Joshua J. Jacobs, MD, Named President of American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

CHICAGO—Orthopaedic surgeon Joshua J. Jacobs, MD, became president of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) today at the Academy’s 2013 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

“There is a tremendous opportunity for the Academy to leverage and grow our educational programs throughout the world,” said Dr. Jacobs. In addition, the AAOS will continue “to make health care quality a top priority. It is important that we communicate with the public and policy makers regarding the invaluable role orthopaedic surgeons play in the improvement of musculoskeletal health in this country.

“The Academy is the premiere advocacy organization for the specialty of orthopaedics,” said Dr. Jacobs. “We will continue to be active in making sure that patients with musculoskeletal disorders have access to the high quality of care provided by orthopaedic surgeons.”

Dr. Jacobs is a board-certified and practicing adult reconstructive orthopaedic surgeon with an expertise in total joint replacement and a research interest in the biocompatibility of orthopaedic biomaterials. Currently, Dr. Jacobs serves as the William A. Hark, MD/Susanne G. Swift Professor and chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. He is a partner and member of the Executive Committee of Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush—a private practice—and also is an adjunct professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering in the McCormick Technological Institute at Northwestern University.

He graduated from Northwestern University with a bachelor of science in materials science and engineering, earned a doctorate of medicine with honors from the University Of Illinois College Of Medicine, and then completed an orthopaedic surgery residency in the Combined Harvard Orthopaedic Surgery Program in Boston, Mass. Subsequently, Dr. Jacobs completed a fellowship in joint replacement surgery at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago under the tutelage of Dr. Jorge Galante.

Dr. Jacobs had previously served for six years as chair of the AAOS Council on Research. He is past president of the Orthopaedic Research Society (ORS) and the United States Bone and Joint Decade (USBJD). He also served as a trustee of the Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation and is past chair of Committee F04 on Medical and Surgical Materials and Devices of the American Society for Testing and Materials International (ASTMI). Dr. Jacobs completed a four-year term on the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NAIMS) Advisory Council and has chaired multiple National Institutes of Health (NIH) study sections.
Dr. Jacobs lauded the leadership of outgoing president John Tongue, MD.

“Dr. Tongue is an inspiring, passionate leader,” said Dr. Jacobs. “He focused on programs at the Academy that prioritized communication between surgeons and also between patients and surgeons. He is keenly interested in improving patient care, and led the implementation of a large-scale research study on the social and economic impact of orthopaedic care. This study has demonstrated the tremendous value that orthopaedic procedures provide to individuals and society as a whole. These procedures restore patients to active, productive lifestyles.”

Despite his busy schedule of operating, teaching, lecturing and research, Dr. Jacobs enjoys spending time with his wife, Faye, and their three children Ross, Max and Eve. He also enjoys long-distance cycling and being a “frustrated baritone saxophonist.”

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More about Dr. Jacobs

About AAOS

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A Nation in Motion

More than one in four Americans have bone or joint health problems, making them the greatest cause of lost work days in the U.S. When orthopaedic surgeons restore mobility and reduce pain, they help people get back to work and to independent, productive lives. Orthopaedic surgeons provide a great value, in both human and economic terms; and access to high-quality orthopaedic care keeps this “Nation in Motion.” To learn more, to read hundreds of patient stories or to submit your own story, visit ANationinMotion.org.

For more information on bone and joint health, visit Orthoinfo.org.