



# MSTS Newsletter

Volume 326, Summer 2025

## Inside this Issue

|                                                                                                              |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| President's Report . . . . .                                                                                 | 1  |
| MSTS Executive Committee . . . . .                                                                           | 2  |
| 2025 MSTS Annual Meeting. . . . .                                                                            | 3  |
| Fellowship Committee . . . . .                                                                               | 4  |
| Skeletal Metastasis Committee . . . . .                                                                      | 4  |
| Research Committee . . . . .                                                                                 | 5  |
| Guidelines and EBM Committee . . . . .                                                                       | 6  |
| Musculoskeletal Oncology ICL's and<br>Symposia Approved for AAOS Meeting<br>in New Orleans in 2026 . . . . . | 6  |
| Practice Management Committee. . . . .                                                                       | 7  |
| Communications and Technology<br>Committee. . . . .                                                          | 7  |
| Welcome to Our New Members . . . . .                                                                         | 8  |
| Musculoskeletal Tumor Registry<br>Update . . . . .                                                           | 9  |
| Thank You MSTS Donors! . . . . .                                                                             | 9  |
| SarcomaStrong Corner . . . . .                                                                               | 10 |
| AI Workgroup . . . . .                                                                                       | 11 |
| Donate through OREF & OrthoPAC . . . . .                                                                     | 11 |
| Save the Dates! 2026 & 2027<br>Annual Meeting Details . . . . .                                              | 12 |

## President's Report – Rajiv Rajani, MD



Rajiv Rajani, MD

Dear Friends and Colleagues, I hope this note finds you well. It's hard to believe it's already been a year since we gathered at the Field Museum in Chicago—it

feels like just yesterday we were together. First and foremost, I want to thank Kerri Mink and Deborah Meyer for their incredible support. They've been instrumental in keeping things running smoothly behind the scenes, and we're lucky to have them.

This past year, our Executive Committee has really leaned into making MSTS a member-driven society. Everything we've done has centered on one goal: helping you provide the very best care to your patients. From building new educational tools to strengthening advocacy, we've been working to create value for you as members and for the larger musculoskeletal oncology community. None of this would be possible without the amazing commitment of our committee chairs and volunteers. Your time and effort make all the difference, and I'm deeply grateful.

On the education side, Ginger Holt and her team have been hard at work. They've

put together webinars on some challenging but important topics—oncoplastics, pathologic fractures with OTA, infected endoprostheses, and pediatric tumors with POSNA. At the upcoming AAOS Meeting in New Orleans, we'll have five ICLs, and we've reshaped our schedule so that Specialty Day, paper sessions, and ICLs all run Wednesday through Friday. That way, you can make the most of your time at the meeting and still get to those all-important alumni gatherings.

Innovation has also been a big theme this year. Felasfa Wodajo and the AI Workgroup are exploring new ways to use technology to help members in their day-to-day care of patients. Meanwhile, Cecilia Belzarena and the Communications Committee have been doing a fantastic job spreading the word about MSTS activities through social media. If you're not already following along on Instagram and LinkedIn, I encourage you to jump in—it's the best way to stay connected with everything going on.

Research continues to be a big part of our mission. The Research Committee has rolled out new requests for applications focused on metastatic disease and benign tumors—areas we felt were overdue for more attention. And on the fellowship front, Santiago Lozano-Calderon has been

*Continued on page 2*

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**REGISTER NOW**

December 3 - 5, 2025

**2025 Annual Meeting**

Hyatt Regency in the Polanco District  
Mexico City, Mexico



leading the charge to make sure MSTs-recognized programs provide consistent, high-quality training.

We've also been putting a lot of effort into practice and advocacy. Adam Levin and the Practice Management Committee are making sure we're at the table when it comes to fair compensation and representation. And our Advocacy Task Force, under Kelly Homlar's leadership, is already making strides on projects that will protect both our patients and our members. If you missed it, please consider viewing our [advocacy webinar](#)—it's a great way to learn how you can get involved.

As MSTs continues to grow, so does the need for thoughtful financial planning. To help guide us, Kenny Gundle has stepped into the new role of Director of Investment Strategy. Kenny's expertise will help ensure that we're not only thriving now but well-prepared for the future.

And finally, I'm thrilled about our upcoming meeting in Mexico City. This is going to be a truly special gathering. For the first time in recent memory, we'll be offering concurrent sessions—something we felt was necessary given the record number of abstract submissions. Early registration numbers are already outpacing previous

years, which tells me many of you are just as excited as I am. On top of that, we'll be welcoming AMA President Dr. Bobby Mukkamala as our Presidential Speaker. Bobby and I grew up together in Flint, Michigan, and I know his story will inspire you.

Thank you again for everything you do for MSTs and for your patients. It's an honor to serve as your President, and I'm looking forward to seeing so many of you in Mexico City.

With warm regards,  
Rajiv Rajani, MD  
President, MSTs



## MSTS Executive Committee

### President

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rrajani@ttuhsc.edu

### President-Elect

Francis Y. Lee, MD, PhD  
francis.lee@yale.edu

### Secretary

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### Treasurer

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### Immediate Past President

Benjamin Miller, MD, MS  
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### Past President

Michelle Ghert, MD, FRCSC  
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### Education Committee

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### Research Committee

Bang Hoang, MD  
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### Membership Committee

Odion Binitie, MD  
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### Members-at-Large

Alan Blank, MD  
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Lisa B. Ercolano, MD  
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# 2025 MSTs Annual Meeting

Dear MSTs Members,

Planning for the Annual Meeting is coming along nicely and very exciting. Quick reminder, the meeting is being held at the Hyatt Regency in the Polanco District of Mexico City from December 3-5, 2025. We had a record number of submissions with a plethora of high quality abstracts. This is going to make for a busy and interesting meeting.

As a result, for the first time in MSTs history, we are going to run concurrent sessions on Friday morning. This will allow for members to pick and choose the topics and sessions they are more interested in. This will be a maiden voyage, and we'd love to hear your feedback after the meeting if this is something we should do in the future.

The meeting is also unique in that we are partnering with the Sociedad Latinoamericana de Tumores Musculo Esqueleticos (SLATME). Many of our South American colleagues will be joining us for the meeting as well as presenting. SLATME will have their own presentations to close out the meeting on Friday afternoon, to include the very last session "My Worst Case." We feel honored to have the opportunity to collaborate with SLATME this meeting!

Dr. Rajani wants one of the themes of this year's meeting to be "Dispelling Myths." The first myth we have to dispel is that Mexico City isn't a great destination. It absolutely is. The Polanco District is the nicest, most luxurious, and safest neighborhood in Mexico City. Our accommoda-

tions at the Hyatt are top notch, but there is a JW Marriott, an Intercontinental, and a W right next door if you prefer other lodgings.

The foodie options are endless and world-class. In the Polanco District there are a pair of Michelin 2-star rated restaurants, Pujol and Quintonil, that routinely get ranked in the very top restaurants on the planet. In the Cuauhtemoc area of Mexico City, just east of the Polanco District, there are seven Michelin one-star rated restaurants. This is an incredible concentration of cuisine right at your fingertips. Don't make any plans for Thursday night, though; there is going to be a fantastic sit-down dinner at the Casino Espanol de Mexico with delicious food and local entertainment.

For the museum buff, there are too many options in Mexico City. They range from modern art to history to chocolate. The Museo Nacional de Antropologia is a short walk from the hotel. It houses the world's biggest collection on ancient Mexican artifacts. If you want to understand the complex history of Mexico, this is where you start. Another short walk further east through Chapultepec Park will bring you to the Museo de Arte Moderno, where you can see contemporary Mexican and international pieces. Further south in the park is the Museo Nacional de Historia, a prominent and highly rated history museum that is a good follow-up to the anthropological museum.

Did I mention there is a 1,700 acre park just south of the Hyatt! The "lungs of Mexico City" is twice as big as Central Park

and offers a great place for a stroll or to see historical sites, including the Chapultepec Castle, monuments, sculptures, and fountains. In addition to the museums already mentioned, there is a zoo and a botanical garden in Chapultepec Park.

For the Indian Jones types, Mexico City has a treasure trove of archeological experiences. The Templo Mayor, a UNESCO world heritage site, was the central pyramid of Tenochtitlan, the Aztec capital and predecessor of modern Mexico City. It's a short uber ride from the meeting, just adjacent to the Zocalo, Mexico City's main public square. The Plaza of the Tres Culturas, which is the site of the most important center of trade in Pre-Colombian Mexico, is about a 20-25 minute uber. A 45 minute uber will get you to the Parque Nacional Cerro de la Estrella, a sacred site of the Aztecs. Another 30 minute climb up the hill and to the top of the small pyramid gets you one of the best views of the city!

On behalf of Raj and Santi, let me cordially invite you to register for the 2025 MSTs meeting. If you already have, please let me know if you have any questions. If you are committed to going, don't waste anymore time. If you are on the fence, hopefully this message has piqued your interest. Do your own research. The more research I do, the more excited I am to visit.

All the best,  
Greg

Gregory Domson, MD  
Annual Meeting Co-Chair



## Fellowship Committee – Santiago Lozano Calderón, MD, PhD, Chair

The fellowship committee is very excited to announce a hybrid program director meeting this coming MSTS Annual Meeting in Mexico City on December 3rd, 2025 at 9:00 am. Statistics from the past match cycle will be presented and discussed. An-

other cycle year of evaluation starts for the MSTS recognized programs. The previous platforms for data collection will be tested again as well as the newly implemented platform with New Innovations for surgical case collection for fellows in training.

Non-program directors are welcome to participate but number of participants is limited. Please contact Kerri Mink at [kmink@msts.org](mailto:kmink@msts.org) to confirm your participation virtually or in person.

## Skeletal Metastasis Committee – Felasfa Wodajo, MD, Chair

The MSTS Skeletal Metastasis Committee is now completing its first year. The committee members have embraced the challenge and made significant progress on the goals they set for themselves. The MSTS Metastatic Bone Disease Task Force left us more than 40 recommendations, a great starting point for the committee, to which we added new ideas. We divided ourselves into six teams, below is some of the work that has been done:

### 1. Disparities

- We completed a SEER database analysis of racial and other disparities in the treatment of skeletal metastases, submitted 3 abstracts to the 2025 MSTS Annual Meeting and now completing a manuscript.

### 2. Education

- We worked with 2024 Annual Meeting Committee to highlight skeletal metastases research, including a new awards for best skeletal metastasis poster and podium presentation.
- in collaboration with ASCO and ASTRO, we are planning a first-ever multidisciplinary skeletal metastasis “tumor board” at Specialty Day 2026.

### 3. Investigation

- We are completing a systematic review of percutaneous treatments for skeletal metastases.

- We disseminated a Delphi survey to MSTS members to identify top research priorities for skeletal metastasis research
- We began work on multidisciplinary MSTS Consensus Classification for Skeletal Metastases, see below.

### 4. Society Partnerships

- We are building relationships with other medical and surgical societies, including ASTRO, ASCO, OTA and patient support organizations

### 5. Workshop and Industry Partners

- We are planning our 2nd workshop on percutaneous treatment of pelvic metastases to be held during our 2025 Annual Meeting (see below)

### *MSTS Consensus Classification of Skeletal Metastases*

This is a long term initiative to develop a multi-disciplinary consensus classification scheme for skeletal metastases. It is being developed in collaboration with the MSTS Guidelines and Evidence Based Medicine (GEBM). Our goal is to have it adopted by multiple specialties so that we can collect accurate data on the efficacy of our interventions, develop reliable treatment recommendations and ultimately to improve our patients’ outcomes. We are inviting representatives from the following

specialities through their national societies: Interventional Radiology (SIO), Medical Oncology (ASCO), Orthopedic Surgery (AAOS), Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), Radiology (ACR) and Spine surgery (NASS). The responses we have received thus far have been enthusiastic. Our goal is to start work by the end of the year.

### *MSTS Percutaneous Pelvis Metastasis Workshop:*

At the 2024 MSTS Annual Meeting in Chicago, we held the first ever MSTS hands-on workshop on the percutaneous treatment of pelvic bone metastases. The course was a big success, with near uniform good and excellent reviews. We are building on that success for the 2025 meeting in Mexico City, with a more streamlined curriculum, more attendees and wider range of industry partners, demonstrating their products and how they can be used in the treatment of skeletal metastases.

The members of the MSTS Skeletal Metastases Committee are Meredith Bartlestein, Matt Cable, Ian English, Joe Kendal, Aditya Maheshwari and Felasfa Wodajo. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to any of us.

## Research Committee – Bang Hoang, MD, Chair

The Research Committee (RC) has been very productive during the last quarter of 2024 and spring of 2025. We completed another major review of Sarcoma Strong applications in March of 2025. Many MSTs members submitted grant applications focusing on translational science and inno-

vative technologies to probe outstanding questions in the sarcoma field. We want to recognize the following members of the RC: Anthony Bozzo, Elyse Brinkmann, Chris Collier, Ian Dickey, Josh Lawrenz, Brock Lindsey, and Brian Walczak, for the expertise and positive energy that they bring

to this committee. As Sarcoma Strong continues to grow under Matt DiCaprio, be on the lookout for new rounds of funding announcement as they will be forthcoming.

### Sarcoma Strong Grant 2024-2025 Cycle

A new Research Funding Announcement (RFA) from Sarcoma Strong was released on November 4, 2024, in conjunction with input from the Executive and Research Committee members. The following funding opportunities were presented to our membership:

Sarcoma Strong Mentored Award (\$25,000. Deadline February 1, 2025)

Sarcoma Strong Research Award (\$50,000. Deadline February 1, 2025)

We thank many of our membership who submitted applications, including basic and translational studies aimed at improving the diagnosis, treatment, and clinical outcomes in both pediatric and adult sarcomas. The RC continues to invite external advisors with experience at the NIH level to participate in our review study section,

which was convened on April 12, 2025. Each application was reviewed by at least 2-3 independent reviewers with no conflicts of interest and discussed by the entire study section. The RC would like to thank our advisor Kevin Jones, a seasoned NIH investigator, for his insights and valuable contributions in elevating our peer review process.

**We are happy to announce that Sean Kelly's application entitled "*In vitro comparison of RANKL and sclerostin inhibition in patient derived cell-line models of giant cell tumor of bone*" has been selected for the \$50,000 Research Award.** In addition, congratulations are for Shalin Patel and his mentor Valerae Lewis on their successful bid for the Mentored Award entitled "*Financial Toxicity in Patients with Localized Primary Bone and Soft Tissue Sarcomas.*"

We look forward to learning more about their research and wish Drs. Kelly, Patel, and Lewis all the best in their respective studies.

### AAOS Specialty Society Research Support Fund

For the 2024 cycle, the application from Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto was selected by members of the RC to recommend to the AAOS for funding. After a thorough review by the AAOS selection committee, we were very happy to announce at the AAOS Specialty Day that Jay Wunder and his col-

laborator were awarded \$100,000 for their project entitled: "*Evaluating the Implementation, Utility, and Clinical Importance of the Patient-Reported Outcome Measure Information System (PROMIS) in Sarcoma Patients: A Multi-Centered Prospective Cohort Study*". As icing on the cake, the Execu-

tive Committee and Sarcoma Strong unanimously agreed to offer a \$10,000 matching fund to the Toronto team and wished them the best in their highly anticipated study.

### Building Competitive Grants and a Sustainable Research Program

To develop the next generation of MSTs members in conducting clinical and translational research, the RC has teamed up with a group of tremendously accomplished investigators in hosting a grant preparation and research development session at this year annual meeting in Mexico City. With the goals of improving the knowledge in grant submission and developing a sustainable research career in mind, we anticipate targeting many junior and mid-career faculty, fellows, and residents. Working with Nick Tedesco, Lisa Ercolano, and Jonathan

Morris, the RC has secured Wednesday, December 3, 2025 (from 3-5 PM) as the target date. Our faculty will include Regis O'Keefe (Washington Univ); Kurt Weiss (Pittsburgh); Eric Henderson (Dartmouth); Rick Terek (Brown), Bang Hoang (Montefiore Einstein), and Kevin Jones (Utah). This session promises to be an exciting event - Bring a friend and hope to see you there. As always, the RC hopes that by providing timely reviews and educational opportunities that our membership will benefit from these activities. If you have any sugges-

tions to improve either your experience or our logistics, feel free to reach out to me ([bahoang@montefiore.org](mailto:bahoang@montefiore.org)) or any member of the RC at [info@msts.org](mailto:info@msts.org). See you all in Mexico City.



# Guidelines and Evidence Based Medicine Committee Update

– Nicholas Tedesco, DO, Chair

The Guidelines and Evidence-Based Medicine (GEBM) Committee has been busy collaborating with the MSTs executive and finance committees. Together, along with the GEBM immediate past chair, Felasfa Wodajo, we have developed a brand new MSTs Quality Fund. This fund will mature over time and continue to be available as general funds for the MSTs as a whole if needed. However, it will provide first-of-its-kind quality improvement project and research grants that will be funded each year, with the first grant this year being for \$5,000. A forthcoming solicitation for applications will be coming from [info@msts.org](mailto:info@msts.org), so please be on the lookout for it! All MSTs members are welcome to apply with the goal that the planned project should in some way benefit MSTs members or orthopedic oncology as a medical practice. Such projects could include clinical

practice guidelines, appropriate use criteria, novel clinical practice assessments, systematic reviews, clinical decision aids, clinical practice standardization, AI projects, improving MsTR registry data mining, or any other quality improvement project that you may have. We look forward to hearing about your ideas!

The GEBM committee will be sunsetting the current novel clinical practice assessments under the “Education” tab of the MSTs website, and posting new topics, including HIFUS, surgical management of oligometastases, photodynamic balloons, virtual and augmented reality, and nonsurgical management of desmoid tumors. These are mini systematic reviews of new and novel topics with limited evidence, but the potential for adoption into all of our practices. Our goal is to “do

the work for you” to figure out the upside and downside of each of these new ideas without making formal recommendations. Ultimately, it will be up to you whether or not these are things you will incorporate in your practice, study, or build upon. The previous topics have been published through JSO with open access. Please visit this [link](#) to read all about them!

The GEBM Committee is here to serve the entire MSTs membership! If you have any ideas, suggestions, or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any GEBM committee members. Other current members include: Yee-Cheen DOUNG, Pietro Ruggieri, Matthew Colman, Alexander Lazarides, and Dipak Ramkumar. See you in Mexico City!

## Look out for Musculoskeletal Oncology ICL's and Symposia Approved for AAOS Meeting in New Orleans in 2026

### ICL's

Title: **Management of the Infected Endoprosthesis**

Applicant: **Matthew Houdek, MD**

Title: **Advances in Surgical Planning and Reconstruction Options of the Shoulder Girdle after Oncologic Resection**

Applicant: **Matthew Houdek, MD**

Title: **Pathologic Fractures: Who Should Manage Them?**

Applicant: **Rajiv Rajani, MD**

Title: **Percutaneous Treatment of Periacetabular Osteolytic Metastases and Pathological Fractures**

Applicant: **Rosanna Wustrack, MD**

### Symposia

Title: **Global Consensus and Controversies on Massive Pelvis Defects and Reconstruction: From Minimal to Extreme**

Moderator: **Francis Hornicek, MD, PhD**

## Practice Management Committee – Adam Levin, MD, Chair

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As the summer comes to a close, many of us are welcoming a new crop of students and trainees, and some are enjoying (or lamenting) the beginning of the new school year. It is also a busy time in Baltimore and Washington, as CMS has published their Proposed Rule for the 2026 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, among other proposed updates. The Final Rule will not be published for a few months, but the proposal calls for some important changes that may impact our practices. First, the Medicare Conversion Factor is set to increase by 3.32%, which is the first such raise in 6 years. For those who qualify for Alternative Payment Model participants, the increase will be slightly higher still.

While that increase in the Conversion Factor is welcome, it doesn't paint the entire picture. CMS has determined that most

codes that are not based upon time, including nearly all procedure codes, should have their wRVU decreased by 2.5% to account for improved efficiency in the time needed to perform those services. The Practice Management Committee shares the opinion of the AAOS leadership that this violates the AMA valuation process, and should be reversed. We continue to discuss with our Orthopaedic Surgery colleagues, as well as members of other specialties, regarding appropriate messaging and response.

All the while, we continue to explore and address opportunities for improved coding for musculoskeletal oncology procedures. Updates on new codes and valuations will be disseminated once they are made available to the public. Thank you to those who responded to the RUC surveys regard-

ing open cryoablation. Please continue to look out for requests for participation so that we can better understand current practices and needs, in an effort to best serve our membership. Our committee is also committed to better understanding the value that our membership provides to our patients, our institutions, and our practices. Recognizing that our primary goal is to serve the MSTs Membership, we would like to actively invite input and feedback as to what ways the Practice Management Committee can support your careers.

Please join me in expressing a profound thanks to the dedicated members of the Practice Management Committee for their engagement and hard work. We're looking forward to seeing everyone in Mexico City.

## Communications and Technology Committee – Cecilia Belzarena, MD, Chair

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Over the past several months, our committee has been working hard to expand the reach and visibility of MSTs while strengthening engagement with both our members and the wider sarcoma community.

One of the highlights of the year was our Sarcoma Awareness Campaign, which generated nearly 50,000 views and sparked meaningful interactions with colleagues around the world, as well as with patient groups and sarcoma foundations. This was an important step in raising awareness and positioning MSTs as a trusted voice in musculoskeletal oncology.

We are also excited to share that after the launch of the new MSTs website, the early traffic has been strong. The improved design and accessibility allow us to better serve both our members and patients. The site includes an expanding patients' topics library under the "Conditions We Treat" section, developed with the support of the Education Committee and many dedicated volunteers, as well as a newly added Advocacy section, designed to highlight MSTs advocacy efforts and resources.

Our committee has also grown—please join us in welcoming Dr. Izu Ibe, Dr. Nick Arpey, and Dr. Mathew Wells. At the same time, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Susan McDowell, Dr. Alysia Kemp, and Kerri Mink for their many contributions and leadership.

We also continue to highlight the strength and diversity of our community through ongoing initiatives such as the Membership Spotlight series, which features members whose work and commitment have a meaningful impact, and the "I'm Your Orthopaedic Oncologist" series, which introduces young and diverse colleagues who represent the future of our field.

Another exciting development is the launch of our official MSTs LinkedIn page, designed to increase our visibility and connect with the broader medical and professional community. We invite all members to follow, engage, and share content to help us build momentum.

Finally, we remain active across all MSTs communication channels—our website, monthly e-blast, newsletter, and social media—ensuring that important initiatives

and updates reach our members and the broader community.

We are proud of the progress made so far and energized by the opportunities ahead. As always, we welcome your feedback, ideas, and participation in helping us grow MSTs communications. Together, we can continue to elevate the voice of our society and strengthen our impact on the musculoskeletal oncology community.

# MSTS Welcomes Our New Members

Upon review and the recommendation of the MSTS Membership Committee, the Executive Committee is pleased to have approved eleven new members into MSTS membership in March of this year. In addition, we are pleased to recognize eleven MSTS members who have changed their membership to the next member category.

Welcome to our new members and congratulations to those members continuing to advance in their careers!

## Active Members



Alexandra K. Callan, MD



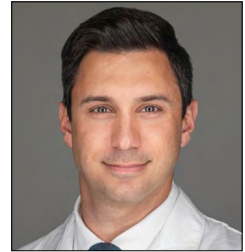
Nathan Donaldson, DO  
new member



James H. Flint, MD, FACS



Christopher Neil Johnson, DO



Alexander L. Lazarides, MD



Susan M. McDowell, MD



Nicole I. Montgomery, MD



Lee Jae Morse, MD



James Pascal Norris, IV, MD



Patrick W. O'Donnell, MD, PhD



Russell Stitzlein, MD



Lee Zuckerman, MD  
new member

## Candidate Members



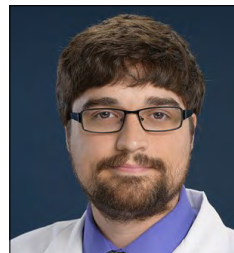
Danielle Brown, MD  
new member



Reese Courington, MD  
new member



Takashi Hirase, MD, MPH  
new member



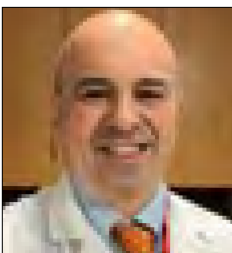
Andrew J. Kantzos, MD  
new member



Justin M. Miller, DO  
new member



Samir Sabharwal, MD, MPH



Dan Carai Maia Viola, MD, PhD  
new member



# Musculoskeletal Tumor Registry Update – Benjamin J. Miller, MD, MS

We continue to progress on our four goals for 2025: Creation of REDCap options to decrease the barriers to participation, increasing the number of institutions contributing complete data (currently 9 sites), submitting a PCORI grant, and writing up our first project using registry data. The “Alternative Entry Pathway” is the best way for those who are interested in joining the registry but have encountered impediments. Typically, a lack of institutional resources is the biggest barrier to participation, and with recent decreases in research support many are feeling this limitation even more than in past years. This REDCap short form contains only the data elements required to identify a patient as appropriate for inclusion in the MSTR. This pathway allows participants to formally enroll in the registry, contrib-

ute patients, and participate in research projects while working to join the full data collection platform. We expect that most centers will start with this approach – please reach out to a Steering Committee member or our admin team at [Registry-Info@aaos.org](mailto:Registry-Info@aaos.org) or through <https://www.aaos.org/registries/> for more information about how to join.

Our first abstract using registry data looking at inappropriate excisions of unrecognized sarcomas (“whoops” procedures) was accepted as a podium presentation at the MSTS meeting in Mexico City. We are very excited about this both as an individual study and as a sign of the power of collaboration and the questions we can investigate in the future.

The International Registry, representing MSTS, ISOLS, EMSOS, APMSTS, and SLATME, has agreed on a minimal dataset and will soon be distributing this to orthopaedic oncologists worldwide. The minimal dataset overlaps with the elements and format of the MSTR alternative entry shortform, so participation in one of these results in participation in both for MSTS members.

Thanks to all the hard work of the Steering Committee: Data Elements Subcommittee Chair Nate Mesko, Publications Subcommittee Chair Adam Levin, Grants Subcommittee Chair Eric Henderson, and members Megan Anderson, Meredith Bartelstein, Josh Lawrenz, David Geller, and Rosie Wustrack.

## MSTS New Members, continued from p.8

### Resident Members



**Andrew D. Kleven, MD,  
DPT - new member**



**Annemarie K. Leonard,  
MD - new member**



**Michael McNamara, MD  
new member**

## Thank You Donors

MSTS extends our sincere appreciation to the following donors for contributions to MSTS and OREF.

Donations listed were received from February 1 through August 20, 2025

**Nicholas Arpey, MD**

**Ana Cecilia Belzarena, MD, MPH, MBA**

**Odion Binitie, MD**

**Matthew W. Colman, MD**

**David Hennessy, MD**

**Francis Hornicek, MD**

**Bennie G. Lindeque, MD**

**Carol D. Morris, MD, MS**

**Rajiv Rajani, MD**

**Nicholas Tedesco, DO**

**William G. Ward, MD**

## Interested in Becoming a MSTS Member?

Membership Application Deadline: **February 9, 2026**

Details [here](#).



## Sarcoma Strong Corner – Matthew R. DiCaprio, MD

Sarcoma Strong's Annual Global 5k Run/Walk weekend was held August 8-10, 2025.

We had more than 500 participants for our flagship event on August 9 in Saratoga Springs, NY. Our 2025 Sarcoma Strong 5k Run/Walk Honoree was Patricia Mesick-Kiel, a woman from upstate New York who has had a long and complicated battle with cancer, being treated for a soft tissue sarcoma in 2003 (by Dempsey Springfield at Mount Sinai), breast cancer in 2021, and a radiation-induced sarcoma in 2024.

Other 5k Run/Walks were held in Boston, Massachusetts, Hamilton, Ontario, El Paso, Texas, Bengaluru, India, and San Francisco, California, with more to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, Dallas, Texas, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Yorktown Heights, NY. We have raised just over \$110,000 in 2025 with our 5k initiative with 4 more in person events still to go this year. We hope to have over 2,500 participants and over 700 donors in 2025.

Our endowment fund has grown to over \$440,000 through investments and continued funding from Sarcoma Strong Inc.

Our goal is to reach \$500,000 by 2026 and begin using for funding an annual \$25,000 grant by 2027.

The Sarcoma Strong Service-Learning program at Albany Medical College is growing to include other medical institutions including Cleveland Clinic (Zachary Burke), Rutgers (Joseph Ippolito), University of Pennsylvania (Cara Cipriano), University of Colorado (Steven Thorpe), and several California medical schools close to Los Angeles.

In early 2025, the program was renamed to the **REACH** program. This program is broader than the initial goal of the service-learning program and focuses on teaching medical students the soft skills of being a physician through building Relationships, learning how to be Empathetic, demonstrating the importance of Advocacy, the critical role effective Communication has in patient care, and on giving back or philanthropy (Humanitarianism) **REACH**.

Through interactive learning experiences in empathy, advocacy, patient communication, and humanitarian values, **REACH**



*Raise Sarcoma Awareness  
Advocate for Sarcoma Families  
Raise funds for Research*

equips medical students to build meaningful relationships and drive change in rare cancer care. We want to help develop compassionate, empathetic, and communicative physicians who advocate for their patients and serve with humanitarian values. Our tagline is "Extending the human side of medicine." To effectively push this initiative forward we will search for and apply for grant funding ideally in the \$1-2million range to be able to construct a valuable curriculum and implantation schedule for medical schools throughout the US. Stay tuned...



El Paso, Texas July 24, 2025



Saratoga Springs, New York August 9, 2025



Team Philippines August 10, 2025



Bengaluru, India August 23, 2025





The MSTs Artificial Intelligence (AI) Workgroup convened in March 2025 with six at-large volunteers and three representatives from MSTs committees, one each from Education, GEBM and Research. The charge of the Workgroup to educate MSTs members on AI advances and to help guide AI development in musculoskeletal oncology. This is what we have been working on:

#### 1. **Survey on AI Use**

- A detailed survey on familiarity, use and concerns with AI in clinical practice was sent to MSTs members, as well as members of SLATME (Society of Latin American Musculoskeletal Oncologic surgeons) and ISOLS.
- We have received 127 responses thus far will be using the results to guide design of an AI webinar, below.

#### 2. **AI Webinar**

- We are planning a two part webinar, consisting of a didactic and an interactive portion, using the above mentioned survey results to help design the curriculum.
- Our goal is to present a draft version to MSTs Committee Members by December 2025 and to all MSTs members in early 2026.

#### 3. **MSTs Patient Education Chatbot**

- One of the top uses of publically available chatbots, not surprisingly, is for health topics. Since our patients are already using LLMs to ask their questions, we should develop our own chatbot with information sources that we have verified.
- Thus far, we have produced a working chatbot with a curated list of information sources. The next steps are widening and deepening the informa-

tion library, testing and validation of the chatbot. Once completed, it will be made available for use by any interested MSTs member to share with their patients.

#### 4. **AI Literature Literacy**

- The Workgroup identified that an important limiting factor in musculoskeletal surgeons' appropriate use of AI in clinical practice and research is our limited understanding of the language and concepts of AI, especially as presented in the published literature.
- Therefore, we are developing an "AI Handbook" to help MSTs members navigate the AI literature and become more discerning and empowered readers.

#### 5. **MSTs AI Guidelines**

- The committee is developing a position statement for MSTs to define our Society's position on the appropriate use of AI. Other medical societies have published position statements, which we are adapting to be appropriate for our speciality. We will maintain it as a "live" document, updating it periodically as the technology evolves.

The AI Workgroup members are Zach Burke, Anthony Bozzo, Alex Christ, Bang Hong, Joseph Ippolito, Alysia Kemp, Giovanni Paralicci, Dipak Ramkumar and Felasfa Wodajo. AI is developing at an incredible speed. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to reach out to any of us.



2025 Annual Meeting Location – Mexico City.





## Future Meetings - Save the Dates!



**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY MSTs ANNUAL MEETING**  
October 29 - 31, 2026  
JW Marriott Turnberry Conference Center – Miami, Florida

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**  
Opens: February 1, 2026  
Closes: March 31, 2026

*Celebrating*  
**50 YEARS**

**MUSCULOSKELETAL TUMOR SOCIETY**  
EST. 1977

**Francis Hornicek Jr., MD, PhD**  
Chair

**Francis Lee, MD, PhD**  
President

[www.msts.org](http://www.msts.org)

We are celebrating the 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting in 2026. The 2026 Annual Meeting will have special features for the transformative advancement of musculoskeletal oncology field. The 2026 Annual Meeting will be organized by our well-respected global leader, Dr. Francis Hornicek, Orthopaedic Chair, University of Miami, ISOLS President (2023-2025).

### WHAT'S HAPPENING FOR THE 2026 MSTs ANNUAL MEETING?

- **3-Day Meeting with Transformative Sessions**
- **Young/Emerging Member Initiative & Mentoring:** Dedicated Sessions for Young/Emerging MSTs Trainees and Candidate/Full Members: Relevant translational science and essential clinical knowledge/techniques; Interactive Mentoring; Meet-the-Mentors Breakfast on October 30, 2026.
- **Innovative, Evidence-Challenging, Significant, and Impact-driven Abstracts**

- **Abstract Categories:** Bone Tumors, Soft Tissue Tumors, Skeletal Metastases; Hot Topics in Clinical/Translational Science (Molecular Oncology, Genetics, Engineering, AI, 3D, Biomechanics, Pathology, Imaging, RNA/DNA Therapeutics), Young Investigators (Original Study & Exploratory Research Pitch with Real-Time Mentoring), Distasterplasty, and Interactive Discussion on Worst Complications
- **50th Anniversary MSTs Annual Meeting Ceremony** on October 30, 2026
- **Fundraising Golf Event,** JW Turnberry Golf Course, 8 am, October 28, 2026.
- **Special Hotel Room Rate:** MSTs has negotiated a heavily discounted rate of \$289 per night. [Reserve your rooms today.](#)
- **Meeting App:** Preview of e-Posters and Abstracts on the Meeting App prior to the Annual Meeting.
- **Work-Life Balance at the JW Turnberry Conference Center** (Family Friendly & Recreational Resources; Aventura Mall)



**MUSCULOSKELETAL TUMOR SOCIETY**  
EST. 1977

**2027 MSTs ANNUAL MEETING**  
OCTOBER 13-15, 2027

**CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2027 MSTs PRESIDENT**  
Matthew R. DiCaprio, MD, FAOS, FAOA

**PROGRAM CHAIR**  
Lee R. Leddy, MD, MSCR

**CHARLESTON PLACE**  
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN