



STEADMAN PHILIPPON RESEARCH INSTITUTE

FALL 2025 / EDUCATION FEATURE

SPRI NEWS



EDUCATION PROGRAMS MAKE AN IMPACT AT SPRI

CLINICAL FELLOWSHIPS, RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS AND YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS SHAPE THE FUTURE

SPRI's Department of Education is committed to providing essential training to physicians, researchers and young Colorado students. From immersive STEM educational experiences for high school students through rigorous fellowship training for post-residency physicians, SPRI's education programs support, train and inspire future clinicians, scientists, researchers and more. In this special edition of *SPRI News*, we invite you to learn more about these differentiating programs and SPRI's mission-driven approach to education.

MESSAGE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND CEO

At Steadman Philippon Research Institute (SPRI), we believe education is one of the most powerful ways we can shape the future of orthopaedic sports medicine. Our clinical fellowship programs are at the heart of this commitment, and it is an honor and a privilege to mentor the next generation of orthopaedic surgeons through these programs.

Each year, SPRI welcomes bright, dedicated physicians into our programs. We not only teach surgical techniques and research methods but also share the values that define SPRI—collaboration, innovation and the importance of practicing evidence-based medicine. The bonds formed with our fellows extend beyond their time here, and we take great pride in knowing they will carry these lessons forward into their own practices after their time with us in Vail.

Our goal is to ensure that every fellow leaves SPRI with the best possible training, that they are prepared to advance the field and provide the highest level of care to their patients. In this way, SPRI fellows become an essential part of a lasting legacy—one that reflects both the strength of their training and the passion of SPRI's mission.

In this edition of *SPRI News*, we invite you to learn more about SPRI's education programs and how our organization helps to shape tomorrow's STEM leaders.

Sincerely,



MARC J. PHILIPPON, MD
CHAIRMAN, STEADMAN PHILIPPON RESEARCH INSTITUTE



DAN DRAWBAUGH
CEO, STEADMAN PHILIPPON RESEARCH INSTITUTE

FELLOWSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIPS

FELLOWSHIPS GUIDE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ORTHOPAEDIC PROVIDERS

World-renowned post-residency fellowships combine surgical skills, patient care and research

CLINICAL FELLOWSHIPS

Within SPRI's Department of Education, three advanced clinical fellowships are currently offered to surgeons who have completed their orthopaedic surgery residencies: the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited Sports Medicine Fellowship, the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (AOFAS)-accredited Foot & Ankle Fellowship, and the SPRI Spine Fellowship, which welcomed its first fellow this summer.



SPRI CEO Dan Drawbaugh welcomes guests to the 2025 Hail and Farewell event, welcoming the new class of fellows and celebrating SPRI's newest alumni



SPRI FELLOWSHIP ALUMNI AT THE STEADMAN CLINIC:

More than one third of The Steadman Clinic's staff is comprised of SPRI fellowship alumni. **Drs. Randall Viola, Peter Millett, C. Thomas Haytmanek, Jr., Jonathan Godin, Jared Lee, Joseph Ruzbarsky, Sonny Gill, Jonathon Backus and Ali Noorzad** graduated from SPRI's clinical fellowship programs.



Faculty and the 2025–2026 class of clinical fellows at the annual Hail and Farewell event in Vail on July 31, 2025

The Tang Family Education Endowment: In 2018, Oscar Tang, Agnes Hsu-Tang and the Tang Family gave a generous gift to SPRI's education programs, launching the Tang Family Education Endowment, the first endowment in SPRI's history. Each year, the endowment supports two named fellows.

Steadman Philippon Research Institute (SPRI) has long been recognized as a leader in clinical fellowship training. In 2023, *Arthroscopy, Sports Medicine, and Rehabilitation* reported that SPRI ranked as the top orthopaedic sports medicine fellowship program in the nation, based on feedback from fellowship applicants. For decades, SPRI's fellowships have embodied SPRI's mission to prepare the future leaders of orthopaedic sports medicine.

During their year in Vail, clinical fellows provide athletic team coverage to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Teams, Division 1 Air Force Academy Football and local high schools, providing the physicians with invaluable hands-on experience in treating a variety of sports-related injuries.

The 2025–26 SPRI fellowship class includes eight fellows in the Sports Medicine Fellowship, alongside one Foot & Ankle Fellow and one Spine Fellow. Together, these ten fellows receive hands-on training and mentorship from world-class surgeons at The Steadman Clinic and leading scientists at SPRI. Throughout their year in Vail, fellows refine their surgical skills, care for patients and contribute to innovative research in SPRI's laboratories.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, SPRI also welcomes International Research Scholars—medical doctors from around the globe who join our research teams for one to two years. Guided by SPRI scientists and surgeons at The Steadman Clinic, these scholars immerse themselves in orthopaedic research, advance high-impact projects, and frequently earn recognition through awards and publications. Their contributions are an essential part of SPRI's research mission.

WELCOME, 2025–2026 CLINICAL FELLOWS AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

TANG-ENDOWED SPORTS MEDICINE FELLOWS

These fellows are generously supported by the Tang Family Education Endowment



CHARLES "CHUCK" LIN, MD, MS

Undergraduate: Princeton University
Medical School: University of California, Irvine School of Medicine
Graduate School: University of California, Irvine
Residency: NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital



LUCY MEYER, MD

Undergraduate: Stanford University
Medical School: Tulane University School of Medicine
Residency: Duke University

DR. J. RICHARD STEADMAN LEGACY FELLOW

This fellow is supported by philanthropic donations in honor of the late Dr. J. Richard Steadman



MIKALYN DEFOOR, MD, CAPT, USAF, MC

Undergraduate: Georgia College
Medical School: Medical College of Georgia
Residency: San Antonio Military Medical Center/Brooke Army Medical Center

SPORTS MEDICINE FELLOWS



MONICA ARNEY, MD

Undergraduate: Michigan State University
Medical School: Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
Residency: University of Virginia



BRENDON MITCHELL, MD

Undergraduate: Colgate University
Medical School: University of Florida College of Medicine
Residency: University of California, San Diego



SHANE KORBER, MD

Undergraduate: Georgetown University
Medical School: University of Southern California
Residency: University of Southern California



COLBY WOLLENMAN, MD

Undergraduate: Michigan State University
Medical School: Vanderbilt University
Residency: Vanderbilt University



DEVIN LELAND, MD

Undergraduate: Drake University
Medical School: Creighton University
Residency: Mayo Clinic

(RIGHT) Dr. Jordan Teel, recent Sports Medicine Fellow graduate, performs a surgical lab in SPRI's Surgical Skills Laboratory



FOOT & ANKLE FELLOW



ELISE GRZESKIEWICZ, MD

Undergraduate: Rochester Institute of Technology
Medical School: Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Residency: The Ohio State University

SPINE FELLOW



PATRICK YOUNG, MD

Undergraduate: Auburn University
Medical School: University of Southern Alabama College of Medicine
Residency: University of Southern Alabama Health

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS



KEISUKE NAKAYAMA, MD, PHD

Japan
Medical School: University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan School of Medicine
Graduate School: University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan School of Medicine
Residency: University of Occupational and Environmental Health



SHUYA TANAKA, MD, PHD

Japan
Medical School: Kobe University School of Medicine
Residency: Akashi Medical Center, Kobe University Hospital, Hyogo Prefectural Kakogawa Medical Center, Chibune Hospital, Konan Medical Center
Fellowship: Shinsuma Hospital



LORENZ FRITSCH, MD

Germany
Medical School: Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich
Residency: Department of Sports Orthopaedics, Technical University of Munich



Dr. Benjamin Rothrauff, 2024–2025 Sports Medicine Fellow, observes Spots Medicine Fellowship Co-Director Dr. Marc Philippon performing hip arthroscopy.



Fellows complete US Ski Team on-mountain coverage orientation at Copper Mountain

FELLOWSHIP FACULTY

Graduating fellows often share that one of the most special aspects of their time in Vail is working with the world-class attending faculty from The Steadman Clinic. Several faculty members, including Drs. Millett, Godin, Haytmanek, Backus and Gill, are graduates of SPRI's fellowships themselves, helping to fulfill SPRI's education mission.

SPORTS MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP



Marc J. Philippon, MD
Co-Director and Faculty



Matthew T. Provencher, MD
Co-Director and Faculty



Thomas R. Hackett, MD
Faculty



Peter J. Millett, MD, MSc
Faculty



Armando F. Vidal, MD
Faculty



Leslie B. Vidal, MD
Faculty



Jonathan A. Godin, MBA, MD
Faculty

FOOT & ANKLE FELLOWSHIP



C. Thomas Haytmanek, Jr, MD
Director and Faculty



Jonathon D. Backus, MD
Faculty



Michael Gallizzi, MD
Co-Director and Faculty



Sonny S. Gill, MD
Co-Director and Faculty

SPINE FELLOWSHIP



Randall W. Viola, MD
Fellowship Mentor



Liz Pyke
Education Fellowship
Manager





Participants in the EPOC Basalt Summer Scholars program shadow Dr. Joseph Ruzbarsky and the OR team at Steadman Philippon Surgery Center

YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS HEAD WEST

Philanthropic Support Helps Expand SPRI's EPOC into Aspen & the Roaring Fork Valley

IGNITING A SPARK FOR STEM

Since 2012, SPRI's Education and Public Outreach Committee (EPOC) has provided Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) education programs for Colorado youth. To date, more than 5,400 students have benefitted from EPOC's programs, from fifth graders through high school seniors. Thirty-eight schools across six Colorado counties have participated in EPOC, and SPRI continues to extend its reach.

SPRI's youth education programs are made possible by SPRI team members who volunteer their time to educate young students. In the first half of 2025, SPRI staff volunteered 1,500 hours of their time, including setting up immersive lab experiments, mentoring high school students in their research and more. In addition to these volunteers, surgeons from The Steadman Clinic welcome EPOC participants to shadow them in the operating

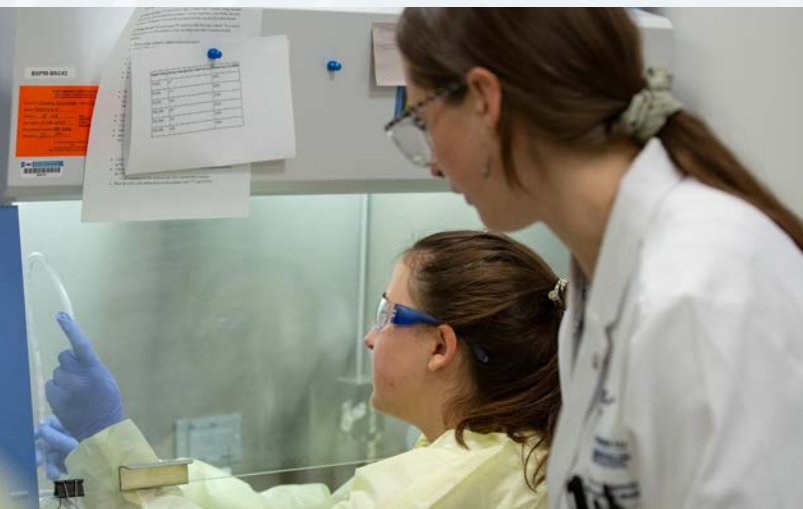
room each year, offering participants a unique, immersive experience. EPOC alumni often share that the lasting relationships they've created with SPRI and The Steadman Clinic during EPOC have been transformative, with many students pursuing college concentrations in STEM degrees and careers in medicine and science.

AN IMPACTFUL EXPANSION

Thanks to a philanthropic gift from SPRI Board Member Bob Hurst and his wife Soledad, EPOC expanded its programming to the state-of-the-art Steadman Philippon Orthopaedic Center in Basalt, Colorado. This summer, the Basalt team launched its first Summer Scholars program, inviting 20 students from area high schools to participate in a week-long STEM course. Of the 20 students, 13 were high school seniors, 11 of whom indicated that their participation in Basalt Summer Scholars had an impact on their career planning.

One of the most unique aspects of EPOC's programs is that students are able to see firsthand what a career in science and medicine looks like, right in their own communities. Students are able to see team science and medicine—regenerative medicine collaborating with biomechanics; imaging technicians working alongside clinicians—and get a glimpse into what their own career in healthcare and research could look like. For rural Colorado students, like participants in the Basalt Summer Scholars program, the opportunity to see successful careers in their region is especially impactful, and many EPOC alumni stay connected to their SPRI mentors long after they graduate.

With the success of the Basalt Summer Scholars program, SPRI plans to expand more of its EPOC programs to the Basalt area, offering more access to students of all ages from Aspen and the Roaring Fork Valley. Basalt's High School Science Club launched its 2025-2026 school season on September 24, 2025.



A Summer Scholars participant conducts a lab experiment



Basalt Laboratory Operations Coordinator Greta Gohring works with Summer Scholars in SPRI's regenerative medicine laboratory

To learn more about SPRI's education programs and how you can support tomorrow's orthopaedic leaders, please contact SPRI Director of Philanthropy Kristin Morgan at kmorgan@sprivail.org.