



PHILADELPHIA ORTHOPAEDIC SOCIETY

308 Rolling Creek Road, Swarthmore, PA 19081

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PRESIDENT'S GREETING

I hope this message finds you well. As we move through what has already been a fantastic year for the Philadelphia Orthopaedic Society, I wanted to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued engagement and support. Our meetings have been vibrant, well-attended, and filled with the kind of thoughtful discussion that reflects the strength and collegiality of our local orthopaedic community.

A special note of appreciation goes to Dr. Daniel Davis, whose outstanding work in curating this year's academic program has elevated our educational offerings to new heights. Each session has been both timely and insightful, showcasing the exceptional expertise within and beyond our region.

We are particularly excited about our upcoming John Esterhai Memorial Lectureship, where Dr. Buddy Savoie will join us as our distinguished speaker. Dr. Savoie's contributions to orthopaedic surgery are widely recognized, and we are honored to welcome him to Philadelphia for this important event.

This lectureship also gives us an opportunity to reflect on the remarkable career and legacy of Dr. John Esterhai. John was a consummate clinician, educator, and leader whose influence continues to shape our community. His commitment to patient care, his mentorship of countless trainees, and his devotion to advancing our field left an indelible mark on generations of Philadelphia orthopaedists. Many of our members were fortunate to train under him and carry forward his dedication to excellence and compassion.

Thank you for being part of this vibrant society. I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting as we continue to build upon the momentum of this exceptional year.

Surena Namdari MD, MSc
President

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PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT



On Monday October 13 we hosted the annual Howard Steele lecture with honored guest, Mr. Jonathan Bigely. He delivered an excellent history of the efforts the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society has provided in advocacy and specific challenges we face in medical malpractice in the Commonwealth. There was great discussion, and we appreciate Jonathan's time in sharing his expertise with us.

Our 2025 - 2026 lecture series continues November 10 with the John L Esterhai Lecture for which we are honored to host Dr. Buddy Savoie. Dr. Savoie is currently the Chairman of Orthopaedic Surgery at Tulane University School of Medicine, where he is also the Ray Haddad Professor of Orthopaedics. Dr. Savoie is well known around the world as a true expert and pioneer in arthroscopic treatment of all joints but focuses on shoulder and elbow surgery. He has been president of the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association, American Arthroscopy Association, American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons, the Orthopaedic Learning Center, and the Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. He has published and lectured around the globe extensively and we are truly privileged to host Dr. Savoie to speak about his career in orthopaedics and leadership. I hope many of you can make it, which certainly will be a fantastic evening.

Sincerely,

Daniel Davis, MD
Program Chair

2025-2026 MEETING SCHEDULE



November 10, 2025 • 5th Annual John L Esterhai Lecture

“A Journey in Orthopaedic Leadership”

Felix H. Savoie, III, MD

Chairman, Professor

Tulane University School of Medicine

December 8, 2025 • 23rd Annual Steinberg-Lotke Lecture

“Maintaining Professionalism in Orthopaedic Surgery”

Steven Frick, MD

Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon Atrium HealthCare,

Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Associate Dean

Wake Forest University Medical School, Charlotte Campus

February 9, 2026 • 13th Annual Richard H. Rothman Lecture

“43cc – The making of a Podcast for the Future of Healthcare”

Matthew Ramsey, MD

Shoulder and Elbow Surgeon at Rothman Orthopaedics and Professor of Orthopaedic

Surgery Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University

April 13 2026 • 18th Annual Parviz Kambin Lecture

“What to Expect for the Future of the ACA, Medicare, and Medicaid”

David Grande, MD, MPA

Director of Policy, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics,

Professor of Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine

May 11, 2026 • Snyder-Gregg Resident Bowl

NOVEMBER MEETING

Fifth Annual John L. Esterhai Lecture Monday, November 10, 2025

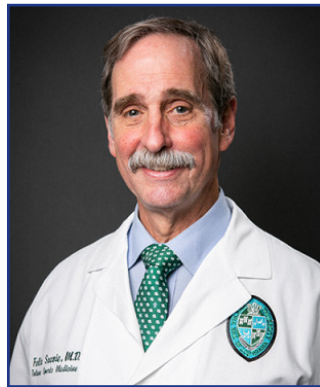
6:00 p.m. Buffet

7:00 p.m. Program

THE PYRAMID CLUB

52nd Floor, 1735 Market Street, Philadelphia

“A Journey in Orthopaedic Leadership”



Felix H. Savoie, III, MD

Chairman, Professor

Tulane University School of Medicine

Price: \$65 for Members and Emeritus Members

\$90 for Non-members

Please register online at www.phillyortho.org

— Residents may register through their Program Coordinators —

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2025

MALPRACTICE IN PENNSYLVANIA: A HARD SEASON AHEAD



What do a \$182.7 million verdict, 10 percent year-on-year premium increases, and venue shopping have in common? They are all part of a malpractice landscape that is tightening once again across Pennsylvania. For the history buffs in the room, the last true hard market hit in the early 2000s, when premiums spiked and several insurers stopped writing new business altogether. Back then, even Wawa coffee couldn't keep insurers from heading for the Turnpike.

In 2023, a Philadelphia jury awarded \$182.7 million in a birth injury suit involving a five-year-old boy, one of the largest verdicts in state history. The verdict, later adjusted upward through post-trial proceedings, reminded everyone how a single outsized judgment can ripple through pricing, underwriting, and confidence in the market.

Nationwide, 8 percent of all medical liability premiums rose 10 percent or more in 2024, according to the AMA. In Pennsylvania, that number was 49 percent, placing it among the most pressured states in the country. No one likes us. But in this case, we do care.

The venue rule change that took effect in 2023 now allows plaintiffs to file malpractice suits in any county meeting general venue requirements, fueling venue shopping and larger verdicts. There is one bright spot. In July 2025, the Pennsylvania Superior Court upheld the enforceability of a patient-signed venue selection clause in a Bucks County case, confirming that physicians can contractually anchor venue. A modest counterbalance to an otherwise expanding legal risk.

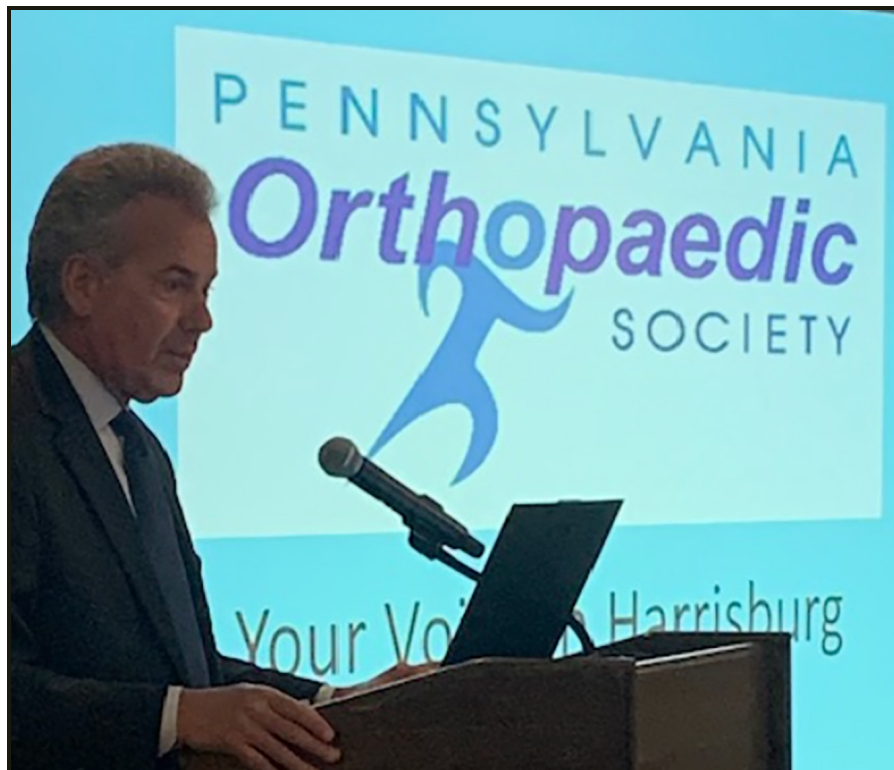
So where do we go from here? Independent practices can often secure a lower premium for the same coverage by comparing insurers and negotiating at renewal. Many have seen rates drop by as much as 10 percent. Larger organizations and self-insured health systems have an opportunity to push for reforms locally and nationally that keep Pennsylvania's malpractice climate sustainable for physicians and patients alike.

Together, we can help ensure Pennsylvania remains a place where physicians can practice confidently and patients can continue receiving the care they deserve.

Aqil Rashid
CEO, Sheltra
aqil@getsheltra.com



October Meeting Highlights





October Meeting Highlights



MEET THE BOARD



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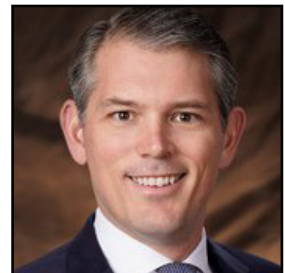
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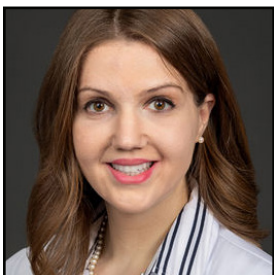
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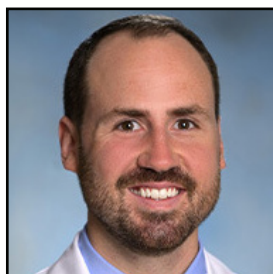
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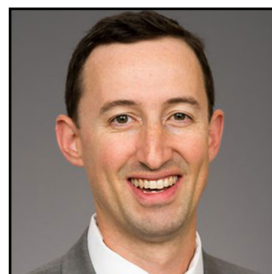
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