

[Guest Editorial]

The Mission of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine: A 10-Year Update

The mission of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) is to be the premier global, sports medicine organization representing the interests of orthopaedic surgeons and other professionals who provide comprehensive health services for the care of athletes and active people of all ages and abilities. The past decade has brought about many achievements for the Society. Membership has nearly doubled to almost 4000 individuals, and 2 journals were launched. *Sports Health: A Multidisciplinary Approach* was conceived during Bill Grana's presidency, with heavy backing from then-Chair of the AOSSM Medical Publishing Group T. David Sisk, and launched during that of Freddie Fu in 2009. We were proud to partner with the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA), the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM), and the Sports Physical Therapy Section of the American Physical Therapy Association (SPTS). The journal has continued to expand, and with its recent achievement of an Impact Factor of 2.694, ranking 20th of 81 journals in the sports science category, its future remains bright.

The AOSSM's core focus remains education and research. Chris Harner specifically emphasized the former in his presidential address "Life-Long Learning: Mandate or Mission" in July 2013. In the past decade, the Society has created an orthopaedic sports medicine curriculum that continues to grow and guides all of the Society's educational activities. The Society now maintains an online learning management system, which includes access to CME for Current Concepts articles from the *American Journal of Sports Medicine*, Annual Meeting instructional course handouts, recordings of AOSSM meetings, and much more. This online library serves to provide AOSSM members with all the educational material they need in a single location.

The *Orthopaedic Journal of Sports Medicine (OJSM)* was launched 6 years ago to meet the growing need for free online access to orthopaedic sports medicine research. It has grown exponentially, with downloads now surpassing 90,000 each month, highlighting the reach of open access research. There

are currently 26 orthopaedic sports medicine societies from all 6 inhabited continents partnering in the publication of the journal, making it a true global effort.

Orthopaedic sports medicine fellowships have matured; in the past decade, 95 of the 97 programs have become ACGME accredited. With the strong urging of AOSSM, the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery initiated subspecialty certification in orthopaedic sports medicine. This was made possible by the AOSSM's creation of the orthopaedic sports medicine curriculum, clearly defining the body of knowledge relevant to the subspecialty. Today there are more than 1600 certified sports medicine orthopaedic surgeons. Certification was followed by the resurrection of a fully functional orthopaedic match, through the San Francisco Match Program, for senior residents seeking sports medicine fellowships. Nearly one-third of all graduating orthopaedic residents pursue a sports medicine fellowship. The AOSSM Board of Directors also created a resident membership category available to all orthopaedic residents at no charge, greatly expanding the opportunity for residents to receive the benefits of AOSSM membership.

Research activities have continued to expand, with more than \$3 million being awarded in research grants and projects over the past decade. Major initiatives include:

- Biologics research grants (2012: \$250,000; 2016: \$250,000)
- Meniscal Allograft Transplantation Research Grant (2012: \$300,000)
- Early sports specialization think tank and consensus statement (2015)
- Return to Play Clinical Research Grant (2018: \$250,000)
- Evaluation and Update of the IKDC SKF (2016-2019)

In September 2016, the AOSSM and the Aircast Foundation agreed to collaborate on a clinical research grant. There was a mutual interest in advancing return to play after musculoskeletal injury, and the Aircast Foundation provided a multiyear sponsorship of up to \$150,000. During the planning of the Return to Play Clinical

Research Grant, the Aircast Foundation approached AOSSM with a proposal to support up to \$1 million in sports medicine clinical research. This donation will be awarded by the AOSSM Research Committee over the next 5 to 7 years to support ongoing clinical research programs, starting with a second Return to Play Clinical Research Grant to be selected next year.

In April 2010, the AOSSM launched STOP Sports Injuries, a national outreach and education program to prevent overuse and traumatic sports injuries in children. A nationwide media event chaired by then-President James Andrews, with John Smolz and Sam Bradford, launched the campaign. This program, conceived by Dr Andrews, was created to address the epidemic of youth sports injuries. It continues today, supported by an active committee and more than 1100 participating organizations, including the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), NATA, the AMSSM, and the SPTS. More information on this program can be found at www.stopsportsinjuries.org.

Past President Pete Indelicato urged the AOSSM to refocus on its members' core role as team physicians, culminating in the creation of a Team Physician Committee in 2015. This committee continues to be actively involved with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), NATA, and multiple other stakeholders in assuring the health and safety of our student-athletes. The AOSSM regularly collaborates with up to 10 other national organizations to produce team physician consensus statements, all of which are available on the AOSSM website (https://www.sportsmed.org/aossmimis/Members/Publications/Consensus_Statements.aspx).

Discussion with the AAOS on a new home for the Academy and the various subspecialty societies began during my term in

2011. This project was successfully nurtured over the succeeding several years, and in 2015, President Bob Arciero had the honor of leading our staff into the state-of-the-art headquarters on Higgins Road in Rosemont. Shortly thereafter, Dr Jo Hannafin participated in the opening of the world-class Orthopaedic Learning Center on the ground floor. Jointly owned by the AAOS, AOSSM, and Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA), it has become the premier location for orthopaedic skills training and education.

Irv Bomberger, who had served as AOSSM's Executive Director for 20 years, announced his retirement in 2015. Under the leadership of Drs Allen Anderson and Ned Amendola, a national search for a new director was conducted. Greg Dummer assumed the role of AOSSM CEO on August 1, 2016. Thanks to his skills and Irv's thoughtful assistance, as well as the leadership of Allen and Ned, this transition was seamless. AOSSM continues to thrive.

Most recently, Past President Charles Bush-Joseph recognized that our image was becoming outdated and led a team of staff and physicians to evaluate all our branding and marketing activities. Achieving consensus was remarkable, and we now look to the future with a fresh look and vision. The AOSSM remains the world leader in orthopaedic sports medicine and will continue to provide leadership in this ever-expanding subspecialty.



Robert Stanton, MD
Chair, Medical Publishing Board of Trustees,
AOSSM President, 2010-2011

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Each issue of *Sports Health* in 2018 will feature a Guest Editorial highlighting changes seen in both the journal and the disciplines of athletic training, orthopaedic surgery, primary care, and sports physical therapy over the past 10 years. Be sure to look out for the finale of this series in the November/December issue!