

Orthopedics

This Week

19 of the Best Orthopedic Traumatologists in North America

BY ELIZABETH HOFHEINZ, M.P.H., M.ED.

From the treatment of wounded warriors to domestic violence victims to auto accident patients, orthopedic traumatology has experienced significant advances in the science and treatment of trauma over the last 15 years. Much of this progress is due to the people who appear on this list. Those in the know about trauma gave us their thoughts on some of the top orthopedic surgeons in their subspecialty.

Here is that list. We don't have "the market" on lists...this isn't the be-all and end-all list—but it is a list of the most impressive orthopedic trauma surgeons in the country. The information in quotes is what we heard about these surgeons.

This information was obtained via a telephone survey of thought leaders in the field. No one at OTW names anyone to the list.

In alphabetical order, here are 19 of the top orthopedic traumatologists in North America.

David P. Barei, M.D. is a professor of orthopedics and sports medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle/Harborview Medical Center. He is also program director of the traumatology fellowship at that institution. "Dr. Barei is a consummate thinker, and is technically gifted in the surgical management of complex fractures. His research has moved our understanding of tibial plateau fractures and their treatment to another level."

Brett R. Bolhofner, M.D. is an orthopedic trauma surgeon at All Florida Orthopaedic Associates in St. Petersburg. He also holds an appointment with Bayfront Health. "He



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is one of the unsung heroes of orthopedic trauma in North America and Europe. He is a true 'out of the box thinker' who develops new paradigms and ways of addressing difficult orthopedic trauma problems and issues. His calm, thoughtful demeanor makes him a pleasure to work with and his surgical skills are amazing. He has been referred to by some as the 'Wizard of West Florida.'"

Mark R. Brinker, M.D. is an orthopedic surgeon with the Texas Orthopedic Hospital in Houston; he also holds appointments with Hermann Hospital, The Methodist Hospital and Texas Children's Hospital. "Dr. Brinker is known for his excellence in the management of complex nonunions and malunions. He manages the worst of the worst and has outstanding outcomes for patients who would otherwise lose their limbs."

Lt. Col. Jean-Claude D'Alleyrand, M.D. is chief of orthopaedic trauma at Walter Reed National Medical Center. "He leads the care of our wounded warriors, especially multiple amputees, including their initial treatment and their continued rehabilitation. He is a highly decorated officer and a medical champion for America's heroes."

Gregory J. Della Rocca, M.D., Ph.D. is co-chief of orthopedic trauma at the University of Missouri. "He is known for his extensive research, teaching, and patient care of all kinds of fractures. He is also known for his research on how common orthopedic injuries occur after domestic violence and for educating the public and other orthopedic surgeons about the extent of this problem."

A. Alex Jahangir, M.D., M.M.H.C. is an associate professor of orthopaedic surgery and rehabilitation at Vanderbilt University

Medical Center. “Dr. Jahangir is a crucial member of a highly-respected orthopedic trauma group in Nashville. He is poised to lead the group to a higher level. Dr. Jahangir is not only an outstanding fracture surgeon, but also is highly regarded in the business of medicine.”

Bradley A. Jelen, D.O. is an orthopedic trauma surgeon with OrthoIndy. “He is not only an experienced traumatologist, but he is a fantastic adult educator and collaborates with other leading trauma surgeons in his area and throughout North America to improve patient care.”

Brian H. Mullis, M.D. is chief of the orthopedic trauma service and an associate professor at Indiana University. “He is an outstanding orthopedic traumatologist and educator. He is a highly skilled clinically and continues to gain leadership roles with the OTA.”

Robert F. Ostrum, M.D. is a professor of orthopedic surgery and director of orthopedic trauma at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, New Jersey. Dr. Ostrum also directs Cooper’s orthopedic trauma fellowship. “He is one of the most conscientious orthopedic traumatologists around. He is a critical thinker, an excellent technician, and a fantastic educator.”

Robert V. O’Toole, M.D. is an orthopedic trauma surgeon with the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. “He is a young, energetic researcher at Shock Trauma who possesses exceptional surgical skills. He will be instrumental in changing standards of practice in poly-trauma patients in the next ten years within North America.”

William M. Ricci, M.D. is chief of the division of orthopedic trauma at Washington University in St. Louis. He was just named second president elect of the Orthopaedic Trauma Association (OTA). “Bill has spent

his entire career, teaching and training both residents and fellows. He is extremely well published and is an outstanding surgeon, clinician, design surgeon, teacher and mentor. He is most well known for his work on peri-prosthetic fracture fixation.”

H. Claude Sagi, M.D. is director of Research and Fellowship Training for the Orthopaedic Trauma Service at the Tampa General Hospital, and Assistant Clinical Professor with the University of South Florida Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine. “He is an emerging leading in our understanding of pelvic trauma; he is active in research leading to a better understanding of pelvic ring stability.”

Roy W. Sanders, M.D. is president and cofounder of the Florida Orthopaedic Institute in Tampa. Dr. Sanders is a past president of the OTA and is currently serving as director of the Orthopaedic Trauma Service, and chief of the department of orthopedics at Tampa General Hospital. “You need look no further than Roy when it comes to excellence in the field. He exemplifies a meticulous attention to detail and a high level of professionalism.”

Stephen A. Sems, M.D. is an assistant professor of Orthopedics at Mayo Clinic Rochester Minnesota. “He is a compassionate surgeon who has considerable expertise in the management of fracture malunion and nonunions. He maintains a common sense approach that is tailored to each patient.”

David C. Templeman, M.D. is an assistant professor in the department of orthopedic surgery at the University of Minnesota; he practices at the Hennepin County Medical Center. Dr. Templeman is a past president of the OTA. “He is an outstanding acetabular surgeon and has had a primarily pelvic and acetabulum practice for 25 years. He has been a leader and is on the board of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and chair of the Board of Specialty Societies.”

Paul Tornetta, M.D. is chief of orthopedic trauma at Boston City Hospital and program director of the orthopedic residency at Boston University. He is a past president of the OTA. “Paul is one of the most well-known orthopedic trauma surgeons in the U.S., having written extensively on almost every subject in the field. He created and runs the annual OTA fellows course, and is a senior editor of Rockwood and Green. Paul is best known for his work on pelvic and acetabular fractures, syndesmotic injuries and tibial intramedullary nailing, and as a lead researcher in the SPRINT study.”

Heather Vallier, M.D. is an orthopedic trauma surgeon at MetroHealth Medical Center and holds the inaugural Clyde L. Nash M.D. Professorship in Orthopaedic Education at Case Western Reserve University. “She is doing an excellent job of evaluating the timing of multiply injured patients. She has done complex statistical analysis of multiply injured patients in order to refine the indications on both a physiologic and timing basis.”

John C. Weinlein, M.D. is an orthopedic trauma surgeon at the Campbell Clinic in Memphis, Tennessee. “He is a devoted clinical traumatologist who is accomplished at providing complex fracture care. Dr. Weinlein is an excellent educator who excels in teaching the technical details that are critical to fracture care.”

David B. Weiss, M.D. is an assistant professor and director of the orthopedic trauma division at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. “In addition to being a skilled surgical technician, Dr. Weiss is highly dedicated to education in orthopedic trauma. He has consolidated orthopedic trauma care in central Virginia with his leadership skills, surgical acumen, teaching abilities, and bedside manner.” ♦