

Department of Orthopaedics

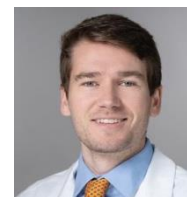
New staff arrivals, awards, honors & leadership positions

April – June, 2026

New staff arrivals

Welcome Michael “Alex” Leuze, PA

Please welcome **Michael "Alex" Leuze**, PA-C, who has joined the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery as a Physician Assistant supporting the Arthroplasty Division under the supervision of Mengnai Li, MD, PhD, Division Chief for Arthroplasty Surgery.



Alex brings extensive experience in adult reconstruction, most recently from UVA Orthopedics, where he managed a high-volume adult reconstruction practice, first-assisted in primary hip and knee replacements, and helped establish the institution's inaugural after-hours orthopedic injury clinic. He also holds clinical expertise in musculoskeletal ultrasound for diagnosis and injections. Alex earned his Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from SUNY Upstate Medical University, and we are delighted to have him join our team.

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Department Updates

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Referral Resources Now Available on the BIDMC Portal

For the convenience of our HMFP colleagues, the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery has made its [referral guide](#) and [department staff list](#) available on their BIDMC Portal for quick and easy navigation.

These resources are designed to help streamline the referral process and connect you with the right member of our team for your patients' orthopaedic needs. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions. We look forward to continuing our partnership in delivering excellent patient care.



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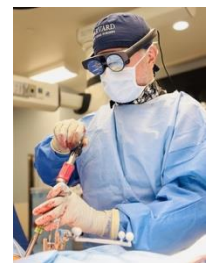
Department Updates

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Advancing Spine Surgery: First Mixed Reality Navigation Case at BIDMC, BILH

BIDMC marked a major advancement in spine surgery this year with the use of [mixed reality navigation technology](#) by Jason Pittman, MD, PhD, the first time this system has been implemented for spine surgery at both BIDMC and Beth Israel Lahey Health.

Integrated with pre-operative planning software, the technology enhances surgical precision by allowing improved visualization during procedures requiring the placement of screws and rods, while also increasing efficiency. This milestone underscores the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery's commitment to innovation and early adoption of leading-edge tools aimed at advancing patient care.



Save the Date: Wilson C. Hayes Musculoskeletal Research Symposium Monday, September 14, 2026 | Klarman Building, BIDMC West Campus

The Carl J. Shapiro Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at BIDMC and Harvard Medical School will host the Wilson C. Hayes Musculoskeletal Research Symposium: Legacy and the Future, a one-day scientific meeting honoring the life, mentorship, and landmark contributions of Wilson C. "Toby" Hayes to the field of orthopaedic biomechanics. The symposium will be held at the Klarman Building (BIDMC West Campus) on Monday, September 14, 2026.

Dr. Hayes is widely credited as one of the first academic leaders to formally establish biomechanics as a discipline within orthopaedic research and training in the United States. His mentorship shaped a generation of investigators now leading the field in bone mechanics, implant design, and computational modeling.

The symposium will bring together former trainees, collaborators, and members of the broader musculoskeletal research community for scientific presentations, early-career investigator talks, a panel discussion on the future of orthopaedic biomechanics, and a closing reception. All colleagues with connections to Dr. Hayes's work are warmly invited to attend.

[Click here to register.](#)

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Global Orthopaedic Health Initiative: Program Updates

It has been a remarkable year of growth for our Orthopaedic Health Program as our programs continue to expand their reach, impact, and international collaborations. Here are some of the major highlights from Kiran Agarwal-Harding, MD, MPH, on their work so far in 2026:



SONA Global Academy website launches

The [SONA Global Academy website](#) provides the scaffolding for our educational programs.

- 1,550 people have registered on the website so far. This overlaps with the 4,800 people who have engaged in our education to date, and the 2,000 people in our forums on social media (WhatsApp) sharing cases and advice on a daily basis.
- We have already run two virtual conferences, complex lower extremity trauma and global spine surgery, each with over 500 registered users around the world. We also ran our open fracture management conference in Kigali in person, which will be live-streamed to 340 participants globally.
- We recently launched our arthroplasty in Africa conference with live sessions for July, and planning is underway for our conferences on ortho-pediatrics and oncology, research in global orthopaedics, and safer labor & delivery (a conference we are running in collaboration with our colleagues in BIDMC OB/GYN).

Clinical Trials

We are also soon wrapping up a clinical trial of our affordable external fixation (AEFIX) in Sri Lanka with excellent preliminary results so far. We got clearance to launch a similar RCT in Rwanda, which we will hopefully do this month or next. We finalized our low-cost suction pump VATARA and tested it in the lab, with a clinical trial for negative pressure wound therapy planned in Sri Lanka (all documentation submitted, awaiting approval) and studies planned using the device for uterine suction tamponade in Rwanda and Botswana in collaboration with our OB/GYN colleagues.

Clinical Programs

Our program in Malawi this year is also off to a great start. We run an annual program of service and education in collaboration with the Mzuzu Orthopaedic Department, the Malawi Orthopaedic Association, and the Foundation for Orthopaedic Trauma. This will be our third year running the program. Last year, we provided surgery to around 75 patients and had around 80% follow-up, with a low complication rate. This year, we will have a team including Paul Appleton, Pierre Marie Woolley from Haiti, a Rwandan anesthesiologist skilled in regional anesthesia who will be teaching local staff in Malawi and another anesthesiologist from Haiti coming to Malawi specifically to learn regional blocks. We will also have two Kenyan early-career surgeons who will have just graduated from residency and are about to start their independent practices. It will be a great learning experience for them.

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Awards and Honors

Global Health Funding Award

Kiran Agarwal-Harding, MD, MPH, BIDMC Global Orthopaedic Health Initiative, and colleague, Sarah “Sally” Hanson, MD, MPH, BIDMC OB-GYN department, have been awarded funding by the [Harvard Global Health Institute for a Scholarly Working Group](#) on “Uterine Suction Tamponade for Postpartum Hemorrhage in Low-Resource Settings: Convening Evidence, Policy, and a Pathway to Scale” the idea being to use affordable technologies like their [VATARA device](#).



Congratulations to HMFP's 2026 Outstanding Physician Colleagues!



Congratulations to **Paul Appleton**, MD; **Joseph DeAngelis**, MD; and **Arriyan Dowlatshahi**, were [nominated](#) for the third annual *Outstanding Physician Colleague Award*, for going above and beyond for their colleagues.

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Congratulations to our Graduating Trainees

We are proud to congratulate the 2025–2026 Hand & Upper Extremity and Spine Surgery fellows on the successful completion of their training and look forward to their continued contributions to the field as they move into the next stages of their careers.

We are equally pleased to welcome our incoming 2026–2027 fellowship class, who will join our program this year to further their subspecialty training under the mentorship of our faculty.

Hand & Upper Extremity Fellowship

Class of 2025 -2026



Aslan
Baradaran, MD



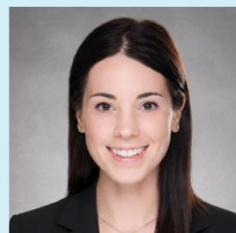
Kimberly Khouri
Baddoura, MD



Shawn
Loder, MD

Spine Surgery Fellowship

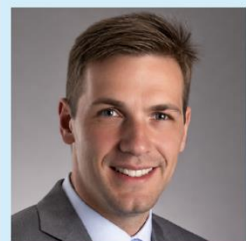
Class of 2025 -2026



Kelsey
Sheets, MD

Hand & Upper Extremity Fellowship

Class of 2026 -2027



Bryan
Grommersch, MD



Dana
Leonard, MD



Sarah
Rogers, MD, MPH

Spine Surgery Fellowship

Class of 2026 -2027



Kenneth
Furlough, MD

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Publications

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