



LEARN MORE: SPRI'S DIFFERENTIATING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

EDUCATING TOMORROW'S ORTHOPAEDIC LEADERS

Post-Residency Programs are a Hallmark of SPRI's Educational Legacy

Since 1990, Steadman Philippon Research Institute (SPRI) has educated over 250 physicians in its world-class post-residency programs. Each July, SPRI welcomes top orthopaedic physicians from around the country to join a 12-month fellowship program where they work under the mentorship of several of The Steadman Clinic's elite physicians. These education programs include the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited Sports Medicine Fellowship alongside specialty programs for Foot & Ankle surgery and Hip Preservation & Reconstruction. While in Vail, fellows complete research projects in SPRI's laboratories and get hands-on practice in the one-of-a-kind Surgical Skills Lab. Their year is centered around expanding their surgical expertise and improving patient care and outcomes, so wherever they begin their careers after their time in Vail, they will be practicing the latest evidence-based procedures and advancing patient care.



(TOP) Co-Director of the Sports Medicine Fellowship, Dr. Matthew Provencher, instructs fellow Dr. Daniel Haber in the Surgical Skills Lab

(BOTTOM) Dr. Leslie Vidal works with Sports Medicine Fellow Dr. Joe Cooper in the operating room

Dr. Joel Matta and Hip Preservation & Reconstruction Fellow Dr. Tim Beals in the operating room

AN ENDOWMENT FOR EDUCATION

IN 2018 OSCAR TANG AND THE TANG FAMILY MADE A GENEROUS DONATION TO SPRI'S EDUCATION PROGRAMS, LAUNCHING THE FIRST ENDOWMENT IN SPRI'S HISTORY. THIS ENDOWMENT ENSURES THAT SPRI'S ELITE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS WILL CONTINUE TO BE SUPPORTED—EACH YEAR, THE TANG FAMILY EDUCATION ENDOWMENT ENSURES FUNDING FOR TWO FELLOWS.



FROM FELLOW TO FACULTY

Dr. Jon Godin Returns to SPRI and The Steadman Clinic

In his first year as a faculty member, Dr. Jon Godin (LEFT) works with Sports Medicine Fellow Dr. Adam Johannsen in the Surgical Skills Lab

AS A RECENT ALUMNUS—HE GRADUATED WITH THE 2016–2017 SPORTS MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP CLASS—DR. JON GODIN DID NOT EXPECT THE CALL HE RECEIVED FROM THE STEADMAN CLINIC AND SPRI’S DR. MATT PROVENCHER WHEN HE WAS SITTING ON THE COUCH WATCHING SUNDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL.

“He said, ‘we could use some help here, and you’re at the top of our list.’ I thought, is this a cruel joke? But he assured me that he was serious. It was a dream come true.”

Dr. Godin explained that returning to practice at The Steadman Clinic was something he hoped for one day, but certainly was not something he expected so soon after

graduating from his fellowship. “It is the single most significant professional honor of my career,” he said. “I don’t ever want to let them down.”

Who he’s speaking about, of course, are the attending faculty from the Sports Medicine Fellowship—the elite surgeons of The Steadman Clinic who are now Dr. Godin’s colleagues. “It’s surreal,” he explained. “It’s unbelievable to have such accomplished colleagues and partners to work with.” And it’s a tribute to Dr. Godin’s caliber as a surgeon that he was recruited back to Steadman so early in his career.

Like many young surgeons completing their orthopaedic surgery residency, Dr. Godin wanted to come to SPRI for his fellowship year because the program is one of the top programs in the United States. “The breadth and depth of clinical cases is unparalleled,” he said, “and the faculty is so strong. You truly get to know the faculty—it is a genuine mentorship model.”

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While in fellowship, Dr. Godin enjoyed the connections he made with the attending faculty members, both professionally and personally. “I remember joining Dr. Philippon for his hip course, where I assisted while he did a cadaveric demonstration.” Dr. Godin also cited fly fishing with Dr. Millett, golfing with Dr. Hackett and visiting the Navy Medical Center in Coronado, California with Dr. Provencher as memorable moments during his year in Vail. “You get to learn their techniques, their clinical decision making, and you also get to really know them outside of the professional setting,” he said.

On one of his days in the operating room during fellowship, Dr. Godin was photographed alongside Dr. Philippon, in what is now one of the emblematic photographs that captures SPRI’s commitment to education. “Whenever I see it now, I vividly remember that case, that day,” said Dr. Godin, “it’s incredible...how things have changed. As a fellow, I got these pearls of wisdom from Dr. Philippon and the other faculty,” he said, “and now I work with them!”

Dr. Godin is now a member of the same faculty he looked up to in fellowship. “It’s exhilarating, humbling,” he said. “It’s truly an honor, and I care deeply about the program being a recent alumnus. I want to put my own touch and add value to the fellowship through my teaching, and help these fellows know what it’s like to be a young surgeon in practice.”

As an attending surgeon, Dr. Godin says that teaching has made him a better clinician. “There’s a reciprocal nature to the mentor/mentee model of learning and teaching,” he explained. “Our fellows are the best fellows in the country—they keep you on your toes.”

Dr. Godin is currently working on several research projects at SPRI, including a regenerative medicine project to help produce a less inflammatory response after knee surgery and two biomechanical studies—one testing graft strengths and the other investigating clavicle healing. “Research is such an integral component of the medicine we practice and is fundamental to the way we teach our fellows,” he said.



Dr. Godin is instructed by Co-Director of the Sports Medicine Fellowship and SPRI Co-Chair Dr. Marc J. Philippon in the operating room, 2017

Of the memories that have stood out to him throughout his time with The Steadman Clinic and SPRI, Dr. Godin recalled a specific moment shortly after he returned to Vail as a surgeon. In the Surgery Center in Vail, his last name was listed on the board, alongside the names of some of his former teachers. Dr. Tom Hackett said to him, “Look at that. Did you ever think you’d see your name up there?”

And there will certainly be more memories to come.



DR. GODIN RETURNED TO THE STEADMAN CLINIC AND SPRI IN OCTOBER 2019, JOINING SEVERAL OTHER FORMER FELLOWS WHO NOW WORK AT THE STEADMAN CLINIC—DR. RANDY W. VIOLA, DR. PETER J. MILLETT (SPRI CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER AND SPORTS MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP FACULTY) AND DR. C. THOMAS HAYTMANEK, JR. (FOOT & ANKLE FELLOWSHIP FACULTY).

WELCOME

2020-2021 CLINICAL FELLOWS

Sports Medicine Fellows



AARON J. CASP, MD

Undergraduate: Princeton University
Medical School: University of North Carolina
Residency: University of Virginia



RAVI PATEL, MD

Undergraduate: University of Michigan
Medical School: Rush University
Residency: Henry Ford Health System



JUSTIN J. ERNAT, MD, MS, FAAOS

Undergraduate: Illinois Wesleyan University
Medical School: The Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University
Residency: Tripler Army Medical Center



STEPHANIE S. PEARCE, MD

Undergraduate: University of Florida
Medical School: University of South Alabama
Residency: University of South Alabama
Pediatric Orthopaedic Fellowship: Children's Hospital Colorado



JORDAN A. GRUSKAY, MD

Undergraduate: Amherst College
Research Fellowship: Rothman Orthopaedic Institute
Medical School: Yale University School of Medicine
Residency: Hospital for Special Surgery



ROBERT A. WALTZ, MD

Undergraduate: United States Naval Academy
Medical School: Uniformed Services University
Surgical Internship: Naval Medical Center San Diego
Residency: Naval Medical Center San Diego



DONOVAN W. JOHNSON, MD

Undergraduate: Eastern Illinois University
Medical School: Georgetown University
Residency: Tulane University

Hip Reconstruction & Preservation Fellow



SIMON LEE, MD, MPH

Undergraduate: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Graduate: Columbia University
Medical School: University of Illinois at Chicago
Research Fellowship: Rush University
Residency: University of Michigan



JOSEPH J. RUZBARSKY, MD

Undergraduate: University of Pennsylvania
Medical School: University of Pennsylvania
Residency: Hospital for Special Surgery
Sports Medicine Fellowship: Steadman Philippon Research Institute

For more information about our research, education programs and how you can support SPRI, please contact VP of Development Lee Jones at ljones@sprivail.org