The Covid pandemic certainly has had a way of interferes with our usual sense of a time continuum and making the old seem new. It seems it was just last week most of us were able to be present in Baltimore, Maryland, for a spectacular Annual Meeting, engaging in in-person networking and spirited debate! An in-person meeting seemed so novel! However, soon thereafter masking, zoom meetings, operating room prioritization and bed/nursing shortages roared back into the reality of our daily lives due to the emergence of the Omicron variant. Regardless, please join me in extending a special kudos to Dr. Carol Morris, our outgoing president and her program chair, Dr. Odion Binitie and the entire annual meeting committee. They had both the courage to bet on us being able to have a successful in-person meeting and the foresight to make it hybrid for those unable to travel due to Covid. Additionally, we owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Morris for her steadfast leadership of our organization as we moved forward from being managed via the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons to an independent management structure. Although it may have appeared seamless due to being able to retain our Executive Director, Kerri Mink, and Association Manager, Deborah Meyer, there was a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes. April 2022 will mark our one-year anniversary of being completely under self-management! Thank you to Dr. Morris, Kerri and Deborah for making it all work out.

The MSTS Executive committee would like to welcome Dr. Rajiv Rajani as our new treasurer, Dr. Michelle Ghert as the president elect, Dr. Benjamin Miller as the secretary and Dr. Carol Morris, immediate past president with Dr. Mayerson as past president. Please note, Dr. Mayerson will be divesting from this MSTS role as he assumes Secretary of the Board of Specialty Societies, AAOS. We also welcome to the Executive Committee, Dr. Matthew DiCaprio, as Membership Chair, and Dr. Odion Binitie as our member representative to the Board of Specialty Society, AAOS, and Member at large Dr. Melissa Zimel. I need to also recognize our new Communication Chair (subcommittee of membership)- Dr. Tae Kim. Dr Kim has the MSTS hitting Continued on page 2
the ground running opening a new MSTS twitter account — @mstscares...please follow! Most importantly I would like to welcome Dr. Tessa Balach to the role of Annual Meeting Program Chair. Welcome to all!

Certainly, we owe a debt of gratitude to the many Executive Committee (EC) chairs and members who are outgoing; these include Membership Chair, Brian Brigman, MD, Member-at-Large, Lukas Nystrom, MD and all of their committee members. Each member who volunteers makes a significant contribution to our Society and we hope they will remain engaged in Society activities.

Specialty Day will be held in person on Saturday, March 26, 2022, in conjunction with the AAOS annual meeting. Dr Nicholas Bernthal and his committee have put together a fantastic program with many of our best-known members educating us on a variety of topics. I hope if you are attending the Academy meeting, you are able to stay and register to join us at our Specialty Day.

In the year ahead, I would like to carry forth on Dr Morris’ goal of making sure we continue with our goals of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Like Dr Morris, I believe diversity should be incorporated into all aspects of our mission. To that end, all committee chairs are expected to look for continuous improvement in this regard.

I also want to move forward with the Society goal of owning metastatic bone disease and establishing our metastatic bone disease task force. Lastly, our strategic plan needs to be updated. We have begun to reevaluate the last strategic plan and while not all goals were met or exceeded, I am pleased with the areas where we have moved forward.

When thinking of where to donate your time, please be cognizant of the opportunity to represent the MSTS when a call for volunteers email arrives in your mailbox from our MSTS office. If not selected the first time you apply, please apply again. The EC committee has been pleased with the high level of responses to our recent call outs. Also, if so inclined, please remember the MSTS when considering donations. Any donation either directly, through OREF, or Sarcoma Strong is greatly appreciated.

Finally, our annual meeting is planned to be an in-person meeting November 30-December 2, in Clearwater Beach, Florida at the Wyndham Grand. Due to popular demand, we are also hosting at this meeting an Allied Health Program, an MSTS Coding Course, and a Musculoskeletal Ultrasound course. Stay tuned for updates via email and our website.

Like those before me, I am humbled and honored to be your MSTS president this year. If there is anything I can to help to make your experience and engagement better, please let me know. My cell is 313-671-1873 (texts work best), email is mmott2@hfhs.org, and our MSTS office number is 847-698-1625.

I hope to connect with all of you soon. Progress best takes place when all are engaged and empowered speak up.

Have a great day!
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Treasurer’s Report – Rajiv Rajani, MD

As the COVID pandemic continues to create financial waves, the finances of the MSTS were relatively unscathed throughout 2021. However, late 2021 and early 2022 global events will require us to be vigilant to ensure our future financial success. Still, our membership continues to support the MSTS in a variety of philanthropic endeavors and commitments including membership dues, OREF, and Sarcoma Strong grants.

The Annual Meeting in Baltimore was a resounding success despite the increased costs of holding a hybrid meeting requiring virtual and in-person coordination. Our relationships with industry are stronger than ever and as a society, we recommend continued engagement from membership to enhance scientific development and patient care. As the equities markets had a relatively robust 2020 and early 2021, global uncertainty has led to increased volatility in the MSTS investments. We have more closely engaged with our financial advisors to reallocate our investments. Previous investments had led to the MSTS turning profits rather than losses.

As I mentioned earlier, Matt DiCaprio and his Sarcoma Strong efforts deserve much recognition and praise, as these sarcoma fundraisers are snowballing across the membership and providing the Society with more options to support the research efforts of our members.

Finally, thanks and recognition to Deborah Meyer and Kerri Mink for their help with the finances and management of the MSTS.

2022 MSTS Specialty Day

Registration is open to attend the MSTS 2022 Specialty Day session on Saturday, March 26th from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm in Room S104 at McCormick Place. The Program Committee, led by Dr. Nick Bernthal, has developed an interesting and informative session with highlights including the History of MSTS and the Evolution of Orthopaedic Oncology. Click here for additional details, to view the Program Agenda and to register.

Musculoskeletal Tumor Registry Update – by Benjamin Miller, MD, MS

This will be a big year for the Musculoskeletal Tumor Registry (MsTR) as the development of the sarcoma and metastatic disease of bone modules have been set as a strategic initiative of the AAOS for 2022. We anticipate that we will have an early look at provider-facing dashboards and again publish an Annual Report Preview. With luck, we should have our first few patients formally in the registry by the end of the year. In addition to registry development, the Steering Committee has prioritized envisioning future grant funding, continuing enrollment of participating institutions, abstract submission to relevant meetings, and publishing short-term registry data when possible.

The Steering Committee is made of three subcommittees: Data Elements (led by Nate Mesko), Publications (led by Adam Levin), and Grants (led by Eric Henderson). Joe Schwab has taken over as our representative in the creation of a collaborative spine tumor registry with the American Spine Registry (ASR). We continue to work with David Greenberg and his group with the OREF-funded randomized controlled trial investigating the use of bisphosphonates in cement for treatment of giant cell tumor of bone. We are working with his team to explore the use of the MsTR as a data collection instrument for clinical trials. Our hope is that the lessons learned with this project will inform how the registry may be used to facilitate prospective clinical investigations in the future. Centers that are involved in this trial will be prioritized for contracting and enrollment in the MsTR.

If any further questions or if you would like to explore joining the MsTR, https://www.aaos.org/registries/ has additional information.
Thank you Donors!

2021 Donations to MSTS

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Adam Neal Wooldridge, MD, MPH

Donations processed from January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Research Committee Update – Kurt Weiss, MD, Chair

The Research Committee is hard at work reviewing the recent applications received. We received 8 total applications: 5 for the Sarcoma Strong Research Grant and 3 for the Mentored Award. Applications for the Research Grant were received from MGH, MSK, McMaster, Good Samaritan (Oregon), and Duke. Applications for the Mentored Award were received from Vanderbilt, Roswell Park, and UC Davis. I will begin the process of creating a reviewer matrix and assigning them to Research Committee members for review, being sure to avoid any COIs. We hope to review the applications and make recommendations for the Executive Committee to review at an upcoming meeting.

In addition, the Research Committee is in the process of coordinating with Dr. Tyler and the Education Committee on a Webinar on how to collaborate with oncology basic scientists. Watch out for an announcement of the date and time!

Education Committee Update – Wakenda Tyler, MD, Chair

Despite some continued ebbs and flows that the coronavirus pandemic has thrown at us all this year, we have managed to have a fairly productive year for educational endeavors as a Society. Thanks to the hard work of Past President Dr. Carol Morris, Annual Meeting Committee Chair Dr. Odion Binitie and his committee members, we were able to pull off our first hybrid in-person and virtual annual meeting with much success. The highlights of that meeting can still be found on our website. We followed that up with a rousing discussion on advanced technologies in sarcoma surgery in our fall webinar (November 2021). This was wonderfully organized and moderated by Dr. Justin Bird. Click here to view this webinar at the MSTS website.

Upcoming events will be our in-person Specialty Day Meeting being held this year in Chicago on March 26th, 2022. Thank you to Nick Bernthal for organizing this meeting. The agenda looks spectacular. If you are attending the AAOS meeting this year, please make sure to check out the musculoskeletal oncology paper and poster sessions, as well as our ICLs and Symposiums. Please also stay tuned for an announcement regarding our Spring webinar series on creating collaborative research at your respective institutions.

Other News

From AOA

The American Orthopaedic Association (AOA) has established a program, “Honor a Pillar of the Orthopaedic Profession”, to recognize orthopaedic surgeons who throughout their career have exhibited exemplary leadership as clinicians, researchers, and educators.

Mark T. Scarborough, MD, is championing this effort. If you are interested in posthumously honoring Dr. Enneking, please contact AOA Development Manager, Ann O’Neill at the AOA office, oneill@aoassn.org or 847-318-7490.
THANK YOU

The Musculoskeletal Tumor Society extends sincere appreciation to the following exhibitors for their generous support of the MSTS 2021 Annual Meeting

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Guidelines and Evidence Based Medicine Committee – Felasfa Wodajo, MD Chair

Last year, MSTS launched an important initiative to develop its own clinical practice guidelines (CPGs). Previously, all musculoskeletal oncology practice guidelines were produced by other societies.

The first MSTS produced CPG is now underway. Eleven volunteer MSTS members met virtually on January 15 to begin work on guideline on Surgical Treatment of Humeral Metastatic Disease. The work-group is led by co-chairs Nate Tedesco and Nathan Mesko. At that meeting the group settled on a set of PICO questions (Patient Intervention Comparison Outcome) to guide the subsequent systematic literature review. The project is supported by AAOS methodologists and medical librarians.

The goal of clinical practice guidelines (CPGs) is to improve quality of care.

While orthopedic oncology has a paucity of randomized controlled studies, high quality and trustworthy CPGs can be produced if a rigorous and transparent process is followed.

The GEBM committee is working on other new initiatives. These include an effort to develop structured scoring of methodologic quality for submitted Annual Meeting abstracts. Another initiative is to produce periodic evidence reviews of novel techniques entering practice. We have submitted for publication in JAOS our finished multidisciplinary CPG on Metastatic Carcinoma and Myeloma of the Femur. This is already available on the MSTS website and via the AAOS Orthoguidelines website and app and we continue to collaborate with other medical and surgical societies.

The Guidelines committee serves the MSTS membership. If you have any ideas for guidelines or other quality improvement projects, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any GEBM committee members.

Practice Management Committee – Adam S. Levin, MD, Chair

While 2021 brought massive changes in the documentation and coding guidelines for outpatient evaluation and management services, 2022 has yielded some more subtle yet substantive adjustments still. As we prepare for the 2021 MSTS Annual Meeting, we are planning for a Musculoskeletal Oncology Coding Course. The most recent coding course in Fall 2020 required modification in light of the virtual format, and was largely designed to address the then-upcoming changes in the outpatient Evaluation and Management documentation and coding guidelines. The impact of last year’s changes for outpatient encounters continues to draw questions and confusion. Some of those questions were answered in the March 2021 clarification from the AMA, though many of the confusing points for our members are as a result of those March 2021 updates. In partnership with the AAOS, members of the Practice Management Committee have been working to provide improved understanding of the appropriate application of the 2021 Evaluation and Management Guidelines, particularly as it pertains to our specialty.

The coding course for this year’s annual meeting will address not only these clarifications and guidelines, but will also focus upon challenges and complexities associated with surgical coding in musculoskeletal oncology. In addition, the Practice Management Committee is working with the Education Committee to present a webinar in the late summer on building your practice, covering topics and considerations particularly relevant to early career clinicians in our field, as well as how to navigate common challenges when either starting a first practice or transitioning to a new center.

The Practice Management Committee is committed to understanding how our members are valued – by our patients, by our centers, by payors, and by the community at large. On the heels of the recently published work by Tom Scharschmidt’s team, we are looking for volunteers who may be interested in evaluating the impact of modifier -22 and unlisted procedure codes in our current practices. While this is just one of many ongoing projects and interests of the committee, we invite anyone interested in this effort, or with additional thoughts and considerations as to where we can best provide value to our members, to please contact me at any time at alevin25@jhmi.edu.

On behalf of the Practice Management Committee, we wish all health and safety in 2022.
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After two consecutive years of mostly virtual events, SarcomaStrong is eager to return to in person events in Albany, Boston and El Paso. Our flagship site, Albany, New York will host a live event on Saturday, August 13, 2022. We will still have a Global event from August 12-14th for all the other institutions and individuals from around the world who want to participate. Registration is open at www.sarcomastrong.com/run. We have made it easy you to establish your own team at your institution. Please visit www.sarcomastrong.com/startup. It’s even easier to register as an individual or join an existing team. Plan a run or walk with your family and friends, every participant strengthens our impact.

In January, we rebranded SarcomaStrong with a NEW LOGO, and continue our purpose and vision with the same Mission:

SarcomaStrong Highlights from 2021
• Raised over $135,000. Surpassed our previous highest fundraising year in 2019 of $105,000
• Increased overall participation of our Global event >1600 participants and donors
• National and International engagement
  o 18 Institutions in the US had their own events or collaborated
  o 6 International sites spread our message worldwide
  o Special highlight to the Team at the Philippines Orthopaedic Center with over 70 participants
• Increased social media presence, over 1250 followers on Instagram
• Increased our Albany Medical College SarcomaStrong Service Learning program to 10 medical students

SarcomaStrong Goals for 2022
• Fundraising goal $150,000
• Celebrate research already funded through SarcomaStrong: The first 5 years of funding!
• Grow participation numbers in our global event to exceed 2000 donors and participants
• Increase the number of US institutions engaged with SarcomaStrong
• Increase number of international collaboration sites
• Rebrand with new logo
• Open merchandise shop
• Increase our social media presence
• Enhance MSTS website with SarcomaStrong information
  o Research funding announcements
  o Grant awards distributed since 2017
  o Results of supported research and recipient’s research progress report

If you are interested in being more engaged or hosting a live or virtual event at your institution please contact Matthew R. DiCaprio, dicaprm@amc.edu

Together We Unite the Sarcoma Fight

Welcome New MSTS Members
We are very pleased to welcome the following new members who were approved for MSTS membership by the Executive Committee in October 2021.

Candidate Members
Elyse Jennifer Brinkmann, MD
Maksim Vaynrub, MD
Henock T. Wolde-Semait, MD

Resident Members
Paul Gagnet, MD
Christa Lynne LiBrizzi, MD
David Le, MD
Matthew Eric Wells, DO