MOTION

NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN RESEARCH AND CLINICAL CARE IN PEDIATRIC ORTHOPAEDICS

THE LUSKIN Orthopaedic Institute for Children IN ALLIANCE WITH UCLA Health

Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA

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“Care for Children the Moment They Need It”

By Dr. Anthony Scaduto

LuskinOIC is committed to ensuring the children of Los Angeles receive the orthopaedic care they need when they need it. Timing is particularly essential in pediatric orthopaedics, so remaining accessible to our community is one of our long-lasting goals.

While more than 93% of our patients come to us underinsured, it is our enduring mission to never turn anyone away. The commitment to this mission proved to be a challenge during the two long years of the pandemic when community hospitals saw unprecedented and unplanned needs, such as recurring COVID-19 vaccination clinics and other forms of essential services. Other challenges during this time included COVID-related tragedies that struck patients, staff, and their families, widespread difficulties in the healthcare labor market, and inflationary increases that demanded the ongoing reassessment of our financial outlook.

> “I am recommitted and determined we do our part to ensure that orthopaedic care is provided to all children, regardless of their background or situation.”

The pandemic raised an awareness of widespread inequities throughout society, but especially in healthcare. I am proud of the vital role LuskinOIC has played in addressing such healthcare inequities for a century, but as growing disparities have been brought into focus, I am recommitted and determined we do our part to ensure that orthopaedic care is provided to all children, regardless of their background or situation.

Here is a partial list of LuskinOIC’s accomplishments during the past two years:

- Funded fully by philanthropic support, we broke ground on the new Border Clinic in Calexico, California. For more than six decades, we have sent medical teams to the border to provide free medical care to children from Mexico with complex orthopaedic conditions.
- We launched Save My Spot, a web platform allowing parents to navigate their busy schedules by reserving their spot in our Pediatric Orthopaedic Urgent Care Center. More than 500 families have relied on the program since October 15th. Immediately popular among our community, Save My Spot is ready to be scaled up in 2023.
- We are proud to partner with UCLA to bring adult orthopaedic care services to the downtown Los Angeles community.

Over the past two years, LuskinOIC was tested in many ways. I am filled with gratitude and pride to say that in the face of each challenge, we sought solutions that made us more effective and compassionate as healthcare providers. Our community of professionals, volunteers, and advocates grew in size and in their determination to advance health equity for every child in Los Angeles and beyond.

Enduring Mission, New Name

Luskin Orthopaedic Institute for Children (LuskinOIC) hails as the new name of the largest provider of pediatric orthopaedics on the West Coast

By Jason Silletti, chair of LuskinOIC Board of Trustees

Orthopaedic Institute for Children announced on June 13, 2022, that it received a $15 million gift from Renee & Meyer Luskin, the largest gift to the organization’s endowment in its 112-year history, to support OIC’s commitment to patient care, scientific research and education. In recognition and gratitude, the organization has renamed itself The Luskin Orthopaedic Institute for Children (LuskinOIC).

“Meyer and Renee Luskin are two of Los Angeles’ most generous philanthropists who have long supported our mission and our belief that every child should have the opportunity to grow well and play well,” said LuskinOIC CEO Anthony Scaduto, MD. “Through the years OIC has benefited greatly from the generosity and wisdom of this extraordinary couple. This transformational gift will have a perpetual impact on our mission and on all those who cross our threshold for generations to come.”

Meyer Luskin has been closely involved with OIC for nearly two decades and is a former Chair of its Board of Directors. As a young child in the depression who grew up in New York City’s Lower East Side and Los Angeles’ Boyle Heights, Luskin experienced firsthand the need for free healthcare services, and that memory became a passion to make sure that quality healthcare is accessible for all children.

“Over the past decade the transformation of OIC has been remarkable,” said Meyer Luskin. “More kids have been treated, more research has been published and more medical students are being trained, all while reducing our debt and recruiting exceptional medical professionals.”

The impact of the Luskins’ unwavering support for Los Angeles’ children can be seen throughout the community. He has served as director for, among others, the Alliance for College Ready Public Schools, the UCLA Foundation, the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, and the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation. Luskin has also received the highest honor—a UCLA Medal Alumni—from benefactors and lifelong friends of UCLA in 2019.

The announcement of the $15 million historic gift to OIC and the concurrent renaming of the Institute was made at the June 11 Stand for Kids Gala at Paramount Pictures Studios. Attended by more than 700 supporters, this annual gala honors the impact the Institute makes on children worldwide and pays tribute to many of those physicians, researchers, employees, donors, and business leaders who help make it possible.

Celebration of the Luskins and unveiling the new LuskinOIC logo at the 2022 Stand for Kids Gala

Orthopaedics's Quest for Diversity and Inclusion

Dr. Rachel Thompson highlights LuskinOIC's long track record of bridging the gender equity gap in orthopaedics in the specialty's continuing quest to draw more diverse talent

Historically, the field of orthopaedics has been dominated by athletic white men due to outdated myths and a lack of diversity in institutional leadership and policies. Dr. Thompson has seen the landscape in the speciality begin to shift since her residency at Northwestern, thanks in part to the trailblazing women practitioners who came before her. In the interview below, she discusses changes she's seen at LuskinOIC and the department of orthopaedics at UCLA, and why diverse and inclusive representation, particularly in professional areas that still struggle to capture more of it, improves the quality of the experience for everyone involved.

I recently learned that among all medical specialties, women are the least represented demographic in orthopaedics, where only 6% of surgeons and 16% of residents are women. Could you help us add some context to this disparity?

Dr. Thompson: I think it helps to remember the history of the specialty. Historically, a fairly uniform profile of candidates was drawn to orthopaedics: They tended to be white men with above-average upper body strength, so a certain kind of masculine look became dominant in the field. Also, the specialty was closely associated with sports and athleticism, so you can see why, when women were excluded from the sports world itself for most of the 20th century, it's not wildly surprising that orthopaedics was mainly practiced by men. As a result, the strong male stereotype of orthopedists continued to be reinforced.

Was this masculine profile stereotype still in place when you applied for residency?

Dr. Thompson: Very much so. Tall white men represented the majority in orthopaedics, which discouraged people who didn't fit that profile to apply. Unsurprisingly, the specialty's history discouraged women and people of color to seriously consider their chances in orthopaedics.

With that being the case, how did you become attracted to a field that was so dominated by men?

Dr. Thompson: By then there were already a few excellent women practitioners and surgeons in orthopaedics, and those women shared their experiences with those considering medical school, which helped change the landscape of applicants. Also, as the technical complexity of the speciality was being recognized more broadly outside of orthopaedics itself, the myth that there was a need for exceptional upper-body strength for the job was debunked.

Do you emphasize the speciality's history and myths when you speak to women considering orthopaedics?

Dr. Thompson: Absolutely. I discuss the history and the myths of orthopaedics—how strength has nothing to do with being an outstanding practitioner—and then I highlight how they'd be joining one of the elite subspecialties in medicine. I do warn them, however, that they have to be prepared to break into what is still perceived as a men's club.

What has happened, at the institution level, to rectify this men's club perception?

Dr. Thompson: Unfortunately, not much has happened at the structural level, as there is no specific policy or legislation trying to address the underrepresentation of women in orthopaedics. At the same time, institutions and organizations do want to attract more women because there is now a general understanding in society that a more diverse and inclusive staff benefits not only the quality of the practice itself, but also the patients they serve.

> "...there is now a general understanding in society that a more diverse and inclusive staff benefits not only the quality of the practice itself, but also the patients they serve."

We have to understand that the messenger is key here. A message gains credibility and reach when it's carried by someone who represents diversity and inclusion. That's why I remain very vocal about the need to attract more women and other minority residents into residency.

How early do you think this process of re-education needs to begin?

Dr. Thompson: As early as possible. Even when you're speaking to young people in elementary school, it is essential to emphasize why diverse and inclusive representation, particularly in professional areas that still struggle to capture more of it, improves the quality of the experience for everyone involved. It improves the experience for those who practice it, as well as for those who receive it.

When I spoke with my co-residents at Northwestern, we all agreed that patients desired to receive care from people who looked like them, who felt more familiar to them. Of course, patients can feel comfortable with any provider who is cordial and welcoming, but it is also true that there is an immediate level of comfort that people who look like you can bring into a situation.

How do you think LuskinOIC and the department of orthopaedics at UCLA are carrying out the need to diversify?

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Dr. Thompson: The alliance between the two institutions continues to be incredibly generative in many regards, but especially when it comes to the need to continue diversifying orthopaedics, so that women and people of color are no longer the least represented demographic compared to other specialties in healthcare.

UCLA remains an institution with a long history and leadership of always standing at the frontlines of pushing policies of diversity and inclusion, not only in the student body, but also for faculty, staff, and leadership as a whole. The alliance with LuskinOIC reinforces the fact that LuskinOIC's leadership shares all of those priorities, and this reality of shared values and objectives can be shown concretely: Under the presidency of Anthony Scaduto, for example, over 70% of fellows have been women. More than 60% of LuskinOIC staff are women. The majority of nurses and RNs are women.

Does this ample representation of women spread into the leadership as well?

Dr. Thompson: You could say that ensuring that women and people of color are well represented in leadership is the next unavoidable frontier. For structural reasons, it takes many cycles, if you will, to diversify the leadership composition of organizations. So, if you want to expedite the process, intentionality and determination are key. In other words, you need to promote women and people of color to leadership positions. You need to have more women making business development decisions at all ranks and levels of leadership. You need to intentionally create a critical mass that reflects the gender representation parity you see in medical school itself.

Why is having a diverse leadership beneficial, and to whom?

Dr. Thompson: Because their varied views and experiences will inform and guide institutional policies that, in turn, will continue to create work spaces that are more inclusive. If you have a diverse leadership that creates inclusive work spaces, then you will successfully attract talented professionals, many of whom will happen to be women. And just as patients want to receive care from people they have immediate affinities with, your staff also desires leadership that represents them.

So, in summary, what institutional policies can draw more women to orthopaedics, in general, and to LuskinOIC, in particular?

Dr. Thompson: The kinds of policy that tend to draw talented, outstanding candidates in any profession. Competitive healthcare, attractive compensation packages, including a work environment that makes the duality of professionals' life choices and determination to achieve professional excellence compatible and possible every day.

Dr. Rachel Thompson attended medical school at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and completed her residency in orthopaedic surgery at Northwestern University in Chicago, IL. She completed her first fellowship in pediatric orthopaedics and scoliosis at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas, TX, and her second in neuromuscular orthopaedics at Nemours A.I. DuPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, DE. Her primary area of practice is pediatric orthopaedics with a specialization in neuromuscular orthopaedics/cerebral palsy and hip dysplasia/disease. On staff at LuskinOIC, she is also an Assistant Clinical Professor-in-Residence in the Department of Orthopaedics at UCLA. She serves as the Director for the UCLA/LuskinOIC Center for Cerebral Palsy, and she holds the William and Patricia Oppenheim Presidential Chair in Pediatric Orthopaedics. Her clinical and research interests focus on cerebral palsy and adolescent hip disease. Her work looks at how gait analysis can improve surgical decision making and trace the molecular basis for the muscular pathology seen in cerebral palsy.

Dr. Thompson and speakers at the 2022 Cerebral Palsy Conference (preceding page); Dr Thompson performs surgery in Honduras (top left); Dr Thompson with her patient and a colleague in Honduras (bottom left); LuskinOIC orthopaedists attend a pottery class (above)

LuskinOIC welcomes the UCLA Adult Orthopaedic Clinic at their downtown Los Angeles campus

In February of 2023, the UCLA Department of Orthopaedic Surgery opened an Adult Orthopaedic Clinic on LuskinOIC's DTLA campus with a staff of five surgeons and five non-surgical orthopaedists. The surgeons have also begun to conduct surgeries in the Ambulatory Surgery Center in the DTLA campus. This venture benefits the department that was in need of operating room time, as well as the institute that will benefit from ancillary revenues.

> "The vision is to cultivate this campus to become the premier center of research, practice, and care for all musculoskeletal conditions in the state."

"Our DTLA campus sits in the heart of Los Angeles, where public transit, a flourishing economy, entertainment, vibrant cultural growth, and residential expansion interact on a minute-to-minute basis. This partnership ensures outstanding orthopaedic care, including surgical intervention, to an area that continues to lead California's vibrant productivity," said Dr. Nicholas Bernthal, interim chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. "The vision is to cultivate this campus to become the premier center of research, practice, and care for all musculoskeletal conditions in the state."

LuskinOIC's enduring mission is to ensure all children, regardless of background, can receive immediate orthopaedic care when they need it. This expansion strengthens the generative partnership between LuskinOIC and UCLA Health to provide outstanding and timely care to a wide variety of musculoskeletal conditions in Downtown Los Angeles, one of the densest and most diverse areas in Southern California.

UCLA Adult Clinic

THE ALLIANCE'S NEXT FRONTIER

Dr. Edward Cheung lays out his vision for the adult clinic as the partnership prospers

The transition from a pediatric provider to an adult provider can be difficult to manage for many families. Orthopaedics is no different. In the below interview, Dr. Edward C. Cheung explains how adding an adult orthopaedic clinic to LuskinOIC's DTLA campus benefits patients and families by becoming a convenient "one-stop-shop" for the treatment of any orthopaedic condition, at any stage of life. Bringing surgical patients to an established outpatient surgery center, reputable for its efficiency and patient-centered approach, allows doctors not only to perform more surgeries in the same amount of time but also ensure favorable post-surgical outcomes.

The Adult Orthopaedic Clinic opening in LuskinOIC's DTLA campus showcases the expansion of the partnership between the two institutions, as well as UCLA's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Cheung, could you tell us more about the vision and plans guiding the department's and partnership's growth.

Dr. Cheung: UCLA and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery has always strived to provide the best orthopaedic care to the people of Los Angeles. LuskinOIC and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery have a historic relationship, and this new collaboration is a way to further solidify our partnership. Ideally, with the addition of adult orthopaedics to the LuskinOIC campus, and hopefully with additional services in the future, the downtown campus can be a convenient "one-stop-shop" for the treatment of any orthopaedic condition.

What was the department's rationale to expand the practice to this area of Los Angeles?

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Dr. Cheung: By partnering with LuskinOIC, we are able to bring the expert care of the department to a different part of the Los Angeles population that may not have wanted to battle traffic to come to our West LA locations. Our partnership has allowed LuskinOIC and the UCLA Department of Orthopaedic Surgery to provide comprehensive, world-class orthopaedic care to families in one location. Orthopaedic surgery continues to trend towards same-day, outpatient surgery, and LuskinOIC has two modern, beautiful, world-class operating rooms that are available for use. Bringing surgical patients to an efficient, smooth and established outpatient surgery center allows us to perform more surgeries in the same amount of time.

> "One of the best things about taking care of musculoskeletal injuries is the ability to restore patients' mobility and function and see how that can truly transform their lives."

What are your five-year and 10-year plans for the clinic on the DTLA campus?

Dr. Cheung: In five years, I hope that we can have a busy, bustling adult practice that can take care of any orthopaedic condition. In 10 years, I hope that we are able to have a clinic, physical therapy, imaging (CT, MRI, XR), durable medical equipment (DME), and our operating room all in one place to truly provide complete comprehensive care for all our patients.

What would you highlight as the main benefits of having an entire medical campus dedicated to orthopaedic care, including surgery and research?

Dr. Cheung: I believe true collaboration and innovation happens best when talented and motivated individuals are in the same location. By bringing together top pediatric, non-operative and operative providers, physical therapists, scientists and clinician scientists all on one campus, I'm excited to see what is possible.

What types of collaborations between pediatric and adult orthopaedists can advance specific aspects of each practice's patient care and outcomes?

Dr. Cheung: Children and adults can have unique orthopaedic injuries. For example, young children can have certain growth deformities that can change over time as their skeletons continue to mature, while adults can have more age-related injuries like rotator cuff tears and arthritis. The transition from the pediatric provider to the adult provider (pediatrician to internal medicine/family medicine primary care physician) can be difficult to manage for families. Orthopaedics is no different, with some unique considerations in the adolescent and young adult patient. With both pediatric and adult orthopaedic providers on the same campus, we can help patients and families easily navigate this transition and sometimes even perform surgery together in some situations. This collaboration is one of my favorite parts of working in a large group practice.

As you know, many immediately, and almost exclusively, associate orthopaedic care with sports and athletes. Based on your practice, research, and teaching, what aspects of orthopaedics would you highlight to afford the public a more accurate understanding of the specialty's importance?

> "I personally would want a world-class, stand-alone, all-inclusive orthopaedic center where I could be taken care of from diagnosis to surgery to post-operative care, all in one convenient and modern site."

Dr. Cheung: I, myself, am a sports medicine and shoulder surgeon. My goals are to help patients return to their pre-injury state, if not a better state, no matter their previous level of athleticism. Treatments and recommendations can include operative and non-operative management, and often involves a team approach to help the patient. It's common to have surgeons, non-operative providers, and physical therapists as a part of that care team. Whatever the treatment may be, one of the best things about taking care of musculoskeletal injuries is the ability to restore patients' mobility and function and see how that can truly transform their lives.

What are the principal visions that inform your practice and research, as well as your leadership, of the adult clinic on this campus?

Dr. Cheung: I think that everything goes back to that "golden rule" you learn as a kid: treat others like you would want to be treated. I really try to keep this in mind when taking care of patients and counseling them, modeling behavior for residents and fellows and communicating with all the support staff. In terms of the design, future vision and function of our new downtown location, I personally would want a world-class, stand-alone, all-inclusive orthopaedic center where I could be taken care of from diagnosis to surgery to post-operative care, all in one convenient and modern site. I hope to continue to work with leadership from LuskinOIC and the UCLA Department of Orthopaedic Surgery to make this a reality.

Edward C. Cheung, MD, completed his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of California, Los Angeles. He completed a shoulder and sports medicine fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco, where he received additional experience with open and arthroscopic management of shoulder, hip, and knee disorders. Dr. Cheung specializes in musculoskeletal conditions of the shoulder, elbow, and knee. His clinical expertise includes complex reconstruction and minimally invasive arthroscopic management of these joints, and he has a special interest in shoulder replacement surgery, including primary and revision total and reverse shoulder arthroplasty. Additionally, he performs advanced, arthroscopic, and open procedures of rotator cuff injuries, shoulder instability, and meniscus, cartilage, and ligament injuries around the knee. Dr. Cheung is currently a team physician for the UCLA Bruins athletic teams.

Waiting lobby in the Adult Clinic (above)

Knowledge Networks

LuskinOIC organizes and hosts multiple conferences:
Stark Lecture, Cerebral Palsy Conference, Sports Medicine Conference

STARK LECTURES BRING OIC, UCLA & USC FACULTY TOGETHER

Organized and hosted by LuskinOIC with the help of Drs. Blair Filler and Milan Stevanovic, the Herbert H. Stark, MD Memorial Lecture is a unique event that bridges both USC and UCLA medical education programs across several surgical specialties. The annual event memorializes the work of Dr. Herbert H. Stark by recognizing excellence in the field of orthopaedic hand and upper extremity surgery.

In 2022, LuskinOIC welcomed Aaron Daluiski, MD, associate attending orthopaedic surgeon at Hospital for Special Surgery, as the guest lecturer. Dr. Daluiski presented and led discussions on "3D Printing and Planning of Complex Pediatric Upper Extremity Surgery," and "Artificial Intelligence in Medical Imaging: How Intelligent Really Is It?" Dr. Daluiski presented to over 50 surgeons, residents, and perioperative professionals at OIC's Luck Family Conference Center in downtown Los Angeles.

LuskinOIC HOSTED 2022 CEREBRAL PALSY PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE & FAMILY FORUM

On April 2, 2022, LuskinOIC hosted a unique, one-day educational program for professionals and patients with cerebral palsy and their families and caretakers. Members of the UCLA/LuskinOIC Center for Cerebral Palsy team, including Director Rachel Thompson, MD, presented to the forum. Other speakers included additional faculty and staff from LuskinOIC, the David Geffen School of Medicine, and Tarjan Center at UCLA. The keynote speaker was Matthew McLaughlin, MD, a pediatric rehabilitation medicine physician and clinical pharmacologist.

This event was designed to encourage an exchange of ideas and questions between professionals and families, as well as to learn about recent advances in cerebral palsy research and new treatment options available. The UCLA/LuskinOIC Center for Cerebral Palsy is the only interdisciplinary clinic in Southern California that evaluates and treats people with cerebral palsy throughout their lifespan.

LuskinOIC HOSTED ANNUAL SPORTS MEDICINE CONFERENCE IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

Nearly 80 local high school athletic trainers (ATCs) gathered at LuskinOIC's downtown Los Angeles campus on May 21, 2022, for the Annual Sports Medicine Conference. LuskinOIC and UCLA Sports Medicine physicians, as well as the LuskinOIC pediatric orthopaedic rehabilitation team, discussed a range of topics that included ACL and ankle injuries, mental health in young athletes, concussions, the importance of sleep/nutrition, returning to play after COVID-19, overtraining in year-round athletes, and neuromuscular/somatosensory training aspects of rehabilitation. The conference concluded with a social event that gave our attendees an opportunity to tour our facilities, as well as network with our providers and other athletic trainers from nearby schools.

Stark Lectures speakers (top); Cerebral Palsy conference attendees (bottom); Dr Thompson speaks at Cerebral Palsy conference (right)

LuskinOIC Beyond Borders

LuskinOIC's physicians perform pro bono clinics and surgeries in various international cities

LuskinOIC has provided services to children from around the world for over 112 years, recently visiting and offering aid in Honduras and Colombia in the wake of COVID-19.

SAN PEDRO SULA, HONDURAS

As the COVID-19 pandemic slowly began to wane in 2021, a team of LuskinOIC surgeons were the first foreigners to offer aid in Honduras, which included Drs. Tony Scaduto, Rick Bowen, Enda Kelly, and Rachel Thompson. The team, working at the Ruth Paz Foundation in the northern city of San Pedro Sula, found Hondurans not only suffering from the effects of the pandemic, but they were also recovering from the devastation brought by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. On top of this, the only pediatric orthopaedic surgeon (and dear friend and colleague of the LuskinOIC doctors) in the city, Dr. Gustavo Vasquez, had passed away, leaving many children without any pediatric orthopaedic care for months.

Despite these challenges, the LuskinOIC team partnered with the World Pediatric Project to successfully treat the children of San Pedro Sula and train the new pediatric orthopaedic surgeon who had recently moved to the region.

BUGA, COLOMBIA

Drs. Rachel Thompson and Mauricio Silva recently treated 200 patients with significant orthopaedic conditions in Buga, Colombia. Some of these patients were in urgent need of foot and hip reconstruction. For nearly a decade, Dr. Thompson has participated in this humanitarian service.

"Dr. Thompson is committed to being in the field where kids may receive care from skilled specialists. She inspires many of us to join her in this important work," Dr. Tony Scaduto said. "Having Dr. Silva on this mission was particularly fulfilling since he is a native of Colombia."

Dr. Thompson visits with a patient in Honduras before surgery (top); Dr. Scaduto with a patient in the Calexico clinic (bottom left); LuskinOIC doctors perform surgery in Honduras (bottom right)

Patient-Centered Care

LuskinOIC received the Press Ganey Award for outstanding patient care experience and launched a new platform, Save My Spot, for quicker urgent care access

LuskinOIC URGENT CARE CENTER RECEIVED THE PRESS GANEY 2022 HUMAN EXPERIENCE GUARDIAN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Press Ganey, the leader in patient, member, employee and consumer experience across the healthcare ecosystem, has recognized LuskinOIC Urgent Care Center for its excellence in patient care experience in 2022. The center scored in the 95th percentile of Press Ganey clients, receiving the Guardian of Excellence Award.

> "To be effectively human-centric, we have to know our patients on an individual level."

We have endeavored to gain greater insight into how we can continue to provide optimal care to the communities we serve. By connecting all the dots across people, processes, and technology, we aim to effectuate immediate and meaningful change in care delivery, and to elevate patients' human experience in healthcare.

To be effectively human-centric, we have to know our patients on an individual level, and that starts with promptly reviewing detailed feedback so that we can prioritize our patient's needs and pivot accordingly.

Last year, in pursuit of improved patient experience and clinical quality performance, we implemented:

- New custom patient satisfaction "text' survey that increased patient engagement and survey return rates
- Monthly feedback shared with staff and providers to improve quality

Your individual and collective response to the recent staffing challenges continues to inspire me. The leadership team remains proud of your remarkable work and is grateful for your unwavering commitment to our mission.

INTRODUCING SAVE MY SPOT

LuskinOIC is proud to announce the opening of the ***Save My Spot*** platform. Now, with just a few clicks, when a family plans a visit to our Pediatric Orthopaedic Urgent Care Center, they can reserve their appointment time and skip the line. As the largest provider of pediatric orthopaedics on the West Coast, LuskinOIC has always been kid first. Providing world-class care and improving patient outcomes have always been our highest priority. Now, with Save My Spot, our patients will get out of the waiting room and get under the care of the quality specialists they deserve.

See how easy it is for our patients to ***Save My Spot***

LuskinOIC IS FIRST MEDICAL FACILITY ON THE WEST COAST TO BE CERTIFIED BY KULTURECITY AS SENSORY INCLUSIVE

LuskinOIC has partnered with KultureCity to designate LuskinOIC's programs and services as sensory inclusive. This new initiative will promote an accommodating and positive experience for all patients and visitors with a sensory issue visiting the healthcare facility.

The certification process entails the staff at LuskinOIC being trained by leading medical professionals on how to recognize patients and guests with sensory needs and how to handle a sensory overload situation. Sensory bags, equipped with noise canceling headphones (provided by Puro Sound Labs), fidget tools, verbal cue cards (produced in conjunction with Boardmaker), and weighted lap pads will also be available to all patients and their families who may feel overwhelmed by the environment. For those patients who may need a more secure environment, the use of dedicated quiet and private spaces designed by medical professionals is available in LuskinOIC's patient care areas.

Sensory sensitivities, or challenges with sensory regulation, are often experienced by individuals with autism, dementia, PTSD and other similar conditions. One of the major barriers for these individuals is sensitivity to overstimulation and noise, which is commonly found in a healthcare environment. With its new certification, LuskinOIC is now better prepared to assist patients with sensory sensitivities in having the most comfortable and accommodating experience possible during their medical visit.

LuskinOIC patient with KultureCity materials

Advancing Research

2021-2022 Highlights from the J. Vernon Luck, Sr., MD Orthopaedic Research Center

The J. Vernon Luck, Sr., MD Orthopaedic Research Center, known as JVL, continues its research in multiple areas of orthopaedic subspecialties, including pediatrics, spine, trauma, total joint arthroplasty, and hand. Below are some of the research accomplishments and highlights from the past two years.

PEDIATRIC CLUBFOOT TREATMENT AND OUTCOME

Over the last decade, researchers at JVL have worked closely with pediatric orthopaedic surgeons at LuskinOIC to advance the field of clubfoot treatment and to establish LuskinOIC as a center of excellence for clubfoot research, publishing a total of 18 major studies. Most recently, we published two studies on the relationship between ankle joint laxity and mobility and clubfoot treatment. We also published a landmark study that summarizes over a decade of research findings from our Institution on treatment and patient outcome using non-invasive methods to treat clubfoot.

SPINE BIOMECHANICS AND ARTHROPLASTY

JVL researchers participated in a large, multi-center NIH-funded collaboration to evaluate the biomechanical performance of a 3D-printed bioresorbable cervical spine fusion cage. Also, one of JVL's current UCLA graduate students, Jenna Wahbeh, recently published two articles on the performance of cervical disc replacements. This compliments the theme of her dissertation research at JVL, for which she also recently won a prestigious travel fellowship through the Orthopaedic Research Society for this upcoming year.

TRAUMA AND FRACTURE FIXATION

The JVL research team has been collaborating with Dr. Navid Ziran, a surgeon-innovator in Arizona, on the design of a unique intramedullary nail that allows surgeon-modulated controlled fracture motion during healing. Additionally, Dr. Edward Ebramzadeh was invited to write a commentary on the misuse of statistics in trauma publications.

TOTAL HIP ARTHROPLASTY

Continuing a long-standing legacy of four decades of research and development in total joint arthroplasty, JVL researchers contributed three major research publications that address issues of utmost importance to the community: taper corrosion, periprosthetic fractures, and thigh pain. All three studies were multi-year projects. Additionally, our research center director, Dr. Edward Ebramzadeh, was invited to submit commentaries in top-tier orthopaedic journals to provide a perspective on two current hot topics in total joint replacement: patient-specific component alignment and the clinical performance of cross-linked polyethylene.

TOTAL ANKLE ARTHROPLASTY

JVL researchers recently completed a series of investigations into the performance and in vitro evaluation of total ankle replacements. This work was part of Nathan Ho's PhD dissertation, conducted at JVL, and was completed during the pandemic. Dr. Ho was formally hooded at the University of Southern California in May of 2022 by the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

HAND BIOMECHANICS

The JVL research team established a new computational method to evaluate fracture fixation in the hand using CT images. This work was presented at the American Society for Surgery of the Hand and received an award for Best Presentation. Additionally, the complete publication was awarded the Best Article Award by the *Journal of Hand Surgery*.

JVL researchers

2021-2022 Orthopaedic Hemophilia Treatment Center at LuskinOIC

The Orthopaedic Hemophilia Treatment Center (OHTC) at LuskinOIC was recognized for its 50 years of being a designated International Hemophilia Training Center (IHTC) by the World Federation of Hemophilia. As an IHTC, our hemophilia treatment center receives fellows from underdeveloped parts of the world to learn about the proper management of hemophilia so they can become agents of change and help train others when they return home.

Hemophilia is a congenital bleeding disorder in which the blood does not clot properly. Hemophilia A is a gene defect in the factor VIII gene, while hemophilia B is a defect in the factor IX gene. Over the years, OHTC has been involved in gene therapy trials for hemophilia A and B, serving as a clinical trial site for the recruitment of patients. Results from these trials were recently published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* with OHTC's medical director, Dr. Doris Quon, included in the authorship. Through one of the trials, the first gene therapy for hemophilia B received FDA approval on November 22, 2022. Gene therapy for hemophilia A is still in review with the FDA.

The gene therapy trials conducted at OHTC aimed to transfer a functional or working gene to the patients so they would be able to produce the deficient clotting factor. Traditional therapy involves frequent and regular IV infusions in patients with moderate/severe cases of the disease to replace the missing clotting factor. Since this disorder lasts a lifetime, these burdensome, frequent infusions can be replaced by a single infusion with the new gene therapy, allowing a patient to continuously make their own clotting factor.

Through other studies, OHTC played a role in validating the use of ultrasound in hemophilia. Spearheaded by Dr. Cindy Bailey, OHTC physical therapist and the author of the National Hemophilia Foundation Medical and Scientific Advisory Council's guideline on the use of musculoskeletal ultrasound in the treatment of patients with hemophilia, these studies have led to several journal articles, including, "The Role of Point-of-Care Musculoskeletal Ultrasound for Routine Joint Evaluation and Management Considerations in Hemophilia Clinic – A Real World Experience" and "Quantitative Measurements of Hemophilic Joint Tissues by Point-of-Care Musculoskeletal Ultrasound are Associated with Clinical and Functional Joint Outcome Parameters". Dr. Bailey serves as one of the instructors of the musculoskeletal ultrasound course that is held quarterly

OHTC staff

Border Clinic Opens

LuskinOIC opens the Border Clinic in Calexico and continues to partner with the General Hospital in Mexicali, Mexico

LuskinOIC prides itself in providing healthcare both locally and beyond the border, ensuring children receive timely care for any musculoskeletal conditions. In order to expand its reach to under-resourced children abroad, LuskinOIC has partnered with various organizations to provide pro bono care in countries like Mexico, Colombia, and Honduras.

For more than six decades, our International Children's Program (ICP) has sent medical teams to Calexico, California, to provide medical care to children coming from Mexico with complex orthopaedic conditions. In addition to acquiring the Valley Orthopaedic Clinic to continue to provide care for children, LuskinOIC has established a partnership with the Mexicali General Hospital across the border. Twice a year, LuskinOIC physicians not only receive patients at the General Hospital, but they also train their orthopaedic residents. Because of these growing partnerships, a new clinic space was opened on August 19, 2022.

In December 2022, Dr. Rachel Thompson and LuskinOIC CEO Dr. Anthony Scaduto, along with medical staff and technicians and tens of volunteers, arrived at the recently inaugurated Border Clinic. More than 30 children received urgent screenings and treatment for their musculoskeletal conditions. ICP personnel have cultivated long-lasting relationships with patients and their families, and this productive network has represented a large draw for medical students and fellows seeking to perform public interest work beyond the Los Angeles area.

> "I got to see one very dear patient, David, whom I met when he was only three and couldn't walk due to cerebral palsy. Today, he doesn't just walk; he runs."

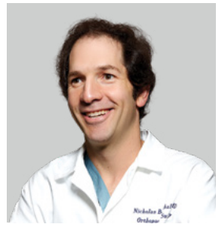
Dr. Thompson emphasizes the need for partnerships internationally: "We return because we have built a community that keeps on growing. Today, I got to see one very dear patient, David, whom I met when he was only three and couldn't walk due to cerebral palsy. Today, he doesn't just walk; he runs. This, and many others, are the stories of triumph that fuel our commitment to this community in Calexico. Our mission is to make specialty care accessible to any child who needs it."

Border Clinic's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony (top left); ICP patients and LuskinOIC Vice President Michael Sullivan (top right); ICP patient and family from Calexico Border Clinic (bottom)

LuskinOIC's Faculty Appointments

Dr. Rachel Thompson was named the UCLA Orthopaedic Residency Program Director; Dr. Nicholas Bernthal, the Interim Chair of the UCLA Department of Orthopaedic Surgery; and Dr. Mauricio Silva, the Department's Vice Chair of Clinical Operations

UCLA Health announced the appointment of Rachel Thompson, MD, as the Residency Program Director of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Thompson's primary area of practice is pediatric orthopaedics with a specialization in neuromuscular orthopaedics/cerebral palsy and hip dysplasia/disease. Her clinical and research interests are in cerebral palsy and adolescent hip disease, utilizing gait analysis to improve surgical decision making, and in the molecular basis for the muscular pathology seen in cerebral palsy.



On April 30, 2021, UCLA Health announced the appointment of Nicholas M. Bernthal, MD—a former CTSI KL2 Scholar—as Interim Chair and Executive Medical Director of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, effective May 1, 2021. Dr. Bernthal took over for Dr. Francis Hornicek, who began a new position at the University of Miami.

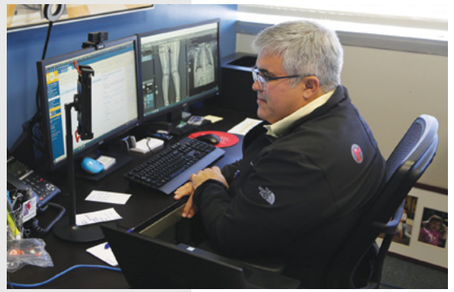
Dr. Bernthal is Associate Professor and Chief of the Division of Orthopaedic Oncology, and holds the Jeffrey J. Eckardt, MD, Term Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery. After earning his undergraduate degree magna cum laude at Princeton University and his medical degree with Alpha Omega Alpha election at Cornell University, Dr. Bernthal was trained in orthopaedic surgery at UCLA, including a year of research where he developed a transgenic mouse model of arthroplasty infection. Dr. Bernthal's research is in the areas of orthopaedic implant infection and immunology, and in functional outcomes of endoprosthetic implants. His work has produced NIH and other competitive funding, research opportunities for many residents and students, and many publications.

UCLA Health also announced the appointment of Mauricio Silva, MD, as Vice Chair of Operations of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Silva is also the Medical Director of Orthopaedic Institute for Children in Los Angeles. Dr. Silva is a board certified orthopaedic surgeon specializing in pediatric orthopaedics, and his clinical interest includes pediatric orthopaedic trauma and outcomes, management of clubfoot deformities, musculoskeletal complications associated with hemophilia, and physician informatics (including quality and patient safety initiatives, patient reported outcomes, and optimizing workflows to improve physician efficiency).

Community Engagement Pushes Forward

LuskinOIC announces expansion of telehealth services for International Children's Program and a "Prescription to Play" partnership aiding those with disabilities

LuskinOIC's INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM EXPANDS TELEHEALTH SERVICES IN THEIR UNRELENTING PURSUIT TO AUGMENT CARE ACCESSIBILITY



Twice a year, Medical Director Dr. Mauricio Silva holds telehealth screening clinics for tens of prospective patients in the International Children's Program (ICP). This screening process proves indispensable in assessing which patients will be admitted to the program to receive much needed musculoskeletal treatment and care. Because most of the ICP patients come from severely under-resourced families abroad, their social determinants severely limit their access to tech instruments or literacy.

As a result of these families' limitations, ICP Program Manager Claudia Ortiz and Program Coordinator Martha Ramirez must engage in a multi-level logistical coordination system with various actors and organizations to ensure that telehealth screenings conclude successfully. Because traveling to Los Angeles represents an inordinate economic and personal sacrifice for many of these families—sometimes being outrightly impossible—the virtual screenings have proven essential to expanding access to orthopaedic care in areas where specialized medicine remains a privilege deprived to many.

LuskinOIC HAS EXTENDED EQUITY SUPPORT WITHIN THE DISABLED COMMUNITY THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT UCLA, DR. FERANMI OKANLAMI

Within the first two years of working together, Dr. Feranmi Okanlami has launched the Prescription to Play (Rx to Play) program with the support from UCLA's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. The Rx to Play program promotes healthcare equity for people with disabilities by introducing medical students, fellows, residents, and physicians to adaptive athletics programs and events in Southern California. Dr. Okanlami worked with leadership at both the Pac-12 Conference and the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) developing the groundbreaking policy.

As a result of this policy, each Pac-12 athletics department will provide elite Para athletes access to athletics department facilities, services, and coaching to provide their training, as well as the support necessary to train in each local community while pursuing their education at the conference institution. Dr. Okanlami, director of Disability Services and Adaptive Sports at University of Michigan, is working alongside UCLA Adaptive Recreation Program Director Michael Garafola and LuskinOIC's Joe Holt to further develop the competitive wheelchair sports program at UCLA. In the team's first year of national competition, the wheelchair tennis team traveled to numerous tournaments across the country, including the USTA Wheelchair Nationals, where our own Henry Reyes brought home the A Division National Title.

Under Joe Holt's advisement, LuskinOIC has supported the growth of the UCLA Adaptive Recreation Program, Angel City Sports, and the Triumph Foundation. Holt has a long history of working with leading wheelchair manufacturers and medical supply companies alike. To learn more about LuskinOIC's efforts within the disabled community, please contact Joe Holt at 916-613-1409.

Dr. Silva holds a telehealth screening clinic (left); Dr. Okanlami delivers a keynote address (middle, photo credit Jeff Thiebault); San Diego State Tennis Open 2022 (right)

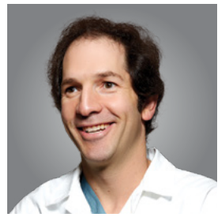
Physicians

Justin Barad, MD

Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery

Innovation Council Member at UCLA Biodesign

Specializes in Urgent Care Medicine



Nicholas M. Bernthal, MD

Attending Surgeon

Associate Professor, Dept of Orthopaedic Surgery David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Interim Chair and Executive Medical Director of the Dept of Orthopaedic Surgery, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Specializes in Orthopaedic Oncology, Orthopaedic Surgery, Pediatric Orthopaedics, Bone Tumors

Richard E. Bowen, MD

Director of Clinical Operations, Center for Sports Medicine at Luskin Orthopaedic Institute for Children

Co-Director, Scoliosis Center at Luskin Orthopaedic Institute for Children

Specializes in Sports Medicine, Scoliosis, Osteogenesis Imperfecta, Arthrogryposis

Calvin J. Duffaut, MD

Family Physician and Sports Medicine Physician

Specializes in Family Medicine, Sports Medicine

Joshua Goldman, MD, MBA

Associate Director, Non-Operative Sports Medicine

Associate Director of the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program

Program Director of the UCLA Sports Medicine Fellowship

Health Science Associate Clinical Professor in the Departments of Family Medicine and Orthopaedic Surgery, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Specializes in Sports Medicine

Neil Jones, MD

Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Professor of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery

Specializes in Hand Trauma, Orthopaedic Surgery, Plastic Surgery

Victoria M. Kang, DO

Urgent Care Osteopathic Physician and Surgeon

Specializes in Primary Care Sports Medicine, Family Medicine

James V. Luck, Jr., MD

Director of Surgical Services and Rehabilitation, Orthopaedic Hemophilia Treatment Center

Professor-in-Residence

Joint Reconstruction

Specializes in Hemophilia, Infection Management, Inhibitors and Inhibitor Management, Physical Therapy, Joint Damage and Reconstruction, Self Infusion, Radiosynovectomies

Patricia McKeever, MD

Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery

Specializes in Fractures

Emily Miller, MD

Assistant Team Physician, UCLA Athletics

Assistant Clinical Professor, Departments of Family Medicine & Orthopaedic Surgery, Division of Sports Medicine

Specializes in Sports Medicine, Family Medicine

Doris V. Quon, MD, PhD

Medical Director, Orthopaedic Hemophilia Treatment Center

Internal Medicine, Hematology

Specializes in Hemophilia, Orthopaedic Rehabilitation, Joint Damage and Reconstruction, Physical Therapy, Radiosynovectomies

Anthony A. Scaduto, MD

President and Chief Executive Officer, LuskinOIC

Chief of Pediatrics Orthopaedics at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and the Orthopaedic Hospital

Charles LeRoy Lowman Professor of Pediatric Orthopaedics

Specializes in Scoliosis, Arthrogryposis, Congenital Limb Disorders, Connective Tissue Disorders

Mauricio Silva, MD

Medical Director, LuskinOIC

Clinical Professor and the Vice Chair of Clinical Operations of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Specializes in Clubfoot, Fractures, Hemophilia, Infection Management, Inhibitors and Inhibitor Management, Joint Damage and Reconstruction, Physical Therapy, Self Infusion, Radiosynovectomies, Telehealth, Urgent Care

Rachel M. Thompson, MD

Director for the UCLA/LuskinOIC Center for Cerebral Palsy

Assistant Professor-in-Residence, Dept of Orthopaedic Surgery, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

William and Patricia Oppenheim Presidential Chair in Pediatric Orthopaedics

Residency Program Director, Dept of Orthopaedic Surgery, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

Specializes in Cerebral Palsy, Hip Disorders, Arthrogryposis

Libby Wilson, MD

Plastic Surgery

Specializes in Craniofacial/Cleft Palate

Joan Wright, MD

Plastic Surgery

Specializes in Arthrogryposis, Hand Trauma, Pediatric Arthritis

Awarded Fellowships

In 2021-22, LuskinOIC medical professionals and researchers trained more than 100 medical students, residents, fellows, international surgeons, PhD candidates, and radiology technology students, many of whom continue to advance their career paths by furthering the expertise allowing them to promote the innovation and improved outcomes in musculoskeletal research and treatment. A number of those trained by LuskinOIC have gone on to win distinguished awards and fellowships, residencies, and other opportunities.

The Spine Section of the Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS) awarded this year's travel fellowship to LuskinOIC's PhD student, Jenna Wahbeh, for her research exchange with the University of Waterloo, Canada. Every year, the society awards this fellowship to one young researcher and to support a research exchange of the awardee to a host library.

Jenna's PhD dissertation research is being conducted at the J. Vernon Luck, Sr., MD Orthopaedic Research Center (JVN Research Center) at LuskinOIC, involving the development of a cervical spine model for preclinical implant performance testing of spine surgical interventions, including artificial disc replacements and fusion devices. Robust preclinical evaluation for cervical disc replacements is paramount to achieving clinical success; however, current implants for the cervical spine have not been adequately investigated due to a lack of preclinical testing methods and materials.

Based on the JVL Research Center's experience and expertise in developing and utilizing composite models for implant performance evaluation, Jenna's research is centered around the creation of a reproducible, biofidelic cervical spine model for reproducible and reliable preclinical testing. Rather than targeting a proprietary design, this composite model is meant to be versatile and easily translatable to other research centers, such as the lab in Waterloo.

This award will provide Jenna the opportunity to collaborate in person with the researchers at the University of Waterloo and work with Dr. Stewart McLachlin and his team, who have similar research interests on the lumbar spine. This emerging collaboration between the LOIC's JVL and Waterloo's Orthopaedic Mechatronics Laboratory will advance the ongoing research efforts of both laboratories and ultimately improve the performance of cervical implants for patients. The impact of this work will enable the development of safer and long-lasting cervical spine implants to provide and deliver better care for young patients needing spinal surgery.

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MOTION

SPRING 2023

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Institute for Children
403 West Adams Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007-2664

THE LUSKIN Orthopaedic Institute for Children
IN ALLIANCE WITH UCLA Health

BEST CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS U.S.News ORTHOPEDICS 2022-23
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