

# **Orthopaedic Connection**

## **Your Musculoskeletal Team**

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### ***Transforming patient information into patient understanding.***

We are in the midst of the football season. All coaches are constantly stressing the concept of THE TEAM. Coaches say it is not about them, but rather the team as a whole. If the many interrelated parts are working together it leads to success i.e. winning.

I have known for a very long time that the same ideas apply to what I do, Orthopaedic Surgery.

I could not possibly do what I do without - The Team. It is time to tell you about the whole team and what they do.

#### **HEAD COACH**

##### **Orthopaedic Surgeon**

Fifteen years of formal education and training after high school before I got a regular job! Medical School at the University of Michigan, Orthopaedic Surgery Residency at the Cleveland Clinic. I was 32 years old when I went into Orthopaedic Surgery practice.

Orthopaedic Surgeons are trained in the education and treatment of the musculoskeletal system from the top of the neck (C1) to the toes.

I specialize in the diagnosis and treatment (both surgical and nonsurgical), rehabilitation and prevention of injuries of the bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, muscles and nerves.

Some of my colleagues in larger cities specialize in a particular area of Orthopaedics such as spine, hand, knee and hip, pediatrics and other areas.

No specialty covers a larger or more comprehensive part of the human body than Orthopaedic Surgery.

#### **ASSISTANT COACHES**

##### **Orthopaedic Physician Assistants**

In the case of my office it is Mr. Pat Finn, B.S., PAC. His physician assistant training is a masters degree program. He has had great experience in the evaluation and treatment of musculoskeletal problems.

##### **Physical Therapists**

Physical Therapists are members of the team who have in most cases received college training at the Masters level and beyond. The therapist helps our patients relieve pain and regain function through therapeutic exercise and countless other techniques and modalities.

PT assistants are skilled providers who work under a PT's supervision. They complete a 2 year associate degree and are an invaluable help to the therapist.

##### **Occupational Therapists**

OTs work in tandem with PTs to treat people who because of injury or illness are not able to perform tasks of independent living. Many OTs specialize in treatment and rehabilitation of the hand and upper extremity. They are highly trained college graduates with advanced training.

#### **Athletic Trainers**

A certified athletic trainer has earned a bachelors degree and sometimes a masters. They assist athletes in the prevention and rehabilitation of injuries. They are intimately involved in proper athletic equipment, initial injury treatment, bracing and taping and rehabilitation of all athletic injuries and problems. They are certified by a national examination.

Well, there you have an overview of the musculoskeletal TEAM.

I wish space permitted acknowledging individually the countless other health care personnel that we heavily depend on.

Nurses in the hospital and clinic

Administrative personnel

Orthotists who deal in bracing for our patients

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physicians

The TEAM is probably much more extensive than you had imagined.

The goal of any athletic team is to win.

Winning for our Musculoskeletal/Orthopaedic team is the goal I always close with.

Our goal is simple - To help people return to more pain free functional lives. When that happens, the patient wins and the Team does as well!

#### **Gratiot County Herald Archive and Office Website**

A great source of all of the musculoskeletal information that you need can be found at [www.orthopodsurgeon.com](http://www.orthopodsurgeon.com). It contains a tremendous amount of musculoskeletal information that can be very helpful to you, your family and friends.

In addition, it is your entry to the Gratiot County Herald archive of all articles I have written for Gratiot County Herald Orthopaedic Connection. All of the articles are listed, most recent all the way back to the first. A couple of mouse clicks and the whole article appears.

The articles and website cover every thing I treat in the office and hospital. Please log on and check it out.

Good health. Good life. All the best to you.

Be well.

Dr. Haverbush