

Piedmont Orthopaedic Meeting Update (2014)

The 62nd Annual Orthopaedic Piedmont meeting marked a new milestone for our society by taking place in one of the world's oldest and most influential cultures: Greece. This historical meeting (first one outside of the US except for Bermuda and St John's, Virgin Islands) was attended by 85 members along with spouses, guests, and children totaling 210+. Current residents who attended the meeting included: William Mook, recipient of the John M Harrelson, Chief Resident Teaching Award, Cameron Ledford and John Lewis, recipients of the Ralph Coonrad Pediatric Orthopaedics Traveling Fellowships, and Matthew Tao, recipient of the William S Ogden, Junior Resident Award. The meeting provided education on current orthopaedic topics, Greek history and culture, and great fun for all ages.

The meeting was held in June 15 to 21 and was located in two separate locations—historical Athens and the beautiful island of Crete. The first half of the meeting in Athens was filled with group tours of the city, including the magnificent Acropolis, and scientific sessions that incorporated many presentations from our Duke trained Greek colleagues. The rest and relaxation time in Athens was highlighted by a full-day cruise-ship excursion to the island of Hydra, which included a memorable lecture on 'Maps and Medicine: Lessons from History' by our Guest of Honor, Takis Soucacos. As if the trip could not get any better, the second half of the meeting carried us to a world-class resort (Blue Palace Hotel) on the



island of Crete. The mornings were full of thoughtful presentations and membership discussions covering all orthopaedic subspecialties. The afternoons saw many of the members enjoying a variety of activities, including tours of ancient Greek ruins, visiting the island of Spinalonga (previously a leper colony), and simply resting on the beach enjoying the sunshine and crystal blue waters of the Mediterranean. Each evening was capped with spectacular dinners culminating with entertainment from local Greek dancers and music at the final banquet. The meeting was an outstanding success by all standards with much credit to the organization by co-chairpersons Sam Brown and Billy Garrett and our Greek hosts Takis Soucacos and Lakis Nikolaou.

From a personal and resident perspective, we were humbly honored (and beyond thankful) to be introduced to the Piedmont Society, let alone be supported in attendance to a meeting in such a spectacular location. The Duke orthopaedic legacy of excellence, passion, commitment, and collegiality could clearly be seen and felt in the interactions with members of all generations. Such an experience fills us with a sense of pride while inspiring us to carry on the Piedmont Orthopaedic Society tradition.

Next year, the 63rd Annual Piedmont Orthopaedic Society will be heading back to its home at Cloister, Sea Island, Georgia, May 6 to 9, 2015. It will be the 29th time it has been at the favorite Sea Island Resort and undoubtedly will be yet another incredible meeting.

Cameron Ledford MD