

2026 SUMMER IN REVIEW

The Student View

*Rutgers RWJMS Orthopaedic
Surgery Interest Group Newsletter*

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The Student View

Rutgers RWJMS Orthopaedic Surgery Interest Group Newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Orthopaedic Surgery Interest Group (OSIG) newsletter! We're excited to share highlights of our recent activities, community achievements, and celebrate the growing interest in orthopaedic surgery amongst our students.

Inside this edition you will find:

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Summer-in-Review

This summer was an exciting season of learning, mentorship, and growth for the RWJMS Orthopaedic Surgery Interest Group (OSIG). In this edition, we highlight our **Summer Immersion Program**, the **clinical and research experiences our M2s pursued**, and the latest OSIG updates. As we begin a new academic year, we also warmly **welcome the Class of 2030** and **wish our incoming orthopaedic surgery interns the very best as they begin residency!**



2026 Orthopaedic Surgery Summer Immersion Program

OSIG hosted the fifth iteration of the **Orthopaedic Surgery Summer Immersion Program (SIP)**, featuring two week-long sessions for 10 rising second-year medical students interested in exploring orthopaedic surgery. Led by second-year students **Michael Lee** and **Tarik Saleh** under the guidance of **Dr. Brian Katt** and with support from orthopaedic residents and senior student advisors, this year's program welcomed applicants from medical schools across the country. With applications representing **11 external medical schools**, up from seven the previous year, the 2026 cohort reflected the program's continued **growth, national reach, and appeal**.

Session One Participants



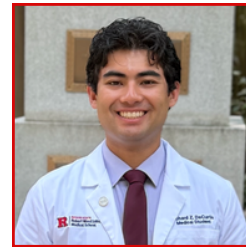
Ricky Morales

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson



Fthi Hassan

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson



Richard Decurtis

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson



Lilly Mai

California Northstate University
College of Medicine



Rajesh Rachara

Virginia Commonwealth
University School of Medicine

Session Two Participants



Raj Shah

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson



Keanu Shah

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson



Esteban Hildago

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson



Adam Abdallah

Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson



Andrew Xu

Warren Alpert Medical School

Overview

The **Summer Immersion Program (SIP)** gives students an early look at the clinical, technical, and educational experiences that shape orthopaedic residency. Participants began their days alongside the orthopaedic team for **morning rounds** and **conferences** before rotating through experiences in the **operating room, clinic, and intern pager** across multiple orthopaedic services. Students were divided among services including hand, trauma, spine, and the intern pager, with clinical days extending into the late afternoon to provide a truly immersive experience.

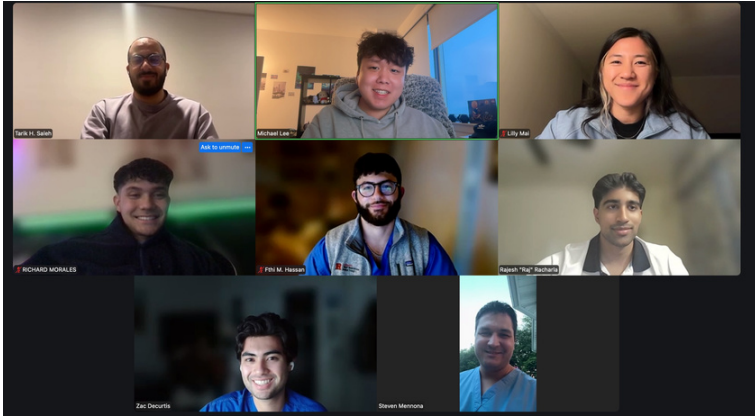


From Morning Rounds to Evening Bioskills Workshops

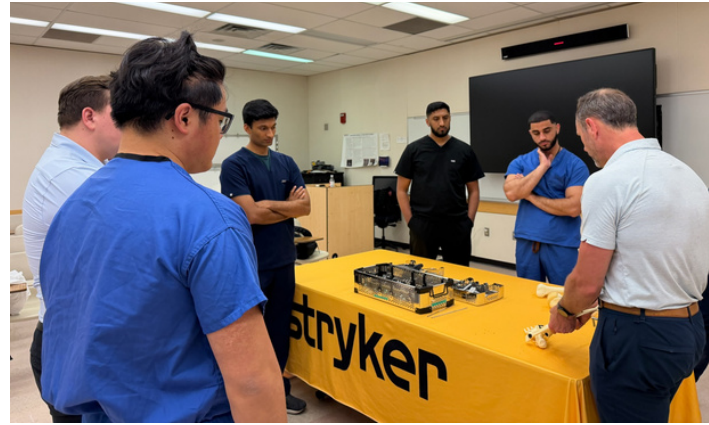
A typical SIP day started early and ended with hands-on learning. Students participated in **fracture conference, M&M, pediatric orthopaedic conference, morning rounds, clinic, and operative experiences**, providing exposure to both patient care and the educational environment of an orthopaedic residency. After the clinical day, participants reconvened for evening teaching and bio-skills sessions:

- **X-Ray Interpretation** with **Dr. Brian Katt**
- **Trauma Implant Workshop** with Stryker
- **Sawbone & Implant Workshop** with Skeletal Dynamics
- **Casting & Splinting Workshop** with residents and sub-interns
- **“Journey to Orthopedics” Seminar** with **Dr. Steven Mennona**

These sessions allowed students to translate what they observed during the day into hands-on practice, from understanding fracture fixation and instrumentation to practicing commonly used splinting techniques. The program also created space for candid conversations about residency, the application process, training, and **life as an orthopaedic surgeon**.



**"Journey to Orthopaedics" Seminar
with Dr. Steven Mennona**



Trauma Workshop with Stryker



**Upper Extremity Workshop
with Skeletal Dynamics**



**Splinting and Casting with
RWJ Residents**



**Clinic Shadowing with
Dr. Nicholas Phillips**



**OR Shadowing with
Dr. Charles Gatt**

More Than Clinical Exposure: Building Mentorship

Mentorship remained at the heart of SIP. Students worked alongside **faculty, residents, sub-interns, and senior medical students**, creating opportunities to ask questions and learn from trainees at multiple stages of the orthopaedic pathway.

With a larger number of sub-interns rotating through the department this summer, an additional layer of mentorship developed organically. Sub-interns frequently answered questions, shared advice, and helped participants navigate their clinical experiences alongside residents and attendings.



Orientation dinners, end-of-week gatherings, and informal time with the team complemented the clinical experience and helped foster the **sense of community** that has become an important part of SIP.



By the Numbers

Average likelihood of recommending SIP to future students interested in exploring orthopaedic surgery.

9.9

Average rating for SIP increasing participants' desire to pursue orthopaedics

9.1

Average rating of communication between participants and program organizers—our highest score since 2023.

8.9

Behind the Program

The 2026 program was led by **Michael C. Lee** and **Tarik Saleh**, with faculty mentorship from **Dr. Brian Katt** and resident leadership from **Dr. Paul Romeo**, **Dr. Hanbin Wang**, and **Dr. Jason Yang**. Senior student advisors **Jhillika Patel**, founder of the program, and **Megan Hsu**, a previous program lead, helped build on the work of prior SIP leadership.

The program was also made possible through the generosity and teaching of RWJMS orthopaedic faculty and residents, rotating sub-interns, and industry partners who contributed to the bio-skills curriculum.

Five years into SIP, its mission remains the same: **give medical students meaningful early exposure to orthopaedic surgery through clinical immersion, hands-on education, mentorship, and community.** As the program continues to grow, OSIG looks forward to building on this year's experience and welcoming the next cohort of students in Summer 2027!



OSIG National Reach: M2 Student Research

Rutgers RWJMS OSIG students continue to make an impact through expanding **interinstitutional collaborations**, with many conducting productive research at renowned institutions such as New York University, Hospital for Special Surgery, Jersey City Medical Center, and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center **over this past summer**. We are proud to highlight some of the places where our students have built connections, showcasing the growing **national reach** and influence of RWJMS OSIG.



Zac DeCurtis
**Beth Israel Carl J Shapiro Orthopaedic
Research Internship**



Fthimnir Hassan
**Independent Research -
Columbia University**



Laura Kuklo
**Independent Research -
NJMS Department of Orthopedics**



Michael Lee
**Research Fellow -
Jersey City Medical Center**



Anisha Prakash
**NYU Orthopaedic Surgery Summer
Externship Program**



Tarik Saleh
**Research Fellow -
Jersey City Medical Center**



Keanu Shah
**Medical Student Summer Research
Fellowship -
Hospital for Special Surgery**



Dana Woodruff
**Independent Research -
NYU Long Island**



Catelvn Woelfle
**NYU Orthopaedic Surgery Summer
Externship Program**



Welcome to the RWJMS Residency!



Joseph Criscitiello
Wake Forest University
School of Medicine



Evan Lobato
Rutgers - Robert Wood
Johnson Medical School



Grant Keith
University of Wisconsin School
of Medicine & Public Health

OSIG is excited to welcome the newest class of interns to the **RWJMS Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program**! We are especially excited to welcome back **Evan Lobato**, an RWJMS alumnus, as he returns to Robert Wood Johnson for residency. We look forward to getting to know the new interns, learning from them, and continuing to work together through OSIG events, mentorship, and educational opportunities throughout the year. We wish them all the best as they begin this exciting next chapter of their orthopaedic training!

Faculty Highlights

OSIG is proud to congratulate **Dr. Brian M. Katt** on receiving a **2026 Volunteer Faculty Award** at Rutgers RWJMS! Dr. Katt was recognized for his outstanding contributions to OSIG and has played a pivotal role in advancing student education, mentorship, and leadership development. We are incredibly grateful for his continued guidance, dedication, and support of OSIG and its students. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition, Dr. Katt!



OSIG is excited to introduce **Dr. Steven B. Shamash**, a board-certified orthopaedic surgeon specializing in **hand, upper-extremity, and microvascular surgery**. Dr. Shamash completed his residency at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he served as chief resident, followed by fellowship training at NewYork-Presbyterian. He serves as an Assistant Clinical Professor at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine and NYITCOM. OSIG is grateful for his guidance and support of our many educational, clinical, and mentorship initiatives, and we look forward to continuing to work with him!

Good Luck to Our 2026 Graduates Pursuing Orthopaedic Surgery



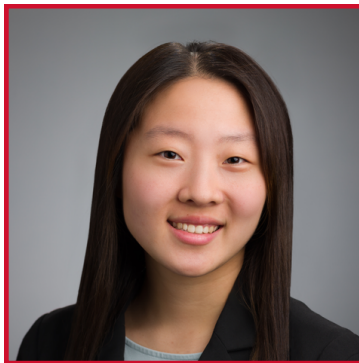
Andrew-Gerard Baddoo
NYU Grossman School of
Medicine



Henry Resnikoff
New York Presbyterian Hospital -
Columbia University Medical Center



Adrian Santana
Atlantic Health System



Yuri Han
Zucker School of Medicine -
Northwell Lenox Hill Hospital



Evan Lobato
Rutgers - Robert Wood
Johnson Medical School



Jonathan Movsik
St. Joseph's University
Medical Center



Jack Trubiano
Boston University -
Boston Medical Center



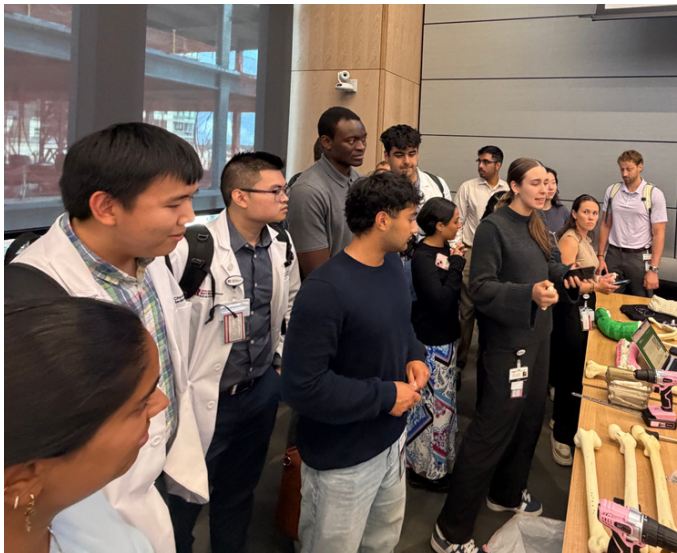
Nicole Badalyan
SUNY Downstate Health
Sciences University



Ryan Stadler
University of Maryland
Medical Center

Welcome Class of 2030!

We are excited to welcome the **class of 2030** to Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and OSIG! We kicked off the semester with an Introduction to OSIG presentation on August 4th where **75 M1s** attended to hear about the exciting semester the E-Board has planned for them. We introduced them to our educational programming, including a **Pre-Clerkship Musculoskeletal Medicine Lecture Series**, **Summer Research Panel** and **Intro to X-Ray** with **Dr. Paul Romeo**, clinical opportunities such as the **Clinical Immersion and Readiness Program (CIRP)** launched last semester, and a host of bioskills workshops, including a **casting/splinting workshop** and an **Introduction to Orthopaedic Trauma** hosted by our M2s later this fall! We also hosted **Dr. Charles Gatt**, Program Director at RWJ for his annual **Introduction to Orthopaedics** talk to share his insights on the medical school journey for students interested in orthopaedics. Following that event, some of our M2s joined the M1s for a social event at Fat Cactus to connect and get to know each other. We are looking forward to a great semester!



Class of 2022: Fellowship Matches and Career Milestones



Sirj Singh
Shoulder & Elbow
Fellowship at NYU
Langone



Yesha Parekh
Spine Fellowship at
UVA



Amr Tawfik
Hand Fellowship at
Rothman Orthopaedics



Wilfrido Castillo
Hand Fellowship at
Stony Brook University



Matthew Nasra
Sports Fellowship at
Cedars-Sinai Kerlan-
Jobe Institute



Michael Simon
Hand Fellowship at the
University of Pittsburgh
Medical Center



Francis Sirch
Sports Fellowship at
Brown



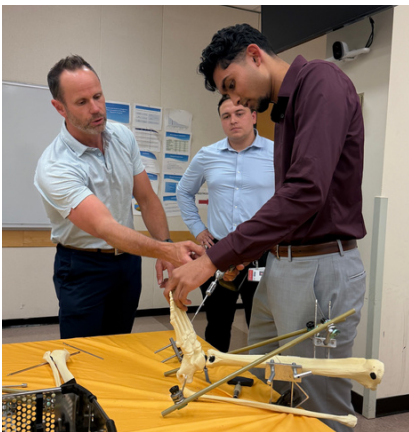
Mason Vialonga
Sports Fellowship at
Orlando Health Medical
Center

We want to celebrate our **Class of 2022 alumni** and their incredible next steps in **fellowship training and beyond**! Your accomplishments continue to inspire current RWJMS students, and we are proud to celebrate all that you have achieved. Congratulations on this **exciting next chapter** - we can't wait to see the impact you make in orthopaedic surgery and beyond!

Interested in mentoring RWJMS students, participating in OSIG panels or events, or sharing your contact information with students? Please see **page 16** for more information on how to sign up!



Gallery



Gallery



Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Fracture Conference*

Monday mornings at 7:30 AM in MEB 102 at RWJUH and via [Zoom](#)

Grand Rounds*

Thursday mornings at 7:30 AM in MEB 102 at RWJUH and via [Zoom](#)

*Dress code: white coat, business casual. It is recommended that medical students sit in the first two rows of the lecture hall in MEB 102.

The link for the Department Calendar can be found [here](#)

Departmental Social Media



For residency YouTube click [here](#)



For residency Instagram click [@rutgersrwjortho](#)

Stay Up to Date on Everything OSIG!

OSIG Social Media



You can find recordings of our previous events in OSIG playlist on the Residency YouTube click [here](#)



For OSIG Instagram click [@rutgers.osig](#)



For OSIG LinkedIn click [here](#)



For OSIG Linktr.ee click [/Rutgers_OSIG](#)

Keep OSIG Updated!

Have an accomplishment you'd like featured? Click [here](#) to submit a Student Highlight



For Alumni

- We are in the process of building and expanding our alumni network. Our goal is to have connections nationwide to benefit our students and graduates alike.
- If you would like to [update your contact information](#), please click [here](#) or scan the following QR code:



- OSIG is committed to providing the best learning experiences for our students and growing a vibrant alumni community through networking events. If you would like to contribute to our cause, please use the following link to [make a donation](#) or scan the following QR code:



*Special thank you to Anisha Prakash for her
time in creating the artwork for the title page of
this newsletter*

Written By: Anisha Prakash

Edited By: Dr. Brian M. Katt and Dana Woodruff