



DREXEL UNIVERSITY
College of
Medicine

DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY

*Developed by the
Orthopedic Surgery Interest Group*

2025–2026 YEAR IN REVIEW

*Building Skills. Expanding Knowledge.
Inspiring the Future of Orthopedics.*



EDUCATION

Hands-on learning
and didactic
excellence



RESEARCH

Advancing discovery
and academic
scholarship



MENTORSHIP

Connecting students
with leaders in
orthopedics



COMMUNITY

Building a supportive
and inclusive
network

“

*The future of
orthopedics begins
with opportunity,
mentorship, and
a passion to serve.*

Letter from the Department Chair

Dear Drexel medical students, faculty and alumni,

As your chair, it is a pleasure and honor to provide an update on the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Drexel University College of Medicine.

I would like to begin by first acknowledging our superb student leaders in the Orthopedic Surgery Interest Group (OSIG) for organizing this 2025-26 Year-in-Review, and what a year of activities it has been! The OSIG represents the best of Drexel — engaged medical students looking to advance their education while creating an environment of learning, research, mentorship and collaboration — that advances not only the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, but the greater Drexel University College of Medicine community.

In this Year-in-Review, you will see a robust array of department activities, including: grand rounds, journal clubs, procedural skills training, surgical training, research, mentorship and professional development.

In particular, I would like to highlight two important department achievements:

- We enjoyed another highly successful match in this past cycle, with 10 Drexel medical students matching in orthopedic surgery residencies across the country. Dr. Herman deserves particular credit for his years of mentorship and guidance as our Orthopedic Surgery Pathway director.
- As the Department of Orthopedic Surgery has continued to reorganize and grow through the College of Medicine's distributed clinical campus model, we have redoubled our efforts to focus on education, research and mentorship, all leading to an unparalleled increase in research output. This is best exemplified in the sharp rise in publications, and presentations at local and national meetings.

Finally, I would like to comment on the honor to serve as your new chair. As a hand, nerve and orthopedic trauma surgeon at Rothman Orthopaedics, I was tapped by Dean Charles Cairns to also join Drexel as the vice chairman of orthopedic surgery in 2024, and then I assumed the interim chair role in 2025. After a formal search process, I was honored to be installed as the chair of orthopedic surgery in the summer of 2026. I take this role with great humility and must first acknowledge the trust placed in me by the Drexel leadership, and also the support and mentorship provided to me by Dr. Marty Herman, who has been a pillar of orthopedic surgery at Drexel for decades. It's a genuine privilege to work to advance the mission of both the department and the broader Drexel community as we move forward in turbulent but exciting times in healthcare and medical education. I look forward to these challenges, and opportunities, clear-eyed and deliberate.

I am proud to join you in looking back at our activities and accomplishments from the last academic year. But I am even more excited for what lies ahead for our Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Drexel!

Sincerely,

Asif Ilyas, MD, MBA, FAAOS

Academic Chair & Professor of Orthopedic Surgery

Drexel University College of Medicine



Letter From the Executive Board

Dear College of Medicine students, faculty, residents and alumni,

As we conclude another incredible year for the Orthopedic Surgery Interest Group (OSIG), we are proud to reflect on the growth of our organization and the enthusiasm of our members.

This year was centered around three goals:

- Expanding early exposure to orthopedic surgery
- Building meaningful mentorship with faculty and residents
- Providing opportunities for research, skills development and professional growth

Through hands-on workshops, journal clubs, research initiatives, industry partnerships and educational conferences, our members gained valuable experiences that will continue to shape their careers.

Thank you to every student, resident, faculty member and industry partner who dedicated their time to making this year such a success. We look forward to building on this momentum in the coming year.

Sincerely,

The OSIG Executive Board

Our Mission

The Orthopedic Surgery Interest Group strives to:

- Introduce medical students to the breadth of orthopedic surgery
- Foster mentorship between students, residents, fellows and faculty
- Promote research and scholarly activity
- Develop procedural and clinical skills through hands-on education
- Encourage inclusion excellence within orthopedic surgery
- Build a collaborative community of future orthopedic surgeons

Celebrating Match 2026

This year, **10 Drexel medical students** matched into **orthopedic surgery residency programs**.

- Jahan Aslami – Allegheny General
- Ryan Cha – AdventHealth Florida
- Abbey Glover – University of Louisville
- Joshua Hancock – HCA Florida JFK
- Emerson Rowe – Emory University
- Neeku Salehi – UCSF Fresno
- Simran Shamith – Temple University
- William Sutton – Jefferson Einstein
- Julian Takagi-Stewart – UCSF St. Mary's
- Zachary Zook – Penn State



YEAR AT A GLANCE

2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS

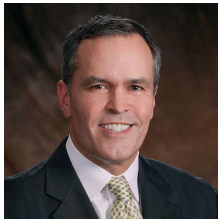


Educational Programming

Journal Club Series

This year, students engaged with faculty from numerous orthopedic and musculoskeletal specialties through interactive journal clubs focused on critical appraisal of landmark literature and clinical decision-making.

Featured specialties included:



Novel topics in Orthopedics
featuring **Dr. Christopher
Jones**



Foot and Ankle Surgery
featuring **Dr. David I.
Pedowitz**



Trauma Surgery featuring **Dr.
Samuel Schrader**



Physiatry featuring **Dr. Ari Greis** and **Dr.
Philip Koehler**

Grand Rounds Series

These sessions exposed students to current evidence, surgical techniques and multidisciplinary patient care. Members participated in educational grand rounds, reviewing complex orthopedic topics including:

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY GRAND ROUNDS
Management of ACL Injuries and the Evolution of Treatment
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 5 to 6 p.m. on Zoom

Register here:



AGENDA

Presentation by Megan Bishop, MD
Sports Medicine Surgeon at Rothman Orthopaedics, Head Team Physician of Drexel University, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Drexel University College of Medicine

Moderated by Asif Ilyas, MD, MBA
Professor and Vice Chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery at Drexel University College of Medicine

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY GRAND ROUNDS
Reconnecting Wires: Nerve Repair and Nerve Transfer
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 5 to 6 p.m. on Zoom

Register here:



AGENDA

Presentation by Richard J. Tosti, MD
Hand, Wrist, Elbow and Microvascular Surgeon, Rothman Orthopaedics; Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Drexel University College of Medicine

Moderated by Asif Ilyas, MD, MBA
Professor and Interim Academic Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery, Drexel University College of Medicine

Procedural Skills & Surgical Education

Hands-on learning remained a cornerstone of OSIG this year. Events included:

- Cadaver laboratory procedural workshop
- Splinting and suturing workshop
- Lower limb fracture conference



Research & Academic Development

Discovery Day



Orthopedic Research Day

The Orthopedic Research Day showcased the breadth of research being conducted by medical students, residents and faculty across the field of orthopedic surgery. Participants presented projects spanning clinical outcomes, biomechanics, sports medicine, hand surgery, spine, trauma and basic science while receiving valuable feedback from faculty judges. This event provided students with an opportunity to strengthen their presentation skills, foster new research collaborations and celebrate scholarly achievement within the department.



2026 Orthopedic Research Day Award Winners



Surgical Treatment of Wrist Osteoarthritis: A Comparison of Four Surgical Approaches
Keyur R. Patel, Evgeniy V. Uvarov, Temitope Ayodele, Hillary Campbell, MD, Chris Jones, MD, Asif Ilyas, MD

Is Intraoperative Patient Monitoring a Good Use of Resources in Outpatient Hand Surgery Utilizing Wide Awake Local Anesthesia No Tourniquet?

Kevin Valdes, MS, Samantha Weiss, MD, Tarini Ravikumar, BS, Walli Chen, BS, Adam Strouse, BS, Kristofer S. Matullo, MD

Ulnar Nerve Lesions as a Potential Early Marker of ATTR-Enriched Amyloidosis: A TriNetX Propensity-Matched Cohort Study

Lindsey Sydnor, BS, Ava Sanjabi, BA, Chris Jones, MD

Patient Access to Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery – Trends in the Relationship Between Ethnicity and Time from Diagnosis to Lumbar Spine Surgery.

Simran Desai, BS, Sarah Trent, MD, Claire Verret, MD, David Essig, MD, Sohrab Virk, MD

Surgeon-Rated Comparison of AI Platforms for ACL Reconstruction Controversies
Arjun Guthal, Stephen Rossettie, Evan Argintar, MD

Professional Development

Through OSIG, Drexel University College of Medicine students had opportunities to learn directly from surgeons, residents and industry leaders via:

- Orthopedic Summer Externship
- Orthopedic Enrichment Program with DePuy Synthes
- Diversity in Orthopedics panel

These programs provided exposure to mentorship, innovation and career development.



2026 Drexel Orthopedic Externship

The Drexel Orthopedic Externship is a summer program for rising M2 Drexel medical students interested in orthopedic surgery, who spend the summer immersed in the practice of orthopedic surgery with Drexel orthopedics faculty across the Philadelphia area.



The Norman Johanson, MD Orthopedic Fund



Dr. Norman Johanson (1950-2022) was the chair of orthopedic surgery at Drexel University College of Medicine from 2000 to 2019. Dr. Johanson oversaw the training of a generation of medical students at the Drexel University College of Medicine, as well as orthopedic surgeons undergoing their residency training at Hahnemann University Hospital and its affiliated sites. Dr. Johanson was known as a dedicated educator, gifted technical surgeon and a champion for vulnerable patients.

In his honor, the ***Norman Johanson, MD Orthopedic Fund*** was established to raise funds to support orthopedic research, education and training of Drexel's medical students. The fund is overseen by Dr. Marty Herman, vice chairman of orthopedic surgery at Drexel University College of Medicine, who also served as the program director of the Orthopedic Surgery Residency program during Dr. Johanson's tenure as department chair.

Funds are tax-exempt and are used to support medical student research, presentations, publications and educational opportunities.

To contribute to the Norman Johanson, MD Orthopedic Fund, please visit:

www.giving.drexel.edu/Johanson

Looking Ahead

Next year, we hope to continue expanding:

- Surgical skills workshops
- Research opportunities
- Resident mentorship
- Community outreach
- Specialty education
- Professional networking

We look forward to another exciting year of growth for OSIG!

Follow us on Instagram: [@ducom.osig](#)

Contact Email: ducom.ortho@gmail.com

THANK YOU

TO OUR

FACULTY MENTORS

Our organization would not be possible without the mentorship and dedication of our faculty advisors.

We extend our sincere gratitude to:



Asif Ilyas, MD



Martin Herman, MD

Thank you for investing your time, expertise and mentorship in the next generation of orthopedic surgeons.

— INTRODUCING THE — **2026–2027 EXECUTIVE BOARD**



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