

# The Annual AAOS Meeting: Memorable

Peter D. McCann, MD

**T**he 2007 annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons held last month in San Diego—another great success—was memorable for many reasons. For one, it was the first Academy meeting in San Diego. This gave many of us a sunny 75° respite from this winter's worst ice storm, which blanketed most of the Midwest and Northeast. And thanks to the centrally organized convention center, within walking distance of the 2 major hotels, those lucky enough to have secured a room at the Marriott or Hyatt had the pleasure of not relying on buses and taxis.

This was the year that **James H. Beaty, MD**, was installed as the 75<sup>th</sup> President of the Academy. Jim is a long-time editorial board member of *The American Journal of Orthopedics* and currently serves as Associate Editor—Pediatric Orthopedics. As reported in *AAOS Now*, Jim's priorities as President will focus on maintaining the Academy's commitment to high-level continuing medical education, partnering with specialty societies and industry to further education and research, and advocating resolution of the medical liability crisis in this country. I have every confidence that Jim will achieve these lofty goals, and all of the Board members and editorial staff at *AJO* offer him great support and wish him well for a successful tenure. Congratulations, Jim!

What is most memorable for me, not only in San Diego but at all recent annual Academy meetings, is the sense of renewal and rededication to our field that I experience. I have attended every Academy meeting for the last



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25 years, since I was in orthopedic training. What began as a sense of awe and wonder as a resident, when I could meet and listen to the giants of orthopedic teaching, such as Drs. Mankin, Enneking, Epps, and Stinchfield, has matured over the years into a deep respect for, and appreciation of, just what an extraordinary service the AAOS provides for our professional community: an unparalleled learning experience delivered with unquestionable integrity and ethics, as well as warm and genuine fellowship among its thousands of members.

As exhausting as the 5-day meeting is, what with lectures, seminars, professional meetings, poster sessions, and educational video reviews, and also inspection of the vast ocean of vendor exhibits, I always leave the Academy meeting with a refreshed sense of purpose. I come away with thoughts of how I might alter my current surgical techniques on the basis of the latest reports or, equally as often, how I will continue doing exactly what I do based on the knowledge that I am, in fact, following “best practice” as confirmed by other independent investigators.

I leave each annual AAOS meeting, and San Diego's was no exception, with a renewed sense of commitment to continued learning and a desire to improve care for my patients. It is my unabashedly biased and firmly held belief that the AAOS is unique among professional medical organizations in that the vast majority of its members consistently and enthusiastically participate in this annual frenzy of learning, sharing, and fellowship.

Yes, the annual AAOS meeting in San Diego was, indeed, memorable. ■

Dr. McCann is Chair, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, New York.