



GEORGIA ORTHOPAEDIC SOCIETY, INC.

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A Message From The GOS President

Kelly Homlar, M.D.



Greeting GOS Members!

Schools have let out, the temperature and humidity are rising, trauma volumes have increased – all sure signs that summer is nearly upon us! It feels as if the world is finally starting to

emerge from the COVID pandemic. People are gathering and traveling, masks are coming off, patients may even be seeing our mouths for the first time (I've had to dig out my lipstick!). Life feels a little more normal. The ups and downs of the past few years have encouraged us all to reflect on the bigger picture of life. For me, being part of a generation that had not experienced a worldwide crisis of this scale, it was a stark reminder of how fortunate we have been - taking for granted the security and stability afforded us by the sacrifice and service of many before us – and reminding me of the fragility of life. It gave me a renewed sense of gratitude – a deeper appreciation for my family, friends, and health. As orthopaedists, many of us were not truly on the front lines of COVID in that we were not triaging COVID patients, managing ventilators in the ICUs, or dealing with the emotional toil of families losing loved ones. I was certainly in awe of the bravery of our colleagues who suited up to take care of COVID patients, persevering surge after surge.

We learned that science can work at incredible speed with global collaboration of the brightest minds and the removal of red tape. In our local hospitals, we were forced to be flexible – we

learned that we can come together from different silos, think outside the box, come up with creative solutions and be able to transition and maneuver more nimbly than thought previously. We adopted technology out of necessity, much of which is here to stay. Telemedicine and virtual meetings/ conferences have enhanced our ability to take care of patients and educate residents. We now need to fine tune the utilization of these tools and find an appropriate balance. Full hospitals encouraged many of us to expand our outpatient/same day surgery indications – and low and behold patients did well and preferred avoiding the hospital!

Halting elective surgeries had huge financial implications on hospitals, causing us to question how and where we provide care to “well” patients. Most recently, we have been challenged by supply chain issues and a fluctuating work force. The pandemic also pointed out weaknesses in our healthcare system. It highlighted health disparities and access to care issues and reminded us of the importance of preventative medicine. It feels as if this is the beginning of a new era in healthcare and I look forward to seeing how healthcare delivery progresses over the next few decades.

As the pandemic seems to be slowing, we have now been met with an aftershock of divisiveness in this country – upheaval in politics, race relations, the courts, the church, even the threat of war looming – it is easy to get caught up in the negativity. In times like this, I feel privileged to be part of a profession that serves others. Medicine keeps us humble, reminds us of our similarities and our shared humanity, keeps our personal struggles in perspective knowing that so many around us are going through unbelievable struggles. Medicine, at its core, is pure in nature. No matter the politics

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or the pressures from the business of medicine, we always fall back on the fact that our primary objective is to take excellent care of patients. To serve others. Truly, it is a time to seek understanding, find similarities, build cohesiveness and stand strong together as a nation.

Since our last newsletter, your board has been busy behind the scenes, working to ensure the health of the society. We are proud to report that the society weathered the storm well financially. Because of the forethought of many prior leaders of this society, we were prepared for the possibility of a rainy day.....and what a rainy season it was! The legislative session concluded early morning April 5, 2022. Bills of interest pertained to improving mental healthcare in Georgia and surgical smoke evacuation. Several Board members served as MAG Doctor of the Day at the Capitol and recently attended the Medical Association of Georgia's 2022 Legislative Education Seminar in Young Harris, GA and are already thinking about issues/concerns for the next legislative session –ongoing scope of practice concerns, prior authorization, insurance reform, among others. And, of course, much work has already gone into planning for our annual meeting.

In October, we will be able to come together as a GOS family for some fun, fellowship, and at least 10 hours of well attended CME mixed in! It is always great to reconnect with old colleagues, meet new friends, and pick up a few new tips and tricks to take back home to our practices. It's hard to beat sunrise walks on the beach, watching the kids smile as

they come down the slide at the pool, and sunset cocktails overlooking the marsh!

This year, the presidential guest speaker is Dr. Ginger Holt, Professor and Chief of the Section of Musculoskeletal Oncology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She is a gifted educator and served as the Vanderbilt Residency Program Director for 13 years. You will be sure to gain some practical knowledge about evaluating the often feared orthopaedic oncology patient. And, seeing as we are all educators in some form (patients, families, high school/ medical students, residents), will we gain some insight into educating this current generation of learners. The dinner dance will be back at the Beach Club this year (weather permitting) with a fun, upbeat band playing sounds from many genres and decades. Come ready to dance the night away! If you haven't booked your room, do so now because the room block is filling fast!!

See you at the Cloister,

Kelly C. Homlar, MD

Kelly Homlar, MD FAOA
President, Georgia Orthopaedic Society

MAG Doctor of the Day program at the State Capitol.



To the left: Kelly Homlar, MD FAOA, GOS President, pictured with Representative Mark Newton.



Above: Kelly Homlar, MD FAOA, GOS President, pictured with Governor Brian Kemp.

GOS LOBBYIST REPORT

2022 Legislative Session



The 2022 Legislative Session wrapped up on April 4th. We were surprised to see the session go into April with so many legislators facing contested primary elections this year. The session was packed with legislation dealing with redistricting, education, senior protections, firearms, and many other topics including healthcare.

See below for some highlights for the medical community.

MENTAL HEALTH

This bill was a keynote piece of the 2022 legislative session. Improving access to mental health care was the Speaker's top priority in 2022. The Speaker authored HB 1013 known as the Mental Health Parity Act. The bill does a number of things outlined below. You can find the bill in its entirety here: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/61365>

The bill includes the following:

- requiring compliance with federal laws regarding mental health parity
- annual data calls regarding mental health parity by private insurers and annual parity compliance reviews regarding parity by state health plans
- service of cancelable loans for mental health professionals
- a grant program to establish assisted outpatient treatment programs as well as an assisted outpatient treatment unit to provide support for grantees
- authorization of a peace officer to transport a person in the midst of a mental health crisis to an evaluation facility
- standards to lessen patient contact with the criminal justice system
- implementation of a state network of local co-response teams

These and additional provisions in the omnibus bill provide Georgia with great tools to improve the state of mental health care in Georgia. While most officials recognize there is more work to be done, this was an applauded first step.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Working with prior authorization is an ongoing legislative initiative. This year, Senator Kay Kirkpatrick, dropped SB 341 which provides for guidelines for the prior authorization of a prescribed medication for chronic conditions.

The bill empowers patients to receive prior authorization for up to a year, cutting red tape for those receiving treatment.

SB 341 passed and was signed by the Governor.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

A recurring effort at the General Assembly is the expansion of the scope of practice for non-physician healthcare providers. This year was no different! We remain vigilant and were able to maintain scope of practice for physicians in 2022.

HB 369 by Representative Alan Powell included numerous scope expansions for APRNs and PAs and pushes were made to include independent practice for CRNAs. This bill did not pass despite many efforts to pass it through other bills and conference committees at the last minute.

HB 430 also by Representative Alan Powell would have updated the nurse licensure code to allow for PAs to fill out documentation for a patient to apply for disabled license plates and parking permits. While not an egregious expansion of scope in itself, this was a bill used as a vehicle for CRNA independent practice and it ultimately failed to pass.

TORT REFORM

Tort reform will continue to be a focus of the legislature in Georgia. Georgia is consistently rated as one of the worst states for tort environment for physicians. In 2022, there were no omnibus tort reform packages as we have seen in the previous two sessions but there were small gains.

HB 961 by Representative Chuck Efrstration allows for evidence of a non-party's fault and authorizes apportionment of damages in a single-defendant lawsuit. This bill passed and was signed by the Governor.

WORKFORCE AND RURAL HOSPITAL SUPPORT

With the challenges that have faced the healthcare workforce the last two years, it is important that the legislature support efforts to maintain, increase and incentivize workforce.

SB 340 by Senator Kay Kirkpatrick creates a new accreditation organization for residency programs and removes the 50-resident cap on designated teaching hospitals. The bill passed and was signed by the Governor.

HB 1041 by Representative Clay Pirkle raises the cap on income tax credits for contributions to rural hospital organizations to \$75 million per year.

ELECTIONS

Following the completion of the legislative session, it was a sprint to the primary. The primary election was held on May 24th. Below is a summary of the outcomes.

Governor – Governor Kemp defeated challenger David Perdue with over 70% of the vote. He will go on to face Democrat Stacey Abrams who ran unopposed for the Democrat nomination.

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Lt. Governor – Senator Burt Jones defeated the remainder of the GOP field with just over the 50% threshold to avoid a run-off. On the Democrat side, Kwanza Hall and Charlie Bailey will face off in a run-off on June 21st.

Secretary of State – Incumbent Brad Raffensperger defeated challenger Congressman Jody Hice by over ten points to win the Republican nomination. Democrat Bee Nguyen will face Dee Dawkins-Haigler in a run-off for the party’s nomination.

Commissioner of Insurance – Incumbent John King, who has been a friend to the medical community, defeated two challengers earning over 70% of the vote. On the Democrat side, Janice Law Robinson will face Raphael Baker in a run-off.

During this primary cycle, no incumbent legislator lost to a challenger. However, legislators that were drawn into the same district did result in two legislators not returning to the Gold Dome in 2023. Among them were House Majority Caucus Chairwoman Bonnie Rich, Rep. Rebecca Mitchell, Rep. Beth Moore and Rep. Robert Pruitt.

Following the June 21st run-off, the field will be set. The General Election will take place on November 8, 2022.

Your lobbying team was proud to represent you at the State Capitol in 2022. Thank you for your continued involvement in your political action committee (PAC). If you would like more information on the PAC or to donate, please click here <https://georgiaorthosociety.wildapricot.org/Advocacy>. With seats being won with razor thin margins our contributions are more important than ever!

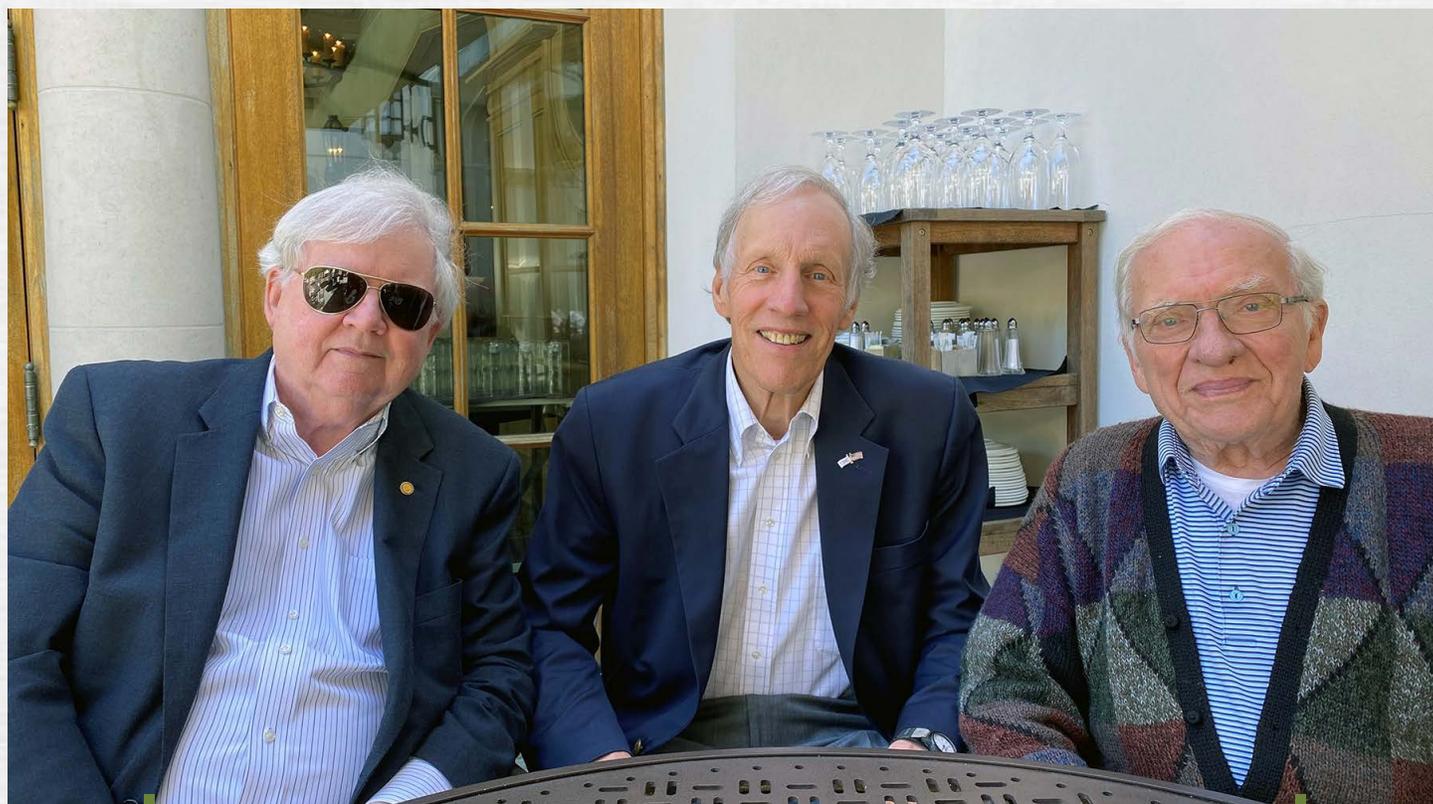
Thank you for allowing us to represent you at the Georgia Capitol. Our contact information is below. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!

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Tyler Lewis
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GOS Past Presidents enjoy catching up and spending time together
Pictured left to right:

- Jeffrey T. Nugent, MD - GOS President 1992 - 93
- Frank B. Kelly, MD - GOS President 1998 - 99
- and Grady S. Clinkscales, Jr., MD - GOS President 1974 -75



76th GEORGIA ORTHOPAEDIC SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

October 6 -9, 2022 | The Cloister on Sea Island, Georgia



MINIMUM OF 9 - 10 CME CREDITS AVAILABLE

Reserve your room today at this link!

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50295095> no code is needed!

You can also call **855-421-0041** and mention you are attending the GOS annual meeting to receive the low rate of \$410.00 per night.

***GOS CLOISTER ROOM POLICY:** The GOS room block is for GOS annual meeting attendees/paid exhibitors ONLY. A maximum of 2 rooms are permitted per attendee and those staying in the room, must be a registered/paid GOS attendee and/or children living in same household.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

All subspecialties combined into two half-day sessions.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6th

6:00PM
Registration/Welcome Reception

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7th

6:45AM
Breakfast with a Mentor (CME)

7:30AM
Registration

7:34AM-12:30PM
General Session

8:30AM
Family Hospitality with Breakfast –
Located at Beach Club.

10:30AM
Coed Tennis Clinic

12:30AM
Sports and Leisure (Golf, Skeet or
Beach)

2:00 – 4:00PM
Skeet Shooting (Pay at time of event
at Sea Island Shooting School) Please
email Dr. Tom Bradbury tom.bradbury@emory.edu
tom.bradbury@emory.edu if interested in Skeet.

7:00PM
Oceanside Dinner/Dance (Adults only)
- Located at the Beach Club.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8th

7:30AM – 12:30PM
General Session

1:00PM
Afternoon of Leisure

6PM
Cocktail Reception at the Beach Club

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE SEA ISLAND/ST. SIMONS ISLAND AREA – all within 15 minutes of the Cloister!

THE INN AT SEA ISLAND
(Part of Sea Island Corp),
Located just 5 minutes from the
Cloister on St. Simons Island.....866-369-0786
KING AND PRINCE HOTEL800-342-0212

VILLAGE INN912-634-6056
**SEA PALMS GOLF &
TENNIS RESORT**800-841-6268
HAMPTON INN.....800-426-7866

The Winners of the 2022 Thomas E. Whitesides, M.D., Resident's Award are:

*FIRST PLACE

Jeffrey Scott Holmes, MD

Emory University Department of
Orthopaedics

Abstract title: *Ballistic Versus Blunt
Mechanism Open OTA/OA 43C Tibial
Plafond Fractures: A Matched Cohort Study.*

*SECOND PLACE

B. Gage Griswold, MD

Medical College of Georgia at
Augusta University

Abstract title: *Does Significant Shoulder
Pain Prior to Reverse Total Shoulder
Arthroplasty Affect Postoperative Outcomes?*

*THIRD PLACE

Matthew Broggi, MD

Emory University Department of
Orthopaedics

Abstract title: *Outcomes of TKA vs UKA in
Spontaneous Osteonecrosis of the Knee.*

Congratulations to Jeffrey, Gage and Matthew!

Each winner will present his paper at the GOS annual meeting, October 6-9, 2022, and will receive the \$1500 – First place, \$1000 – Second Place and \$500 - Third place awards. Thank you again for submitting a paper to the Society. If you are interested in presenting your paper in poster format, please email

me at your earliest convenience and I will send you the poster instructions for the annual meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at lnearygos@gmail.com or call me at 478-474-2754.

***IMPORTANT** - GOS Annual Meeting Registration fee is waived for ALL Residents!! Rooms are available at the Cloister for \$410.00 or at The Inn at Sea Island (beautiful property of Sea Island only 5 minutes away). For more information on the GOS annual meeting, please go to www.georgiaorthosociety.com

Rooms are very limited at the Cloister due to other groups at the hotel over our meeting dates. Listed on Page 5 are a few additional options for lodging. If you are unable to reserve a room at the Cloister, please check back with the hotel closer to the meeting dates as they will have cancellations.



GEORGIA
ORTHOPAEDIC
SOCIETY

2021 -2022 GOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO THE SOCIETY!

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