

Tibia-Tribune

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President's Message

James A. Browne, MD



Dear Colleagues,

As the college football season rumbles towards the playoffs, I can't help but see parallels between the shifting dynamics on the field and the evolving landscape we face as orthopaedic surgeons. Conference realignment has redrawn traditional boundaries and forced programs into entirely new competitive environments. CMS is doing something very similar to orthopaedics — reimbursement structures and site-of-service rules are being reshuffled in ways that will alter how we deliver care and how our practices remain financially viable. Many of us are discovering that although we're playing the same "sport" we always have, we're suddenly aware that we may soon be competing in a very different league.

The broader economic environment in health-care also resembles the influence of NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) and the transfer portal in college athletics. The explosion of NIL money in college football has transformed the sport



almost overnight, reshaping recruiting and altering competitive balance, and forcing programs to rethink how they build and retain talent. Orthopaedic surgery is experiencing a remarkably similar shift. Instead of NIL collectives, our field faces powerful financial forces — private equity investment, insurer-driven site-of-service steering, health-system consolidation, ASC expansion, and increasingly complex payer relationships.

In this time of unrest and upheaval, sticking to the fundamentals becomes more important than ever. In football, that means blocking and

tackling, ball security, and assignment discipline. In orthopaedics, the core principles that define our profession include sound clinical judgment, technical excellence, and compassionate care. This uncertain environment also underscores the value of strong professional networks. By staying connected to colleagues, sharing experiences, and learning strategies that others are using to adapt and prosper, we strengthen not only our own practices but the broader orthopaedic community. This is why organizations like the Southern Orthopaedic Association are more relevant than ever.

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2026 Call for Abstracts

The Southern Orthopaedic Association will host its next Annual Meeting July 22-25, 2026, at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, WV. The SOA holds one of the premier meetings for orthopaedists practicing in the South. The Scientific Program will be developed to present timely reviews of practice-related techniques and clinical research findings in orthopaedic surgery through select outstanding abstracts. Nationally recognized speakers will also be invited to participate.

We invite you to submit one or more abstracts for the Meeting, which is an excellent oppor-



tunity to present a paper to your peers. The submission deadline is January 5, 2026. Abstract applications may be submitted online through the SOA's website. Visit us at www.soaassn.org and click on the "Submit Abstracts" link.

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President's Message continued

Planning is underway for our Annual Meeting next summer, and my program chair Anna Cohen-Rosenblum and I are working on making this the best Annual Meeting yet. We will offer a variety of symposia that will touch not only on advocacy and practice management issues, but also on new orthopaedic innovations, orthobiologics and joint preservation, artificial intelligence, basic principles for management of patients on call, and controversial topics in arthroplasty. The social program at The Greenbrier will also be second to none, blending the resort's timeless elegance and world-class hospitality with unique Southern charm, offering

unforgettable evening events, fine dining, and opportunities to connect and celebrate in one of America's most iconic destinations.

Just as every great football team rallies for the postseason, I hope we can all come together this July at the SOA Annual Meeting (our own summer championship) to reconnect, recharge, and chart the course for a winning season ahead.

All the best,

James A. Browne, MD

President, Southern Orthopaedic Association

SOA Education Fund

Please help support the SOA Education Fund with a charitable donation. The SOA established this 501(C)3 tax-exempt fund to provide educational opportunities for young orthopaedists throughout the territory.

The SOA provides more than \$12,000 in research grants for residents at its Annual Meeting, which contributions from Members has helped to make possible. These resident research grants will continue to be a focus for the SOA.

We encourage you to make your mark on the future with a donation to help the SOA achieve its goals for funding educational programs for residents. We appreciate your continued support of the SOA's Education Fund and would like to thank you for your generosity this past year. If you are interested in donating, visit <https://www.soaassn.org/donate>.

2026 Calendar of Events

January 5

Abstract deadline for 2025 Annual Meeting

March

Resident Award Manuscripts Requested

March 12-14

Southern at the SEC, Nashville, TN

April

Abstracts Selected and Notifications Mailed

Annual Meeting Preliminary Program Mailed

July 22-25

43rd Annual Meeting, White Sulphur Springs, WV

SOA Newsletter

If you have any information you would like included in the next issue, of the *Tibia Tribune*, please email material to Heather Skinner at hskinner@datatrace.com

The SOA

The Southern Orthopaedic Association (SOA) was founded in 1983 for physicians who are engaged in the specialty of orthopaedic and trauma surgery. Its mission is to develop and foster the art and science of medicine in the specialty of orthopaedic and trauma surgery. SOA operates exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes.

Welcome New Members

SOA is pleased to welcome the following New Members to the Southern Orthopaedic Association.

George A. Azar, MD, Columbus, NC
 Michael Joseph Barnum, MD, Tavares, FL
 Timothy David Bassett, MD, Tuscaloosa, AL
 Walter Arnold Batson, MD, Greenville, SC
 Nathan Beda, BS, Memphis, TN
 Sheila Ann Conway, MD Winston-Salem, NC
 Brooke M. Crawford, MD, MBA Miami, FL
 J. Mitchell Frix, MD, Dalton, GA
 Aric Brion Gardner, MD, Manassas, VA
 Mark Tyson Garon, MD, Baton Rouge, LA
 Robert Humble, MD, Salisbury, NC
 Steven Kent Jordan, MD, Stuart, FL

Kyle S. Joyner, MD, Murfreesboro, TN
 Brett Levine, MD, MS, Washington, DC
 Chaitu Malempati, DO, Bowling Green, KY
 Mitchell McClay, MLS, PhD, Orlando, FL
 Jessica McQuerry, MD Gainesville, FL
 Nabil Musa, MD, Auckland, NZ
 Greer Noonburg, MD, Savannah, GA
 David Matthew Pope, MD, Baton Rouge, LA
 Pierre Puente, MD, Saint Petersburg, FL
 Jeremy Welsh Reifsnnyder, DO, Lanett, AL
 Renee Riley, MD, Dumas, TX
 Dennis P. Rivero, MD, Tahlequah, OK

Eric W Schweller DO, Garden City, MI
 Michael Devon Smith MD Vestavia Hills, AL
 Michael J. Sullivan, MD, Brunswick, GA
 Jay Ramesh Talwalkar, MD, Lexington, KY
 Richard Jason Valentine, MD, Saraland, AL
 Anna D. Vergun, MD, Chapel Hill, NC
 Preston Waldrop, MD Salem, VA
 Jeffery Alan White, DO Whispering Pines, NC
 Arnold Roger Wigle, MD, Ligonier, PA
 Reid Hunter Wilson, MD, Owensboro, KY
 Jeff Zeckser, MD, Salisbury, NC

Meet Our New Board Member



Michael P. Horan, MD
 Columbia, SC

Dr. Horan loves Pediatric Orthopaedics! He feels he was destined to care of children and their injuries.

While working on an engineering project in college in the early 1990's, he had the opportunity to work with a group of Pediatric Orthopaedists on a Motion Analysis project for children with cerebral palsy and found that this field was his calling. Although he had planned to be a Mechanical Engineer, he rerouted his education with his sights set on becoming a Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon. He graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Clemson University and followed that with a graduate Master of Science degree in Bioengineering and Biomechanics, also from Clemson. He then worked as a Product Development Engineer for Stryker Spine in Allendale, New Jersey where he developed a Posterior Cervical Fixation System, OASYS, which resulted in multiple US Patents and has been used regularly throughout the world in thousands of patients over the past 20+ years. He next obtained his medical degree at Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. He completed his internship and residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Kentucky in Lexington and completed a fellowship

in Pediatric Orthopedics and Spinal Deformity at Columbia University in New York City.

Dr. Horan is board certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Southern Orthopaedic Association (SOA), and the South Carolina Orthopaedic Association (SCOA) and a candidate with the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS). Currently, he serves as a member of the Board of Counselors with the AAOS and travels to Capitol Hill to lobby for Orthopaedic Surgeons, reduced costs for patients, and timely access to medical care by reducing the hurdles to prior authorization. He serves on several committees with the above organizations including the Pediatric Orthopaedic Global Outreach Committee with POSNA and the SRS Nonoperative Treatment for Scoliosis Committee. He is a representative to the Board of Directors for the Southern Orthopaedic Association and is a member of the Board of Directors as well as the Orthopaedic Director for the nonprofit Medical Mission Ecuador Surgical Mission.

He serves as a clinical assistant professor with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and teaches medical students and

residents Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery. His research interests included peer reviewed published works on Vitamin D deficiency in Pediatric Orthopaedics as well as textbook chapters, journal articles, and speaking presentations on Pediatric Orthopaedics.

Since 2009, Dr. Horan has been a member of the Medical Mission Ecuador, traveling to Ambato Ecuador annually to provide free medical care and Orthopaedic Surgery to children in underserved areas. He now directs the Orthopaedic Surgery team for the mission and organizes the travel and planning for a 80 member team from the United States.

Learn more about the mission here: www.medicalmissionecuador.org.

His specialties and clinical interests include all facets of pediatric orthopedics and children's trauma including sprains and fractures, hand anomalies, spinal deformity, early onset scoliosis and scoliosis casting, growth friendly spinal surgery including Magec Rods, spinal tethering, and traditional growing rods.

You can usually find Dr. Horan at all Clemson home football events proudly wearing his Orange and cheering on the Tigers!



Southern at the SEC: 2026 Sports Injury Update

You are invited to attend “Southern at the SEC” presented by the Southern Orthopaedic Association. Leading orthopaedists will present the latest clinical findings and techniques in treating sports injuries and related conditions. Through the combination of lectures, panel discussions, and audience involvement, you will be able to earn approximately 11 Category 1 CME credits.

The program is scheduled to take place March 12-14, 2026 at the [Margaritaville Hotel](#) in Nashville, Tennessee during the SEC

Men’s Basketball Tournament. The educational sessions will take place each morning, leaving the afternoons and evenings free for you to attend the tournament.

A limited number of SEC Men’s Basketball Championship ticket booklets are available. Send an email to info@soaassn.org to reserve yours!

Visit the SOA website at www.soaassn.org for more information or to register.



Recap of the 42nd Annual Meeting

The 42nd Annual Meeting was a great success, with an outstanding Scientific Program put together by Program Chair, Dr. Carter Cassidy along with the SOA Program Committee.

Program highlights included the L. Andrew Koman, MD Distinguished Southern Orthopaedists, Dr. James "Bubba" Armstrong, who gave an entertaining talk, "Home Grown Tomatoes." The following day the Presidential Guest Speaker, University of Tennessee's head basketball coach, Bruce Pearl, gave a thoughtful talk "Faith, Family and the NIL." On the last day Dr. Christopher A. Heck gave his Presidential Address "The Doctor's Family". In addition to the exceptional Scientific Program, there were also e-Poster presentations.

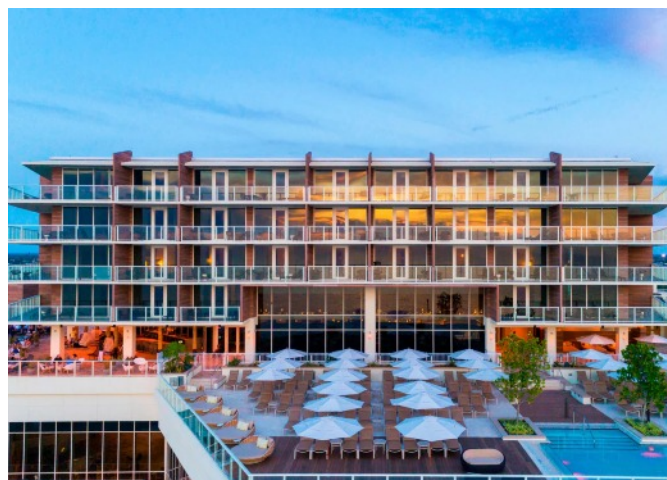
The Meeting kicked off with the always fun Welcome Dinner on the Sunset Terrace over-

looking beautiful Marco Island beach. Everyone had a great time visiting with old friends and new. The following evening began with the Exhibitor Reception, after which everyone had the opportunity to enjoy the hotel or go out to discover the beauty of Marco Island. The Meeting was brought to a close with a Happy Hour on the beach followed by the Tides and Tunes Beach Party. Spouse Hospitality included a breakfast every morning with speakers.

It was a wonderful Meeting, and we express our thanks to all who attended. If you missed

it, view some photo highlights from Marco Island on the SOA website at www.soaassn.org.

We look forward to seeing you next year at The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, July 22-25, 2026!



Thanks for a Great Meeting



Thank You Annual Meeting Exhibitors

The Southern Orthopaedic Association would like to thank the grantors and exhibitors of the Southern Orthopaedic Association's 42nd Annual Meeting. Without the unrestricted educational support of the companies listed below, we would not have been able to provide this conference.

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Southern
Orthopaedic
Association

SOUTHERN AT THE SEC

Sports Injury Update 2026

March 12-14, 2026 | Nashville, TN

Registration is Open - Sign up Today



MEETING HOTEL
Margaritaville Hotel
425 Rep. John Lewis Way S
Nashville, TN



Scan the code
above to
register and
book your
hotel room!

A limited number of SEC Men's Basketball Championship ticket booklets are available. Send an email to info@soaassn.org to reserve yours!

Upcoming SOA Meetings



**Southern at the SEC:
Sports Injury Update 2026**
March 12-14, 2026
Margaritaville Hotel
Nashville, TN



43rd Annual Meeting
July 22-25, 2026
The Greenbrier
White Sulphur Springs, WV

SAVE THE DATE

43rd Annual Meeting | July 22-25, 2026 | The Greenbrier

















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SAVE THE DATE
43rd Annual Meeting

July 22-25, 2026
The Greenbrier
White Sulphur Springs, WV

