

Orthopedics

This Week

17 of the Top North American Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeons

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Despite the critical nature of pediatric orthopedics, most don't flock to this subspecialty. One reason? It is emotionally challenging. But some do...and here is a subset of real standouts.

A note to readers: 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 pediatric orthopedic surgeons in North America. This information was obtained via a survey of thought leaders in the field. The information in quotes is what we heard about these surgeons.

In alphabetical order, here is our list of 17 of the top pediatric orthopedic surgeons in North America.

Mark A. Erickson, M.D. is the Rose Brown Chair in Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery, the chairman of Pediatric Orthopaedics, and medical director of the Spine Center at Children's Hospital Colorado. "He is currently the treasurer of POSNA [the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America] and he has an M.B.A. He sub-specializes in spine surgery and has a strong focus on quality improvement."

Frances A. Farley, M.D. is chief of Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery and a professor at the University of Michigan. She is also assistant surgeon-in-chief of Mott Children's Hospital. "She is an important researcher in the area of congenital scoliosis. She has a full pediatric orthopaedic practice, and is expert in the techniques of pediatric spine surgery in young patients and adolescents."

John M. Flynn, M.D. is chief of the Division of Orthopedics at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), director of the Trauma Center at CHOP, and a professor of Orthopedic Surgery at the Perel-



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man School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a past president of POSNA. "He has boundless energy and is a great educator. Dr. Flynn is a leader in complex pediatric spine deformity."

Steven L. Frick, M.D. is the surgeon-in-chief, chairman of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando, Florida. He is also a professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine and a clinical professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Florida. "Dr. Frick is a 'leader's leader.' He is a role model for all pediatric orthopedic surgeons and orthopedic division chiefs. He is a master clinician with interests in complex foot deformities and pediatric trauma. He has recently created from the ground up the orthopedic pro-

gram at the new Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando."

Lori A. Karol, M.D. is assistant chief of staff and the medical director of performance improvement and the movement science lab at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (TSRHC). She is also a Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. She is the current president of POSNA. "She is a great mentor and teacher. Her research in bracing and scoliosis has helped change our treatment. She is the first female president of POSNA."

Mininder S. Kocher, M.D., M.P.H. is associate director of the Sports Medicine Division at Boston Children's Hospital and a Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School. "He is a master

at determining the most relevant research topics, and at moving forward in a way that provides the field with evidence-based practice. In working with athletes of all ages and abilities he is consistently thorough and attentive.”

James J. McCarthy, M.D., M.H.C.H. is the Alvin Crawford Chair in Pediatric Orthopaedics and the Director of Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. He is also a Professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Cincinnati. “His expertise is in musculoskeletal care of neuromuscular disorders in children. He is president-elect of POSNA. Dr. McCarthy is a spectacular surgeon leader and most importantly, an outstanding person.”

Todd A. Milbrandt, M.D., M.S. is an Associate Professor of Orthopaedics at Mayo Clinic in Rochester and a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Shriners Hospitals for Children-Twin Cities. “Todd has been a great leader both locally providing great care for pediatric patients at the Mayo Clinic and at the national level with significant activities on the board of directors for the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America.”

Vincent S. Mosca, M.D. is Chief of Foot and Limb Deformities at Seattle Children’s Hospital. He is also a Professor in the Department of Orthopedics at the University of Washington School of Medicine. “He is an internationally recognized thought leader in pediatric foot problems. He is a top ranked speaker and author who is able to simplify complex problems so families can understand the problem and treatment.”

Peter O. Newton, M.D. is Chief of the division of Orthopedics & Scoliosis at Rady Children’s Hospital-San Diego and a Clinical Professor at UC San Diego School of Medicine. He is a past president of the POSNA. “Peter is committed to improving the care of children and adolescents with spinal deformities by advancing our understanding through clinical and translational research. His interest in defining the 3D

nature of idiopathic scoliosis will lead to new treatment strategies in the surgical correction of scoliosis via techniques to modulate the growth the spine with the goal of avoiding spinal arthrodesis.”

Kenneth J. Noonan, M.D. is an Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. “He is a thoughtful and caring pediatric orthopaedic surgeon who is known for his humanitarian work in South America. He is an excellent surgeon and researcher.”

Matthew Oetgen, M.D. is Division Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine at Children’s National in Washington, D.C. “Matt is moving the pediatric orthopaedic program forward at Children’s National Medical Center since becoming Chief of the service. He has made a seamless transition to this position while continuing to provide the highest level of care to all of his pediatric patients and performing important research.”

Kevin G. Shea M.D. is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at St. Luke’s Orthopaedics – Intermountain Orthopaedics in Boise, Idaho. He is medical director of Orthopedic Research at St. Luke’s Health System and an adjunct professor at the University of Utah School of Medicine. “He specializes in sports medicine, and is known as an excellent surgeon and dedicated clinician. He has 90 peer-reviewed publications, over 100 national presentations, and is an expert in evidence-based medicine and clinical practice guidelines for both AAOS [American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons] and POSNA. He has been a leader in organizing large, multicenter research groups investigating pediatric sports medicine conditions ROCK (Research for Osteochondritis Dissecans of the Knee) and PRISM (Pediatric Research in Sports Medicine).”

David L. Skaggs, M.D., M.M.M. is Chief of Orthopedic Surgery, Director of Spine Surgery, and a Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Keck School of Medicine at

the University of Southern California. “He is very thoughtful and innovative. He is a great researcher, educator, and surgeon, and is very interested in leadership.”

Daniel J. Sucato, M.D., M.S. is Chief of Staff and Director of the Sarah M. and Charles E. Seay/Martha and Pat Beard Center for Excellence in Spine Research at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. He is also a Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. “His strong surgical and leadership skills make him a key asset for the future success of TSRHC. Dan is a valued colleague both in spine and hip problems in children. We have known each other for many years and have participated in many meetings, lectures and committees. He is a highly valued speaker at most national conferences.”

Michael G. Vitale, M.D., M.P.H. is the Ana Lucia Professor of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery at Columbia University Medical Center. He is also the Chief of Pediatric Spine and Scoliosis Surgery, co-Director of the Division of Pediatric Orthopedics, and Chief Quality Officer of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at that facility. “He is a surgeon, researcher, and educator who has delved into quality and value and safety initiatives. He is a real leader in this field. Runs the International Pediatric Orthopaedic Symposium, a great educational event.”

Peter M. Waters, M.D. is Orthopedic Surgeon-in-Chief, Director, Brachial Plexus Program; Director, Hand & Orthopedic Upper Extremity Program; Director, Clinical Effectiveness Research Center at Boston Children’s Hospital. He is also the John E. Hall Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School and a past president of POSNA. “A master clinician and leader, Dr. Waters is one of the foremost authorities on pediatric upper extremity care for kids. He has been one of my most valued mentors during my training. He taught me a lot during my residency at Boston Children’s and I value his opinions very highly.” ♦