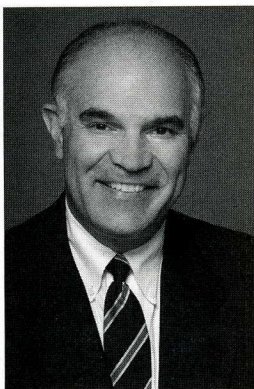


Presidential Address of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine

Family, Balance, and the Sphere of Influence

Bernard R. Bach Jr, MD, *President, AOSSM*



Thank you, Champ, for your kind words. I value your friendship, leadership, and mentorship, but most importantly, I appreciate that you entrusted your son with us (as a sports fellow at Rush) this past year. I am humbled and honored to stand before this great organization, having represented you as its 36th president this past year.

When I consider my predecessors, and in particular several special mentors to me, who have been your presidents, I am incredulous

that I have been so fortunate. Certainly there are many individuals in the audience who have made significant contributions to this Society and the specialty of sports medicine and are equally or perhaps more deserving than I, and I hope they too experience this privilege. Leadership is a privilege; I have felt the responsibility as a steward of this wonderful organization.

When considering what comments I could impart to you today, I reflected on the presidential addresses of my predecessors (Table 1). I will, as almost all presidents have done, review our Society's accomplishments of the past year, emphasizing a theme of "A Decade of Change." I will focus my main delivery on "Family, Balance, and the Sphere of Educational Influence" with segues on leadership³⁻⁸ and a healthy reflection on the people who make this Society, and our lives, so special. Many of my comments will be directed to the young members of our Society as they represent the future of this vibrant organization, and hopefully my comments may affect them.

A Decade of Change

This has been a banner year for our Society. In the next few slides, I would like to show you the profile of our Society today compared to 10 years ago.

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In 1998, our Society had 1200 members. Today we boast over 2600 members, a 2-fold increase. This is attributed in part to our candidate membership program that allows for Sports Medicine Fellows membership benefits during their fellowship year and also streamlines their upgrades to active membership. Candidate members have 5 years to upgrade to active membership, and our yield exceeds 80% annually. This is an important message as over 50% of our members have not known our Society before 1998!

With the increase in our membership, annual meeting attendance site selection has transitioned from smaller "destination" venues to sites capable of comfortably hosting our meetings. Unfortunately, the days of Sun Valley are long gone; next year, we will have our last meeting in Keystone. Subsequent meetings will be held in Providence, San Diego, Baltimore, Chicago, and Seattle, respectively.

The operational aspects of our Society have changed dramatically. Our budget has grown to \$6.5 million from \$1.2 million. The financial engine for our Society is the success of the *AJSM*. This journal is currently ranked second among orthopaedic journals and fourth among the sports science publications internationally. Our impact factor, which increased from 2.4 to 3.4 within the last 2 years, is higher than the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (JBJS)*, the *Journal of Arthroscopic and Related Surgery (Arthroscopy)*, the *Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery (JSES)*, or *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research (CORR)*. In *Motion*, *The Athletic Health Handbook*, *Sports Medicine Update*, *Sports Tips*, and other educational brochures were not available in 1998 and today are membership benefits.

In 1998, the *AJSM* was published 6 times annually. Today, it is a monthly publication with over 240 articles published annually. In 1998, the highly successful Current Concepts section, edited by Tim Foster, was nonexistent. Online access, pay-for-use access, archival retrieval, and print before publish access are many of the features the Internet has afforded our members. Bruce Reider, in his 6 years as editor, has been a thoughtful and active steward for the journal, continuing the tradition of Jack Hughston and Bob Leach. Bruce, Tim Foster, the editorial board and reviewers, and those researchers whose works have been published in *AJSM* present us with an outstanding product!

This year, your board approved the development of a second journal, *Sports Health*, that will focus on multiple aspects of sports medicine, including orthopaedic, medical, rehabilitative, and preventive concepts in primarily a review

