Welcome to the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery Residency at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California.

The USC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery is committed to providing our residents an excellent educational experience and there are few programs in the United States that can match our program with respect to the overall depth of the clinical experience and the educational opportunities provided to our residents.

There are three major affiliated hospitals in our residency program including: Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center; Keck Medical Center of USC, and Children’s Hospital Los Angeles. The residents also rotate at Kaiser Baldwin Park Hospital which provides them with a community hospital experience, and Rancho Los Amigos Rehabilitation Center (foot and ankle, joint reconstruction). The diversity provides the residents with a unique and robust clinical experience which encompasses all aspects of musculoskeletal medicine.

Our Department has a strong tradition of excellence and we continue to build on that foundation. Our resident education program is one of the best in the nation. We have a two-year Core Curriculum that is the cornerstone of our teaching initiatives. This Core Curriculum meets every Friday morning and all residents are freed from their clinical duties to attend. The Core Curriculum is based on the original AAOS Comprehensive Orthopaedic Review which I edited. The goal of the Core Curriculum is to teach the residents both the pathophysiology of musculoskeletal disease and potential treatment options. In addition to the Core Curriculum, we have a number of other conferences including: weekly sub-specialty based conferences, a monthly Journal Club, Evidence base Conference (Chairman’s Conference) and Grand Rounds. Our goal is not only to teach you to be excellent surgeons but to be able to critically evaluate the literature and assess new technology. We are presently building a surgical simulation laboratory and we have created a special curriculum for the PGY-1 residents to further enhance the resident’s operative skills.

There is ample opportunity to do both clinical and basic science research within the Department. All residents are required to complete a research project during the course of their residency. Under the leadership of Dr. Zalavras, a research mentoring program has been developed to ensure that each resident has a valuable research experience that leads to at least one publication. However, many residents are involved in multiple publications. In order to further enhance the resident research experience we are also providing one resident per year the opportunity to take a year out during their residency to do basic science research. The goal of this research year is to provide this individual with skills to pursue a career in academic medicine. Please contact us if you are interested in this program.

We believe that the breadth of our clinical activity, the strength of our didactic programs and the various research opportunities provides residents with a superb and unique educational experience. Our goal is not only to produce excellent orthopedic surgeons but the future leaders of our profession. We guarantee that our residents will have the type of training that will enable them to pursue any type of orthopaedic career that they desire. Dr. Daniel Oakes (Program Director), Dr. Reza Omid (Assistant Program Director) and the faculty are truly committed to providing you with an optimal educational experience. We strongly encourage resident applicants to come here and do a sub-internship. This sub-internship will enable us to get to know you better and should enhance your ability to obtain a position in our program. We believe that this is an exciting time to be an orthopedic resident at USC and we look forward to having you participate in our continued growth and development.

Sincerely,

Jay R. Lieberman, M.D.
Professor and Chairman
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Keck School of Medicine of USC
Professor of Biomedical Engineering
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