



IN ~ STRIDE

President's Message



James W.
Brodsky, MD

A Year of Accomplishments: Building for the Next Generation

We approach the summer meeting at the close of an incredibly busy and productive year at the AOFAS. In the course of this year, we have seen momentous change in our organization. We have established new styles and standards for governance, built an entirely new in-house staff, and physically moved our organization to the Chicago area. We initiated a renewed, synergistic relationship with the AAOS, established new business processes for the academic and administrative functions of the Society, launched an integrated association management software system, and completed a review by the ACCME for re-accreditation of our CME granting status. Meanwhile, we kept our normal pace of activities that advance our goals to enhance the care of foot and ankle for patients everywhere through our Complete Foot Care Course in Columbus, our Advanced Foot and Ankle Course in Atlanta, Specialty Day in Chicago, the AOFAS Outreach Program in Vietnam, and the upcoming Pre-Meeting on Sports Injuries of the Foot and Ankle and Summer Scientific Meeting in La Jolla, California.

Great thanks are due to the board of directors, to chairs of our committees and our committee members who have worked hard and continue to work hard to carry forward our mission. Special thanks also are offered to our new staff who have shown incredible dedication and hard work, not to mention remarkable graciousness under pressure, as we have labored to keep traditions alive while inventing new methods and establishing new standards.

Fellowship Match Reinstated

By vote of the overwhelming majority of the fellowship directors, a program for the reinstatement of the Foot and Ankle Fellowship Match has been adopted. This is the product of an enormous amount of hard work by Michael Aronow, MD, and the Postgraduate Education Committee, the Board of Directors, and the fellowship directors and fellowship faculty themselves. These groups have met many times over the course of this year to work out a proposal which is equitable, effective, and represents the high

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Foot & Ankle Fellowship Match to be Reinstated

Foot and ankle fellowships are the lifeblood of the AOFAS. They help create and disseminate knowledge that benefits AOFAS members and their patients. They also produce the majority of future members and leaders of AOFAS.

The process of "matching" fellows to fellowship programs should be fair to both fellowship applicants and to fellowship programs. It should also encourage, not discourage, talented orthopaedic surgeons and residents to consider fellowship training in foot and ankle surgery by presenting the AOFAS in a favorable way to them. In the past, a foot and ankle fellowship match existed that helped determine where most fellows would do their fellowship training.

Unfortunately, over the past few years the Match has broken down. The process of application to our foot and ankle fellowships has devolved to a "free-for-all." Fellowship directors and faculty, and residents who have participated in this unpleasant process find it extremely distasteful. Even more serious is the loss of reputation of our sub-specialty among future orthopaedic surgeons whose opinion of foot and ankle orthopaedics is tarnished by our own lack of cohesion, and our inability to work (and compete) together with civility and principle.

Many of you are familiar with the horror stories of programs which do not fill, a diminishing applicant pool in the face of increasing numbers of programs, applicants who are pressured into premature decisions, and ever-earlier dates for interviewing very "green" orthopaedic residents.

Long-term solutions include enhancing both the quality of fellowship education, and growing the applicant pool. The latter requires the fundamental task of improving residency exposure in the first three years of training and the reputation and allure of the specialty itself. This has many components. A first step was undertaken by the fellowship programs themselves and AOFAS Board of Directors under the guidance of the research and work of the Medical Training and Post-Graduate Education Committee over the past 18 months.

On February 24, 2005, the foot and ankle fellowship directors met and voted to request that the Board of Directors of the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society "implement a match for foot and ankle fellowship candidates that is both transparent and unbiased and managed by a third party." This

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standards of our subspecialty. The goal is first to serve the best interests of applicants, as well as of the fellowship programs, and also to promote the integrity and fairness of our sub-specialty. Congratulations to all. We need everyone's support to represent our specialty well to young orthopaedic surgeons who wish to enter this field, and whom we wish to recruit as our future colleagues – the next generation.

New Bylaws

We will have motions at the summer meeting to legally move the AOFAS to Illinois and to amend our bylaws by substitution. The new bylaws will reflect our society's processes in keeping with the modernization of our structure. Please watch your e-mail carefully over the coming days when you will be receiving further information on this. We need everyone's careful attention to this prior to attending the summer meeting.

Membership Growing

Membership is currently over 1,750, including our emeritus and in-training members (see membership graph above). We are in a growth phase, reflecting the increased participation of international members who are foot and ankle specialists around the globe. These surgeons are an important resource to the AOFAS. Going forward, the society will benefit from the broad knowledge and expertise of our international

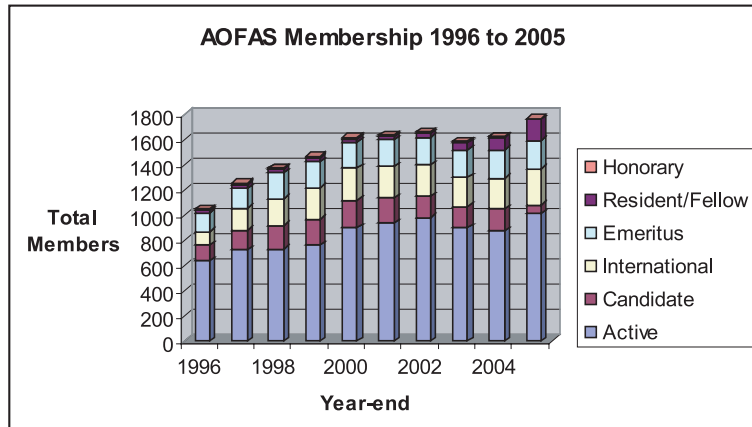
members, and reciprocally, the AOFAS will be for them a unique professional resource.

Fun in the Sun: Summer Meeting in La Jolla

Our summer meeting in La Jolla promises to be an outstanding one both socially and educationally. Please join your colleagues and friends for a wonderful three days of learning.

Pre-Meeting: Sports Injuries of the Foot & Ankle

Ned Amendola, MD, has put together a tremendous program for this year's pre-meeting. The morning will consist of didactic sessions for which CME credit will be given. The afternoon will be industry sessions including hands-on opportunities. Lunch will be provided. Don't miss it.



Good Luck, but not Goodbye

At times, the last couple of years have presented enormous challenges to the AOFAS. The obstacles have been formidable, and the tasks sometimes daunting. Because of our teamwork, we have met and overcome them with efficacy and style. I am proud to be a member of this organization populated by so many talented, dedicated, energetic, and visionary people. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you these past seven years on the Board of Directors, and especially this past year as President.

James W. Brodsky, MD, President

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 American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society
 6300 North River Road, Suite 510
 Rosemont, IL 60018
 phone 800-235-4855 and 847-698-4654
 fax 847-692-3315 • www.aofas.org



Staff

Louanne (Zan) Lofgren, CAE, Executive Director, 847-384-4377, zlofgren@aofas.org
 Judith Northrup, Director of Education & Research, 847-384-4378, jnorthrup@aofas.org
 Lois Bierman, Membership & Marketing Manager, 847-384-4382, lbierman@aofas.org
 Judy Datz, Communications Manager, 847-384-4379, jdatz@aofas.org
 Jenny Roen, Communications Technology Manager, 847-384-4380, jroen@aofas.org
 Erin Toth, Meetings & Exhibits Manager, 847-384-4381, etoth@aofas.org

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2005-2006: A Year of Accomplishments

February 2005

- Board of Directors Resolution: In-house Executive Director Model
- Board of Directors Resolution: Governance education for leadership

March 2005

- First Governance Course for AOFAS leadership

April 2005

- Tuft & Associates hired for Executive Director Search

May 2005

- Hendricks & Associates hired for Transition Business Plan
- Discussions with AAOS regarding move to Rosemont

June 2005

- Meetings of Search Committee

July 2005

- AOFAS Executive Director hired
- Previewed AAOS space

August 2005

- Business Transition Plan implemented
- Legal counsel retained

September 2005

- Temporary office opens in AAOS building, Rosemont
- New staff hired

October 2005

- New AOFAS staff assumes all functions from Seattle, ahead of schedule
- Board of Directors Strategic Planning Retreat
- AOFAS gains seat on Board of Governors at American College of Surgeons
- Renovation of permanent space begins
- Collection of outstanding dues (50% ultimately paid)

December 2005

- Permanent AOFAS office opens in AAOS building
- *In-Stride* newsletter debuts in revised format

February 2006

- Seattle lease negotiations successfully conclude
- ACCME review for re-accreditation of AOFAS

March 2006

- Specialty Day, Chicago, Illinois
- Launch of new Web site and integrated association management system

April 2006

- Governance Training for Board of Directors
- Board of Directors Strategic Planning Retreat
- Complete Foot Care Course held in Columbus, Ohio
- Advanced Foot & Ankle Course held in Atlanta, Georgia

May 2006

- 5th Overseas Outreach Project to Vietnam
- Fellowship Directors and Board of Directors approve plan to reinstitute Fellowship Match
- Web-based voting for Nominating Committee

June 2006

- Renegotiation of FAI publishing contract with Data Trace
- AMA approves AOFAS for continued representation in AMA House of Delegates
- Board of Directors approves legal plan to incorporate AOFAS in Illinois, for ratification by membership

July 2006

- Web-based posting of committee openings
- Revision of Bylaws, for ratification by membership
- 3rd Annual Pre-meeting: Sports Injuries of the Foot & Ankle
- 22nd Annual Summer Meeting in La Jolla, California

Fellowship Match

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task was assigned to the AOFAS Medical Training and Post-Graduate Education Committee and completed by the AOFAS Fellowship Task Force of the Committee. The work was based on surveys of and discussions with foot and ankle fellowship program directors and faculty over a fifteen month period. A Foot & Ankle Fellowship Match Proposal was developed to specifically address the issues and obstacles brought up by the fellowship programs.

This proposal was approved by an e-mail vote of the foot and ankle fellowship program faculty (94% of votes were in favor) in April, 2006 and approved by the AOFAS Board of Directors in May, 2006. Two of the four programs that voted against the proposal have subsequently indicated that they will participate in the match.

The approved AOFAS Foot & Ankle Fellowship Match Agreement will begin immediately and goes into effect for this year's interviews.

The key points of the program are as follows:

- We anticipate that the foot and ankle fellowship match will be run by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).
- Fellowship program participation will be optional.

- Fellowship programs will receive incentives for participating in the match as will applicants who do their fellowships at participating programs.
- Unlike the standard NRMP match, fellowship programs will not be allowed to pull out of a given year's match prior to the deadline for submitting a candidate rank list.
- Other than the possible exception of a position pre-designated (prior to the onset of applicant interviews) for international fellows only, all fellowship positions will be required to be in the match.
- Disincentives will be applied to programs that agree to participate but violate the AOFAS Foot & Ankle Fellowship Match Agreement rules.

We urge all AOFAS members to help support the Match Program as it is the fairest approach for our future fellows and for the future of orthopaedic foot and ankle surgery. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact either of us.

— James Brodsky, MD, AOFAS President,
jbrodsky@dallasortho.com, 214-820-4044 (office)

— Michael Aronow, MD, Chair, AOFAS Medical Training and Post-Graduate Education Committee,
aronow@nso.uchc.edu, 860-679-6652 (office)

Celebrating 5 Years of Outreach Service to Vietnam

Vision for the future

It began with a vision...to take the AOFAS to a new level of outreach, education and humanitarian service. Since Dr. Pierce Scranton's initial fact-finding trip to Vietnam in 2001, the AOFAS Overseas Outreach Project has grown and continues to bring together these three elements through annual mission trips to Vietnam.

This year's mission trip to Vietnam in late May and into early June marked the fifth successful overseas outreach project for AOFAS. Built on early relationships with the Seattle-based Prosthetics Outreach Foundation (POF), and then links set up with the Vietnamese government, the AOFAS Overseas Outreach Project is funded through corporate and member contributions to the Outreach and Education Fund (OEF).

"We are happy and proud to be invited to Vietnam," says Naomi Shields, MD, of Wichita, this year's team leader and OEF chair. She noted that over the span of this important initiative, surgery has been performed on more than 300 children and adults with deformities and disabilities. Due to cost, most of these patients would not have received care and corrective surgery.

Joining Dr. Shields for the project were Drs. Loretta Chou, San Francisco; Thomas Lee, Columbus, OH; Nimrod Ron, Caesarea, Israel; Ruth Thomas, Little Rock, AR; Robert Veith, Renton, WA; and AOFAS Executive Director Lousanne Lofgren. The group included first-time participants and seasoned project veterans.



AOFAS volunteers work side by side in the operating rooms with Vietnamese orthopaedic surgeons, thus sharing knowledge and building relationships with colleagues on the other side of the world.

"I felt accepted and welcomed by all the Vietnamese surgeons involved with this project," says Dr. Thomas. "We learned from each other. The Vietnamese people are open and friendly. The patients and their families are extremely appreciative."

Most surgeries were performed in rehabilitation facilities located in the central city of Vinh, south of Hanoi, and Ba Vi and Thai Nguyen, both north of Hanoi. The patients were mostly children with a variety of disabilities, including cerebral palsy, polio, traumatic injuries and club foot.

"Situations, such as club foot, which are so easily treated among the very young in this country, go neglected in Vietnam due to the distance to good medical care for people from the villages," says Dr. Veith. "Our surgeries enable these children to have a normal life."

"Patients came with deformities that challenged our problem-solving abilities," says Dr. Nimrod Ron. "We performed surgery on conditions that we just don't see in our countries, and at the same time the equipment we were working with was more limited."

"It pushes you to the edge of your comfort zone," adds Dr. Lee. "We all have the needed technological environment here, but in Vietnam we are forced to grow within ourselves to meet the different patient needs."

Some patients were land mine victims who will be fitted for prostheses. POF provides prostheses free-of-charge to patients treated in this program allowing many of these young children and adults to return to society able to care for themselves and their families.

The AOFAS members also spent time in Hanoi performing surgeries at Viet Duc Hospital, the major teaching hospital.

"The week that I arrived at Viet Duc Hospital, there were 82 new orthopaedic trauma patients in the orthopaedic wards. There were so many patients, they had to double up and share hospital beds," says Dr. Chou. "I realized how little opportunity some patients have for adequate medical care. The hospitals are filled with trauma patients who require immediate operations. That leaves elective cases without treatment."

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Outreach and Education Fund corporate sponsors: Zimmer, Biomet, Smith & Nephew Endoscopy, Aircast, Arthrex, DePuy, DJO Incorporated, EBI, Hanger, Synthes, Wright, Wyeth, Orthofix, Smith & Nephew Orthopaedics, Hapad, AliMed, Integra, KCI and Pfizer.

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In addition to the surgical care AOFAS members provide, another important part of the outreach project is the educational conference in Hanoi co-sponsored by AOFAS, POF, and the Vietnamese Ministry of Health. This year's conference, the Fourth Annual Seminar on Surgery of the Lower Extremity, brought together 180 Vietnamese orthopaedic surgeons, some of whom had traveled a long distance by motorbike. Simultaneous translation of the presentations by Vietnamese surgeons and AOFAS members allowed all to hear and understand. Attendees were also pleased to see two exhibits by Vietnamese manufacturers of wheel chairs and leg braces.

Summing up her experience, Dr. Chou said, "I was happy to be able to take part in the care of 15 patients. They would otherwise not have the opportunity for treatment. This is a small number in a country of 82 million people, but for those patients, it made all the difference in their lives. It made a difference in my life, too."

To apply to participate in the AOFAS Overseas Outreach Project, visit the aofas.org Web site, enter your member login information, and follow the links under Outreach and Education Fund Projects.

AOFAS: Planning and Operating Strategically

Planning and operating strategically is the key to survival of any practice, business, and especially any volunteer association. The Board recognizes that organizing according to strategically determined priorities is the key to effectiveness and the key to continuity from year to year.

Over the last several years, the Board of Directors has worked to refine and update our strategic process. Toward that end, all Directors are required to attend training in governance of volunteer organizations (BOD resolution February 2005). It is our obligation to show relevance, deliver value, and be responsive in a timely fashion to the ever-quicken pace of change in the medical environment. Spearheaded by the Committee Colloquium in 2005 and moved forward by the Board, **Strategic Outcomes (Goals)** are now in place around which all AOFAS planning is organized. They are:

1. AOFAS will improve the care of the foot and ankle for patients.
2. AOFAS will advance the quality, availability, and utilization of resources for education in the foot and ankle.
3. AOFAS will advance the quality and relevance of basic science research and clinical research in the foot and ankle.

(Drafted by Committee Colloquium & BOD April 2005, adopted by BOD July 2005, revised by BOD Oct 2005, and April 2006)

Because resources are limited, and there are always more goals to pursue, AOFAS is working to allocate its resources, human and financial, according to outcome-oriented strategies that fulfill our mission, vision, and core values statements. Having these three stated goals enables us to maintain focus and use resources for related activities and programs.

Online Usage on the Rise

One of the many objectives that drove the revamping of the AOFAS Web site has been achieved – to provide a convenient mechanism that motivates members to go directly online to update their database profile, pay annual dues, register for meetings, submit abstracts, make OEF contributions, and more. With more than half the member registrations for the 22nd Annual Summer Meeting submitted online and a growing number of dues payments coming through the Web site, it appears the membership has embraced the ease of the new system.

Members logging into www.aofas.org using their newly issued User Name and Password have quickly discovered the advantages of the new online submission system: it saves time; it is always available; and an immediate confirmation is provided with the e-mail receipt that facilitates office bookkeeping and internal reimbursement.

By logging into the system before beginning a submission, each member's profile data automatically populates the contact fields. This expedites navigation through the initial screens to get right to the selection and payment segments. The fewer fields that need completion, the faster the process.

If you need login assistance or have questions regarding online submission processes, please contact the AOFAS office via e-mail at aofasinfo@aofas.org or call 1-800-235-4855 (847-698-4654 outside the U.S.).

Calendar of Events

- **July 13 to 16, 2006.** 22nd Annual AOFAS Summer Meeting, La Jolla, California. Including Sports Injuries of the Foot & Ankle Pre-meeting Symposium, July 13, 2006. Register on-site in La Jolla.
- **September 15, 2006.** 2007 Research Grant Award applications deadline. Information online at www.aofas.org.
- **October 1, 2006.** Deadline for 2007 Traveling Fellowship application submission. Information online at www.aofas.org.
- **February 17, 2007.** 2007 Winter Meeting and Specialty Day, San Diego, California.
- **July 11 to 15, 2007.** 23rd Annual AOFAS Summer Meeting, Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

IFFAS: Mark Your Calendar

Set aside now the dates of September 18 to 20, 2008, to attend the Third Joint Meeting of the International Federation of Foot & Ankle Societies (IFFAS) in Bahia, Brazil. The meeting venue will be Bahia's historic city of Salvador. The convention facility will be at Costa do Sauipe, a hotel complex situated on one of the most beautiful beaches in Brazil. In addition to the scientific program, the IFFAS meeting will be an opportunity to meet and catch up with international colleagues, and spend a little time in Brazil's springtime.

The meeting will be held under the auspices of the Latin American Federation of Leg and Foot Surgery and the Brazilian Foot & Ankle Society.

Meet the Staff



Lois Bierman

Membership & Marketing Manager

Lois Bierman

Lois has been reaching out to members and addressing issues related to membership status, dues, contact information and meeting registration. Lois has a marketing and communications background, and brings experience in administration and medical society marketing.

Tel. direct: 847-384-4382

E-mail: LBierman@aofas.org



Judy Datz

Communications Manager

Judy Datz

Judy joined the AOFAS staff recently and brings experience in media relations, publications, and development. She has worked for United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and other non-profits, and has done free-lance work for AAOS.

Tel. direct: 847-384-4379

E-mail: JDatz@aofas.org



Erin Toth

Meetings & Exhibits Manager

Erin Toth

Erin plans and manages the start-to-finish details of meetings – everything from audio-visual needs to hotel space to menus, as well as the interface with companies that exhibit at AOFAS meetings. Erin brings experience in managing meetings and exhibits from earlier positions with medical societies and non-profits.

Tel. direct: 847-384-4381

E-mail: EToth@aofas.org

2005-2006 Board of Directors

James W. Brodsky, MD	President
Lowell H. Gill, MD	President-Elect
Steven D.K. Ross, MD	Vice President
Charles H. Saltzman, MD	Secretary
Robert B. Anderson, MD	Treasurer
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Glenn B. Pfeffer, MD	Past President
E. Greer Richardson, MD	Past President
Christopher W. DiGiovanni, MD	Member-at-Large
Shepard R. Hurwitz, MD	Member-at-Large
David B. Thordarson, MD	Member-at-Large
Andrew K. Sands, MD	Treasurer-Elect (ex-officio)

Nominating Committee Election Results

Congratulations to W. Hodges Davis, MD, Jeffrey Johnson, MD, and David Thordarson, MD, elected June 9 by the membership for the three positions on this year's Nominating Committee. Six nominations were received at the business meeting held March 25 during Specialty Day in Chicago. Active Members were notified via mail that voting would be done online through a third-party vendor. Voting members were sent profile information on each nominee as well as "click and vote" ballot information enabling voting at any time over a defined two-week period.

The Nominating Committee is chaired by Immediate Past President Mark Myerson, MD, and includes the three members newly elected by the membership and one member appointed by the current president. President James Brodsky, MD, has appointed Dr. Judy Baumhauer to this position.

The Nominating Committee will present its slate for open officer and Board of Directors positions during the Annual Business Meeting to be held on Saturday, July 15, at the close of the scientific session.

FAI Names John R. Sellman, MD, 1st Recipient of Melvin H. Jahss, MD, Associate Editor Award for Excellence

There are times when a physician has contributed so much to his field that it is a privilege for his peers to establish an award in his honor. Such is the case with the new Melvin H. Jahss, MD, Associate Editor Award For Excellence created in 2005 by *Foot & Ankle International*. As the founding editor of *Foot and Ankle* in 1980, now *Foot & Ankle International*, Dr. Jahss completed 25 years of energetic and tireless devotion to the development of the journal as well as being a founding member of the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society. In his honor, an award will be given each year to one associate editor who has demonstrated commitment and sacrifice in reviewing manuscripts for *Foot & Ankle International*, adding quality and consistency to each issue in keeping with the journal's mission.

It is with great pride that John R. Sellman, MD, of Santa Monica, California, has been selected as the first recipient of the Melvin H. Jahss, MD, Associate Editor Award For Excellence. Dr. Sellman has been serving as an Associate Editor for *Foot & Ankle International* for almost 20 years offering exceptional dedication, consistency, promptness and commitment. His ability to combine in-depth scientific knowledge of a subject with sensitivity to the flow of words and message has been exceptional.

"...It is with a hearty 'Thank You' that the editorial staff of *Foot & Ankle International*, as well as all the readers who have benefited from John's commitment, celebrate with him this award." All of us at the AOFAS join in congratulating Dr. Sellman on receipt of his award and his outstanding contributions to the medical field.