March 2024

Welcome!

We are pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of the quarterly newsletter from the ORS Strategies in Clinical Research Section (SCR). This issue highlights the SCR officers and revisits the mission and history of our section. Future SCR newsletter issues will include research highlights and accomplishments from SCR members and aims to keep you updated on exciting new educational initiatives and/or upcoming networking events.

Purpose & Mission of the Strategies in Clinical Research Section

Clinical research is the critical step in the bench to bedside paradigm. Ineffective or poorly designed research can delay advancements in patient musculoskeletal care, lead to inefficient use of resources, and potentially result in patient harm. Extensive knowledge of clinical research study design, methods, and biostatistical principles are paramount to the success of this medical field. We recognize the inherent complexity and expertise necessary to design studies that are both valid and feasible, led by multidisciplinary teams of physicians and scientists. The ORS Strategies in Clinical Research Section was founded to provide a forum for academic discourse and collaboration that aims to achieve these goals by enhancing the knowledge in this field, improving the quality of orthopaedic clinical research, and ultimately advancing the clinical care of the orthopaedic patient.

Strategies in Clinical Research Section Story

The SCR section was motivated by the work of the ORS Clinical Research Committee, first chaired by Kurt Spindler and then, Joel Gagnier. This committee organized the Clinical Research Forum at ORS meetings. The popularity and success of this forum inspired Joel and Michelle Ghert to submit a workshop application in 2019. Based on the advice of Bill Mihalko, Joel and Michelle applied for a new section within ORS and the rest is history!
The section was created with the initial goal of increasing the presence of clinical research content available at the ORS annual meeting and for ORS members throughout the year. This initiative aimed to ensure that the ORS becomes the most valuable society for orthopaedic surgeon clinical researchers with respect to collaboration, education, networking, and mentorship. With your support, we continue to build on these initial goals.


Meet the Section Officers

**Joel J Gagnier ND, MSc, PhD**

**Affiliation:** Associate Professor Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Department of Surgery Western University London, Ontario, Canada

**Bio/Research Interests:** I am a clinical epidemiologist with interests in multicentered clinical trials and observational studies, clinical research method advancement, and outcome measurement.

**Michelle Ghert, MD, FRCSC, FAAOS**

**Affiliation:** Professor (Part-Time), University of Maryland School of Medicine Department of Orthopedics; Professor (Part-Time), McMaster University, Department of Surgery

**Bio/Research Interests:** I am an orthopaedic oncologist with a primary research interest in international multicenter randomized controlled trials in orthopaedic oncology.

**Sonja Pavlesen, MD, MS**

**Affiliation:** Research Assistant Professor of Orthopaedics, University at Buffalo, NY

**Bio/Research Interests:** I am a clinical epidemiologist and orthopaedic medicine research scientist. My research interest & expertise include epidemiological principles and methods applied to clinical research, multicentered clinical trials, building comprehensive data registries and mentoring residents and medical students in musculoskeletal clinical research.

**Cale Jacobs, PhD**

**Affiliation:** Director of Outcomes Research, Mass General Brigham Sports Medicine, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Member of the Faculty, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

**Bio/Research Interests:** I am a clinical researcher with interest in clinical trials and mechanistic studies related to musculoskeletal injury, osteoarthritis, and patient outcomes.
Membership Chair

Ashley Levack, MD, MAS

Affiliation: Assistant Professor, Loyola University Chicago Stretch School of Medicine and Loyola University Medical Center, IL

Bio/Research Interests: I am a fellowship trained Orthopaedic Trauma surgeon at Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC). I hold a master’s degree in clinical research methodology and I direct the clinical research efforts within the department of Orthopaedic Surgery. I am passionate about the clinical problem of fracture-related infection and non-union. I treat many of these complex cases in my clinical practice, adding an important perspective to my clinical and translational research.

Patrick Carry, PhD, MS

Affiliation: Assistant Professor, Colorado Program for Musculoskeletal Research, Department of Orthopaedics

Bio/Research Interests: I am a musculoskeletal epidemiologist who is interested in using single and multi-omics data to understand the etiology of complex MSK disease. I am also interested in evaluating and developing new orthopaedic clinical research methods.

https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/orthopedics/research/labs/carry-musculoskeletal-epidemiology-lab

Nicolas S. Piuzzi, MD

Affiliation: Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Bio/Research Interests: I am an Adult Reconstruction staff surgeon at Cleveland Clinic. Currently serving as Cleveland Clinic Musculoskeletal Research Center (MSRC) Co-Director and Cleveland Clinic Adult Reconstruction Research (CCARR) Director. As an orthopedic clinician-scientist my research is directly translational to my clinical practice, reinforcing the clinician-scientist role. My vision is to advance patient care through Evidence-Based Orthopaedic Surgery and Personalized Medicine.

(https://my.clevelandclinic.org/staff/24234-nicolas-piuzzi#biography)

Jaimo Ahn, MD, PhD

Affiliation: Gehring Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Chief of Orthopaedic Trauma at University of Michigan

Bio/Research Interests: I am an orthopaedic surgeon, scientist, and educator with a wide range of research that covers cell and molecular mechanisms, clinical trials, health services research, biomechanical investigations, and translational studies, all with the goal of improving health by making connections and building bridges.
Treasurer

David Wasserstein, MD, MSC, MPH, FRCSC

Affiliation: Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre at University of Toronto

Bio/Research Interests: I am a surgeon investigator with a clinical interest in complex knee reconstructive surgery and training in trauma and sports medicine. My research interests are in clinical epidemiology and biomechanics.

ORS Annual Meeting Highlights

We would like to thank the following guest speakers who led engaging and insightful discussions on the on-going economic and disease burden of unfunded MSK research from a clinical research perspective. This is an important conversation that we aim to revisit throughout the year.

“Bumps Along the Research Highway: The Burden of Unfunded Clinical Research”
Richard Skolasky, ScD, MA
North American Spine Society
Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Johns Hopkins Medicine

“The Critical Gap Between the Burden of Disease and the Funding for Research in MSK… A Patient Advocate’s Perspective”
Lee Grossman
Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation

“MSK Research Advocacy: Why Can’t We All Get Together On This?”
Susan Bukata, MD
Professor of Clinical, Orthopaedic Surgery, University of California San Diego

“Tackling Our Most Challenging Clinical Problems”
Gerard Slobogean, MD, MPH, FRCSC
Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Research, Department of Orthopaedics, University of Maryland

Congratulations to the SCR Award Winners

Best Podium Presentation Award Winner

“Use Of The Human Serum Proteome To Assess The Progression Of Fracture Healing.”
Louis C. Gerstenfeld
Boston University Chobanian and Avedisian School of Medicine, Boston, MA

Best Poster Presentation Award Winner

“Night Shift Work Is Associated With Elevated Risk Of Knee Osteoarthritis & Total Knee Arthroplasty.”
Elizabeth L. Yanik
Washington University, St. Louis, MS
SCR Networking Event

Despite the record-breaking rainfall, we successfully hosted our inaugural networking event at the ORS Annual Meeting. We enjoyed meeting all the current and prospective SCR members and are looking forward to continuing to engage with SCR members throughout 2024. Be on the lookout for additional networking opportunities in the future!

Find or Post Events on the Orthopaedic Events Calendar

An orthopaedic events calendar has been added to the ORS website. The events listed are of potential interest to those in the orthopaedic community. **ORS Members are welcome to submit applicable events at no charge** through the Submit Event button at the top of the calendar on the site. This is an excellent opportunity to spread the word about your orthopaedic-related events, ensuring they reach a wider and engaged audience.

Find or Post Events