



MSTS Newsletter

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President’s Report – Benjamin J. Miller, MD, MS



Benjamin J. Miller, MD, MS

Hello friends and colleagues. I hope that all of you are having a pleasant spring and early summer, wherever you are in North America or other parts of the world. I

am happy to provide an overview on the activities of the MSTS; included in this newsletter please find updates from the various committees of the MSTS who have been working hard on a wide range of initiatives.

2024 Specialty Day: MSTS Specialty Day in San Francisco was universally considered to be one of our best ever. Thanks and congratulations to Melissa Zimel, Luke Nystrom, and Panos Papagelopoulos for an engaging and inspired program. It was wonderful to have presentations that stimulated the mind and nourished the soul – I know I left the program feeling motivated and renewed. It is always so stimulating to hear all of the great work our members are doing in their practices, institutions, and communities.

Member Engagement: The strength of the MSTS is from our members and as a

society we want to offer a multitude of opportunities for professional growth. Each month, we send an email that is packed with updates, offerings, important dates, and surveys. Please keep watch for these emails coming from msts@memberclicks-mail.net. This is where we publicize grant opportunities (such as sarcoma strong or society-sponsored AAOS funding), calls for MSTS committee members, work-group members from the GEBM committee, task forces, or tumor-focused AAOS committees, professional development workshops, meeting registration reminders, membership dues, and surveys. Any questions or suggestions please contact info@msts.org or one of the members of the Executive Committee.

2024 Annual Meeting: Thanks to Luke Nystrom and the Annual Meeting Committee for all their work on this to date. The meeting registration (Chicago, September 11-13) has opened and I encourage everyone to make their plans ASAP as we do expect our room block to be filled. We have a number of activities planned for Wednesday (Percutaneous Pelvis Fixation Hands-On Workshop, MORI meeting, Pathways, and the opening reception). There is an Allied Heath meeting on Wednesday – we ask that you forward the meeting registration to your APPs (NPs and PAs), nurses, and anyone else who would be

interested and please personally support their attendance and emphasize its importance to your institution. The scientific program will be Thursday and Friday with the meeting ending late afternoon on Friday, so plan flights accordingly to make sure and attend the entire meeting. We have another year with a large number of thoughtful abstracts and the program is sure to be engaging and educational.

Thanks again to all the support given by Kerri Mink and Deborah Meyer – the society truly does not run without them. I would also like to thank all of the Executive Committee officers, Committee Chairs, and committee members who are the ones who do all of the work to make the MSTS such an important part of our professional lives.

See you all in Chicago!
Ben



2024 Annual Meeting

Registration is now open for the 2024 Annual Meeting which will be held at the Sheraton Grand Riverwalk in Chicago, September 11-13, 2024.

In addition to two full days of the academic meeting, there will be an action packed Wednesday with an Allied Health

Symposium (tell your APP's!), the MORI young members meeting, the "Pathways" symposium on Education and the welcome reception.

We had 230 abstract submissions for the scientific meeting and are building an outstanding program. The preliminary

agenda will be out soon!

Please [register today](#) and reserve your room. We look forward to seeing you all in Chicago!

Lukas Nystrom, MD
Annual Meeting Program Chair



MSTS Executive Committee

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OREF Grants and Research Opportunities

OREF is now accepting applications for various grants and research opportunities including pain management, skeletal metastases, resident research, and support for NIH K Awards. The application deadline for all items listed below is **June 20, 2024**.

Click on the following opportunities to view additional information.

- [OREF Skeletal Metastases and Pathological Fracture Research Grant in Collaboration with the Musculoskeletal Tumor Society \(MSTS\)](#)
- [OREF Mentored Clinician Scientist Grant](#)
- [OREF Resident Clinician Scientist Training Grant](#)
- [OREF Resident Research Project Grant](#)

- [OREF Multimodal Musculoskeletal Perioperative Pain Management Grant in collaboration with the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists \(ANNA Foundation\)](#)

Applications are also being accepted for the 2025 Clinical Research Award. This \$20,000 award recognizes outstanding clinical research directly related to musculoskeletal disease or injury. Winners will be recognized at the 2025 AAOS Annual Meeting and the Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS) Annual Meeting. Manuscripts are due by July 1, 2024.

[Click here to apply.](#)

Donate through OREF

MSTS and OREF share a vision of improving care for patients through our support for high quality research. Did you know you can support both MSTS and OREF at the same time? Make an OREF Annual Fund gift and you can add on a gift for MSTS. It's a quick and easy way to support two great organizations. Visit oref.org/annual.



Treasurer's Report – Matthew R. DiCaprio, MD

The financial health of our society remains strong through the 1st quarter of 2024. With overall growth in our investment portfolio in 2023, continued industry support in our educational endeavors, and membership dues collected we entered 2024 fiscally sound. One area where we have made some important changes in day-to-day operations involves our cash holdings. Working closely with Kerri, Deborah, and our accountant we have rebalanced our accounts to have our foundational money working better for our future. We have placed a significant amount of our annual operational cash holdings to work in interest bearing "risk-free" money market accounts, currently generating the society ~\$2500/month.

Our main revenue sources remain membership dues, industry support, research grants, Sarcoma Strong funding, member philanthropic giving, and our investment portfolio. Membership dues are a critical part of our predictable revenue stream, and necessary to be able to provide administrative support, stability, and overall function to the organization. We thank all the members who have continued to commit to the MSTS and encourage you to stay up to date on due payments. A special thank you to all members who have made financial gifts to MSTS to support our mission. Anyone interested in including the society in your estate planning please contact me or Kerri Mink for guidance. Philanthropic giving as part of

an estate plan could assist in your personal tax impact while supporting the mission of the MSTS. Our Annual Meeting, September 11-13, 2024, in Chicago is shaping up to be an engaging educational event with tremendous support from industry. Your engagement as a member with our Annual Meeting as a presenter or attendee assists in our mission to advance the science of orthopaedic oncology and promote high standards of patient care through excellence in education and research.

We will continue to support educational programming, development of CPGs, research grant funding, the Hatcher Fellowship program, our Orthopaedic Oncology Fellowship match and accreditation program, and philanthropic activities that will benefit our patients and add value to our membership.

I would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee, Dieter Lindskog, Wakenda Tyler, Kenneth Gundle, and Lauren Wessel for their insight and assistance. Finally, thanks and recognition to Kerri Mink and Deborah Meyer for their help with the finances and management of the MSTS.

MSTS 2024 Membership Dues Reminder

Have you paid your 2024 MSTS membership? If not, your membership is now past due, and we ask that you remit your dues as soon as possible. Do not let your MSTS membership lapse.

Dues notices are sent by email from msts@memberclicks-mail.net and include a link to your dues invoice. Simply click on the link in your email to pay your dues by credit card – no login or password is required.

Thank you for being an MSTS member! If you have questions regarding your dues, or if you would like to make the dues payment by phone, please contact us at 847-698-1625.

Membership Committee – Odion Binitie, MD, Chair

On behalf of the membership committee, I would like to wish everyone a happy spring and summer. As you are hopefully taking time away from work for your wellness and self-care, I would like to acknowledge the work of our committee over the past year. We welcomed two new members to the committee Dr. Shai Shemesh and Dr. Sheila Conway. Two of our members were granted emeritus status. Dr. Samuel Kenan has been an active member since 1994 and is fully retired from practice in New

York City, NY. Dr. William M. Parrish has an active member since 2000 and is retiring from practice in Lancaster, PA.

Membership survey requests have increased over the past year. The committee reviews these surveys and provides feedback to those that are still in development. We also receive requests from outside of our membership. We are in the process of evaluating the best path forward regarding these increasing requests.

We want to continue to encourage application for membership at every level. Members should also recognize that as you transition from resident to fellow; and fellow to candidate member, to re-apply for the appropriate membership level as criteria is met. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions regarding membership category and criteria. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Chicago in September.

Welcome New MSTS Members!

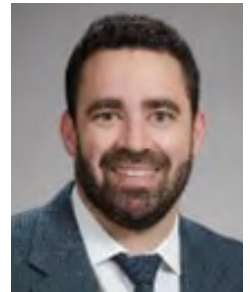
On the recommendation of the Membership Committee, the Executive Committee is pleased to have approved 4 new members into MSTS membership as well as approving 5 members in February who have changed their membership to the next member category. Welcome to our new members and congratulations to those members continuing to advance in their careers.

Active Members (L to R)

Ana Cecilia Belzarena, MD, MPH, MBA
Matthew G. Cable, MD

Timothy J. Evans, MD
Sean Patrick Kelly, MD

Joshua M. Lawrenz, MD
Jesse L. Roberts, MD, MS – new member



Candidate Member

William Conrad Pipkin, MD – new member

Resident Members

Julian Dilley, MD – new member

Courtney Lavin, MD – new member



If you have a colleague who would like to become a member of MSTS, or if it is now time to change your membership category, the next membership application deadline will be Monday, **August 5, 2024**. [Click here](#) to apply as a new member or to update your membership!

Research Committee – Bang Hoang, MD, Chair

During the Annual Meeting in Banff, the Research Committee (RC) welcomed Bang Hoang as its new chair. We thank Kurt Weiss, the outgoing chair, for his outstanding leadership and service to the MSTs. Additionally, we welcomed three new members to the RC: Elyse Brinkmann, Anthony Bozzo, and Joshua Lawrenz. The RC convened its first meeting in January 2024 to identify research priorities and prepare for a new round of grant applications from Sarcoma Strong, led by Matthew DiCaprio.

Overview of SarcomaStrong Grant Applications

The 2024 Sarcoma Strong Research Funding Announcement (RFA) was released on October 12, 2023, in conjunction with inputs from Research Chairs and Executive Committee members. The RFA contained the following funding opportunities:

Sarcoma Strong Mentored Award
(\$25,000. Deadline March 15, 2024)

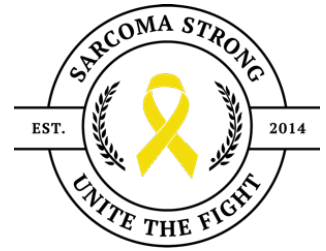
Sarcoma Strong Research Award
(\$50,000. Deadline March 15, 2024)

Sarcoma Strong Career Catalyst Award
(\$100,000. Deadline March 15, 2024)

We received several high-quality applications focused on various aspects of sarcoma research. These applications encompass a diverse range of proposals, including basic and translational science

studies aimed at improving the diagnosis, treatment, and patient outcomes. To elevate our scientific rigor, the RC invited two external advisors with extensive NIH experience (Regis O’Keefe, MD, PhD and Rick Terek, MD) to participate in our review study section, which was convened on May 4, 2024. Each application was vetted by at least three independent reviewers with no conflicts with the study teams and discussed by the entire study section. The RC would like to thank Drs. O’Keefe and Terek for their invaluable contributions and insights during the peer review process.

We are happy to announce that Julia Visgauss’ application entitled *“Investigating drivers and therapeutic approaches for*



LCP1 overexpression in chondrosarcoma” has been awarded \$100,000 for the 2024 Career Catalyst Award. Additionally, we would like to congratulate Zachary Burke on his successful Mentored Award for \$25,000, entitled *“Identification and exploitation of collateral sensitivity in treatment resistant osteosarcoma.”*

We look forward to receiving updates from Drs. Visgauss and Burke and wish them all the best in their new endeavors.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML) Initiative

The application of AI/ML is rapidly becoming relevant in many orthopaedic disciplines, particularly in musculoskeletal radiology and joint reconstructive surgery. In conjunction with the Musculoskeletal Oncology Research Initiative (MORI), we

are happy to announce that an introductory session on AI/ML in Musculoskeletal Oncology will be scheduled at MORI on Wednesday September 11, 2024, during the MSTs Annual Meeting in Chicago. Anthony Bozzo and Joshua Lawrenz from

the RC will spearhead this new initiative. We look forward to hearing exciting new developments in this emerging field that will undoubtedly spur new collaborations among our young members. More information will be forthcoming.

MSTS 2024 Hatcher Fellowship

The Hatcher Fellowship was established in honor of the late C. Howard Hatcher, MD in the spirit of enriching orthopaedic surgeons with post-graduate experience in musculoskeletal oncology with an anticipation of an academic career in musculoskeletal oncology.

The Fellowship Committee is pleased to recognize Matthew Hess, MD as the recipient of the 2024 Hatcher Fellowship. Dr. Hess, a Fellow at the University of Chicago,

will be travelling to the Royal Orthopedic Hospital in Birmingham, United Kingdom for a four-week observership with Professor Lee Jeys with a primary goal of receiving additional training and experience in the management of pelvic tumors.

Congratulations to Dr. Hess on receiving the Hatcher Fellowship!



MSTS 2023 Hatcher Fellowship Recipient - Patrick Qi Wang, MD

Midpoint Review

Dear Dr. Lozano-Calderon and the Hatcher Fellowship selection committee,

I would like to, once again, extend my deepest appreciation for this fellowship grant, which has greatly helped offset the financial costs of my current training at the *Prince of Wales Hospital*, affiliated with the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In this letter, I provide you with a midpoint review of my experience up until now.

As explained in my application letter, the main objective of this fellowship is to gain a wider exposure and expertise in computer-assisted tumour surgery. So far, my experience here in Hong Kong has exceeded all expectations. I have had first-hand exposure to tumour navigation, the planning and execution of 3D-printed cutting guides, and to virtual reality using the Microsoft HoloLens. For tumour navigation, using the Stryker OrthoMap software, I have had the opportunity to independently prepare cases with pre-operative computer-based planning and to perform the surgery as main surgeon, including multiple pelvic and sacral resections. At the *Prince of Wales Hospital*, they have an in-house engineering team and 3D-printing facility. Therefore, I have had the chance to observe the interactions between the surgical team and engineers in conceptualizing and producing 3D-printed guides as well using them intraoperatively. Finally, although virtual/mixed reality is still in a relatively early phase of development, I have had the opportunity to use the HoloLens to observe the overlay of tumours onto the patient and to plan surgical approaches.

In terms of mentorship, Dr. Kwok-Chuen Wong is next to none. He spends many hours per week, whether through formal teaching or informal discussions, to convey his expertise and wisdom. Additionally, during car rides (from one hospital to another), he discusses extensively about his experience developing computer-assisted tumour surgery at the hospital, which, has had many hurdles over the years. Finally, with his international reputation, he has introduced me to many orthopaedic oncologists around the world, especially at the recent BOOM meeting in Birmingham, UK. With his influence in the International Society for Computer Assisted Orthopaedic Surgery, oncology section, he has created a research group for me to lead, not only to raise my research profile, but also to help me take on a next-generation leadership role in promoting and developing computer assisted surgical technology.

My experience here has been nothing short of amazing and incredible. Again, I would like to express my profound gratitude for the Hatcher Fellowship Grant. A complete review will be provided at the end of my fellowship. I have included some pictures.

Sincerely,



Patrick Qi Wang



MSTS 2023 Hatcher Fellowship Recipient - Patrick Qi Wang, MD

Final Review

Dear Dr. Lozano-Calderon and the Hatcher Fellowship selection committee,

I have completed my fellowship at the *Prince of Wales Hospital*, affiliated with the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and I would like to, once again, express my most sincere gratitude for the Hatcher Fellowship Travelling Grant. I would like to broadly reflect on both my professional and personal growth during my time in Hong Kong.

Although it is well known that clinical practices vary widely across the world, especially in musculoskeletal oncology, this fellowship has really provided me with a better appreciation of these differences. While the principles of diagnosis and management remain relatively similar, it is understanding the small differences and their underlying reasons that I am grateful for. These differences include but are not limited to clinical decision-making, (neo)adjuvant therapy regimens and timing, surgical techniques and available reconstruction options, and post-operative protocols. The heterogeneity expands far beyond skill and knowledge. They are affected by institutional dogma, infrastructure, multidisciplinary system setup, legal and medico-legal aspects, social norms including local ethics and morality, as well as politics. Given the lack of high-quality strong scientific evidence in many areas of MSK oncology, this also affects the ability to create uniform practices across the globe in which I believe the BOOM Consensus Meeting this year was a great initiative to help turn the tide. This insight will allow me to better address the challenges I will face in my practice at the hospital, within the broader healthcare system, and at the government levels. It will also help better enhance advocacy, awareness groups, and research collaboration both locally and internationally.

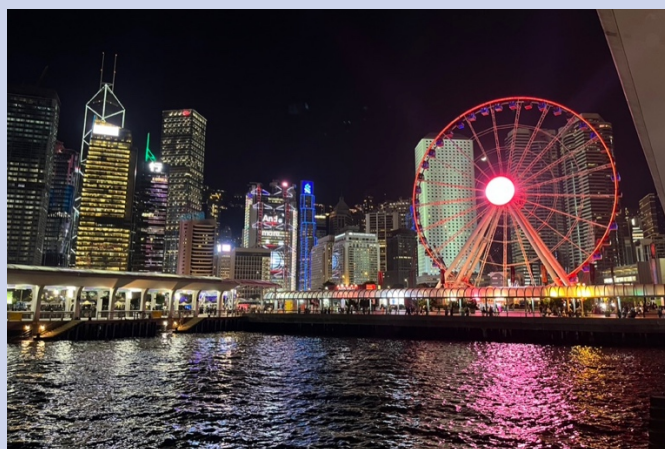
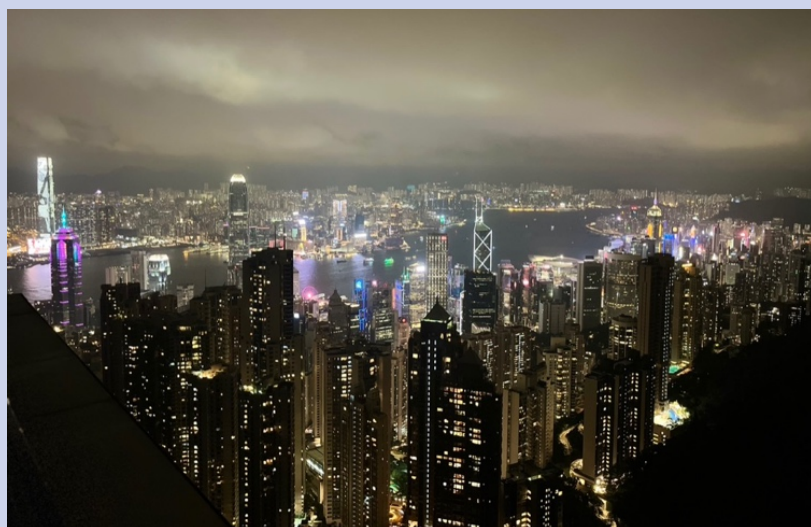
On a personal level, living in Hong Kong and visiting the southeast Asia region has allowed me to submerge myself into a very different culture. It has helped me integrate, understand, and truly longitudinally experience different social norms and morality, which is a very important aspect in providing holistic care. Another noticeable aspect in many Asian countries is that despite the high population densities, the infrastructure is extremely efficient. The roads, transportation system, buildings are conceived in a way that day-to-day activities are operated in a seamless fashion. This has helped inspire some of my future clinical and research interests, improving efficiency (and effectiveness) in sarcoma management and healthcare operations. Computer-assisted surgery and innovation will play a large role in achieving these goals, which synchronously was the objective of this fellowship.

Once again, I would like to extend my most sincere appreciation for the Hatcher Travelling Fellowship Grant, significantly contributing to offset the cost of an overseas unsalaried experience, but worth every penny.

Sincerely,



Patrick Qi Wang



Congratulations to the 2024 MSTS/Onkos Travelling Fellowship Recipients



Through an exclusive sponsorship by Onkos Surgical, Inc., the MSTS/Onko Travelling Fellowship is provided to fellows in an MSTS recognized fellowship to offset travel costs to gain clinical perspective, education, and to create a professional connection at the host fellowship program.

We are pleased to recognize the Fellows who were selected by the Fellowship Committee to receive a 2024 MSTS/Onkos

Traveling Fellowship. Congratulations to the following Fellows:

- **Dominic Campano, MD** from the University of Miami will be travelling to Moffitt Cancer Center
- **David Clever, MD** from the University of Toronto/Mount Sinai Hospital will be travelling to Montefiore Medical Center
- **Matthew Hess, MD** from the University of Chicago will be travelling to Massachusetts General Hospital
- **Dheeraj Makkar, MD** from the University of Iowa will be travelling to Massachusetts General Hospital
- **Kyle Walker, MD** from the University of California – Davis will be travelling to Vanderbilt University Medical Center

2024 Onkos Fellowship Recipient - Dheeraj Makkar, MD

During my travel fellowship in Boston from March 11th to 15th, my experience was nothing short of enriching. On the very first day, I was warmly welcomed in the lobby of MGH by Dr. Raskin, setting the tone for an engaging and educational experience.

The day commenced with attending a conference where they delved into the intricacies of cases completed and those lined up for the following week. It proved incredibly informative, providing insights into the clinical practices and challenges faced in the field.

Throughout the week, I had the privilege of shadowing various faculty members, immersing myself in their clinics, and observing surgeries in the operating room. Witnessing procedures like sacral resection and the delicate removal of a tumor abutting the heart was not only fascinating but also profoundly educational.

One of the highlights of my fellowship was attending the tumor board sessions. These gatherings were incredibly enlightening, offering a collaborative approach to complex cases and showcasing the depth of knowledge and expertise.

Additionally, I had the opportunity to participate in a pathology conference where the intricate details of various tumors were discussed, accompanied by detailed slides. The level of depth and analysis presented was truly captivating, and I was thoroughly engrossed in the discussion.

Dr. Hodo, their current fellow, played a pivotal role in ensuring my comfort throughout the week. They guided me through the facilities and helped me procure the necessary scrubs for the surgeries, exemplifying the supportive environment of the program.

Amidst the rigorous schedule of clinics, surgeries, and conferences, one standout moment was the dinner organized on March 14th. Over delicious food and lively conversation: we shared personal anecdotes and insights, deepening our connections beyond our shared professional interests.

Outside the clinical setting, I found solace and rejuvenation in a run along the Charles River. The picturesque scenery provided a tranquil backdrop, offering a moment of serenity amidst the bustling city.

My time in Boston during the fellowship was a memorable and invaluable experience. The warm welcome to the insightful conferences and hands-on learning opportunities reinforced my passion for the field and broadened my understanding of surgical practices and oncology.

The genuine kindness and generosity of the faculty, coupled with the enriching discussions and insights gained, will be cherished memories that I will carry with me throughout my career.



Guidelines and Evidence Based Medicine Committee Update –

Nicholas Tedesco, DO, Chair

The Guidelines and Evidence-Based Medicine (GEBM) Committee has been working hard to continue to build upon our foundation of member service established over the past several years. We are currently busy negotiating with American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS) methodologists for a planned, combined, clinical practice guideline (CPG) with the MSTs, North American Spine Society (NASS), American Association of Neurologic Surgeons (AANS), and the AAOS on management of primary spine sarcomas in the mobile spine. We are hoping to get started soon, as we have had to abandon our previous idea of metastatic spine disease management. Instead this guideline will be forthcoming by AANS at some point in the future. We also continue to make inroads with increasing diversity, collaboration, and global outreach by finding willing participants to collaborate with in future CPGS's from the Euro-

pean Musculo-Skeletal Oncology Society (EMSOS), Sociedad Latinoamericana de Tumores Musculo Esqueleticos (SLATME), the Asian-Pacific MSTs (APMSTs), and an international member of the International Society of Limb Salvage (ISOLS). Each of these groups have expressed excitement and eagerness to combine with the MSTs GEBM and bring their unique and valuable skills, knowledge, and experience outside of North America to the table.

The GEBM committee will be sunsetting the current novel clinical practice assessments under the "Education" tab of the MSTs website, with the plan for the next series to be released just after the yearly meeting in Chicago this September. Please check them out before they're gone! Finally, we will be piloting some clinical decision aids for physicians and patients alike to help guide the conversations and decision-making in challenging cases or

when controversial treatments are involved. We are currently dividing up some pressing topics that we believe will be very helpful to us all, and will make new ones of these based on our CPG topics as well. We are hoping to have this first set complete around the beginning of 2025.

The GEBM Committee is here to serve the entire MSTs membership! If you have any ideas for clinical practice guidelines, appropriate use criteria, novel clinical practice assessments, systematic reviews, clinical decision aids, or quality improvement projects, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any GEBM committee members. Other current members include: Yee-Cheen Doung, Pietro Ruggieri, Matthew Colman, Hennock Wolde-Semait, Alexander Lazarides, and Dipak Ramkumar. We all hope to see you in Chicago!

Practice Management Committee Update –

Adam Levin, MD, Chair

Thanks to all on the Practice Management Committee for all of the hard work and dedication to supporting our membership. As we near the end of the academic year, we are seeing residents graduate to fellowship, and fellows entering their clinical practices. Our members continue to offer support, membership, and resources for practice development – both at the beginning of the careers and those already established in practice.

In addition, our committee has been following developments with NCCI and CPT, and are closely monitoring updates and proposed rules from CMS and upcoming legislative actions that may impact our clinical care and reimbursement. Many have noted the increasing burden of prior authorization for invasive procedures and site of service restrictions. We continue to partner with the AAOS, AOA, AAHKS, and other non-orthopaedic organizations, in order to address these concerns to allow

timely and appropriate clinical care for our patients.

As some of these efforts involve advocacy for our patients, for our colleagues, and for support for oncology resources altogether, we are exploring how the Practice Management Committee and the Advocacy Taskforces can work together most effectively. In response to our membership's requests, those initiatives include a planned update of the benchmarking survey for compensation and productivity targets that was last performed in 2021. This will require significant and meaningful input from our members, but provides a tremendous value. More details are to come over the next few months.

Wishing all an enjoyable summer.

AAOS Committee Volunteer Opportunities – Application Deadline is August 1, 2024

AAOS is currently seeking volunteers for several oncology/tumor committees. Interested MSTs members are encouraged to apply. Members can visit the www.aaos.org/cap to view and apply for the volunteer positions listed below. Your AAOS login is required and please keep in mind that the CAP System is designed so members can view only positions for which their membership category is eligible to apply.

- Education Assessments and Examinations Committee - Oncology
- Musculoskeletal Oncology Content Committee
- Musculoskeletal Tumor & Metabolic Disease Program Committee
- Musculoskeletal Tumor Registry Steering Committee

Sarcoma Strong Corner – Matthew R. DiCaprio, MD

We are proud to announce that a collaboration that started in 2015, under Dr. Rick Terek and Dr. Michelle Ghert's leadership has culminated in >\$1,000,000 raised to support sarcoma research. In 2023, Sarcoma Strong fully incorporated and solidified their 501c3 non-profit tax-exempt status. This only strengthens the collaborative efforts and increases transparency of philanthropic support. Our growth has come from our patient participants, countless volunteers, and each of you who have taken a risk and started a community sarcoma event at your home institutions. It is an honor and privilege to work with each of you and build your philanthropic programs to serve the greater sarcoma community through greater understanding of a rare disease we devote our professional lives to.

On March 2, 2024, we hosted our 2nd Sarcoma Strong Gala at Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia, New York. We sold out our tickets again this year, had several generous sponsors, and honored the

relationships built between our Sarcoma Strong Service-Learning medical students and the patients they advocate for. After a brief presentation, and educational video (thanks to those who provided inspirational content), and dinner, we danced the night away. Our 3rd Gala is planned for March 1, 2025.

We would like to highlight a new collaboration for 2024 with the STL Cure Sarcoma organization. A special thanks to Dr. David Greenberg for establishing the relationship with their leadership earlier this year which has led to our partnership. Dr. Greenberg now has an event to partner with for his patients and institution, piggybacking off the previous success of STL Cure Sarcoma organization. Their programming mirrors Sarcoma Strong in years of existence and annual funds raised. We have a Memorandum of Understanding from their organization to receive a percentage of their proceeds to support sarcoma research through the Sarcoma Strong/MSTS fund. This collaboration was

a win-win for both organizations. They were enticed to collaborate by the fact Sarcoma Strong remains a 100% volunteer organization and that MSTS funded researchers would be able to demonstrate the results obtained from the research funded. To date Sarcoma Strong's only expenses have been for programming, not



*Raise Sarcoma Awareness
Advocate for Sarcoma Families
Raise funds for Research*

human resources. We do anticipate with our growth needing some assistance in the fields of communication, marketing, and social media but will remain a volunteer organization with a dedicated board guiding future growth and endeavors.

We anticipate our 2024 Global Sarcoma Strong 5k weekend to be a huge success. Our registration page is open at www.sarcomastrong.com/run. Our goal of having 10 institutions with in person events in 2024 is shaping up to be a reality and we are thankful for all MSTS members and their patients and supportive volunteers who give of their time and talent to support our mission. Events are already scheduled in Saratoga, NY, Boston, MA, El Paso, TX, Dallas, TX, and Hamilton, Canada. We are actively planning events for San Francisco, CA, Pennsauken, NJ, Syracuse, NY, Atlanta, GA, and Gainesville, FL.

Those interested in getting involved please feel free to email me at dicaprm@amc.edu or call 518-378-6499.

