

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**



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During the past 6 months, the JRGOS has remained a vibrant Society. We have continued our mentoring efforts under the leadership of mentoring Chair, **Bonnie Simpson-Mason, MD** and Nth Dimensions with several activities focused on "increasing the pipeline", including the Carver Middle School Program, under the leadership of **Claudia Thomas, MD** at Tri-County Orthopaedics as well as Charter School support in Los Angeles under the leadership of Treasurer, **Eleby R. Washington, MD**. As always, our mentoring activities continue to include recruiting underrepresented medical students and supporting underrepresented Orthopaedic residents and recent graduates through Board Preparation funding and Mock Oral Exams in both Washington, DC, and Los Angeles,

California. Mentoring activities at the AAOS Meeting in New Orleans included the reception and workshop, during which interview skills were stressed, and the Trilogy Breakfast in collaboration with the Ruth Jackson Orthopaedic Society (RJOS) and the AAOS Diversity Advisory Board.

During the AAOS, we were fortunate to have former Philadelphia Mayor, The Reverend Dr. Wilson Goode, Sr., serve as our Keynote Speaker for our Annual Luncheon. Dr. Goode gave an uplifting speech regarding his nationally acclaimed "Amachi" Program. His program, which is named after a Nigerian word that means "Who knows but what God has brought us through this child", now has chapters through most of the 50 United States, as well as some Caribbean Islands. This program is focused on mentoring the children of incarcerated adults. These children statistically have about a 70% chance of being incarcerated without intervention, but with a positive role model spending one hour per week or two hours twice a month, there has been dramatic improvement in the success of mentored children both in school and in society. Dr. Goode challenged all of us to work to move beyond "success" to "significance".

Vandy Gaffney, MD, a recent graduate from the Medical College of South Carolina, is our first JRGOS Dartmouth Research Fellow. This unique Program, which has the dual purpose of supporting our mentoring and health disparity research efforts, is a fully-funded one year Research Fellowship and Master's Degree Program. Hopefully, this Program will provide the awardees the tools to become orthopaedic clinician scientists and leaders in the quest to eliminate musculoskeletal health disparities.

On May 6th and 7th, 2010, the JRGOS was very active in the AAOS, ORS, ABJS 2010 Musculoskeletal Health Disparity Symposium. The meeting co-chairs were Carlos Lavernia, a member of the Association of Latino Orthopaedic Surgeons; **Mary I. O'Connor, MD**, from RJOS; and myself. The faculty and attendees included several JRGOS members including Past President, **Augustus A. White, III, MD**; **Randall C. Morgan, Jr., MD**; **Audley A. Mackel, II, MD**; **Ramon L. Jimenez, MD**; and **William R. Martin, III, MD**, the new AAOS Medical Director. The meeting was well received with representatives from the National Institutes of Health, NAIMS, as well as multi-disciplinary leaders in musculoskeletal health disparity research. The keynote speakers included the Honorable Louis W. Sullivan, MD; former US Secretary of Health and Human Services; Congresswoman, the Honorable Donna M. Christensen and Marjorie R. Jenkins, MD, Executive Director, Laura W. Bush Institute for Women's Health.

As we move forward with our agendas of increasing diversity for underrepresented minorities, improving culturally competent care, and addressing musculoskeletal health disparities for underserved patients while meeting the needs of minority orthopaedic surgeons, it is clear we will be more successful collaborating with others who share our goals.

Have a great summer. I look forward to seeing you in San Diego.



Charles L. Nelson, MD



At its recent Annual Meeting, the AMA adopted the following new scientific policies. Noting that the five year survival rate from Melanoma among African Americans is 58.8% compared to the 84.8% in Caucasians, and because Melanoma among the Hispanic population has risen over the past 15 years, the AMA passed a policy to support and encourage efforts to increase awareness of skin cancer risk in these two groups. The policy suggests that, “all patients regardless of race or ethnicity, should use the same sun protection measures including sunscreen of at least SPF 15, avoid the sun during peak hours and have regular exams”.

The CDC Injury Research Agenda describes the research needs and priorities through 2018. Investing in the priorities outlined in this research agenda will help prevent needless deaths and painful, costly injuries. This agenda is an invitation to work with the injury prevention and control community to implement this agenda for a safer, healthier nation – one in which all people can live to their full potential. This full agenda can be viewed on the CDC website, <http://www.cdc.gov>.

A study recently published in the Annals of Internal Medicine ranked medical schools based on the communities in which their graduates worked and whether those doctors practiced primary care. The Morehouse School of Medicine, in Atlanta; Howard University College of Medicine, in the District; and Meharry Medical College in Nashville; ranked as the top three, respectively. With the exception of Howard, which has a premier orthopaedic training program, the other two schools do not offer advanced training in musculoskeletal care. We feel that JRGOS has an obligation to assist these institutions in carrying out their mission of preparing their students, who will go on to give excellent primary care, and also offer opportunities to those students who may wish to choose orthopaedics as a specialty.

ORTHOPAEDIC SECTION



GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY **zimmer**

SUNDAY, AUG 1ST

8:00 – 11:00 am
1:00 – 2:00 pm

3:00 – 5:00 pm

MONDAY, AUG 2ND

8:00 – 10:00 am

1:00 – 3:00 pm

3:00 – 4:00 pm

TUESDAY, AUG 3RD

8:00 – 10:00 am

1:00 – 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, AUG 4TH

8:00 – 10:00 am

11:00 – 10:00 am

Timothy J. Stephens, Jr., MD Research Symposium Awards

Scholars Lecture & Luncheon

Symposium: Business of Medicine
AAOS Communication Course

Symposium: Musculoskeletal Health
Disparities
Mini-Symposium: Hip Arthroplasty in Disparate
Conditions: Sickle Cell Disease, HIV &
Systemic Lupus

Adult Reconstruction & Trauma
Ortho Section Business Meeting

Sports Medicine
Pediatric & Oncology Session

Spine Session
Hand, Foot & Ankle

Daniel J. Berry, MD

1st VP, AAOS

Bonnie Simpson Mason, MD

Melvyn A. Harrington, Jr., MD

Randall C. Morgan, Jr., MD, MBA

Raymond O. Pierce, MD

Charles L. Nelson, MD

Audley M. Mackel, III, MD

William T. Long, MD

Melvyn A. Harrington, Jr., MD

Melvyn A. Harrington, Jr., MD

Melvyn A. Harrington, Jr., MD

Terry L. Thompson, MD

JRGOS Member, **William R. Martin III, MD**, was recently appointed AAOS's Medical Director. Located in the Washington, DC office, Dr. Martin supervises the office of government relations, the medical affairs department, and the department of research & scientific affairs.



Terry L. Thompson, MD, of Howard University serves as Chair of the Credential Committee of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. This Committee receives information about applicants prior to Part 11 Oral Certification as well as recertification exams.

Daryll C. Dykes, MD, PhD, serves as Chair of the Leadership Development Committee of the AAOS and has extended an invitation to members age 45 and younger to participate in this Program. The JRGOS has had several of its members participate in the past and would like to continue the trend.

George V. Russell, Jr., MD, was recognized by his institution (UMCC) as having received the Alvin H. Crawford Mentoring Award at the last AAOS Annual Meeting.

Charles L. Nelson, MD and **Mary O'Connor, MD**, served as co-sponsors 2010 AAOS/ORS/ABJS Musculoskeletal Healthcare Disparities Research Symposium. Other members who took part in the Symposium include members **Ronald Lindsey, MD**; **Randall C. Morgan, Jr., MD**; and **Augustus A. White, III, MD, PhD**. Members in attendance were: **James A. Hill, MD**; **Audley M. Mackel, III, MD**, **Raymond O. Pierce, MD** and **Claudia L. Thomas, MD**.

by Raymond O. Pierce, Jr., MD

BACK TO THE FUTURE

In "Ten Years on the Human Genome and Medicine", a recent editorial in the New England Journal of Medicine (Vol 362:2028-2029), May, 2010, Harold Varmus, MD, stated that, in spite of the fact that the teams had begun deciphering the human genome ten years ago, the full potential of a DNA based transformation of medicine had not directly affected the healthcare of most individuals. Subsequently, the June 12th edition of the New York Times reported that after 10 years, the \$3 billion Human Genome Project, which was to ferret out the genetic roots of common diseases, remains largely elusive.

In 1949, Nobel Prizing Laureate, Linus Pauling identified Sickle Cell as a molecular disease (one of the first to be identified). A controversy as how best to use this information in counseling "carriers" (people with the Sickle Cell trait) ensued, which Pauling addressed in the UCLA Law Review (Reflections on a New Biology, UCLA Law Review 15 (1968):269), stating, "I have suggested that there should be a symbol tattooed on the forehead of every young person showing possession of the sickle-cell gene or whatever similar gene. If this was done, two young people carrying the same seriously defective gene in single dose would recognize this situation at first sight and would refrain from falling in love with one another". While this culturally insensitive statement could symbolically be interpreted as being the basis of current genetic counseling, the stigma created was long lasting.

The orthopaedic manifestations of Sickle Cell Disease are still very much present and, for the most part, very little progress has been made in caring for them. The treatment of Osteonecrosis of the hip still carries the high failure rate and complication it always has. There are presently 218 clinical trials being conducted and I dare say that a few, if any, are being performed by a scientist of color. I offer this illustration as a challenge to our membership to step forward and lead the investigations into this serious disease. We can assist in obtaining funding and the Scientific Committee is willing to help as you go forward.

I will close with a quote from John Kenny, MD, editor of the Journal of the NMA (1948), "Particularly challenging to Negro physicians is Sickle Cell Anemia". Here is a disease that is not only prevalent among Negroes, but is the only disease that is entirely confined to them. Yet, nearly all the information we have about the condition has been obtained by scientists of other races. There are many things yet to be learned about Sickle Cell Anemia".

I look forward to one of our investigators, with the help and leadership of the Scientific Committee, to accept this challenge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The JRGOS will be participating in the following events:

THE 2010 NATIONAL SUMMIT ON ARTHRITIS & MUSCULOSKELETAL DISPARITIES

Mary O'Connor, MD, Summit Co-Chair

September 20-21, 2010
Doubletree Hotel Bethesda
Bethesda, Maryland

CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

October 1- 3, 2010
Ritz-Carlton Gold and Spa Resort
Montego Bay, Jamaica
<http://caribbeanortho.org/>



MS Health Disparities Summit
Co-Chairs, JRGOS President **Charles L. Nelson MD**; **Mary O'Connor, MD**;
and, **Carlos Lavernia, MD, CAOS**; **Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen**;
Marjorie R. Jenkins, MD; **Louis W. Sullivan, MD**

J. ROBERT GLADDEN ORTHOPAEDIC SOCIETY DARTMOUTH SCHOLARSHIP



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JRGOS is pleased to announce Vandy Gaffney, MD, is the recipient of the Dartmouth Scholarship

This year represented the 7th year that JRGOS hosted Mock Oral Exams in conjunction with Howard University. This was also the year we had the largest number of examinees register and participate. Examinees traveled from as far as California, Florida, Ohio, and New Jersey. Thank you for coming and for being so well prepared.

We would like to thank **Bonnie Simpson Mason, MD**, Mentoring Committee Chair; as well as members **Rodney Alan, MD**; **Michael E. Trice, MD**; **Marc Rankin, MD**; and **Aham Onyike, MD**, who participated as examiners and for their continued commitment to the next generation of orthopaedic surgeons.

As the need and demand increase, it is our hope more members will take part in this annual event.

Following is a list of current Officers of the J. Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society:

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MOCK ORALS

2010-2011
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