

# A Conversation With AAOS President Daniel J. Berry, MD

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**D**aniel J. Berry, MD is the 79th president of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS). In a recent conversation, we discussed his major objectives during his leadership year at the Academy.



In 2010, the Board of Directors of the AAOS updated the Academy's strategic plan with specific goals designed to enhance its mission in education, advocacy, research/quality, communication, membership, diversity, and unity. A governance structure with a clear presidential line of succession provides a platform for continuity and the mechanism to achieve these goals year after year.

For instance, each year the current AAOS President chooses one of the strategic goals to emphasize. The focus in 2007 for Jim Beatty was education. Tony Rankin concentrated on advocacy in 2008, and Joe Zuckerman focused on practice management in 2009. Last year, John Callahan's emphasis was on quality of care.

Dan's approach in 2011 will be to continue the strategic goals just outlined and will not limit himself to just one. In the next months of his presidency, he will continue to focus on education and research, as well as on advocacy and quality of care. He has purposely chosen not to confine himself to one strategic goal, as he believes that it is extremely important to maintain continuity among the AAOS leadership and to apply extra focus or upgrade attention to specific goals as circumstances dictate.

Dan mentioned that, in spite of strategic planning and the best of intentions, sometimes "events" simply occur that dictate one's immediate attention. One example of such an event is the landmark Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act health care legislation that was enacted by Congress during Joe Zuckerman's presidential year.<sup>1</sup>

Similar to his predecessor John Callahan, Dan believes that quality of care will continue to be an important element and the AAOS will work on tools that will assist the practitioner in measuring quality of care. One essential aspect of this effort is to develop a system that appreciates and incorporates risk stratification

in order to compare quality outcomes among disparate groups of patients.

Another goal of Dan's presidency is to help the AAOS come to the forefront in education and research in orthopedic surgery and to embrace technology as an aid to inform academy members. He believes that the AAOS must move to incorporate all available technology currently at its disposal, including online Web sites and access to operative video. This move would not only improve Academy members' access to educational content but also would allow the AAOS to ensure the reliability and the quality of the content being offered. His hope is that the AAOS will remain a leading reliable and unbiased source of the most current and evidence-based treatment for our patients.

A final key point of our discussion centered on the need to establish a registry for joint replacement in the United States. Dan stated that the AAOS has established an American Joint Replacement Registry program but there are many challenges to establishing a national Registry. Nevertheless, this remains a major focus of the AAOS Board of Directors, and a personal one for Dan.

We are extremely fortunate to have an orthopedic surgeon with as much balance as Dan possesses to lead us during these unsettled times. His combination of clinical expertise, tireless energy, and a commitment to our Academy and discipline make him an ideal representative and leader for our profession.

## REFERENCE

1. H.R. 3590, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The Library of Congress THOMAS Web site. <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.3590.as> Accessed June 20, 2011.

## AUTHOR'S DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The author reports no actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to this article.

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