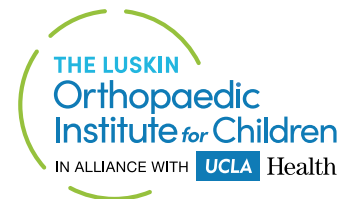


Footnotes*

A Monthly Bulletin Exclusively for LuskinOIC Directors, Trustees and Advisors



Philanthropy Forward



Burcham Family Donate \$25K and Become Silver Sponsors of the Gala



We are thrilled to announce that the Gina and David Burcham family, in partnership with the LightBay Capital Foundation, have made a \$25,000 commitment to the 2024 Stand for Kids Gala. The Burchams attended our gala at Universal Studios last year, bidding on and winning the Hawaii Big Wave Experience donated

by famed big wave surfer, Garrett McNamara. The Burchams recently took the trip they won and “rode the waves” with the McNamara’s. Their oldest daughter was so enamored by the vacation, Hawaii, the waves, and the hospitality of the McNamara family, that she is now taking surfing lessons – fearless! Last fall, Gina Burcham was recruited by LuskinOIC Trustee Sarah Jonovic to our Advisory Council, and she currently serves on the 2024 Gala Committee. Gina and Dave volunteer at the children’s school in the Pacific Palisades, and are philanthropists for charities involving children’s healthcare, women’s homelessness, and fighting hunger. Thank you, Burcham Family, for all you do!

The Burchams won the Hawaii Big Wave Experience last year! L-R Nicole McNamara, Gina Burcham, Dave Burcham, Garrett McNamara, Sarah Jonovic (top); the Burcham Family (bottom)

Just tonight:
The Tigner & Gibson
\$250K
Match Challenge

Philanthropy Forward

Long-time Donors Inspire \$250,000 Match Challenge



Evert Tigner and Ian Gibson have donated to LuskinOIC’s mission for 46 years. Evert was a school teacher in the 1970s and appreciated what the Institute did for some of his students, which has led to four-plus decades of support. Following Evert’s and Ian’s passing, their family has initiated a \$250,000 match challenge for our June 8th gala.

All funds raised at the gala – from paddle raising, raffles, and auctions – will be doubled, up to \$250,000. Sarah and Andrej Jonovic, co-chairs of the Gala Committee and grateful patient parents, were thrilled to announce The Evert Tigner and Ian Gibson Match Challenge. “This wonderful couple have been loyal supporters, and we are eternally grateful to them,” said Sarah.

Our message at the gala is “Your Philanthropy at Work.” We look forward to showcasing our deep commitment to sports medicine and how our donor’s investments in us impact young athletes.

Evert Tigner and his partner, Ian Gibson



Philanthropy Forward

Dal Bello Family Donates \$15K to the Gala



We salute and acknowledge the Dal Bello family for becoming a \$15,000 Gala Bronze Sponsor. Michael Dal Bello serves as the vice chair of LuskinOIC’s Board of Directors and has participated in all our galas and all golf tournaments. “Michael is a faithful board member and a gracious donor. We are thankful that he responds so generously and participates in every LuskinOIC event,” said Michael Sullivan, vice president and CPO.

The LuskinOIC Stand for Kids Gala – *Heal Champions, Fuel Athletes* – will not only raise funds to help children, but it will also honor the champions of the LuskinOIC community, from our donors and dedicated community partners, to our patients and pediatric specialists. The Dal Bello family are stellar examples of champions for LuskinOIC!

Michael Da Bello, at far right, at the 2022 Swing for Kids event



Footnotes*



SATURDAY JUNE 8 | SOFI STADIUM
standforkidsgala.org

Philanthropy
Forward



Maureen Stockton Gifts \$10K, Becomes Victorious Sponsor

LuskinOIC is so grateful to have its innermost circle step forward with support in so many meaningful ways! Recommended by Board of Directors Chair Craig Ehrlich, Maureen Stockton joined the board in January after a unanimous vote, and the UCLA alum has already shared her expert business acumen in a leadership position. Maureen also donated \$10,000 to become a Victorious Sponsor for the gala.



LuskinOIC

National
Nurses Week

Spotlighting LuskinOIC Nurses During National Nurses Week

As we celebrate National Nurses Week, we shine a spotlight on the dedicated nurses at LuskinOIC. These healthcare professionals are at the heart of our institution, tirelessly working to provide exceptional care and support to our patients. "This is a wonderful institution. We're expanding and growing. It's a good group of people working here," says Sean Warnock, a certified family nurse practitioner at LuskinOIC. Indeed, LuskinOIC is a unique place, distinguished by its status as the only orthopaedic pediatric urgent care in the country. Our nurses take immense pride in being part of this pioneering environment.

For many, nursing is not just a job but a calling inspired by personal experiences. Ellide Quinones, a licensed vocational nurse, reflects, "What made me get into nursing, in general, was when my little brother was born. He was in the NICU for quite some time, and just seeing all those babies and all those sick children made me want to do something about it."

Genesis Fuetre Calderon, a nurse practitioner, shares, "The reason I became a nurse was because I loved helping others. I had a few people in my family who had been in and out of hospitals, and the people that were always at the bedside and always taking care of them were the nurses. And I was really inspired by that."

LuskinOIC nurses bring not only their skills but also a deep sense of empathy to their work. "Skills that I have picked up are being patient, being able to multitask, and making very important decisions," says Registered Nurse Lizzet Gamboa. "Learning the art of listening — hearing what people have to say — allows you to help and understand them better," adds Warnock. These abilities are crucial in delivering high-quality, personalized care to each patient.

At LuskinOIC, our nurses' unwavering dedication and compassion are essential to our mission of providing top-tier orthopaedic care to children. As we honor them this week, we recognize their invaluable contributions and the differences they make in the lives of countless families. To all the nurses at LuskinOIC, thank you for your tireless dedication, your compassion, and your exceptional care. You are the heroes of our healthcare system, and we celebrate you today and every day. Happy National Nurses Week!

Lizzet Gamboa, RN, with a patient during National Nurses Week (left); LuskinOIC Nurses for National Nurses Week L-R Ellide Quinones Genesis Calderon Sean Warnock Genesis Calderon (right)



Community
Engagement

LuskinOIC & UCLA Host 2nd Sawbones Workshop for High School Students

This past month, LuskinOIC and UCLA Health partnered together to host its second Sawbones Workshop to introduce students of all grades to the field of orthopaedics. Fifteen residents and medical students led hands-on activities for over 30 high school students, including those from Orthopaedic Medical Magnet High School, Da Vinci High School, STEAM Legacy High School, USC Hybrid High School, St. Mary's Academy, and Palos Verdes Peninsula High School, plus more. During the event, students rotated through ex-fix, lag screw, and compression plating stations. After the workshop, the students participated in a Q&A session with the residents to hear why they went into medicine and orthopaedics, and to learn more about fracture management principles and techniques for managing basic fractures using castings, sawbones models, power tools, and hardware.

Thank you to Dr. Rishi Trikha, the UCLA Health team, Whitney Coe, and the DePuy Synthes team for coordinating such an amazing event for our students!

Dr. Wei Wu teaching a high school student (left); high school students hands on at a sawbones station (right)

Footnotes*



Dr. Mike Russell Heads to Malawi to Transform Global Orthopaedic Care

Community Engagement

Dr. Mike Russell, an orthopaedic surgeon and ortho-oncology fellow at UCLA, is passionate about improving global health through his work, and is currently training and serving patients at LuskinOIC. With six years of orthopaedic training, including a residency at the University of Iowa, Dr. Russell is committed to addressing healthcare disparities. His motivation stems from a transformative visit to Haiti post-earthquake where he witnessed the severe lack of orthopaedic care available to those in need. This experience highlighted the urgent need for high-quality surgical care in remote and under-resourced regions, solidifying his dedication to the field.

Dr. Russell's next venture involves moving to Malawi, Africa, to join Cure International, a faith-based organization dedicated to rectifying healthcare injustices in the developing world, particularly in orthopaedics. In Malawi, he will focus on neglected trauma and congenital deformities, working primarily with

children who lack access to surgical care. Dr. Russell plans to eventually establish a pediatric ortho-oncology practice and aims to move beyond the current standard of amputation due to the lack of prosthetic devices, and instead, build a limb-salvage practice to significantly improve patients' quality of life.

Throughout his career, Dr. Russell has been influenced by the mentorship of Dr. Bernthal at LuskinOIC, where the commitment to providing high-quality care to under-resourced populations in Los Angeles has inspired him. His experiences with patients suffering from severe conditions without access to proper care have driven his mission. As he prepares for this new chapter, Dr. Russell emphasizes the importance of embracing one's passions, despite challenges, and he is eager to contribute to lasting change in global healthcare through his work with Cure International and continued partnerships with institutions like LuskinOIC and UCLA.

Dr. Russell in Malawi (top); Dr. Russell and his wife Bekah with their daughters Everest and Adelaide (middle); Dr. Russell performing morning rounds at Cure Malawi (bottom)

Community Engagement

LuskinOIC Sponsors Triumph Foundation Adaptive Sports Fair



LuskinOIC proudly sponsored the recent Triumph Foundation Wheelchair Sports Festival in Santa Clarita, a remarkable event that brought together over 300 athletes with disabilities for two days of spirited

competition and camaraderie. Participants engaged in a dozen Paralympic sports, showcasing incredible determination, skill, and sportsmanship. The event highlighted not only the athletic prowess of these inspiring individuals but also the vibrant community spirit that defines Triumph Foundation's mission to help people triumph over paralysis.

The atmosphere was electric with athletes pushing their limits and celebrating each other's victories. From wheelchair basketball to adaptive archery, the festival was a testament to the power of sports in fostering inclusion and resilience. LuskinOIC's support helped ensure that this year's festival was a resounding success, reinforcing our commitment to improving the lives of those with disabilities. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Triumph Foundation and supporting events that promote physical activity, empowerment, and joy for all.

Triumph Foundation volunteer with a guest

Philanthropy Forward



Gala Update: WCR, Kids Zone, and Key Auction Items

We're just days away from our gala, and things are in shape for an extraordinary evening. Gala Chairs Sarah and Andrej Jonovic, and their gala committee, have lined up a truly unique experience, including:

- Mario Lopez serving as Master of Ceremonies
- A parade of patient athletes and our sports medical team, led by LuskinOIC Patient Ambassador and Paralympian Ezra Frech
- A lighting of the torches by LuskinOIC patients
- London's own DJ Asha providing music
- Lavish silent and live auctions
- Unique raffle opportunities, including a one-of-a-kind case of wine containing unique, rare, and exquisite bottles
- UCLA Quarterback Ethan Garbers tossing a football with guests in our Kids Zone where guests can kick field goals and toss a football through Ozzie cutouts
- An incredible post-game performance by the "World Classic Rockers," which includes former members of Lynyrd Skynyrd, Journey, Santana, and Steppenwolf

We still have a couple lounges available for sponsors and low-top tables for ticket holders, so if you haven't purchased your lounge or table, now is the time! Proceeds from the gala benefit LuskinOIC's enduring mission to advance health equity to every child. For sponsorship information, please reach out to Mary Beth Perrine at MPerrine@mednet.ucla.edu or visit standforkidsgala.org and get your tickets now!

An Interview With Dr. Nick Bernthal: Steering the Future of Orthopedic Surgery at UCLA

Question: Can you discuss the importance of international collaborations in orthopaedic surgery and how they align with the mission of LuskinOIC?

Dr. Nick Bernthal: International collaborations are vital in our field. Over the last few decades, we've learned that no system is perfect, and there's a lot to learn from each other. Our traditional model of simply providing care has value, but the real amplification comes through education. Our mission at LuskinOIC is deeply rooted in education, and we believe in teaching the skills we have learned to local physicians and healthcare providers. This way, the care we provide can be scaled within their communities. By fostering these educational exchanges, we help create sustainable healthcare solutions that can make a long-lasting impact. For example, Dr. Russell's work and his plans to serve in Malawi highlight the importance of these collaborations in advancing pediatric health equity worldwide.



Q: How did you come to know Dr. Mike Russell, and what has your experience been like working with him?

NB: Dr. Russell reached out to me a little over two years ago while he was still a resident in Iowa. It's rare to see someone with such clarity and maturity about their career goals at that stage. He was very

clear that he wanted to bring top-quality orthopaedic care to parts of the world that lack it. From our initial conversation, we realized that our mission at LuskinOIC and UCLA aligned well with his aspirations. Over the past year, he has spent time with us learning orthopedic oncology. This specialty is often considered too specialized or expensive for many parts of the world, but Dr. Russell has been exploring how to provide this care in systems that may be different from ours.

Q: What qualities do you think will make Dr. Russell successful in his mission abroad?

NB: Dr. Russell has a remarkable ability to connect with people. He treats everyone the same, whether it's a scrub tech, a security guard, or a surgical partner. He knows their names, their lives,



their families, and he genuinely engages with them. This genuine care and connection are crucial when providing medical care in unfamiliar and diverse environments. It's his strong sense of shared humanity and his passion for people that will drive his success.

Q: How does Luskin OIC's mission support this focus on education and training?

NB: Education is a foundational pillar of LuskinOIC. We emphasize the importance of teaching and training the next generation of surgeons and medical professionals, not just in our local community, but globally. When our physicians engage in international work, they are not just providing care but are

also forming relationships and sharing knowledge that helps local healthcare providers build their skills. This approach ensures that the impact of our work is far-reaching and sustainable.

Q: As the chair of the department, how do you envision the future of orthopaedic education and training?



NB: We are looking to link our missions more tightly. Historically, we've thought about our clinical care, research, community engagement, and education as separate pillars. However, we've realized how interdependent they are. We're not just training surgeons; we're training leaders. This means education must include community engagement, research, and diverse clinical care. The future of education involves moving out of the ivory tower and integrating with real-world applications. As we grow geographically, keeping education at the forefront and continually reinventing it through a comprehensive lens is crucial.

Q: What advice do you have for those who are part of these international collaborations?

NB: Always remember that you have a team behind you. Whether you're working in a remote area or in our operating rooms in Santa Monica, we are all reliant on one another. The technology available today bridges the gap, so never feel isolated. We're here to help, learn from, and support each other. This sense of a supportive and collaborative network is essential for the success of any mission.

Footnotes*



Community Engagement

Cerebral Palsy Camp Taking Place July 17-19

LuskinOIC is thrilled to announce the second annual summer camp for kids with cerebral palsy, taking place on our campus from July 17-19. This unique camp, the only one of its kind in Southern California, is designed specifically to cater to the needs of children with cerebral palsy, providing them with an enriching and safe environment to enjoy adaptive sports, arts and crafts, games, and water activities.

The camp represents a joyful blend of therapeutic exercise and fun, aiming to enhance each child’s physical abilities while fostering social connections and creativity. Participants will engage in a variety of adaptive sports, from wheelchair basketball to pickleball, each activity designed to boost their confidence and physical skills. Arts and crafts sessions will allow campers to express their creativity, while group games and water activities promise endless fun and laughter. The camp not only offers a break from the routine but also provides a supportive space for children to explore their potential while forming lasting friendships.

We are proud to continue this initiative, which aligns with our mission to improve the lives of children with disabilities. Our trained rehab staff, along with dedicated physical therapy and medical student volunteers, will not only ensure each child has a memorable and beneficial experience tailored to their individual needs but also provide unique hands-on experiences to train the next generation of clinical providers working with this underserved population. LuskinOIC is thrilled to collaborate with high-impact community partners like Angel City Sports and stakeholders within the disabled community to enlighten our patients, clinicians, and volunteers alike. We look forward to seeing the smiles, achievements, and unforgettable moments that will define this year’s camp.

Group photo from last year’s camp (top right); UCLA WBB player Angela Dugalić with CP Camp guest (bottom right)



Medical & Research

Dr. Vish Talwalkar Lectures on the Quest for Value in Pediatric Spine Surgery

Every year, UCLA residents present to a panel of distinguished faculty on innovative research and topics that aim to improve surgery outcomes and everyday care for patients. This year, on April 24, LuskinOIC held an educational conference with visiting professor, Dr. Vish Talwalkar, and our residents, Dr. Eric Chang, Dr. Daniel Chiou, and Dr. Paul Walker. Dr. Talwalkar, a distinguished expert in pediatric orthopaedics, brought his wealth of experience, having completed his residency at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and a fellowship at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. He has been practicing at Shriners Hospitals for Children Medical Center in Lexington – currently as Chief of Staff – and the University of Kentucky, since 1999. His lecture included a presentation on “The Quest for Value in Pediatric Spine Surgery,” aiming to illuminate the path towards enhanced care through advancements and novel techniques in the field.

This annual conference serves as a beacon of knowledge and innovation. Education and research are critical in advancing LuskinOIC’s mission of providing equitable, patient-centered care. Educational conferences like this contribute to improving treatment and care for children with musculoskeletal disorders, as they allow the opportunity for research to be shared and discussed, encourage feedback and collaboration, and foster new ideas and insights. Education and research serve as a means for us to continue to provide exceptional, specialized care for those in need.

Visiting Professor Dr. Vish Talwalkar (left); residents and staff of LuskinOIC at Education Conference (right)

Footnotes is a monthly publication of LuskinOIC. To learn more about recent happenings, follow us on social media or check out our website! Have an idea for a story to feature here? Reach out to eunha.choi@mednet.ucla.edu.

