

91st Annual Meeting

August 4-7, 2027

Everline Lake Tahoe | Olympic Valley, CA



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President's Message



Dear WOA Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

It is my great pleasure to invite you and your families to join us for the 91st Annual Meeting of the Western Orthopaedic Association, August 4-7, 2027, at the beautiful Everline Lake Tahoe Resort in Olympic Valley, California.

Lake Tahoe provides an incredible setting for what has always made the WOA Annual Meeting so special: the opportunity to combine outstanding orthopaedic education with meaningful time spent with colleagues, friends, and family. Whether you have attended WOA meetings for decades or this will be your first, I hope you will make plans to join us.

Our 2027 Program Co-Chairs, Russell Stitzlein, MD, and Holly Leshikar, MD, are developing an outstanding scientific program featuring timely clinical topics, research presentations, engaging discussions, and opportunities to learn from colleagues throughout the West and beyond. We are also honored to welcome five-time Olympic gold medalist and orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Eric Heiden as our Howard Steel Guest Lecturer, continuing one of WOA's longstanding traditions of bringing unique perspectives to our Annual Meeting.

Of course, the WOA experience extends well beyond the scientific sessions. One of the things I value most about our Association is the strong sense of community that has developed among our members and their families. Our Annual Meeting is intentionally designed to provide time to reconnect with longtime friends, develop new relationships, and enjoy the destination together. With the mountains and Lake Tahoe as our backdrop, Olympic Valley offers an exceptional setting for our social events, family activities, and some well-deserved time outdoors.

I especially encourage you to bring your spouse, children, and family. Some of my fondest memories of WOA are not only from the educational sessions, but from the friendships and family connections that have developed over the years. It is this unique combination of education, collegiality, and family that continues to distinguish WOA from other professional meetings.

On behalf of the WOA Board of Directors, I invite you to make plans now to join us in Lake Tahoe. I am confident the 91st Annual Meeting will offer an exceptional educational experience and, just as importantly, an opportunity to enjoy time together in one of the most spectacular destinations in the West.

I look forward to welcoming you and your family to Olympic Valley in August 2027.

Warm regards,

John Scolaro, MD
President, Western Orthopaedic Association

Call for Abstracts

We invite you to submit an abstract for our upcoming Annual Meeting, August 4-7, 2027, at Everline Lake Tahoe in Olympic Valley, CA.

The Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity to present research to peers, and connect with leading surgeons practicing in the Western US. WOA will be awarding over \$84,000 in paper prizes this year to Residents, Fellows and Junior Investigators.



View the **Abstract Instructions** for details.

There is a \$25 submission fee per abstract for non members. WOA members can submit abstracts for free. Not a member? Consider joining today!

We hope to see you and your family in Olympic Valley next summer!

Holly Bee Leshikar, MD & John Scolaro, MD
Russell Stitzlein, MD **2027 President**
2027 Program Co-Chairs



EXCITING WOA NEWS!

SUBMIT TODAY!

RESEARCH AWARDS

1st Place: \$10,000
2nd Place: \$5,000 3rd Place: \$2,000

Submissions for the 2027 WOA Annual Meeting Research Awards will open August 03, 2026 and close January 1, 2027.

See the WOA Website for eligibility & submission details.

WOA
WESTERN ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION

Submission Deadline: January 1, 2027

The Western Orthopaedic Association invites you to submit your original, qualified, clinical or translational research directly related to orthopaedic surgery.

You must be an active, 2-year member of the WOA and an ABOS Board-Certified Orthopaedic Surgeon in order to participate. Scan the QR code for details on the WOA submission process, including eligibility rules and format guidelines, or go to bit.ly/woaresearch.



Book Your Room



Everline Lake Tahoe Resort

400 Resort Rd
Olympic Valley, CA 96146

Room Rates

Reservation Deadline: July 2, 2027

Deluxe Forest View King/Queen
\$409 per night

Fireplace Suite Forest View
\$459 per night

Deluxe Fireplace Suite
\$479 per night

Call **1-800-404-8006** and mention you are attending the WOA Annual Meeting or scan the code below to book online.



2027 Howard Steel Lecturer Eric Heiden, MD

The Western Orthopaedic Association is pleased to announce Eric Heiden, MD, as the Howard Steel Guest Lecturer for the 91st Annual Meeting, August 4-7, 2027, at Everline Lake Tahoe Resort in Olympic Valley, California.

A legendary Olympic athlete and accomplished orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Heiden brings a remarkable perspective on athletic excellence, perseverance, and sports medicine. At the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, he made history by winning gold medals in all five speed skating events, setting four Olympic records and one world record. Throughout his skating career, he established 15 world records before transitioning to professional cycling, where he competed in the 1986 Tour de France.

Following his extraordinary athletic career, Dr. Heiden earned his medical degree from Stanford University, completed his orthopaedic residency at University of California, Davis, specializing in knee, shoulder, and sports medicine. Today, he practices at Heiden Orthopedics in Utah, drawing on his experiences as an elite athlete to provide a unique perspective in caring for his patients.

Join us in Lake Tahoe for this special opportunity to hear from one of the most accomplished athletes and respected sports medicine specialists in orthopaedics!



2026 Lifetime Achievement Award Ted Stringer, MD

Dr. Theodore “Ted” Stringer has dedicated more than four decades of service and leadership to the Western Orthopaedic Association, helping shape the organization into the respected educational and professional society it is today. His involvement with the Association began in 1980, when he attended his first WOA Rocky Mountain Chapter meeting alongside Dr. Mack Clayton, his fellowship director and mentor. That introduction marked the beginning of a lifelong commitment to the organization and its mission.

Dr. Stringer became a member of the WOA in 1985 and quickly emerged as an active leader within the Association. In 1987, he served as the Local Program Chair for the WOA Annual Meeting at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs during the presidency of Dr. Ralph Cotton. Throughout the 1990s, he continued to expand his service to the organization, holding numerous leadership positions including Program Chair, Secretary, and ultimately President of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the WOA.

During the 2000s, Dr. Stringer remained deeply involved in guiding the growth and direction of the Association through service on the WOA Board of Directors. He held several key leadership roles including Membership Chair, Treasurer, and member of the Presidential Line, culminating in his presidency of the WOA in 2011. His thoughtful leadership, institutional knowledge, and unwavering dedication helped strengthen the Association during a period of continued growth and evolution.

From 2019 through 2025, Dr. Stringer served as the Managing Director of the Western Orthopaedic Association, providing steady leadership, mentorship, and operational guidance during a transformative era for the organization. His enduring commitment to advancing orthopaedic education, fostering collegiality, and preserving the traditions and values of the WOA has left a lasting impact on generations of members.

In recognition of his extraordinary service, leadership, and lifelong dedication to the Western Orthopaedic Association, Dr. Theodore Stringer is the recipient of the 2026 Blair C. Filler, MD Lifetime Achievement Award.





Thank You Outgoing Board Members & Welcome New Leadership

As we begin a new year for the Western Orthopaedic Association, we would like to take a moment to recognize the WOA and Western Orthopaedic Foundation (WOF) Board Members who have completed their terms of service and to welcome those joining our Boards.

With Our Sincere Thanks

We extend our sincere appreciation to the following individuals for their time, leadership, and dedication to WOA:

Basil Besh, MD, Past President; **Daniel Moon, MD**, Member-at-Large; **Carol Lin, MD**, Junior Board Member; **Christopher Shultz, MD**, Junior Board Member; **Nicholas Alfonso, MD**, Program Co-Chair; **Luke Nicholson, MD**, Program Co-Chair; **Christen Chalmers, MD**, Resident Board Member; and **Paul Collins, MD**, WOF Member-at-Large.

Welcome to Our New Board Members

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of WOA and WOF leadership:

David Chafey, MD, Secretary; **Reza Firoozabadi, MD**, Member-at-Large; **Nate Heckmann, MD**, Junior Board Member; **Daniel Lerman, MD**, Junior Board Member; **James Flint, MD**, Incoming BOC Representative; **Alyssa Basdavanos, MD**, Resident Board Member; **Russell Stitzlein, MD**, 2027 Program Co-Chair; **Holly Leshikar, MD**, 2027 Program Co-Chair; **Kristen Gary**, Lay Board Member; and **Michael Dayton, MD**, WOF Member-at-Large.

We look forward to the leadership, perspectives, and energy our new Board Members will bring to WOA and WOF. Please join us in thanking our outgoing leaders for their service and welcoming our newest Board Members!

Grantor & Exhibitor Acknowledgements

The Western Orthopaedic Association would like to thank the grantors and exhibitors of the WOA's 90th Annual Meeting. Without the unrestricted educational support of the companies listed below, we would not have been able to provide this conference.

PLATINUM

Pacira BioSciences, Inc.
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Thank You 2026 WOF Contributors

The Western Orthopaedic Foundation would like to thank the following contributors for their generous support in 2026. The continued ability for the WOF to fund special speakers and Resident/Fellow Awards for the Annual Meeting is due in large part to the generous donations by WOA members and non-members.

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Cherie Byrd
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Scott Herron, MD
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Todd Kim, MD
Todd Langer, MD

Donate today!



Congratulations WOF Award Winners



Top 8 WOF Resident Award Winners

Neviaser Portal for Humeral Nail Eliminated Iatrogenic Rotator Cuff Injury
Rory Byrne, MD, University of Utah

Should Deep Cultures be Taken at the Time of Revision Shoulder Arthroplasty for Non-Infectious Etiologies?

Andrew Collins, MD, University of Washington

Metabolic Modulation of Spinal Implant-Associated *Staphylococcus aureus* Infection in Type 2 and Type 1 Diabetes: Phenotype-Specific Inflammatory Features and Therapeutic Response to Semaglutide

Thomas Olson, MD, UCLA

Effect of Smoke-Evacuating Electrocautery Use on Operating Room Air Quality

Daniel Santana, MD, MS, University of California, Davis

Lesser Tuberosity Perfusion after AHCA Ligation

Tyler Thorne, MD, University of Utah

Randomized Control Trial of Aperture Fixation vs. Suture Button

Aaron Tran, MD, University of California, San Diego

Matching Choices Significantly Influence Conclusions in Arthroplasty Database Research

Jens Verhey, MD, Mayo Clinic Arizona

Benefits of Early Continuous Administration of Weight-Based Low Molecular Weight Heparin in Orthopaedic Trauma Patients

Kevin Zhu, MD, University of California, San Diego

View all of the
Award Winners
here





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See you next summer!

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