

SOMOS Sentinel



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF MILITARY ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

President's Message to Membership



Dear SOMOS Colleagues,

Greetings from Eglin Air Force Base! It remains an exciting time to be a member of SOMOS and a military orthopedic surgeon in spite of sequestration and the current budgetary uncertainty. Many thanks to Data Trace Management Services, our service Orthopedic Consultants (Captain Eric Hoffmeister, Colonel Warren Kadrmass, and Colonel Phil Belmont), the SOMOS Board of Directors, and our Committee Chairs who have committed countless hours to the continued success and progression of our society. Notable recognition most certainly belongs to this year's Program Directors, Lt Colonels Chris Lebrun and Dain Allred, who have tirelessly worked to build an outstanding agenda for the upcoming annual meeting in Vail, Colorado.

Presently your Board of Directors remains focused on the annual meeting, but prior to outlining the details of our program for Vail, I want to share with you some SOMOS highlights over the past nine months. This past February, SOMOS members successfully cohosted along with the AAOS, OTA, and ORS the 8th Extremity War Injury Symposium. We look forward to an EWI update from Colonel Romney Anderson at our annual meeting. This Spring SOMOS selected Captain Jonathan Dickens as our third Mazurek Award winner. As a result, Jonathan was sponsored by SOMOS to attend the AAOS Clinician Scholar Development Program (CSDP) in September. The CSDP is an invaluable course for young orthopedic surgeons demonstrating the potential and desire to become clinician scientists. Congratulations, Jonathan! In March, SOMOS again successfully hosted the Disaster Response Course during the AAOS Meeting in Chicago. Many thanks and kudos to Tad Gerlinger, Ted Parsons, and the SOMOS, OTA, and POSNA faculty on hand for the sold out course!

At the invitation of the Orthopedic Research Society and through the efforts of our SOMOS Research Committee Chair, Kyle Potter, SOMOS will present a collaborative workshop entitled, "Orthopedic Combat-Casualty Care: Research Progress and

Persistent Gaps after More than a Decade of Conflict", at the 2014 Annual ORS Meeting. Additionally, due to the efforts of our Education Chair, Lt Col Ky Kobayashi, and Captain Chad Krueger, SOMOS will present a scientific exhibit at the 2014 AAOS Meeting in New Orleans. The SOMOS Research Collaborative continues to perform outstanding and unprecedented research resulting in multiple high quality publications in 2013. As always, there remain numerous opportunities for you to get involved with SOMOS and our respective committee chairs are ready to hear from you.

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About the SOMOS 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. To be sure you receive the newest newsletters, please renew your membership and/or update your information (to include a current email address) online at www.somos.org.

If you have information you would like to see included in the next SOMOS Sentinel, please email Communications Chair, Maj. Mark Slabaugh, MD at info@somos.org.

Save the Date!

Don't Forget to Visit the SOMOS Reception at the 2014 AAOS Meeting!
Thursday, March 13, 2014
New Orleans, LA

56th Annual Meeting
December 15-19, 2014
Fairmont Scottsdale Princess
Scottsdale, AZ



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Don't Miss the 2013 Annual Meeting



The 2013 SOMOS Annual Meeting will soon be upon us! This year we return to snowy Vail, CO for lectures, labs, presentations, papers, posters, symposia and more!

Dec. 9-13, 2013. Be sure to mention that you are with the group to receive discounted rates. Military (ID Required at check in) and Civilian rates are available.



We are excited to be returning to one of our favorite venues, the Vail Marriott Mountain Hotel on December 9-13, 2013.

The closest airport is Vail Eagle County Regional Airport (EGE) and is about a 40-minute drive to the hotel, or you can fly into Denver International Airport (DEN), which is approximately an hour and 45-minute drive to the hotel.



In addition to a rigorous scientific program for you, there will also be plenty for the family to do and enjoy, so please feel free to bring everyone along!

We understand approvals to attend the meeting from your commands are still pending. We encourage you to register for the meeting and will offer refunds if your service does not receive approval.

A block of rooms has been reserved for SOMOS from

Welcome Your New Army Consultant

After many years of serving as the Orthopaedic Consultant to the US Army Surgeon General, COL James Ficke, MD has retired from Army service. SOMOS would like to thank him for his assistance and services!

Stepping in to fill COL Ficke's shoes is COL Philip J. Belmont Jr. MD. COL Belmont is a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. He graduated from the Duke University School of Medicine and completed his internship and orthopaedic surgery residency at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. COL Belmont then completed an Adult Reconstruction Fellowship at the Anderson Clinic in Alexandria, Virginia.

He is currently an Associate Professor of Surgery (Orthopaedics) at the

Uniformed Services University. He served as an orthopaedic surgeon with the 228th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq and has been the Program Director of the William Beaumont Army Medical Center /Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program at William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, Texas since 2007.

COL Belmont has been continually involved in research relating to musculoskeletal care of military service members and total joint arthroplasty. Dr. Belmont has over 50 peer-reviewed publications in international journals and over 100 podium/poster presentations.

His work as a co-author has been awarded the 2002 Hibbs Basic Sci-

ence Research Award at the Scoliosis Research Society, outstanding clinical science research for the 2003 Bailey K. Ashford Award, outstanding paper for the 2003 Eastern and Southern Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting and 2013 Texas Orthopaedic Association and Founder's Award for the 2009 Society of Military Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Additionally, COL Belmont co-edited the text *Combat Orthopedic Surgery: Lessons Learned in Iraq and Afghanistan* which was designed to address the need for an evidence-based resource that prepares military orthopedic surgeons facing deploying to today's combat zones. COL Belmont also serves as an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Surgical Orthopaedic Advances* and is a Reviewer for the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*.

President's Message ... Continued

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This year's meeting continues to bring the best SOMOS has to offer with an approved 34.25 AMA PRA Category 1 credits from current concept lectures, scientific podium and poster presentations, and multimedia booths. Thanks to the SOMOS Research Collaborative, our GME programs, EWI, and the culture established by our recent SOMOS leadership, over 200 abstracts were submitted this year. The meeting will have many non CME educational opportunities as well to include multiple cadaveric operative skills labs, hands on vendor workshops, and an opportunity to present your complex surgical cases for discussion with an incomparable, nationally recognized faculty at no additional cost to the attendees!

The SOMOS developed Disaster Response Course is co-located with this year's annual meeting as well and continues to be our nation's premier didactic and hands on cadaveric course in the field of orthopedic disaster relief and humanitarian assistance. If you desire to attend the DRC, I direct you to the AAOS website to register. SOMOS continues to support the development of orthopedic leadership and I am proud to announce the return of the John Feagin

Leadership Program to our leadership symposia. This year's theme is entitled "The Orthopedic Surgeon as a Leader: In Your Hospital, In Medicine, and In Your Community". We look forward to hearing from Dr. Dean Taylor and his team from Duke University. A number of social events will complement the educational program culminating in an awards dinner Thursday evening where we will formally recognize our paper and poster presenters and our Allgood and Mazurek award recipients.

I recognize funding for travel and lodging for the annual meeting remain a considerable challenge for our active duty membership. Please realize your BOD has worked extremely hard to secure resources to allow individuals in need of funding assistance. There exist multiple avenues to secure travel assistance through SOMOS. Please get with your respective service consultant regarding the details. It is CRITICAL that you do so.

Please be aware, our SOMOS Board of Specialty Representatives to the AAOS are actively engaged in seeking AAOS advocacy to restore DoD fiscal and administrative support for

military orthopedists to obtain the necessary CME, didactics, and surgical skills advancement opportunities critical to the care of our wounded warriors. This includes support for SOMOS and our annual meeting.

SOMOS remains committed to its membership and its goals of continued excellence in education, research, military readiness, and leadership in orthopedics. All of you are valued members of a proud SOMOS tradition. There exists multiple opportunities for you to take an active role in your subspecialty society and I encourage you to view the website to review the open nominations for next year's Board of Directors. Also take time to review the current committee chairs and contact them regarding ways to get involved. I promise an active participation in SOMOS will be time well spent and will dramatically change your military orthopedic experience.

Again, thank you to all of the members of SOMOS who have contributed to make this a great year for SOMOS during difficult times. I look forward to seeing you in Vail!

Robert T Sullivan
Colonel, USAF, MC
President

Haven't Renewed Your 2013 Membership Yet???

Residents and Emeritus are FREE! Just go online and provide your contact information to continue your membership. Active duty military orthopaedic surgeon membership is just \$150!

Renew TODAY at www.somos.org.

Letters from Your Specialty Leaders

NAVY

Greetings Naval Orthopaedic Colleagues,

Thank you to all for what you do everyday. Due to our success, Navy Orthopedic Surgeons continue to be in high demand throughout the world, including on the battlefield. In 2012, 45% of our community was deployed at one time or another, and I am happy to announce the taskers for support on the war on terrorism continue to decline. The Navy Surgeon General stated last year, "As long as Kandahar is open, it will be a Navy mission." However, requests to support the US Marines, Navy Fleet Hospitals, IA billets, and reserve billets have greatly decreased. Mission taskers for January have already been assigned, so if you want to deploy, now is the time to let your chain of command know you are volunteering!

The season for interviews and applications for Orthopedic internship, residency, and fellowship has started. The precept for the GMESB has been released, and all are encouraged to review this document. Attempts at increasing the number of residents and fellows are underway as at the moment these are limited. Every type of specialty will be required in the near future, so if interested in a training spot, be sure to apply.

Work is being done to hold the Combat Extremity Surgical Course (CESC) during the same time as SOMOS once again this year. The CESC has been a required course for all Navy Orthopedic Surgeons and Physician Assis-

tants every three years, with priority for those soon to deploy. Request for central funding for FY2014 has been submitted.

Finally, funding for the SOMOS Annual Meeting has been submitted to BUMED and the Secretary of Navy for approval. Last year the meeting was approved the day the meeting began; lets hope this year approval comes much sooner! SOMOS will once again have high caliber research projects presented, guest lectures, case reviews, and case controversies. It is also a good time to discuss deployments, personal career progression, and upcoming PCS's.

Have a great, safe, and fun filled year!

CAPT Eric Hofmeister
Navy Orthopedic Specialty Leader
Eric.Hofmeister@med.navy.mil

ARMY

Greetings Army Orthopaedic Colleagues,

I would first like to thank each and every one of the hard-working and dedicated group of nearly 250 Army orthopaedic surgeons and residents who continually provide expert clinical care to those military service members whether they are deployed overseas or at home.

We are in 12th year of the Afghanistan War and the operational tempo for orthopaedic surgery deployments has continued to remain high as we currently have ten active-duty orthopaedic surgeons deployed to

Afghanistan. I would like to personally recognize the nearly 30 orthopaedic surgeons who have deployed over the past year for your faithful service and representing Army Orthopaedic Surgery in a positive light by delivering excellent care to our warriors and their family members.

The coming year of 2014 will hopefully see the operational requirements for deployments for orthopaedic surgery decline but as long as there are soldiers deployed overseas our clinical expertise will be needed.

This year there are 19 orthopaedic surgery residency and 9 orthopaedic surgery fellowship positions available. The competition for Army orthopaedic surgery residency positions has been intense, with an average of 1.47 medical school applicants per orthopaedic surgery position during the years 2007-2011.

For orthopaedic surgeons interested in competing for a sponsored subspecialty fellowship training program in Hand, Sports, Spine, Foot and Ankle and Adult Reconstruction please apply through the Army GME website (<https://education.mods.army.mil/meded/userLogon/UserLogon.asp>). It is imperative to stay up to date on submission deadlines for this system and to recheck submissions on a regular basis. I encourage all interested applicants for residency or fellowship positions to apply and to contact me personally if they have any questions.

The Army continues to enjoy continued success in its collaborative activities with SOMOS in putting on

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Specialty Leader Letters ... Continued

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the Disaster Response Course and the Extremity War Injuries Symposium. The upcoming SOMOS meeting should continue to be a superb meeting for all orthopaedic surgeons and a chance for us to participate in meaningful scholarly research and discovery.

The Army has made it increasingly difficult over the past year for all active-duty orthopaedic surgeons to participate in academic meetings. The Army orthopaedic surgery leadership has continued to turn in the necessary applications and tasks for the Secretary of Defense to authorize us to attend SOMOS and we will also do the same for the annual AAOS meeting.

Best wishes for a successful year and I hope to see you at SOMOS this year.

COL Philip J. Belmont Jr., MD
Orthopaedic Surgery Consultant, U.S.
Army Surgeon General
Philip.j.belmont.mil@mail.mil

AIR FORCE

Greetings Air Force Orthopedic Colleagues,

Thank you to all for what you do for our beneficiaries on a daily basis. Due to our success within the AOR, Air Force Orthopedic Surgeons continue to be in high demand for deployment. However, with the projected withdrawal, we have also had a decrease in the deployed requirement which will allow all of us more time to provide care at home stations. Deployment taskings for 2014 are cur-

rently being reviewed and released, so if you want to deploy, now is the time to let your chain of command know you are volunteering! As many of you are aware, the consultant has been taken out of the loop for most deployment issues so please email me with any questions or concerns. I would urge each facility to rank list members of your department and 'volunteer' as taskings are released.

Interviews and applications for Orthopedic residency, and fellowship have been completed and we have been blessed with an abundance of fellowship positions with outstanding applicants. Manning documents have been adjusted to provide equivalent fellowship opportunities to our civilian counterparts. I hope that each of you gets the chance to apply for and enter a fellowship of your choosing.

Conference submission and approval continues to be a frustrating endeavor. Packages for SOMOS and AAOS have been entered and are awaiting review and approval. I am cautiously optimistic that each will be approved at the last minute. However, alternate means of attendance to SOMOS are being sought. Please contact your readiness departments and inquire into attending CESC in Colorado Springs, or DRC in Vail. These courses will fulfill the EWS readiness requirement and will allow you to receive flights to and from SOMOS.

Finally, many initiatives have been submitted to allow each of us a rewarding clinical experience. Expectations and definition of our 'duty day' continue to be debated and recommendations have been submitted.

Please feel free to call or email me at your convenience to discuss any issues that you want brought to the attention of higher levels.

Hope you all have a rewarding, safe, and enjoyable year!

Warren Kadrmas
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Air Force Consultant for Orthopaedic Surgery
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Fellow Surgeons
in Attending the
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