

2025 UVA Orthopaedics Surgery Alumni Conference

April 10-12, 2025

Charlottesville, VA

On April 11 and 12th, the University of Virginia Department of Orthopaedic Surgery welcomed over forty residency and fellowship alumni spanning six decades back to Charlottesville for an educational conference at the Orthopaedic Center on Ivy Road. The conference kicked off with a party at the home of Dr. Bobby Chhabra, the Chair of the department and an alumnus of both the medical school and the residency program at UVA.



Dr. Bobby Chhabra kicks off the conference Friday morning to a packed Wang Conference Room.

Friday and Saturday featured faculty lectures from each division highlighting the department's clinical expertise and surgical innovations. An entertaining addition to the



2015 alumnus Dr. Scott Yang debates his mentor Dr. Mark Abel on surgery for scoliosis.

program this year were the "Debate-Your-Mentor" debates between orthopaedic resident alumni and their UVA faculty mentors. Seven recent alumni challenged their faculty in six-minute talks on controversial topics within their subspecialties after which the audience voted on the winner. The UVA faculty were clearly prepared for battle winning every contest! The conference also involved alumni in a special

“Alumni Panel” moderated by Dr. Truitt Cooper in which six alumni provided guidance about practicing orthopaedics and shared lessons from their experiences.

Keynote Orthopaedic speakers included 2003 UVA Orthopaedic residency graduate Dr. Todd Milbrandt and recently retired UVA faculty member Dr. Mark Miller. Dr. Milbrandt is the current President of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA) and



Dr. Miller shares career aphorisms.

lectured on “How to Innovate in Orthopedic Surgery through the lens of Vertebral Body

Tethering.” Dr. Miller, the former president of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM), gave a comprehensive talk on the “History of Sports Knee Surgery” as well as “Career Aphorisms”. Both Dr. Milbrandt and Dr. Miller’s lectures and associations with UVA Orthopaedics underscored the department’s outstanding national reputation.



Dr. Milbrandt delivers keynote lecture on innovation in pediatric orthopaedics.

Highlighting the conference were inspirational special presentations by past patients of UVA Orthopaedics. Allie Redshaw is a patient of Dr. Chhabra’s who tragically lost her dominant right hand in an industrial meat grinder in 2017 while pregnant. Allie spoke about how integral Dr. Chhabra and the team at UVA Orthopaedics were to her recovery from injury and the restoration of her life and function. She is now a world class paralympian rock and mountain climber and runs a



Dr. Chhabra and Allie Redshaw.



Robyn Modly discusses her surgery at UVA Orthopaedics

successful yoga studio. Robyn

Modly was a patient of former faculty and chair Dr. Gwo-Jaw Wang who nearly lost her leg from a malignant bone tumor in 1981. Along with the chair at the time, Dr. Warren Stamp, Dr. Wang and his team resected the tumor and performed a reconstructive knee surgery that restored her ability to dance and play sports for over 40 years. Robyn expressed her gratitude for Drs. Wang’s and Stamp’s expertise and kindness during her surgery and recovery and showed a recent video of her dancing to demonstrate the long-term success of the operation.

Outside of the lectures and discussions in the conference room, alumni, faculty, and spouses enjoyed a special dinner at Level 10 downtown. It was great catching up with former residency classmates, faculty, and friends. Dr. Wang even brought a couple bottles of cognac to celebrate the occasion! The conference closed with a special event for alumni and faculty at the clubhouse at the UVA Baseball Game on Saturday afternoon against Pittsburgh. UVA Head Coach Brian O'Connor visited with the group at the conference before the game and discussed building culture within an organization and the current landscape of college sports



Dr. Josh Li, Sandhya Chhabra, and others toast UVA Orthopaedics at the Alumni Conference dinner.

It was an outstanding conference with a comprehensive educational program and enjoyable gathering of old friends and colleagues. Planning is already underway for the next UVA Orthopaedics Alumni Reunion in spring of 2027.



Links to Alumni Conference Presentation Videos:

Special Guest: Allie Redshaw: https://youtu.be/Y_xAX2Om9t4

Special Guest: Robyn Modly: <https://youtu.be/aPjxrmHdX3I>

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Todd Milbrandt: <https://youtu.be/EmkRiREeQyA>

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mark Miller: <https://youtu.be/bXf7mQsEtkg>

Debate-You Mentor: <https://youtu.be/YCcSghiRKuY>

Division Presentations: <https://youtu.be/65tPq6z8EKw>