a SOMOS member who has demonstrated the potential and desire to become an orthopaedic clinician scholar. This award will recognize the individual who best exemplifies CDR Mazurek's commitment to excellence in military orthopaedic education and research.



An outstanding orthopaedic educator and clinician scholar, CDR Mazurek was twice awarded the David J. Czertak Memorial Teaching Award, was the recipient of several large research grants and authored many articles, ranging from basic to clinical science. Also a decorated combat surgeon, CDR Mazurek deployed with the Marines to Fallujah, Iraq in 2004, and was recognized for his selfless actions that often occurred under fire. His distinguished service at the Naval Medical Center, San Diego, culminated in his selection as Orthopaedic Residency Program Director. In his short time with us, Commander Mazurek embodied the mission of SOMOS and improved warrior care through research and education. This award is named in his honor.

In early March, 2011 the SOMOS Awards Committee had the challenge of selecting the best overall individual to receive this prestigious award. With 13 candidates to consider and 3 weeks of discussion and deliberation, the Awards Committee would like to congratulate:



*MAJ Josef Eichinger, MD*  
*CDR Michael Mazurek Clinician Scholar Award Winner*  
for 2011

This award includes travel and expenses to participate in the 1.5 day AAOS/OREF/ORS Clinician Scholar Development Program (CSDP) as well as travel and expenses to attend the SOMOS annual meeting in December 2011. We look forward to a presentation from Dr. Eichinger on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at the Annual Awards Dinner.

Complete details for this award can be found at [www.somos.org](http://www.somos.org) Applications for the 2012 award will be accepted January 1 through March 1, 2012.

## Welcome Aboard!

SOMOS would like to acknowledge new appointments and congratulate the newest members of the Board of Directors:

Lt Col. Robert Sullivan, MD  
*2nd Vice President*

CAPT Dana Covey, MD  
*AAOS BOC Representative - Navy*

Lt Col. Benjamin Kam, MD  
*AAOS BOC Representative - Air Force*

CAPT William L Hennrikus MD  
*Philanthropy Representative*

We appreciate your willingness to serve and your dedication to the mission and membership of SOMOS.

## A Few Good Men or Women Wanted...

If you or someone you know would like to become more involved in the organization, now's your chance! The 2011 Nominating Committee will hold an open call for nominations to fill the following positions on the 2012 SOMOS Board of Directors:

**2nd Vice President (Navy)**

**Treasurer**

**AAOS Board of Councilors Representative -  
Education Committee**

Complete job descriptions and nominating procedures are available online at [www.somos.org](http://www.somos.org)

**Applications will be accepted  
August 15 to October 15, 2011**

Current CV, letter of interest, and Active SOMOS membership required for consideration.

## 2011 COL Brian Allgood Memorial Leadership Award



Applications for the 2011 COL Brian Allgood Memorial Leadership Award will be accepted

**August 15  
to  
October 15, 2011**

Full award description and application procedures are available on the website. Visit [www.somos.org](http://www.somos.org) for complete details.

The winner of this prestigious award will be announced at the 2011 Annual Meeting in San Diego on Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

Don't miss it!

## A Message from the Editor

John Paul Rue, MD  
CDR USN

Dear SOMOS Membership,

As an organization, our strength is in our members, and as you can see from the articles in this edition of the Sentinel, SOMOS members continue to take the lead in many fields of Orthopaedic Surgery, positively impacting lives and improving patient care in wartime situations in Iraq and Afghanistan, in disaster areas such as Haiti, as well as in austere environments across the globe. Thank you for your service and your contributions. Please continue to send us your stories and experiences!

Best regards,

John Paul Rue, MD  
Communications Committee Chair

