

# BACKBONE

a publication of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society

Volume 15

Summer 2012

## President's Corner *William G. Cimino, M.D. - President*



*(Editor's Note: The following is an excerpt from Dr. Cimino's President's Address given at the COS Annual Meeting on May 11, 2012)*

Since I began serving as President last year, I have been privileged to work with members, your colleagues, addressing the key issues and concerns of the orthopaedic community both in Connecticut and on the national level. Our Society continues to be the collective representative and voice for all of you.

Your Society initiated a legislative grassroots effort in our state to oppose

detrimental changes to the Certificate of Merit bill with emails, phone calls and testimony by COS fellow board members, Drs. Gray and Marks and the tireless, relentless lobbying by Billy Malitsky and Jim Paolino. This has led to our recent success in stopping the adversarial legislation from being passed during the 2012 legislative session.

We have represented you and your patients with the Office of Healthcare Advocate to address OrthoNet's practice of reducing physical therapy visits for our patients, undermining their complete recovery. We have provided input and guidance on Workers' Compensation Commission Treatment Guidelines and have met with the director of the Department of Social Services to discuss ways we can work together to enhance access to care for Medicaid patients while reducing the administrative burden for physicians. We have held discussions with the Department of Public Health, Practitioner Investigation Division, on how to work together to get more physician volunteers involved in reviewing complaints against physicians. The Society continues to intervene on your behalf, protecting physician scope of practice and the quality of care for patients by weighing in on proposed regulatory declaratory rulings sought by other health care professionals

Our Society offers educational workshops for your staff, such as the orthopaedic coding workshop and contracting seminars, which provide a legal primer for our members who negotiate contracts with managed care organizations.

In addition to the work the Society does on your behalf, we are proud to recognize and support the two orthopaedic residency programs in

our state. Not only has the Society contributed over \$80,000.00 to the education of upcoming orthopaedic surgeons, but we also continue to foster and engage the participation of orthopaedic residents in our professional society. We have four resident members that serve on the Board of the Society, and this year we hosted a resident to travel to Washington, DC to participate with members of the COS Board on their legislative visits to Connecticut's delegation. The residents represent the future of medicine, and their voice is being heard. A special thanks to UConn orthopaedic resident, Dr. Michael Pensak, a COS orthopaedic resident board member, who helped lead the charge with his fellow residents against the Certificate of Merit bill by making numerous calls to legislators, letting them know the impact that such a bill would have on the resident's decision to practice medicine in Connecticut.

With federal healthcare legislation hanging in the balance of the U.S. Supreme Court, escalating practice costs, and an unfriendly liability landscape for physicians, members have also been actively involved on the national level in supporting the legislative agenda of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

In this past year, our members have lobbied in Washington, DC as part of the AAOS national Congressional visits to ask Connecticut's Representatives and Senators to support bill HR 1409 that would level the playing field in contract negotiations with commercial insurers. This bill was launched by the Academy with Connecticut's own Dr. Michael Connair taking a leading role.

As I look forward to the year ahead, I ask each of you to share the value of Society membership and participation with your colleagues in your communities. I urge you to become more involved and contribute your time and experience. We need "all hands on deck" to navigate the times ahead in healthcare.

# 2012 Annual Meeting Highlights

## ***Michael Connair, MD Receives 2012 Orthopaedist of the Year Award***

The Connecticut Orthopaedic Society honored Michael Pierce Connair, MD, with the Society's 2012 Orthopaedist of the Year award. Dr. Connair was selected by his peers for his leadership role in medicine, dedication to the integrity of the practice of medicine and active participation in the field of organized medicine. Dr. Connair was joined by his family including wife Cecily, their children, his father Pierce Connair, friends and colleagues at the award presentation on Friday, May 11, 2012, at the Farmington Marriott Hotel in Farmington, CT.

*Michael Connair, MD (R) receives Orthopaedist of the Year award presented at the Society's Annual Meeting on May 11, 2012, by COS President, William Cimino, MD (L).*



Dr. Connair is a past president of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society, serves as a Councilor to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and is an active member of the Connecticut State Medical Society and New Haven County Medical Association. He is a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon in the New Haven area and received his medical degree from Harvard, where he completed his orthopaedic residency.

Dr. Connair was recognized for his long committed quest to restore balance and fairness in the healthcare delivery system and to allow physicians to protect the public's access to high quality healthcare. In addition, Dr. Connair has worked tirelessly for Connecticut's physician community through his involvement on the Worker's Compensation Commission and representation on legislative and regulatory matters all the while serving his patients in his solo practice in North Haven, CT, where he also cares for the orthopaedic needs of children with spina bifida at the Yale New Haven Hospital Clinic in New Haven, CT.

A passionate crusader for physician rights and a caring and compassionate patient advocate, the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society was proud to honor him with the Society's most prestigious award, the 2012 Orthopaedist of the Year.

## ***Senator Richard Blumenthal Accepts Honorary Member Award***



*Senator Richard Blumenthal thanks COS Members for being inducted as an Honorary Member of COS at the Society's Annual Meeting on May 11, 2012.*

Senator Richard Blumenthal joined the Society's members at this year's annual meeting on May 11, 2012 to accept the COS Honorary Member of the Year Award.

Senator Blumenthal was recognized for his longtime dedication to our patients, the citizens of Connecticut as the State's former Attorney General and as Connecticut's U.S. Senator.

He was nominated by Members of the Board for his commitment to protecting patients and their right to accessible, quality health care. With his landmark battle against big tobacco and advocating for reforms in the health insurance industry to assure critical health care coverage and lower pharmaceutical drug prices to his representation on Senate Health and Aging Committees, he remains a strong advocate for patients.

Senator Blumenthal is a graduate of Harvard College and received his law degree from Yale Law School where he was editor-in-chief of the Yale Law Journal.

*The Backbone is a publication of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society. Comments and suggestions should be directed to:*

**Susan Schaffman, Executive Director**  
**26 Riggs Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06107**  
**(860) 561-5205 phone**  
**email: ctorthoexec@gmail.com**

# 2012 Annual Meeting Highlights

## ***Connecticut's Orthopaedic Surgeons Convene for Annual Meeting***

Over 140 orthopaedic surgeons, physician assistants, residents and guests attended the Society's Annual Meeting on May 11, 2012, featuring an impressive line up of speakers assembled by Dr. Michael Kaplan, Program Director and COS Board Member.

Special thanks to the speakers who shared their clinical expertise, research findings and legal counsel including **Calin Stefan Moucha, MD** - Associate Chief, Division of Joint Replacement at Mt. Sinai in New York; **William Clancy, Jr., MD** - Professor & Chairman-Division of Sports Medicine at the University of Wisconsin; **Kevin Plancher, MD** - Associate Clinical Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York; **Mark Hartzband, MD** - Director, Joint Replacement Service, Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey; **Robert Booth, Jr. MD** - Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery at Pennsylvania Hospital; **Stuart Weinstein, MD** - Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at The University of Iowa, Chairman of the AAOS PAC and Chairman of Doctors for Medical Liability Reform (DMLR); and **Lawrence Brenner, JD**, North Carolina.

Thank you to all those who attended. The Society welcome's your feedback for program improvement and topic suggestions for 2013. Please share your feedback by emailing [ctorthoexec@gmail.com](mailto:ctorthoexec@gmail.com).

### ***Resident Paper Presentations***

Residents from each of Connecticut's orthopaedic residency programs presented papers at the Annual Meeting on May 11, 2012. Resident Papers were selected by the heads of each residency program.

The following were presented:

**University of Connecticut** "*Thumb Basilar Joint Arthroplasty with LRTI: A Clinical Comparison between Half versus Whole FCR Grafts*" Presenter: Nicholas Bontempo, MD. Authors: Nicholas Bontempo, MD; Robin Leger, Ph.D.; Amir Mostofi, MD; Bryan Lawlor; Edward Akelman, MD; Craig Rodner, MD.

**Yale** "*Advantages of In-Situ Repair of Partial Articular-Sided Rotator Cuff Tears*" Presenter and Author: Arun Rajaram, MD.

The Society is pleased to support the active participation of orthopaedic residents on the COS Board, at the AAOS NOLC Conference in DC and through contributions to the residency programs in order to foster relationships and communication and support their education.



*COS Board Member and Program Director Michael Kaplan, MD (R), joins guest speaker, Mark Hartzband, MD (L) at the COS Annual Meeting on May 11, 2012.*

***The Connecticut Orthopaedic Society gratefully acknowledges the support of all our exhibitors who participated at the meeting.***

### **MAJOR EXHIBITOR**

Genzyme Biosurgery

### **MAIN EXHIBITORS**

Associated Medical

Bioventus/Innova SurgiCorp

CMIC

Covidien

4 UR Doctor

Lilly

Salient Medical

Shukla Medical

SI Bone

Smith & Nephew

Stryker

Synthes

### **GENERAL EXHIBITORS**

Auxilium

Cadence

ConnMed Linvatec

Covery's

Depuy Ortho

Depuy Mitek

Ethicon

Ferring Pharmaceuticals

Gebauer Company

Innovative Medical Products

Janssen (J & J)

Life Net

Linear Medical Solutions

Molnycke HealthCare

Olympus BioTech

OPIC

Pfizer

SpineSearch

Synthes

3M Infection Infection Control Division

Zimmer New England

**Breakfast Support - Apple Rehab**



# 2012 Legislative Session

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With all hands on deck, proposed changes to the Certificate of Merit Bill were defeated! In the waning hours of the 2012 Legislative Session the hard fought battle was won to prevent changes to the Certificate of Merit bill. With an upset delivered to the trial lawyers by the House, legislators defeated the changes and proposed amendments leaving intact CT's current law for similar healthcare providers to attest to the standards of care in medical malpractice cases.

This significant upset was the result of hundreds of physicians and numerous medical societies grassroots efforts. The Connecticut Orthopaedic Society would like to thank our lobbyist, Billy Malitsky for the countless hour spent lobbying and monitoring for possible maneuvers by the trial bar in the final days. In addition, Drs. Gerratana and Gray played pivotal roles in communicating our message to members and legislators along with Dr. Marks who also provided testimony at the public hearing. Thank you to all our members who took the time to email and phone your representatives! Your collective voice was heard loud and clear.

## In Your Practice

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*This year, physician practices may be subject to as many as 20 different types of payer audits including federal, state and private payer reviews. How to protect your orthopedic practice from costly billing errors, medical regulatory violations, network security and privacy issues?*

**Exclusive Program for Members of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society offered by Smith Brothers Insurance and NAS Insurance Services.** Smith Brothers, based in Glastonbury, Connecticut is one of the largest independent insurance agencies in New England; NAS Insurance Service is a nationwide leader in specialty insurance for the healthcare industry.

**Smith Brothers is offering our members savings on two exciting products designed specifically for solo physicians and physician groups.**

### MEDEFENSE Plus™

- **Defense against actual or alleged billing errors**
- **Defense against medical regulatory violations**

### e-MD™

- **Network security and privacy coverage**
- **Credit monitoring after a loss**
- **Data recovery costs**

Offered to all members that meet the program's qualifications. For more information and or a comprehensive quote call David Burke, healthcare practice specialist at Smith Brothers, 860 430-3256.

## Imaging Survey - Data Needed

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The CT Orthopaedic Society Survey of imaging use among orthopaedic surgeons is underway and we have collected information for over 500 patients however we need your participation in this study!

With a grant from the AAOS to conduct the survey, the COS is asking members to fill out the form on page 6 and complete the table on page 7 (make additional copies as needed) for 100 patients when you order one of the following imaging studies – X-ray, MRI, CT, Ultra Sound or Bone Scan. You will need to document:

- Body Part Imaged
- Image Modality Ordered
- Reason for Ordering the Test
- Location of Visit

We greatly appreciate your participation in this study and the valuable information that it will provide. While your reports and identity will be kept confidential in the final analysis, our Executive Director Sue Schaffman or the residents on the COS Board may be in contact with you to facilitate data collection.

Your collection of data should begin asap. Please send data either via email [ctorthoexec@gmail.com](mailto:ctorthoexec@gmail.com), fax results to 860-561-5514 or mail to: 26 Riggs Ave., West Hartford, CT 06107.

Final results will be distributed to the membership and shared with the AAOS. Thank you for taking the time to participate. If you have any questions, please contact Brian Smith, MD at [brian.g.smith@yale.edu](mailto:brian.g.smith@yale.edu) or Susan Schaffman at 860.690.1146.

## Maintenance of Certification - Are you Registered?

If you have a time-limited certificate for board certification, no matter when it expires, you are somewhere in the 10-year MOC cycle, and it is imperative that you register now. Even if you have a lifetime certificate, you should register as a participant in MOC.

**Beginning August 2012**, the ABMS and the ABOS will post the names of physicians who have registered to participate in MOC. This information will be available to the public, hospitals and state officials. If MOC participation is required as a condition of licensure or credentialing, your name should appear on that list.

**Don't Delay - Visit [www.abos.org](http://www.abos.org) and click on the "How To Sign Up for the MOC" icon and then follow the prompts.**

Since its inception, the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society Foundation has contributed to the overall \$80,000.00 Society's support to the future training of the next generations of orthopaedic surgeons. Please join your colleagues in making a tax-deductible contribution and help make a difference in 2012.

### *Your Contribution Makes a Difference.*

Enclosed is my contribution, made payable to the "Connecticut Orthopaedic Foundation, Inc." *(Please Print)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am pleased to support the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society Foundation with a gift of  
*(check one)*

\_\_\_\_ \$500.00    \_\_\_\_ \$250.00    \_\_\_\_ \$125.00

\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_ (other)

Please send to the Connecticut Orthopaedic Foundation, 26 Riggs Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06107. Your cancelled check is your receipt. **Thank you!**

## 2012 COS Board Members

### **President William G. Cimino, M.D.**

Phone: (203) 255-7000 E-mail [wgciminomd@aol.com](mailto:wgciminomd@aol.com)

### **Vice President (President-Elect) Ross A. Benthien, M.D.**

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### **Secretary/Treasurer F. Scott Gray, M.D.**

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### **Immediate Past President Brian G. Smith, M.D.**

Phone: (203) 737-5660 E-mail [brian.g.smith@yale.edu](mailto:brian.g.smith@yale.edu)

### **AAOS Councilors**

#### **Michael P. Connair, M.D.**

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#### **Michael R. Marks, M.D., MBA**

Phone: (203) 852-2613 E-mail [mmarks1988@gmail.com](mailto:mmarks1988@gmail.com)

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

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Bruce D. Browner, M.D.	Farmington	860-679-6655
Aaron S. Covey, MD	Wallingford	203-265-3280
Gary E. Friedlaender, M.D.	New Haven	203-737-5666
Frank J. Gerratana, M.D.	New Britain	860- 832-4666
Robert A. Green, M.D.	Bloomfield	860-242-3000
Mariam Hakim-Zargar, M.D.	Torrington	860-489-6363
Michael E. Joyce, M.D.	Glastonbury	860-652-8883
Michael J. Kaplan, M.D.	Waterbury	203-754-4868
Tarik Kardestuncer, M.D.	North Franklin	860-889-7348
Jay R. Lieberman, M.D.	Farmington	860-679-2640
Bruce H. Moeckel, M.D.	Middletown	860-685-8540
Michael F. Saffir, M.D.	Fairfield	203-337-2600
Stephen F. Scarangella, M.D.	Willimantic	860-456-3997
Lane D. Spero, M.D.	Torrington	860-482-8592
Aris D. Yannopoulos, M.D.	Bloomfield	860-243-1414

# COS Member Survey - Imaging Study

Zip Code in which you practice \_\_\_\_\_

Years in Practice \_\_\_\_\_

Orthopaedic Subspecialty if any? \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_

Hospital Employed Y\_\_\_ N\_\_\_

How many times have you been litigated against? \_\_\_\_ When was the last date litigation was brought against you? \_\_\_\_\_

Date Study Started \_\_\_\_\_

Date Study Ended \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** In the table printed below and on adjacent page (make copies before starting), please mark down for each image ordered: The type of imaging ordered, the body part imaged, and check the column next to each order that applies. Please record data for consecutive patients. Copy additional sheets as necessary. Under Insurance requirement, is the test ordered because they won't let you for example operate without the MRI.

## 2012 COS Imaging Study - Data Sheet

Imaging Modality Ordered (Please Circle)	Body Part Imaged (knee, L-spine, femur, etc)	Required for Clinical Care	Ordered because the patient requested	Ordered for defensive reasons	Ordered Due to Insurance Requirement	Locale (please circle)
Xray MRI CT US Bone Scan						INPATIENT OFFICE EMERGENCY ROOM
Xray MRI CT US Bone Scan						INPATIENT OFFICE EMERGENCY ROOM
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