

Message from the President



It was rejuvenating to see each other again (in person and virtually), discuss the latest high-level research presentations, and catch up with old and new friends at the recent POSNA Annual Meeting in Dallas. Congratulations to Woody Sankar (Program Chair), Lindsay Andras (Pre-Course Chair), Matt Oetgen (Subspecialty Day Chair), Amy McIntosh and Dan Sucato (Local Hosts), and the POSNA staff for organizing such a great meeting.

I think the POSNA educational meetings are an excellent example of the challenges, resiliency, and innovation that has characterized POSNA's response during the COVID pandemic. In May 2020, we pivoted very quickly to an all-virtual annual meeting that was successful and well attended. We decided to cancel IPOS® in December 2020 since the hands-on interactive educational model could not be done effectively in a virtual format. In May 2021, we embraced a hybrid in-person and virtual model for the annual meeting that was also successful and well attended. These decisions required collaboration, innovation, creative thinking, and resiliency. They required tremendous effort and coordination from program chairs, the program committee, educational council, leadership, staff, technology, and finance.

As we hopefully emerge from COVID and get “back on our feet,” our organization will need to continue being innovative, responsive to challenges, resilient, and collaborative. We hope to get back to our recently developed strategic plan to move POSNA forward. The strategic plan has four main goals, each with strategies, initiatives, metrics, and timelines.

The first goal focuses on “securing POSNA as the professional home for pediatric orthopaedists.” POSNA has to be a professional home that is inclusive for ALL pediatric orthopaedists. To this end, our equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives are essential. Although pediatric orthopaedics does better than other orthopaedic specialties in diversity (for example 20% female POSNA membership vs. 7% female practicing orthopaedic surgeons in the U.S.), we need to do more to grow the pipeline, recruit, retain, and promote women and underrepresented minorities in pediatric orthopaedics. This is essential not just for issues of social justice but to recruit the best talent and promote culturally competent care. I am excited about our efforts in this arena: establishing an active and dynamic Diversity Committee, financial commitment to diverse leadership development, and the 2022 Pre-Course on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

I congratulate Ken Noonan, the editors, and the authors on another great issue of *JPOSNA*. I commend them on highlighting important issues and initiatives in diversity. I look forward to getting “back on our feet” TOGETHER during this coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mininder S. Kocher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mininder S. Kocher, MD, MPH
President, POSNA